

Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
10:00 am Contemporary Worship



PRELUDE (words for following)

The Ballad Of Lorna's Love

Frisomae - 1st Corinthians 13

Refrain:

Love is a patient thing, love is a kind thing,
Love's not corroded with doubt or anger,
Love is enough when you've got nothing but love,
Love never ever runs out.

Lorna was a lady fair, she had big starry eyes, she had very long hair.
Faithful, true and blue was she to her man who was lost on the sea.

John Smith was his name, he said.
When she stopped getting letters she feared he was dead.
He said he'd return or die, and we all know that sailors don't lie.

Mona, Lorna's closest friend, said, "Forget it, you knew this is how it would end.
Young girls wait in ev'ry port, and a sailor's forever is short."

Lorna wiped away her tears and she swore to be faithful for all of her years,
Walking down beside the sea, just as lovely as lonely can be.

One day at her door he stood;
He'd been shipwrecked for years but got back when he could.
Mona said, "You can't trust men; even sailors are true now and then."

Welcome & Announcements

His Mercy Is More

Matt Papa / Matt Boswell

Praise Team and Flute Introduction

What love could remember no wrongs we have done?
Omniscient, all knowing, he counts not their sum.
Thrown into a sea without bottom or shore,
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord, his mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new every morn,
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

What patience would wait as we constantly roam?
What Father so tender is calling us home?
He welcomes the weakest, the vilest, the poor.
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord, his mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new every morn,
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

What riches of kindness he lavished on us.
His blood was the payment, his life was the cost.
We stood 'neath a debt we could never afford.
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more.

Praise the Lord, his mercy is more.
Stronger than darkness, new every morn,
Our sins they are many, his mercy is more. *Sing Twice*

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GREETING (*adapted from This Far by Faith*)

We gather in the strong name of the God of our salvation, Father, Son and Spirit.

Amen.

Jesus took the form of a servant and was obedient to death, even death on a cross.

May we follow his example and share in his resurrection.

In faithfulness to God, Jesus gave his life as a ransom for many.

May we walk in love as Christ loved us and gave himself for us.

On the cross of Calvary Jesus bore our grief and carried our sorrows,

May his passion bring us healing and peace. Amen

He Himself

1 Peter 2:24 / Jon Anderson (FINK Music Guild)

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross
So that free from sin we might live for righteousness.
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross
So that free from sin we might live for righteousness.

By his wounds we have been healed.
By his wounds we have been healed.

He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross
So that free from sin we might live for righteousness.
He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross
So that free from sin we might live for righteousness,
So that free from sin we might live for righteousness.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together. Eternal God,

Your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives. We pray in the power of Jesus' name. Amen.

FIRST READING - Isaiah 55:1-9

- ¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.
- ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
- ³ Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.
- ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.
- ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.
- ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;
- ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts..
The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM - Psalm 63:1-8 - read responsively

- ¹ O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- ² **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.**
- ³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.
- ⁴ **So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**
- ⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- ⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.**
- ⁷ For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- ⁸ **My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.**

SECOND READING - 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - "We Are Turning" (ELW S205b)

**We are turning, Lord to hear you, you are merciful and kind,
Slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL - Luke 13:1-9

¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.



Beautiful Things

Michael & Lisa Gungor - ACS 925

All this pain; I wonder if I'll ever find my way.
I wonder if my life could really change at all.

All this earth; could all that is lost ever be found?
Could a garden come up from this ground at all?

You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of the dust.
You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of us.

All around. hope is springing from this old ground.
Out of chaos, life is being found in you.

You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of the dust.
You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of us.

You make me new. You are making me new.

You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of the dust.
You make beautiful things,
You make beautiful things out of us.

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SERMON

Baptized

Jay Beech

Chorus:

Baptized into the death of Christ and raised again to new life,
Baptized into the death of Christ and raised again to new life.

Down, down, down, I was sinking deep in sin, killing me, killing me from deep within.
He put me to death that day, and the family of God stood up to say:

Baptized into the death of Christ and raised again to new life,
Baptized into the death of Christ and raised again to new life.

Down, down, down in the water, down I went, lifted up in a brand new covenant.
They made the sign on my brow, and I'll do it again to remember now. ✠ 1 - 2 - 3 ...

Baptized into the death of Christ and raised again to new life,
Baptized into the death of Christ and raised again to new life.

Sing, sing, sing to the ones who have not heard,
We've been washed in the water and the Word.
We'll sing with every breath, "We will share his life like we've shared his death."

Baptized into the death of Christ and raised again to new life,
Baptized into the death of Christ and raised again to new life.

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PRAYER SONG

Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying

Ken Medema - ELW 752

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

PRAYERS OF INTERSESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion (*especially*). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict (*especially*). Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended (*especially*). May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PRAYER SONG

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

THE PEACE

The peace of the Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share the peace.

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG

Create in Me

Mary Rice Hopkins - W&P 35

Create in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you;
Create in me a clean heart, O God, that I might be renewed.
So fill me and heal me and bring me back to you.
Create in me a clean heart, O God, that I might serve you.

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OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

COMMUNION GREETING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: this cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me,

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen

Lamb of God

Sara Thomsen

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world, give us your peace,

Give us your peace.

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COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

BLESSING & PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Let us pray together. Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me!

African American Spiritual - ELW 860

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me! (three times)
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!

Satan had me bound, Jesus lifted me! (three times)
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!

When I was in trouble, Jesus lifted me! (three times)
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!

I'm so glad Jesus lifted me! (three times)
Singing glory, hallelujah, Jesus lifted me!
Singing glory, hallelujah . . . Jesus . . . lifted . . . me!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.
Thanks be to God!

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