



Midweek Lenten Service

Wednesday, March 15, 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

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

We thank you, dear God.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

We thank you, dear God.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

We thank you, dear God.

God we pray: Praise to you for the waters of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us and drown the evil around us.

We thank you, dear God.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

"Ask the Complicated Questions"



1. Ask the com - pli - cat - ed ques-tions. Do not fear to be found out;
2. Seek the dis - con - cert - ing an - swers, fol - low where the Spir - it blows;
3. Knock on doors of new i - de - as, test as - sump - tions long grown stale,
4. For in strug - gle we dis - cov - er truth both sim - ple and pro - found;



for our God makes strong our weak-ness, forg - ing faith in fires of doubt.
test com - pet - ing truths for wis - dom, for in ten - sion new life grows.
for Christ calls from shores of won - der, dar - ing us to try and fail.
in the knock-ing, ask - ing, seek - ing, we are o - pened, an - swered, found.

Text: David Mjorlin, b. 1984

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Music: *Restoration*, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

O God, we come to you thirsty. Our bodies thirst for wholeness. Our hearts thirst for justice. Our communities thirst for liberation. We shout out, "Give us water to drink!" while we look around and wonder "Is God even among us?" In the deepest wells of our longings, Loving One, satisfy our thirst and fill us with your living water. May our hope not disappoint us!

Amen.

(Please be seated)

Word

READING

John 4:1-42

¹Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John" ²—although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized —³he left Judea and started back to Galilee. ⁴But he had to go through Samaria. ⁵So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." ⁸(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jewish people do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? ¹²Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."



¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." ¹⁷The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; ¹⁸for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" ¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." ²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jewish people. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." ²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"

²⁸Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,

²⁹Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he? ³⁰They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." ³²But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." ³³So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" ³⁴Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' ³⁸I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

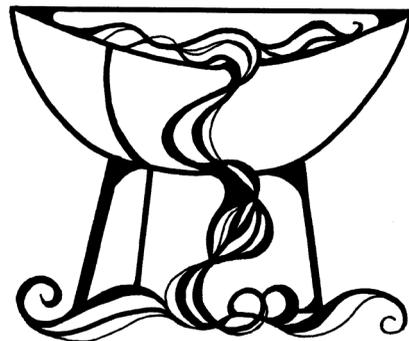
³⁹Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." ⁴⁰So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹And many more believed because of his word. ⁴²They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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 759

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

POSTLUDE

Serving Today

Pastor Melissa Pohlman	<i>preacher</i>
Sara Masters	<i>reading</i>
Isaac Drewes	<i>pianist/organist</i>
Mark Kieffer	<i>video/sound</i>

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Prayer of the Day written by Sister Michelle Walka as part of the Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (Minneapolis, MN) expansive prayer project. Used by permission.



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