



House of Prayer Lutheran Church

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Third Sunday in Lent, Year C

House of Prayer is a gathering of God's people connecting our faith to our daily lives, so that all would encounter Christ in each person

Holy Communion will be part of this worship service, the invitation to share in Communion comes from Jesus himself, whether this is your first time or you have been to the table many times before, you are welcome. whether you are a member of this church, another church, or no church at all, you are welcome. if you are uncertain or have been rejected in other spaces, you ARE welcome here!

We practice communion by intinction which means our ushers will invite you forward to one of our communion stations where you will be given a wafer of bread, hold on to it, you will then be presented with a chalice which contains wine and a small cup which contains grape juice, dip the wafer into whichever is your preference and consume the elements trusting they are Christ's body and blood, given and shed for you.

We have gluten free wafers and a separate chalice available. If this is a need, please let the server know and we will make this available to you.

If you prefer to receive Communion in your seat, let your usher know and our Communion servers can come to you, or they can provide you with a prepackaged Communion kit.

(The “+” insignia indicates where the congregation should stand)

Prelude: 2 Chorale Preludes

J. S. Bach

*Christe, du Lamm Gottes
O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig*

March 21 marks the 340th anniversary of the birth of Johann Sebastian Bach, the most notable of all Lutheran composers. Today's prelude and postlude are drawn from his "Little Organ Book" which contains preludes on German hymns for many of the Sundays throughout the church year.

Welcome and Gathering

Announcements

Ringing of the Bell (please remain seated)

Call to Worship

L: We gather the name of the Father, and of the \div Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: We gather seeking the Lord who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.

+Gathering Hymn: *ELW 445 Wash, O God, Your Sons & Daughters*

Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daugh-ters, where your cleans-ing wa-ters flow.

2 We who bring them long for nur - ture; by your milk may we be fed.

3 Oh, how deep your ho - ly wis - dom! Un - im - ag - ined, all your ways!



Num - ber them a - mong your peo - ple; bless as Christ blessed long a - go.

Let us join your feast, par - tak - ing cup of bless - ing, liv - ing bread.

To your name be glo - ry, hon - or! With our lives we wor-ship, praise!



Weave them gar-ments bright and spark-ling; com-pass them with love and light.

God, re - new us, guide our foot - steps; free from sin and all its snares,

We your peo - ple stand be - fore you, wa - ter-washed and Spir - it - born.



Fill, a - noint them; send your Spir - it, ho - ly dove and heart's de - light.

one with Christ in liv - ing, dy - ing, by your Spir - it, chil - dren, heirs.

By your grace, our lives we of - fer. Re - cre - ate us; God, trans - form!

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

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+Confession and Forgiveness

L: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone.

C: Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

L: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

L: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

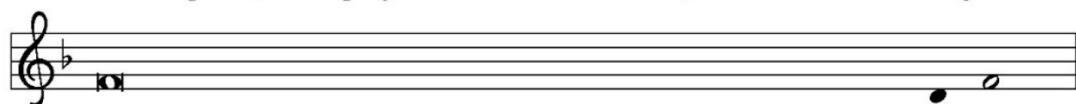
L: Almighty God has mercy on you and forgives you all your sins through our \ddagger Lord Jesus Christ. God strengthens you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keeps you in eternal life.

C: Amen

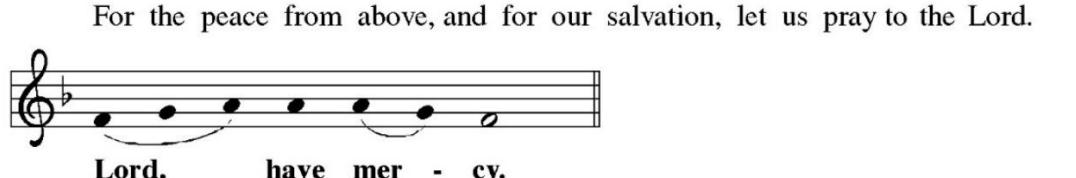
+Kyrie



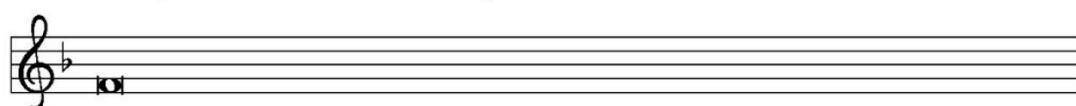
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



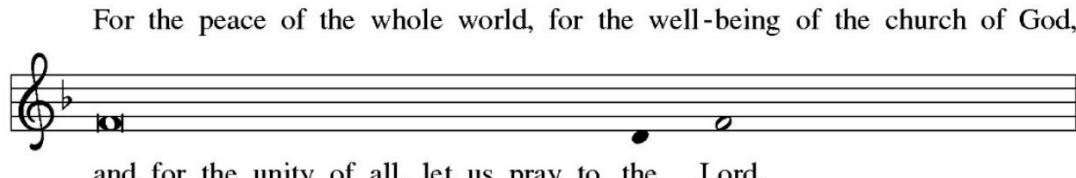
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



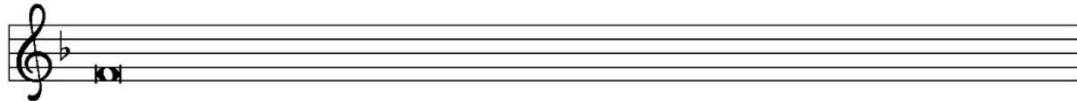
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



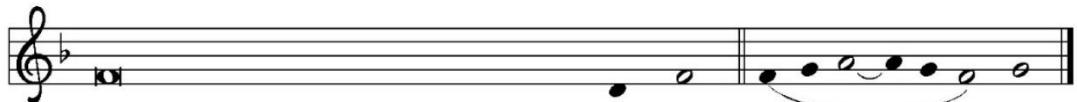
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

Prayer of the Day

L: Eternal God,

C: your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and live it, bringing your saving love to action in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Amen.

You may be seated

Word

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ Hear this: everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who 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 earnings 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 Now 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.

Psalm 63:1-8

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 ignorant, 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 engage 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.

L: Word of God, Word of Life C: Thanks be to God

+Gospel Acclamation:



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in steady - fast love.

+Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

L: The Gospel according to Luke, the Thirteenth chapter. C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ At that very time there were some present who told Jesus 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 other people 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 man working the vineyard, ‘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.’ ”

L: The Good News of God. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

You may be seated

Sermon: Real Presence – Second Chances

Hymn: ELW 624 Jesus Still Lead On

Jesus, Still Lead On



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less
3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.



Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–1760; tr. Jane L. Borthwick, 1813–1897, alt.
Music: SEELENBRÄUTIGAM, Adam Drese, 1620–1701

+Apostle's Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

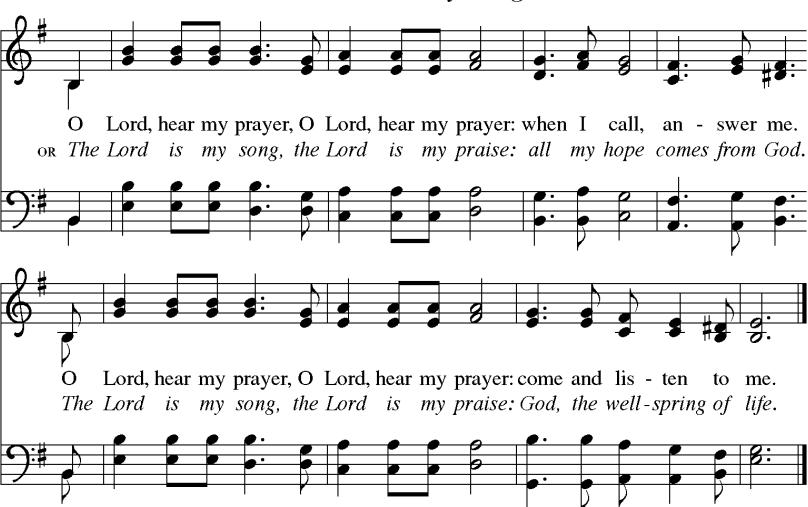
You may be seated

Prayers of Intercession

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

O Lord, Hear My Prayer (all sing before and after the prayers)

O Lord, Hear My Prayer
The Lord Is My Song



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
or *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.
Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
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Spoken Response: L: God, in your mercy, **C: Receive our Prayer.**

prayers end with: 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, **C: Amen.**

All Sing: O Lord, Hear My Prayer

Peace

L: The peace of Christ be with you always. **C: And also with you.**

You are invited to share the peace with those around you as you feel comfortable.

Meal

Offering & Musical Offering:

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

arr. R. Kauffman

HOP & Woodlake Combined Handbell Choir

Offering Prayer

L: God of glory, receive these gifts and the offering of our lives. Just as Jesus was lifted from earth, draw us to your heart in the midst of this world, that all creation may be brought from bondage to freedom, from shadow to light, and from death to life; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

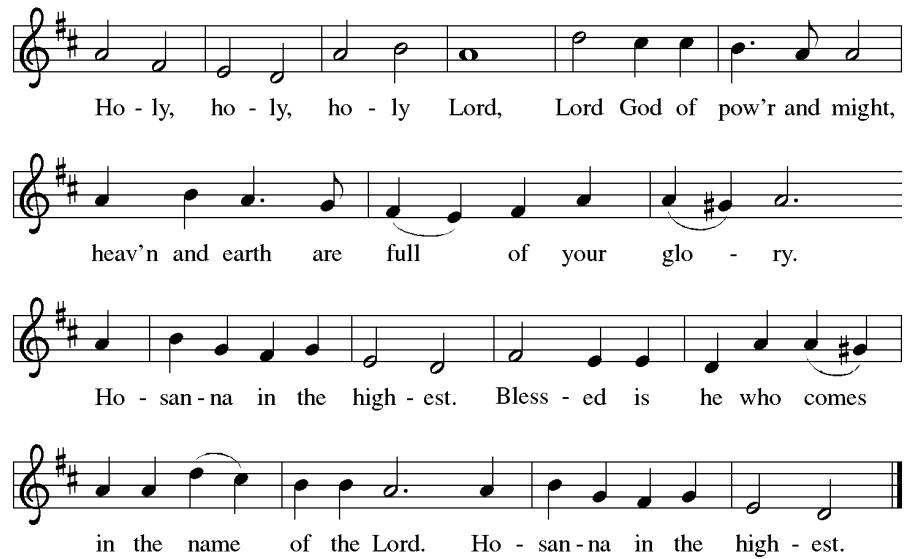
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

L: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy ... we **rise** to praise your name and join their unending hymn... (*please rise in body or in spirit*)

+Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

+Words of Institution

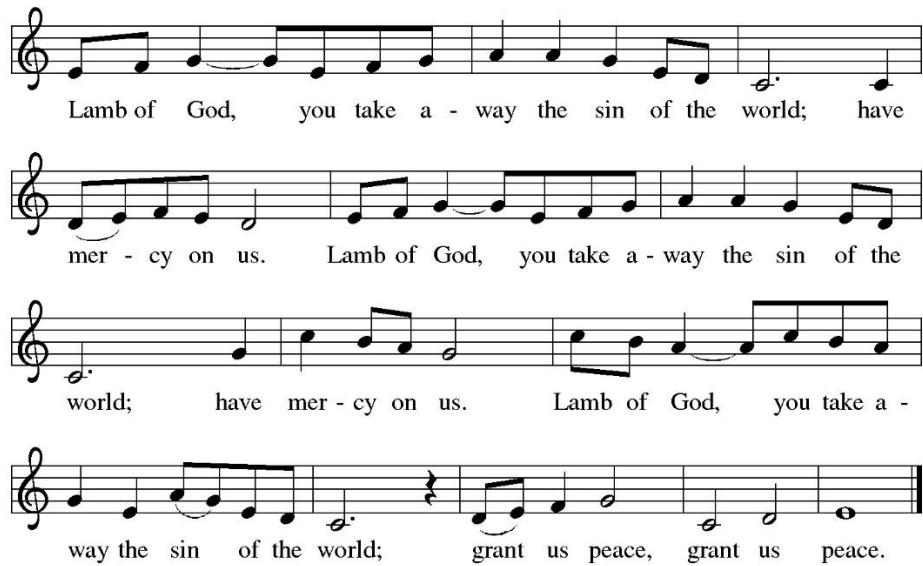
+Lord's Prayer

**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.**

+Invitation to Communion

L: Jesus welcomes you to this table. Come, experience the real presence of God.
(*You may be seated*)

Communion



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music during Distribution:

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

arr. Karen Roth

HOP & Woodlake Combined Handbell Choir

+Prayer after Communion

L: God of our ancestors, before whose face the human generations pass away, we thank you that as the broken bread was gathered into one loaf, the broken fragments of our history are gathered up and healed by the redeeming act of Christ. Send us forth in peace, form us into what we celebrate, the body of Christ in the world. Nourished by this sacrament, give us strength and courage to serve you in daily life with joy and singleness of heart. In the name of Christ we pray,
C: Amen.

Sending

+Exhortation to Mission & Blessing

L: Beloved in the Lord, God has shown you what is good. What does the Lord require of you?

C: to do justice! to love kindness! to walk humbly with our God!

L: Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit blesses you to do just that.

C: Amen!!

+Singing Hymn: *ELW 658 O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts*

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts



1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
chang-ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
turn, blest, when by faith hold you fast.
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808–1887, alt.

Music: WALTON, W. Gardiner, *Sacred Melodies*, 1815

+Ringing of the Bell

+Dismissal

L: Go in peace, seeking Christ in one another,

C: We will, by the grace of God.

Postlude: Chorale Prelude "*Christus, der uns Selig macht*"

Worship Participants

Presider: Pastor Eric Luedtke
Preacher: Pastor Eric Luedtke
Musicians: Dr. Roselyn Hanson Weber, Director of Liturgical Worship
Organist: Tim Buendorf
Special Music: HOP & Woodlake Combined Handbell Choir, dir. by Nathan Orcutt
Lector/Intercessor: Brent King
Communion Servers: Pastor Eric, Brent King, Sue Holton, Paul Danielson
Ushers: Charlie Robbins, Verne Nordholm, Steve Sather
AV Engineer: Ethan Alberg
Communion Preparers: Sandy Williams



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For more information about House of Prayer Lutheran Church,
please refer to our website: **hopl.org**
Give online or at hopl.org

