

WE are Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church (elca)

918 South Litchfield Road, Goodyear, AZ

Office: 623-932-2394

Website: www.christgoodyear.org

Interim Pastor: Kim Sterner (cell phone: 602-510-9575)

WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP WITH US TODAY.

We welcome all visitors this morning to our service of Word and Sacrament. ALL are invited to receive the bread and the wine. Please know that at CELC this common meal is for all who feel moved to receive. This sacrament is God's gift to all, and is not tied to membership, doctrine or creed.\

3rd Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

9:00am

The Gathering

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP 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.**

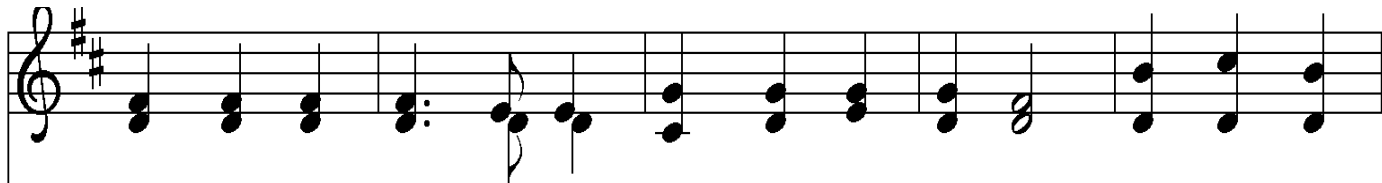
⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶ **when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**

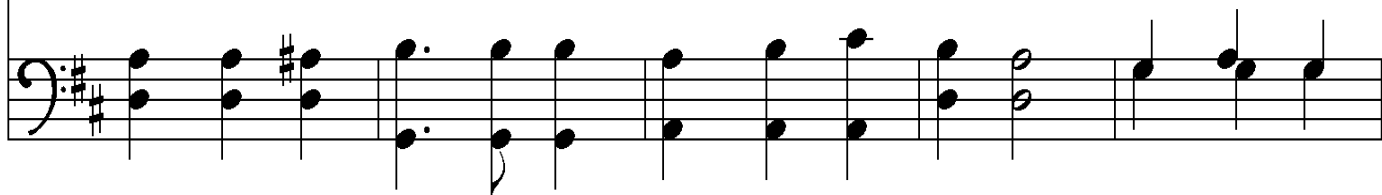
⁷ For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸ My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.

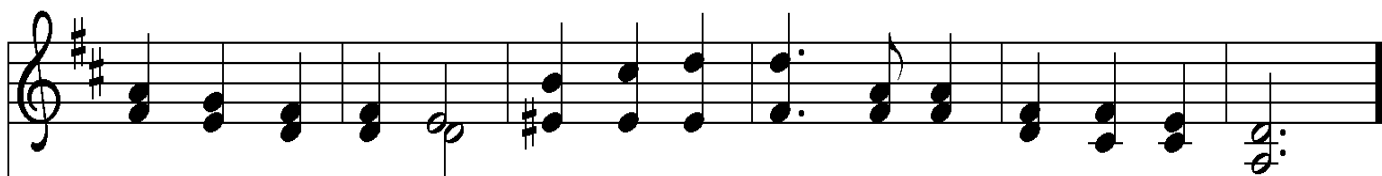
GATHERING HYMN ELW 733 "GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS"



1 Great is thy faith - ful - ness, O God my Fa - ther; there is no
2 Sum - mer and win - ter and spring - time and har - vest, sun, moon, and
3 Par - don for sin and a peace that en - dur - eth, thine own dear



shad - ow of turn - ing with thee; thou chang - est not, thy com -
stars in their cours - es a - bove join with all na - ture in
pres - ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to - day and bright



pas - sions they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for - ev - er wilt be.
man - i - fold wit - ness to thy great faith - ful - ness, mer - cy, and love.
hope for to - mor - row, bless - ings all mine, with ten thou - sand be - side!



Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND RESTORATION

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
Have mercy on us.
 We confess that we have turned from you
 and given ourselves into the power of sin.
 We are truly sorry and humbly repent.
 In your compassion forgive us our sins,
 known and unknown,
 things we have done and things we have failed to do.
 Turn us again to you,
 and uphold us by your Spirit,
 so that we may live and serve you
 in newness of life
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,
 God's arms are always stretched open wide
 to welcome the wandering ones home.
 In † Christ your sins are forgiven.
 You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**

KYRIE FROM MASS NO. 1 GILLESPIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy; have mer - cy, O Lord.

PASTORAL GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

Let us pray.

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, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

[Congregation is seated.]

The Word

FIRST READING: ISAIAH 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

- 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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

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.

Word of God, word of life. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ELW 814 "TAKE, OH, TAKE ME AS I AM"

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;
set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

The image shows a musical score for a two-part setting. The top part is in treble clef and the bottom part is in bass clef. The key signature has three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is written in a simple, folk-like style with many chords. The lyrics are printed below the notes.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

SERMON: PASTOR KIM

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH (by Handt Hanson, No. 1)

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

We believe in God – the Creator of all things – the source of all goodness and love. He is our God and we are His people.

We believe in Jesus Christ – the Son of God – true God yet true man. He was crucified, died, and was buried for our sin – that we might be free and know the joy of life. He was raised on the third day and ascended to heaven. He will come again in power and glory to judge both the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit – the power of God at work inside of us.

We believe in the church of God – His people of faith throughout the world.

We believe that our sin is forgiven and that we will live together with God for now and throughout eternity. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P 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. 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.**

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.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The Meal

OFFERTORY / OFFERTORY SONG *"HEALING AT THE FOUNTAIN"*

WORDS BY FANNY COSBY & MUSIC BY VICTOR JOHNSON

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P 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.

THE 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.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,..
We praise your name and join their unending hymn...

[THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE]

P Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

on the night before he died...
Again, after supper ...

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's Passover
from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **Have mercy on us.**
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; **Grant us peace.**

COMMUNION SONG: "LOVING AND FORGIVING"

Refrain:

Loving and forgiving are You, O Lord; slow to anger,
rich in kindness, loving and forgiving are You.

1. All my being, bless the Lord, bless the holy name of God.
All my being, bless the Lord, remembering the goodness of God. (R)

2. God forgives us all our sins, healing those who live in pain;
Saving us from final death, God fills us with goodness and love. (R)

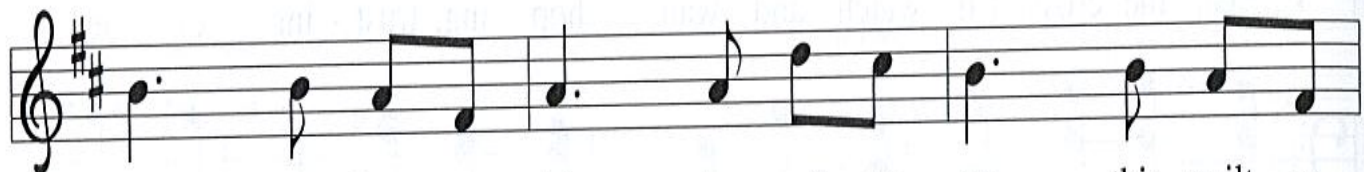
3. Good and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger, rich in love.
God remembers not our sin, forgiving and loving is God. (R)

4. As heaven soars above the earth, so great the love of God for us.
As far as east is from the west, the Lord takes our sins from us

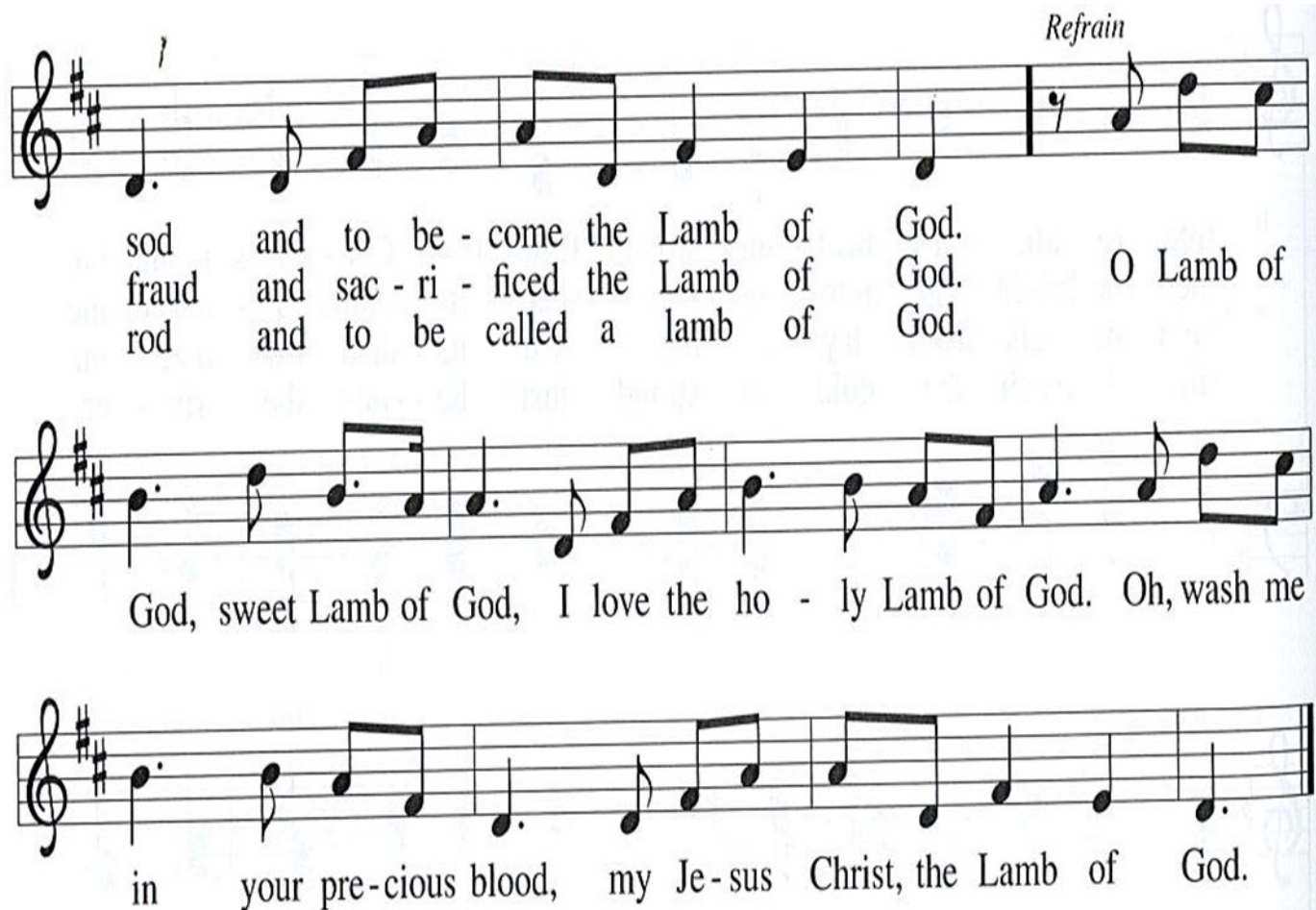
ELW 336 "LAMB OF GOD"



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.

God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me

in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

PASTORAL BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

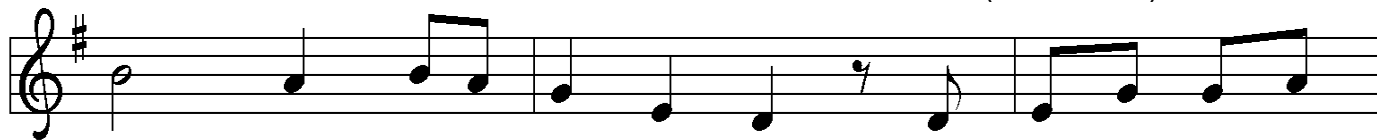
Let us pray, Generous Host,
 you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
 Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
 that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
 in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Sending

BENEDICTION

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

SENDING HYMN: ELW 726 "LIGHT DAWNS ON A WEARY WORLD" (NEXT PAGE)



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
loam, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



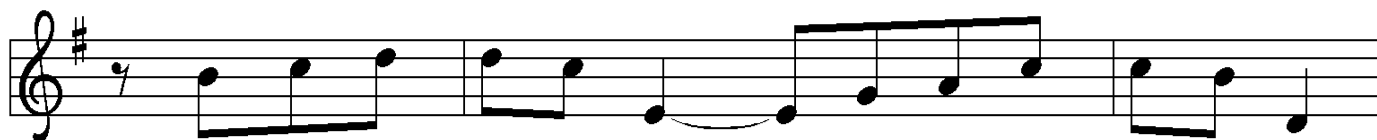
wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



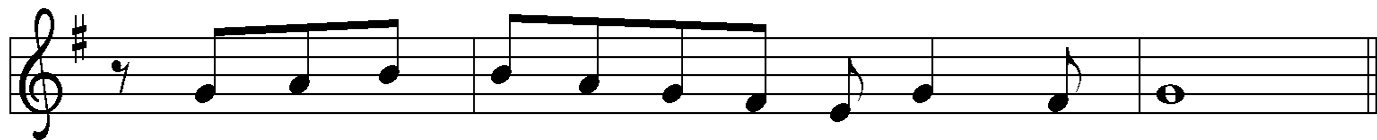
The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

DISMISSAL

P

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God.

Copyright © 2015 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000811.

CCLI license #1852763

New Revised Standard Version Bible, copyright © 1989, Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved.