



THE MISSION OF THIS CONGREGATION IS TO:  
**PRAISE** God  
**PROCLAIM** the message of Jesus Christ  
**REACH OUT** with this message to people of  
all backgrounds and cultures  
**CREATE A COMMUNITY** of Christian  
support, love, and forgiveness.

**Williams Bay Lutheran Church Worship**  
**March 16, 2025 at 9:30 am**  
**Service of the Word and Holy Communion**

## Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

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.*

Compassionate One, **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. 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.**

Gathering Hymn

*"Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise"*

**ELW 834**



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;

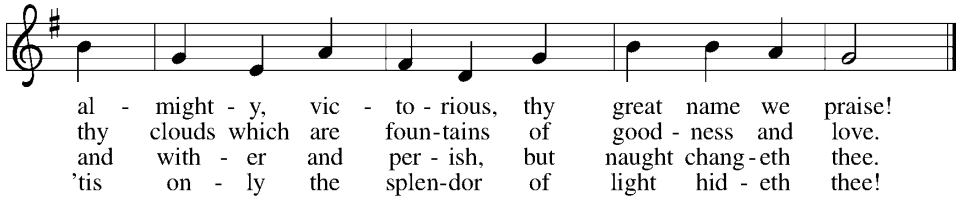


in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see

*continued next page*



Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.  
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

Greeting: 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: God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Handbell Anthem "Ah, Holy Jesus"

## WORD

First Reading:

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness. <sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. <sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. <sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

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

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then I shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- <sup>2</sup> **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**
- <sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.  
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.
- <sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze  
upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**
- <sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up on a rock.
- <sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I  
will sing and make music to the LORD.**
- <sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.
- <sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message— "Seek my face."  
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**
- <sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my  
salvation.
- <sup>10</sup> **Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me in.**
- <sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD;  
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.
- <sup>12</sup> **Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**
- <sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!
- <sup>14</sup> **Wait for the LORD and be strong. Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

## Second Reading:

Philippians 3:17—4:1

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

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

## Gospel Acclamation



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## Gospel:

Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup>He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

## Sermon

Pastor Tom

## *Silence for Reflection*

## Hymn of the Day

*"If God My Lord Be for Me"*

**ELW 788**

Apostles' 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**

Prayers of Intercession

*Petitions conclude with:* God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Peace      The peace of the Lord be with you all. **And also with you.**

Offering - *Please be seated as we pass the offering plates.*

## MEAL

Offering Hymn

*"Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful"*

ELW 184



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that  
we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of  
all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

Offering Prayer

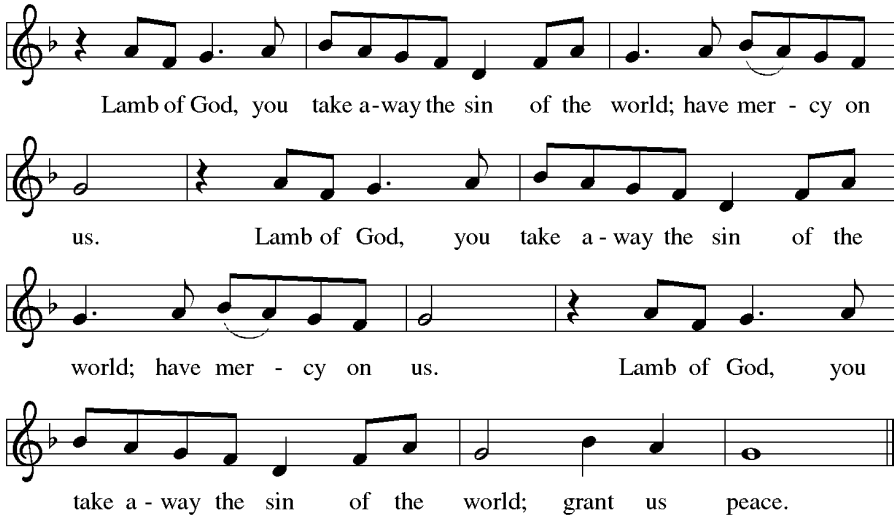
Words of Institution for Holy Communion

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.**

All are Welcome to receive the Lord's Meal at His table.

## Hymns during Communion:

### "Lamb of God"



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.

### "Blessed Assurance"

**ELW 638**



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an - gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech - oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look - ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

#### *Refrain*



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908



"Come to the Table"

ELW 481 (x2)



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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## Table Blessing

## SENDING

## Sending Prayer and Blessing

*Refrain*

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;  
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.  
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r  
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,  
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,  
to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.  
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.  
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.  
Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.  
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.  
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

*Refrain*  
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980

Music: Ronald A. Nelson, b. 1927

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