**March 26th, 2023 Fifth Sunday in Lent – Email/At Home Missal**

**ZOOM INFORMATION:**

**The ZOOM link for today’s service, which opens at 9.30 am on March 26th, 2023, can be found here:**

**Sunday Worship March 26th, 2023 09:30 am ZOOM room opens; service begins at 10:00 am.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here:**[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86144723429?pwd=bDM1S2Q5ZVY3eGxhdlhuWG9UOHIvUT09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86144723429?pwd=bDM1S2Q5ZVY3eGxhdlhuWG9UOHIvUT09)

**Meeting ID: 861 4472 3429 Passcode: 701596**

**You don’t have to have a computer or internet to connect to any of our church Zoom services; you can also just call in on one of these numbers (long distance charges may apply): (All Canadian numbers). You can also access the ZOOM from your telephone by using the “One tap mobile” option:**

**+17789072071,,86144723429#,,,,\*701596# Canada**

**+17806660144,,86144723429#,,,,\*701596# Canada**

**Dial by your location:**

**+1 778 907 2071 Canada**

**+1 780 666 0144 Canada**

**+1 204 272 7920 Canada  
+1 438 809 7799 Canada**

**+1 587 328 1099 Canada**

**+1 647 374 4685 Canada  
+1 647 558 0588 Canada**

**Meeting ID: 861 4472 3429 Passcode: 701596**

**Find your local number:** [**https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kHrnL3MpQ**](https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kHrnL3MpQ) **……………………………….**

**IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS WEEK:**

**Lenten Discussion Series – Bless the Lent We Actually Have**

**On Zoom, Wednesdays at 7:15PM**

**The ZOOM link for this series opens at 6.45 pm.**

**Join Zoom Meeting click here**:  
[**https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86719040403?pwd=akxCWllYMXYySjUxNUxuUlJzTkxxQT09**](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86719040403?pwd=akxCWllYMXYySjUxNUxuUlJzTkxxQT09)

**Meeting ID: 867 1904 0403 Passcode: 865095**

**March 29 – Blessed Are Those Who Mourn**

Each session will be about 45 mins. You’re invited to join us for any or all, as you are able and interested. For more information, contact Pastor Laura at [pastor@st-peters-cambridge.org](mailto:pastor@st-peters-cambridge.org)

**……………………………….**

**Here is the YouTube link for the sermon from this past Sunday’s (March 19th) service:** [**https://youtu.be/JwiA\_j2\_Cjs**](https://youtu.be/JwiA_j2_Cjs)

1. **…………………………………**
2. The **annual meeting** will be held in the sanctuary on March 26 following worship. Coffee and tea will be available (no potluck). You are invited to bring a snack or a brown-bag lunch if you wish. Annual reports will be handed out to the congregation on March 12, 2023.

……………………………..

1. **Menno Singers and artistic director Brandon Leis present Rachmaninoff’s All Night Vigil (Vespers)** at Trillium Lutheran Church (22 Willow, Waterloo) on Saturday, April 1 at 7:30pm.
2. $25 Adults. $5 Children/Students. Tickets available on-line or at the door (cash or credit)  [www.mennosingers.com](http://www.mennosingers.com)
3. **……………………………**
4. **PASTORAL VISITS: Pastor Laura Sauder is available** for safe visits with social distancing requirements in place, and also for telephone visits. Please reach out to her by calling the church office at 519-653-4721 to arrange a visit.
5. **……………………………..**

**This Easter… Dress up breakfast and brunch with Dettweiler Mennonite Style Breakfast Sausage.  100% pure pork sausage, no filler, no preservatives, and no gluten.  Just real pork with salt, pepper, and a touch of brown sugar, in a natural casing.**

**$6.75 / PKG (Approximately 1 Pound, 12 Breakfast Sausages)**

**Please Place your order by March 26 for April 1/2 pickup @ St. Peter’s**

**Please contact Alex Black at St. Peter’s Preston - 519.653.4721**

1. **………………………………**
2. You can order your own Maple Syrup from St. Peter’s, Preston. Our partner is a 5th generation Woolwich Township farm that has been producing maple syrup for over 100 years. They adhere to the production guidelines issued by the Ontario Maple Syrup Association, which state the number of taps per tree (max. of 2) for best forest management practices. Handling of the sap and syrup is minimized to reduce the chance of contamination. Their syrup is pure with nothing added, only the water has been removed. As of 2018 their maple syrup is certified organic.
3. **1 litre Mason Jars of maple syrup are $23.00.**
4. **Send an email to or** [**alexblack@sympatico.ca**](mailto:alexblack@sympatico.ca) **or call the church office at 519-653-4721 to order your own locally produced fresh Maple Syrup.**
5. The **annual meeting** will be held in the sanctuary on March 26 following worship. Coffee and tea will be available (no potluck). You are invited to bring a snack or a brown-bag lunch if you wish. Annual reports will be handed out to the congregation on March 12, 2023.
6. **……………………………….**
7. **Bible Study will be in the Art Room on Mondays at 3:00PM, beginning March 6th.**

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**Please join us – all are welcome!**

1. **…………………………..**
2. **Addison’s Women’s Choir – 40th Anniversary Concert**
3. **Here’s to Song**
4. Saturday, May 6, 2023
5. Special Guests: Siobhan Kerr, Harpist,
6. Cambridge Male Chorus, AWC Alumni & Past
7. Marantha Christian Reformed Church, 94 Elgin Street, South, Cambridge
8. Tickets: Adults $15.00 (under 12 free)
9. **To place an order, please telephone Barbara Berg at 519-653-0885, or by email at** [**bergsnest@bell.net**](mailto:bergsnest@bell.net)

**…………………………..**

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$25 Adults. $5 Children/Students. Tickets available on-line or at the door (cash or credit)  [www.mennosingers.com](http://www.mennosingers.com)

1. **……………………………….**

Our friends at Esta Chocolates have two items, perfect for Easter gifts.

**Easter Cone Bags; 15 assorted Truffles, wrapped individually, and packaged, ready to share, with family, friends, and colleagues. $9.00 / Package**

**Easter Bunny Truffles; 7 Bunny Truffles with Caramel and Milk Chocolate Centres, wrapped individually, and packaged, ready to share, with family, friends, and colleagues. $5.50 / Package**

**Please contact Alex Black at St. Peter's Preston 519-653-4721**

1. **………………………**
2. **Banding Together for Refugee Support – A Spring Benefit Concert –**
3. **Saturday April 15, 2023 at 2 pm**
4. Mount Zion Lutheran Church, 29 Westmount Rd. S, Waterloo ON
5. Featuring **The WATERLOO CONCERT BAND** Dir.Trevor Wagler
6. Speaker: Jennifer Ardon, Refugee Resettlement Manager, Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR)
7. Admission By DONATION (Dawson Street door) (Light Refreshments)
8. ……………………………..

In the spirit of those who welcomed Jesus to Jerusalem by laying cloaks along his way, **in place of waving palm branches this year on Palm Sunday, you are invited to bring textiles. (new pairs of socks and underwear – all sizes accepted) which will be donated to The Bridges in Cambridge.** This Emergency Shelter is in need of more men’s clothing than women’s, but would graciously accept either. In turn, they would keep some women’s clothing for their clients, but would pass on any in abundance to the women’s shelter in Kitchener. They are also in need of men’s gently used belts – again any size, and these items will be also be collected and then sent to them with the textiles.

**……………………………………….**

**Presiding Pastor: Rev. Laura Sauder**

**Organist & Director of Music: Bradley Moggach**

**Assisting Minister: Emily Reidl**

1. **Land Acknowledgement:**

**A: With thankful hearts we acknowledge that the land upon which we live and worship here at St Peter’s is the treaty land of the Six Nations, comprising in part the territory of the Haudenosaunee, Anishinaabe and Neutral Peoples. This land is covered by treaties such as the Dish with One Spoon Treaty, the Two Row Wampum Treaty and the Haldimand Treaty of 1784. As we continue to learn more about the truth of our shared history, we desire to grow in Peace, Friendship and Respect, leading ultimately to true reconciliation.**

**Confession & Forgiveness:**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who looks upon us in compassion,

forgives our sin,

and heals our lives.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Have mercy, O God,

***C: against you, you alone,***

***we have sinned.***

***In your compassion,***

***cleanse us from our sin***

***and take away our guilt.***

***Create in us a new heart***

***and give us a steadfast spirit.***

***Do not cast us away,***

***but fill us with your Holy Spirit***

***and restore your joy within us.***

***Amen.***

As tender as parent to child,

so deep is God’s compassion for you.

As high as heaven is above earth,

so vast is God’s love for you.

As far as east is from west,

so far God removes your sin from you,

renewing your life through Jesus Christ.

Blessed be God who crowns us with mercy and love.

***C: Blessed be God forever.***

**Gathering Hymn: ACS # 980 ‘Come, Holy Spirit, Descend’**

Come, Holy Spirit,

descend on us, descend on us.

We gather here in Jesus' name.

Come, Breath of heaven,

descend on us, descend on us.

We gather here in Jesus' name.

Come, Holy Spirit,

Come to unite us, Come to unite us.

We gather here in Jesus' name.

Come, Holy Spirit,

Come to inspire us, Come to inspire us.

We gather here in Jesus' name.

*(Title: Come, Holy Spirit, Descend; Text & Music: John L. Bell, b. 1949; Text& music © 1992, 1995 WGRG, Iona Community, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Greeting**:

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

**C: And also with you.**

**Kyrie: ELW Setting 4** (page 147)

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,

and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,

for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all,

let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,

and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**Prayer of the Day***:*

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. ***Amen.\****

**Lesson Introduction: *(Pastor Laura)***

**Psalm 130**

Psalm 130 is part of a larger collection of 15 psalms that pilgrims would sing along their way to celebrate important religious festivals in the holy city of Jerusalem.

This is a psalm of lament – a cry to God for help in difficult times. While it’s written from the perspective of an individual, the fact that this was a song shared by the community reminds us how we are united in our experiences of grief and pain. And of the promise that God hears us and holds us in our times of hurt, offering healing and hope. Let us listen to the word…

**The Reading: Psalm 130**

Out of the depths

I cry to you, O Lord;

O Lord, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

If you were to keep watch over sins,

O Lord, who could stand?

Yet with you is forgiveness,

in order that you may be feared.

I wait for you, O Lord; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

O Israel, wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;

with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

For the Lord shall redeem Israel

from all their sins.\*

Word of God, Word of Life*.* ***C: Thanks be to God.****\**

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**Children’s Message: *(Pastor Laura)***

**Gospel Acclamation: Lenten Acclamation from Setting 4 *(ELW page # 151)***

Return to the Lord, your God,

for he is gracious and merciful,

slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.\*

**The Holy Gospel according to John 11:1-45**

***C: Glory to you, O Lord.***

A certain man, Lazarus, was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. This was the Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped his feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent word to Jesus, saying, “Lord, the one whom you love is ill.”

When he heard this, Jesus said, “This illness isn’t fatal. It’s for the glory of God so that God’s Son can be glorified through it.” Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus.When he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was. After two days, he said to his disciples, “Let’s return to Judea again.”

The disciples replied, “Rabbi, the Jewish opposition wants to stone you, but you want to go back?”

Jesus answered, “Aren’t there twelve hours in the day? Whoever walks in the day doesn’t stumble because they see the light of the world. But whoever walks in the night does stumble because the light isn’t in them.”

He continued, “Our friend Lazarus is sleeping, but I am going in order to wake him up.”

The disciples said, “Lord, if he’s sleeping, he will get well.” They thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was in a deep sleep, but Jesus had spoken about Lazarus’ death.

Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus has died. For your sakes, I’m glad I wasn’t there so that you can believe. Let’s go to him.”

Then Thomas (the one called Didymus) said to the other disciples, “Let us go too so that we may die with Jesus.”

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. Many people had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother’s death. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died. Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you.”

Jesus told her, “Your brother will rise again.”

Martha replied, “I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day.”

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?”

She replied, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God’s Son, the one who is coming into the world.”

After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary, “The teacher is here and he’s calling for you.” When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. He hadn’t entered the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the people who were comforting Mary in the house saw her get up quickly and leave, they followed her. They assumed she was going to mourn at the tomb.

When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn’t have died.”

When Jesus saw her crying and the people who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. He asked, “Where have you laid him?”

They replied, “Lord, come and see.”

Jesus began to cry. The people said, “See how much he loved him!” But some of them said, “He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn’t he have kept Lazarus from dying?”

Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. Jesus said, “Remove the stone.”

Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, “Lord, the smell will be awful! He’s been dead four days.”

Jesus replied, “Didn’t I tell you that if you believe, you will see God’s glory?” So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, “Father, thank you for hearing me. I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me.” Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, “Untie him and let him go.”

Therefore, many of the people who came with Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.  *(CEB)*

The Gospel of the Lord.***C: Praise to you, O Christ***

1. **Sermon**

**“Blessed Are Those Who Mourn” (John 11:1-45)**

It’s not hard to understand why a story like this one would leave us with a theme today of “Blessed are those who mourn.” Many of us know the pain that accompanies the death of someone dear to us, as Lazarus was for his sisters Martha and Mary; and for his dear friend Jesus.

The upheaval and sense of being unmoored.

The giant gap their absence leaves in our life.

But death is not the only kind of loss we will face in our life.

In her reflections on the story of Lazarus, Kate Bowler offers a list that helps get at the breadth of types of loss we might encounter in our lifetime. These losses include:

“Dreams that may never become a reality.

Children we will never have.

Perhaps a childhood that was so traumatic that we never got to be a kid.

Some grieve that their own child lost their innocence because of a terrible situation.

Others grieve the deaths of their loved ones gone too soon

Or when time will never, ever be enough.

We grieve our beloved pets

And the loss of bodies that stop working like they used to.

We grieve for careers or cities or homes we have to say goodbye to.

We mourn the reality of broken relationships

– break-ups, divorces, friendships that end

Or difficult family members who never could understand or apologize.

We grieve for people in our communities or around the world who face natural

disasters or diseases or the consequences of hatred, violence, and war.”1

We grieve for our planet, bearing the weight of a climate crisis.

This is a pretty comprehensive list, AND I’m certain we could still add more to it. Because losses, small and big, and a part of what it means to be human.

The story of Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead has long been one of my very favourite stories in the whole Bible. And for me there are two things that make this story so special.

The first is that short little verse we talked about during the children’s time: Jesus began to cry.

Because Jesus weeps with Martha & Mary, we can trust that Jesus weeps with us in the face of loss and death. If Jesus can cry, then our tears are healthy too. Jesus’ tears tell us that it’s normal and ok to have deep feelings when something in life hasn’t turned out as we had hoped or wanted it to.

In the face of loss, there is room for every emotion: sadness, anger, disappointment, shame. And also gratitude and love, because sometimes our grief is complicated like that. It’s not just one thing.

The second reason I find this story so meaningful is that Jesus brings Lazarus back to life. Which, to be clear, is a point that is both comforting and challenging.

It’s challenging because we could certainly have a good debate about why Jesus didn’t come earlier – as Martha and Mary challenge him. There is a good question to be asked about why Lazarus had to die in the first place. If anyone could have done anything to prevent this grief, it’s Jesus.

This part of the story is also challenging because we know that resurrection doesn’t often happen in the same way for us. Our dead loves ones are not raised back to life (with the exception perhaps of some who have near death experiences).

And even when we come through grief to find new life on the other side of a loss, the pain of the loss is never fully cancelled out.

There is certainly challenge in this story when it comes to how it ends for Lazarus (and how it doesn’t end for us). But there is hope and promise and comfort for us too.

We are on the cusp of Holy Week & Easter. Next week we will journey with Jesus to the cross. Jesus will humble himself by becoming obedient to death – even death on a cross. (Philippians 2:8)

And on Easter morning we will celebrate the foolish and beautiful promise of the Christian faith. That God doesn’t let Jesus stay dead.

This is the promise and the hope of our faith. That God is always at work in death, creating life. Which is why dare to “live in the face of pain and loss with hope.” For we know that through Jesus’ own death, the sting of death on earth will be defeated once and for all.

Blessed are we who mourn. Because God is with us – holding us close and weeping with us the face of loss.

Blessed are we who mourn. Because God does not ever let death get the final word.

AMEN

1 Kate Bowler. “The Lent We Actually Have: Sermon Guide,” page 16.

**Hymn of the Day: ELW # 773 ‘Precious Lord, Take My Hand’**

Precious Lord, take my hand,

lead me on, let me stand,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.

through the storm, through the night,

lead me on to the light.

***Refrain:***

***Take my hand precious Lord,***

***lead me home.***

When my way grows drear,

precious Lord, linger near,

when my life is almost gone,

hear my cry, hear my call,

hold my hand, lest I fall.

***Refrain:***

***Take my hand precious Lord,***

***lead me home.***

When the darkness appears

and the night draws near

and the day is past and gone,

at the river I stand,

guide my feet, hold my hand.

***Refrain:***

***Take my hand precious Lord,***

***lead me home.***

*(Title: Precious Lord, Take My Hand; Text: Thomas A. Dorsey; 1899-1993; © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Alfred Publishing; All rights reserved; Used by permission. Music: George N. Allen; 1812-1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey; All rights reserved, Used by permission.*

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**Prayers of Intercession:**

A: Sustained by God’s abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe, in Guyana, Jordan, and the Holy Land, and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness (especially we pray for Bill, Don, Tammy, Alice, Don, Lynn, Bryan, Nansea, Helen, Sharon, Donald, Creena, Shirley, Maya, Karen, Clara, Carol, Jeff, Aaron, Mackenzie, Rhett, Linda, Pat, Jan, Ken, Lena, Brian, John, Anne, Pastor Neil, and those we name aloud or in the silence of our hearts….. ). You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless our music director Brad, and the choir, who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving, and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

Your Spirit enlivens our work. Be with us on this day of our annual meeting. Guide our conversations and decisions as we make plans for our ministry together. Merciful God, **C: receive our prayer.**

You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God, **C: 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.\***

**Share the peace of Christ:**

The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**\*

Our worship continues with the offering of our gifts.

**Offering**

**Offertory Music: ELW # 481 ‘Come to the Table’**

Come to the table of mercy,

prepared with the wine and the bread.

All who are hungry and thirsty,

come, and your souls will be fed.

Come at the Lord's invitation;

receive from his nail-scarred hand.

Eat of the bread of salvation;

drink of the blood of the Lamb.

*(Title: Come to the Table; Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942; Text © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695; Juniper Landing Music (admin. Word Music); and Word Music (ASCAP).* *All rights reserved. Used by permission. Music: Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956; © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP) c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695; Juniper Landing Music (admin. Word Music); and Word Music (ASCAP).* *All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted and Streamed with permission under ONE LICENSE, License #A-727610. All rights reserved.)*

**Offering Prayer:**

A:God of good gifts,

receive these and all our offerings

as we present them in faithful service

for the sake of your gospel.

Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal

as you pour out your very presence

through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

**Amen.\***

**You are invited to prepare your table with bread and wine, or crackers and juice, whatever is available to you, so that you may participate in the meal.**

**Meal: Click here for the communion liturgy from worship on YouTube:**

[**https://youtu.be/kmZJQiBM8QY**](https://youtu.be/kmZJQiBM8QY)

**ELW Setting 4: ‘Dialogue…’ (page 152)**

The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you. (Sung)**

Lift up your hearts. **C: We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  **C: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

**ELW Setting 4: ‘Preface…’**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, *(sung)*

that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,

through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts

and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,

that, renewed in the gift of baptism,

we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,

with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,

we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**ELW Setting 4: ‘Holy, Holy, Holy…’ (page 153) (sung)**

***Holy, holy, holy Lord,***

***Lord God of pow’r and might:***

***Heav’n and earth are full of your glory.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

***Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.***

***Hosanna in the highest.***

Thanksgiving at the Table:

On the night before he died,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.

**Invitation to Communion:**

This is Christ’s table. All are welcome here to receive God’s good gifts of love, mercy, grace, and forgiveness.

I invite those at home, and those in the building communing by fellowship cup, to take your bread or cracker as we say together, “The body of Christ, given for us.”

And, as we take our cup we say, “The blood of Christ, shed for us.”

**Communion Music: ACS # 1037 ‘Christ, Our Peace’**

Christ, our peace,

you break down the walls that divide us;

Christ, our peace,

come, make us one body in you.

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L: May the body and blood of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ strengthen you, and keep you, in his

grace.

***C: Amen.***

**ELW Setting 1: ‘Now Lord you let your servant…’ *(page 113) (sung)***

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:

your word has been fulfilled.

My own eyes have seen the salvation

which you have prepared

in the sight of ev’ry people:

a light to reveal you to the nations

and the glory of your people Israel.

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace.\*

**Prayer after Communion:**

A: Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.

With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,

empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors

and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.\***

**Blessing:**

Blessed are we, who feel the wound

of fresh loss.

Or of a loss... no matter how fresh...

that still makes our voices crack

all these years later.

We who are stuck in the impossibility of it.

Frozen in disbelief.

*How can this be? It wasn’t supposed to be this*

*way.*

Blessed are we, fumbling around

for easy answers or quick truths

to try to make this go down easier.

We who are dissatisfied with the

shallow theology and trite platitudes.

Blessed are we, who, instead,

demand a blessing.

Because we have wrestled with God

and are here.

Wounded. Broken. *Changed.*

Blessed are we,

who keep our relationships and friendships

and jobs afloat,

and who stock the pantry…

because… *what choice do we have*

but to move forward with a life we didn’t

choose

with a loss we thought we

couldn’t live without?

One small step. One small act of hope

at a time.

Amen.\*\*

**Sending Hymn: ELW # 338 ‘Beneath the Cross of Jesus’**

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus

I long to take my stand;

the shadow of a mighty rock

within a weary land,

a home within a wilderness,

a rest upon the way,

from the burning of the noontide heat

and burdens of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus,

my eye at times can see

the very dying form of one

who suffered there for me.

And from my contrite heart, with tears,

two wonders I confess:

the wonder of his glorious love

and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow

for my abiding place;

I ask no other sunshine than

the sunshine of his face;

content to let the world go by,

to know no gain nor loss,

my sinful self my only shame,

my glory all, the cross.

*(Title: Beneath the Cross of Jesus; Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869; Public Domain; Music:* *Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927; Public Domain*

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**Dismissal:**

A: Go in peace. Serve in Love.

***C: Thanks be to God.\****

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