**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGood Shephe****rd Lutheran Church**

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**Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 3, 2024, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

“Praise the mount of God’s unchanging love…” This lyric represents Peter’s mountaintop faith moment. It speaks to spiritual euphoria and feeling the closeness of God. In this story, Peter proclaims who Jesus is. He speaks with conviction. Peter claims his faith. If you had to speak your faith in one sentence or phrase, what would you say? When we have the courage to say, “This, I believe…” then that conviction has a ripple effect on others. When life gets rocky, we lean on mountaintop moments and our deepest convictions to see us through.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING HYMN Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing ELW 807**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Holy God,

**Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness.**

**Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith.**

**Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.**

**Forgive us for losing sight of you.**

**Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—**

**trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.**

**Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.**

**Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.**

**We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith.**

**But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender grace.**

**Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith.**

**Amen.**

Friends,

Whether you speak to God

in a whisper or with clear conviction,

with questions or with answers,

with hope in your heart or with doubt in your throat—

God will always listen with love and mercy.

Rest in this good news:

regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God.

You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven.

Speak that good news with confidence.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Holy Word, for generations people have bowed their heads, prayed the Psalms, and asked for your presence in their lives. For generations people have whispered, “May the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable and pleasing to you, O God.” For generations we have gathered, quieted our minds, prayed to feel your presence in our midst. Once again, just as the generations before, we turn our hearts to your Word. Still our busy minds so that we might truly comprehend what you have to say to us today. With joy and hope we pray. Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MUSIC Be Still and Know ACS 1083**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**PSALM: 19**

1The heavens declare the glory of God,  
  and the sky proclaims its maker’s handiwork.  
 2**One day tells its tale to another,**  
  **and one night imparts knowledge to another.**  
 3Although they have no words or language,  
  and their voices are not heard,  
 4**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,**  
  **where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**  
 5It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
  it rejoices like a champion to run its course.  
 6**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again;**  
  **nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**  
 7The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul;  
  the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.  
 8**The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart;**  
  **the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.**  
 9The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever;  
  the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.  
 10**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,**  
  **sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**  
 11By them also is your servant enlightened,  
  and in keeping them there is great reward.  
 12**Who can detect one’s own offenses?**  
  **Cleanse me from my secret faults.**  
 13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;  
  then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.  
 14**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,**  
  **O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25**

18The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written,  
 “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
  and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”  
20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ACS pg. 15**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 16:13-20**

13Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" 14And they said, "Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." 15He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" 16Simon Peter answered, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." 17And Jesus answered him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. 18And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it. 19I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven." 20Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Praise the Mount**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **Built on a Rock ELW 652**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Jesus asked the disciples, “But what about you? Who do you say that I am?” In confidence and faith, we respond,

**A close-up of hands shaking

Description automatically generated with medium confidenceJesus is a hand reaching out in the storm,**

**the voice of truth spoken over us,**

**and love without walls.**

**Jesus is justice for the weary,**

**healing for the hurt,**

**and welcome for the stranger.**

**Jesus is teacher, Messiah, and friend—**

**with me on the mountain**

**and beside me in the valley.**

**Jesus is a star in the night,**

**and the love that knows my name.**

**Like Peter, we say,**

**“Jesus, you are the Messiah, son of the Living God.”**

**Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

…Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**OFFERING***In addition to our normal offering, a* ***Special Benevolence in March*** *(collected in a special envelope) will go to* ***Marshfield Area Respite Care Center.***

**OFFERING HYMN I Come With Joy ELW 482**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the bread of life

A silver chalice and a loaf of bread

Description automatically generatedand the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered

that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food

but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

**Amen.**

**GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give our thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**Holy, Holy ACS pg. 20**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness

to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

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.

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.**

An open book with a bookmark

Description automatically generated**THE 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.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION** *- Certified gluten-free crackers are in the bowl on the communion plate.*

Bread for the journey.

A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God,

at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BENEDICTION**

Beloved wanderer,

as you leave this place,

may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.

May you look for God in every face.

May you find the courage to get out of the boat,

to run to the tomb,

and to speak of your faith.

And when the world falls apart,

may you hear God’s voice deep within,

saying, “Take heart, it is I, be not afraid.”

You are called.

You are blessed.

In both your ups and your downs,

you always belong to God.

Go now in peace.

Go trusting that good news.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN God Loved the World ELW 323**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | | **Deep Clean** |
| March 3 | Charles & Mary Schlafke | Richard Kopitzke | Tammy Neumann  Sarah Kopitzke | Robin Beeman | David Schneider | March:  Nancy Lenard  Jannalee Kolbeck Lindquist  Heidi Binder |
| March 10 | Susan Schoolman | Andrea Hovik | Bruce & Nancy Tibbett | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis |
| March 17 | Tammy Neumann | Jon Hill | Dan & Pam Mundt | Pam Mundt | May Hill |
| March 24 | Gene & Linda Schrieber | Leslie Mader | Dave & Sue Schraeder | Dan Mundt | Jon Hill |

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| Sunday, March 3 | 9:00 am | Worship Service – Sunday School   * Third Sunday in Lent * Matthew 16:13-20; Peter confesses Jesus as the Messiah |
| Tuesday, March 5 | 6:30 pm | Executive Committee Meeting |
|  | 7:00 pm | AA Meeting |
| Wednesday, March 6 | 12:00 pm | Bible Study (discuss Season 2 Episode 7 of “The Chosen”) |
|  | 6:00 pm | Bread & Broth |
|  | 7:00 pm | Midweek Worship  Confirmation Class |
| Thursday, March 7 | 11am-2pm | Purple Angels Lunch and Fellowship |
| Sunday, March 10 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Fourth Sunday in Lent * Matthew 16:21-23; Jesus foretells his death and resurrection |

**A group of people next to each other

Description automatically generatedA poster for a restaurant

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SOS has provided their list of needs for this month, which includes:

Kidney Beans, Baked Beans, Sandwich Bags, Chicken Noodle Soup, Dish Soap, Oatmeal, Jelly, Gravy, Pudding, Broth, All Purpose Cleaner, Shampoo, Conditioner, Pancake Mix, Baking Items, Paper Towels, Dried Soup. **Urgently need: Baby wipes and diapers, Toothpaste and Mayo.**

**People of God, for what else do we pray?**

Lent is a season to focus on prayer. No prayer is too big or too small. You are welcome to use the post-its and pens on the back table to share your prayer concerns, gratitude, celebration, and anything else on your heart.

During the season of Lent as we explore Peter’s faith journey, we consider our own faith journey as well. Today, you are invited to reflect on the spiritual metaphors and biblical stories that have been most meaningful to you. How did they become so important to you, and how do you hold them close in times of doubt and uncertainty?