



Midweek Lenten Service

Wednesday, March 8, 2023
12:00 p.m.

Welcome to Central Lutheran Church You are welcome, no exceptions

Here are a few notes you might find helpful for worship:

Bold print indicates responses spoken by all. Masks are welcomed.

Congregational hymns are found printed in this bulletin or in the red hymnal,
Evangelical Lutheran Worship.

PRELUDE

(Please stand at the sound of the bell)

Gathering

LENTEN SENTENCES

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism, we are clothed with God's mercy,
forgiveness and healing.

**We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the
waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you
took delight.**

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family. Through the
sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was
baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.

**By water and your Word you claim us as beloved children, making us heirs of
your promise and servants of all.**

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life, and above all we praise you for
the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.

Shower us with your Spirit, and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

Hymn 453

"Baptized and Set Free"

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious and Holy One, maker of heaven and earth, in trust, in praise, in hope, we lift our eyes to the hills, for your help is steady and your way is sure. You bless the questions that find their voice in holy darkness. Where we are tempted to condemn, to draw righteous lines that limit your salvation, your healing, open us to a love that is wider, deeper, fuller. Grant grace sufficient for these days, saving grace for this season, healing grace lived out in Christ's love with your whole creation.

Amen.

(Please be seated)

Word

READING

John 3:1-17

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born

of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

(Please stand)

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

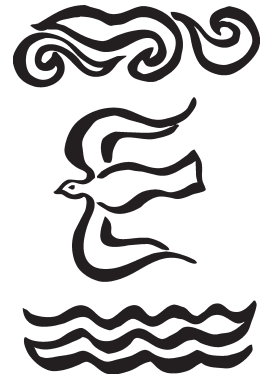
Each petition concludes:

Merciful God:

Receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.



Sending

BENEDICTION

God, the giver of love,
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Hymn 326

"Bless Now, O God, the Journey"

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

POSTLUDE

Serving Today

Pastor Peter Nycklemoe	<i>preacher</i>
Pat Hansen	<i>reading</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>pianist/organist</i>
Sara Masters	<i>video/sound</i>

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Central Lutheran
MINNEAPOLIS

333 South 12th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55404

(612) 870-4416 | info@centralmpls.org