

March 17, 2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Lord of Life Lutheran Church



WELCOME

MUSICAL OFFERING

Suzanne Bowen

CALL TO WORSHIP

Why are you here?

**I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.**

I see it! You're in the right place!

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Why are you here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.

We see that in you! You're in the right place.

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Let us worship God.

Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

HYMN

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

#510

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Teaching God,

**We want to learn your ways. We want to learn the ways of forgiveness. We want to learn the ways of grace. We want to learn your ways of love. That is part of why we return to your text week after week, because we are hungry to be more like you. So as we prepare to listen to your good Word, calm the noise in our minds. Center our spirits to focus on you so that we might learn and hear what we have missed in this story before. God, we want to learn your ways. Meet us here. Speak your truth. Help us listen.
Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

PSALM: Psalm 119:9-16

⁹ How can young people keep their way pure?

By guarding it according to your word.

¹⁰ **With my whole heart I seek you;**

do not let me stray from your commandments.

¹¹ I treasure your word in my heart,

so that I may not sin against you.

¹² **Blessed are you, O LORD;**

teach me your statutes.

¹³ With my lips I declare

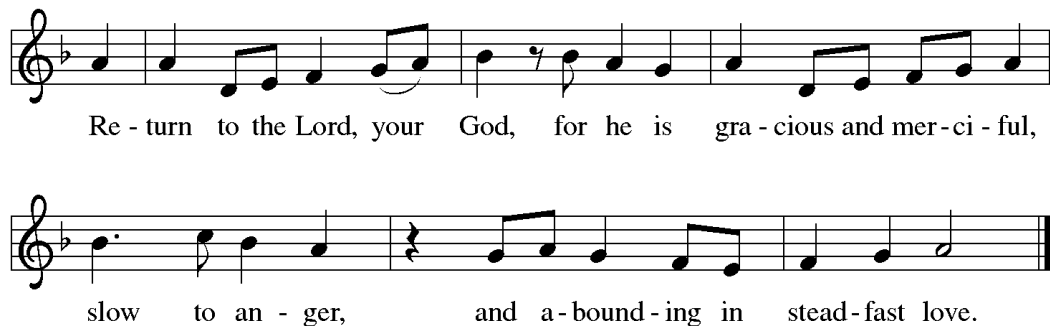
all the ordinances of your mouth.

¹⁴ **I delight in the way of your decrees**

as much as in all riches.

¹⁵ I will meditate on your precepts,
and fix my eyes on your ways.
¹⁶ **I will delight in your statutes;
I will not forget your word.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



THE HOLY GOSPEL: Matthew 18:15-22

¹⁵ 'If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶ But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax-collector. ¹⁸ Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them.' ²¹ Then Peter came and said to him, 'Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?' ²² Jesus said to him, 'Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times.'

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lamb of God

#336

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God,

We long to be lifelong learners. We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.

Instead, we often live as if we know best. We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher."

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious. Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best. Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers. Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, "How many times should we forgive?"—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility we pray, amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

"How many times should I forgive?"

"Jesus, where are you going?"

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

“Where does it hurt?”

“What do you need?”

“How can I help?”

We believe that God is a teacher.

“Speak, Lord, your servant is listening.”

“Here I am.”

“Send me.”

We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,

with all our heart,

with all our mind,

with all our strength.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.

THE PRAYERS

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY

Loaves Were Broken, Words Were Spoken

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread;

forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil;

For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THE BLESSING

SENDING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with your Blessing

#545

SENDING

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