

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS LUTHERAN CHURCH
SUNDAY WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION
MARCH 17, 2024

WELCOME & GREETING

CALL TO WORSHIP

Let us be alert,
for we do not know when the time will come.
Let us stay awake,
for we do not know when Christ will return.
Let him not find us asleep when he comes.
We will stay awake.



PRAYER OF CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We confess our sins before God and one another. *(Pause for silence and reflection.)*

God of Love, when we look inward and are honest with ourselves, we see where we have lived as though you are not our God. We have sought after our own gain rather than the good of all. We have not loved you or our neighbors as ourselves. We have betrayed and denied you in what we have done and not done. Create in us clean hearts, O God, that we might become what you have called us to be.

God, whose unfathomable love went to the cross for our sake, now forgives us all our sins and welcomes us all over again into the promise of eternal life in Christ's name. As a called and ordained minister in Christ's Church, and by his power, I declare to you that your sins are forgiven. Live into God's grace in peace and love, to God's glory and for the sake of the world. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of the beginning and of the end, you ask us to put our trust not in worldly things, but in heavenly things. As we navigate the challenges of daily life and the much larger challenges faced by our communities and all creation, give us confidence in your power and grace, that we might live into our faith each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READINGS: PSALM 102:12-17

¹² But you, O Lord, are enthroned forever; your name endures to all generations.

¹³ You will rise up and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to favor it;
the appointed time has come.

¹⁴ For your servants hold its stones dear, and have pity on its dust.

¹⁵ The nations will fear the name of the Lord, and all the kings of the earth your glory.

¹⁶ For the Lord will build up Zion; he will appear in his glory.

¹⁷ He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and will not despise their prayer.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

HOLY GOSPEL: MARK 13:1-8, 24-37

Lector: As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, “Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!” Then Jesus asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.” When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?”

Pastor Janet: Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

Lector: But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

Pastor Janet: From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.

Lector: Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.

Praise be to Christ.

SERMON

PASTOR JANET KETTERING

HYMN OF THE DAY | CREATOR OF THE STARS OF NIGHT

https://youtu.be/EPYTQWO_GYO?si=BTnPEIM5z2X45GJ3

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Eternal God, you call us to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us, and your love supporting us. Amen.

CONGREGATIONAL SHARING

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We are not alone; we live in God's world. We believe in God:

**Who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God. We are called to be the Church: To celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.**

In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.

We are not alone. Thanks be to God. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

As we walk together through this season of contemplation and preparation, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need. *(A brief silence).*

Merciful God, Jesus' words about the end of time are provocative and frightening. We ask that you would stir up in us a profound trust in your promises, that we might live knowing that all will be well. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

All of creation bears witness to your presence. Open our eyes to see you in everything from a delicate blossom to a colossal mountain, that we might love creation as you do. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Earthly powers will pass away, but you will reign forever. Remind all who lead that their power and authority is only borrowed, to be used in dedication to selfless service of all your beloved children. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Comfort those who are facing the end of their lives, and all who love them, that they might trust in the promise of eternal life with you. Give strength to all in our community and beyond who struggle with the pains and trials of life, especially Dorothy, Lori, Ed, Terry, Dave, and all we lift up through our Prayer Chain. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Wars, natural disasters, and famine are happening throughout our world. Help us not to see these things as a sign of the end and throw up our hands, but challenge us to address them head on in the here and now. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Strengthen us to care for those in need through the outreach ministries of our community. To all who have hunger, give daily bread. To all who have bread, give hunger for justice. Bring aid and support to those who are poor, beaten down, abused, forgotten, silenced, or avoided, especially those seeking help through the Community Infant Program, the Little Free Pantry, Rise Against Suicide, and the Boulder Shelter for the Homeless. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Provide for the work of the Joshua School and organizations like them. Empower the staff and parents of children living on the Autism Spectrum. Nurture the minds, bodies and spirits of these children and adults, that they might reach their highest quality of life. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Encourage and empower those impacted by war, tyranny, and gun violence. Still the sounds of weapons. Teach us to seek security that comes from respect rather than violence. Strengthen and comfort the people of Ukraine, Russia, Israel, Palestine, Gaza, Sudan and all those throughout the world whose lives are impacted by violence. Remind us of what You require of us: That we do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with You. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, our help in every trouble, we pray for peace in the Holy Land. Protect those traumatized by ongoing violence, especially those with no access to safe spaces. Release people held hostage; provide food, water, fuel, and supplies for all in need; sustain medical personnel as they work in horrendous conditions; tend to those who are wounded; comfort all who grieve. Direct your people and its leaders into the way of peace. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

With gratitude we remember the saints who came in your name and guided us in your truth. May we, in turn, help others to not be led astray by the enticements of the world. God of the journey, **hear our prayer.**

Confident that you walk alongside us in our need, we lift to you all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, through Jesus Christ our savior. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

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

(Please share a sign of God's love and peace with each other.)

OFFERING/OFFERING PRAYER

Holy God, **Source of all good things**, we offer thanks and praise for your generosity to us. **Accept now these gifts returned to you from what you have given us, that they might be used for your good purposes in our community and beyond. Amen.**

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY: SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

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 GOD thanks and praise.**

It is right and good to give you thanks and praise, O God, because from the beginning, you invited us on a journey with you, a journey of wonders and miracles, a journey of healing and joy, a journey of mystery, a journey full of life and love.

Blessed is your son, O God, our savior Jesus Christ, who joined us on our journey, who was so full of grace and truth that we could not help but follow him. When his path went back to you, you sent us your Spirit as a helper and a guide, empowering and inspiring us to be your people. Now we pray that that same Spirit will move among us, and among these elements of bread and cup, that our ordinary meal will become our sacred feast, to nourish us for the next part of the journey.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

We come to this table, remembering that on the night in which he gave himself up for us, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

As we break bread together, as we drink from the same cup, unite us as people who are grateful for the journey, for each other's company, and for your guiding presence. Hear us as we boldly pray the prayer that Jesus taught....

**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.**

Jesus, who was there at the beginning and will be there at the end, reminds us that he is here in this place with us right now, inviting us to this holy table to share in his presence through bread and wine. Come and be fed.

SHARING THE MEAL

This is the body of Christ, broken in love for you.

This is the blood of Christ, poured out in forgiveness of you.

COMMUNION HYMN | TABLE OF GRACE

<https://youtu.be/GFJKJAVUZ-S?si=U9GJXBSLYMM-GVSL>

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Jesus, our Beloved, we give you thanks for inviting us to your table and sharing your feast. May we know that we have been fed with love and grace, and may we follow you out into the world as ambassadors of your hope and peace. Amen.

CLOSING ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN BENEDICTION

Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to:
Walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God.
Walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High.
Walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN | THANK YOU FOR TODAY

<https://youtu.be/xB48JHSIWBM?si=9JKeSkUEsU113Uos>

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

This is Christ's church. There is a place for you here.

We are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace.
Liberated by our faith, we embrace you as a whole person—questions, complexities and all.
Join us as we do God's work in Christ's name for the life of the world.

WORSHIP RESOURCES:

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PRAYER OF THE DAY — NARRATIVE LECTIONARY WORSHIP RESOURCES COPYRIGHT © 2024 CLERGY STUFF

SCRIPTURE READINGS — NEW REVISED STANDARD BIBLE, UPDATED EDITION

RESPONSE TO THE WORD — ERIC MILNER WHITE

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH — RE-WORSHIP, UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA

GREAT THANKSGIVING — BETH MERRILL NEEL, 'HOLD FAST TO WHAT IS GOOD'. USED WITH PERMISSION, AS ADAPTED

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LENTEN BENEDICTION — JOANNA HARADER, *SPACIOUS FAITH*

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: CAROLINE MICHALAK

ALTAR GUILD: GERRY & KEN MOORHEAD, LYNN TRUMBLE & KAY WERPYS

ASSISTING MINISTER: JOHN YARBERRY

COFFEE AND CONVERSATION: THE WERPYS

PASTOR: REV. JANET KETTERING

LECTOR: CINDIE SCOBY

ZOOM TECHNICIAN: FUZZ NEWKIRK

SHEPHERD CALENDAR OF EVENTS: MARCH 17 – MARCH 24, 2024

Sunday, March 17th – End of the Age

9:30 a.m. - Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship w/Holy Communion
Coffee & Conversation following Worship
Hybrid In-Person/Zoom “Why Church?” Lenten Study

Wednesday, March 20th

11:00 a.m. - Amazing Grace Bible Study
6:30 p.m. - Zoom Only “Why Church?” Lenten Study

Friday, March 22nd

7:00 a.m. - Men’s Zoom Breakfast Bible Study
5:00 p.m. - Friday Night Perspectives Gathering

Sunday, March 24th – Triumphal Entry

9:30 a.m. - Hybrid In-Person/Zoom Worship w/Holy Communion
Coffee & Conversation following Worship
Hybrid In-Person/Zoom “Why Church?” Lenten Study

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

ED J. 3/1
EMILY T. 3/3
MICHELLE K. 3/5
T. SCHREIER 3/6
PASTOR JANET
3/21
LYNN T. 3/25
DICK W. 3/27
NINA S. 3/30

DAILY NARRATIVE READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 17, 2024

Monday, March 18, 2024 – Mark 13:9-13 Persecution Foretold

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-139-13-persecution-foretold2024>

Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – Mark 13:14-23 The Desolating Sacrilege

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-1314-23-the-desolating-sacrilege2024>

Wednesday, March 20, 2024 – Mark 14:1-2 The Plot to Kill Jesus

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-141-2-the-plot-to-kill-jesus2024>

Thursday, March 21, 2024 – Mark 14:10-11 Judas Agrees to Betray Jesus

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-1410-11-judas-agrees-to-betray-jesus2024>

Friday, March 22, 2024 – Mark 15:1-5 Jesus Before Pilate

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-151-5-jesus-before-pilate2024>

Saturday, March 23, 2024 – Mark 15:6-15 Pilate Hands Jesus Over to be Crucified

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-156-15-pilate-hands-jesus-over-to-be-crucified2024>

Sunday, March 24, 2024 – Mark 11:1-11 Triumphal Entry

<https://clergystuff.com/nl-devotions/mark-111-11-triumphal-entry2024>