**Good Shephe****rd Lutheran Church**

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**Fourth Sunday in Lent**

**March 10, 2024, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

When your world unravels and your beliefs are tested, you may cling to what you know. As Jesus foretells his death and resurrection, Peter protests. Peter is fixed upon the way he thinks things should go; he resists the pain of what will come. But Jesus is fixed upon his calling and calls Peter out. For everyone, there comes a time when your faith is tested and you will have to face difficult and inconvenient truths. We may want to take the easier path, the path with less pain. We may want to cling to easy or simplistic answers. Instead, what does it look like to welcome complexity? Can you stay fixed upon your convictions while also expanding your perspective?

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

**GATHERING HYMN All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly ELW 461**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Holy God,

**We often find ourselves moving through a world that does not make sense.**

**Like Peter, we are tempted to demand, “Forbid it, Lord!”**

**We want to control scenarios beyond our reach.**

**We want to hold your world in our hands.**

**Forgive us for the moments when we lead with declarations instead of curiosity.**

**Forgive us for arguing when we could listen.**

**Forgive us for fixating on one truth, when we could open ourselves up to many.**

**Soften our hard edges and teach us how to listen.**

**With hope in our hearts we pray.**

**Amen.**

Friends, no matter how many times you have dug your heels in,

no matter how many fights you have wanted to pick with God,

no matter how many times you have disagreed, raged,

or clung to what you know instead of embracing holy change—

we worship a God of Grace.

Nothing can separate us from God’s love.

Hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

God’s love for us will always be deeper than we can imagine.

We are seen. We are loved. And we are forgiven.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Listening God, If we could attach ourselves to you, we would. We would bind ourselves to you, but instead, we wander. Instead of attaching ourselves to you, we find ourselves swept up in the busyness of the day. Like a seesaw of faithfulness, we move back and forth, up and down, constantly trying to find you in the midst of it all. Speak clearly to us now. Quiet the distractions long enough for us to affix ourselves to your good news. We are listening. We are hungry. We are hopeful. Amen.**

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

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9**

4From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. 5The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” 6Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. 7The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. 8And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” 9So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

 1Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,
  for God’s mercy endures forever.
 2**Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim**
  **that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
 3gathering them in from the lands;
  from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
 17**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;**
  **through their sins they were afflicted.**
 18They loathed all manner of food
  and drew near to death’s door.
 19**Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord**
  **and you delivered them from their distress.**
 20You sent forth your word and healed them
  and rescued them from the grave.
 21**Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love**
  **and your wonderful works for all people.**
 22Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
  and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

**SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10**

1You were dead through the trespasses and sins 2in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. 3All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. 4But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us 5even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—6and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, 7so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—9not the result of works, so that no one may boast. 10For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ACS pg. 15**

**GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-23**

21From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised. 22And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you." 23But he turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON I’m Fixed Upon It**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** **Chief of Sinners Though I Be ELW 609**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in a God of second chances,**

**a God who sees through my stubbornness**

**and holds my fear with tenderness.**

**I believe that this God of second chances**

**uses ordinary people like Peter to do good in the world.**

**Therefore, I believe and hope that God can use me too.**

**I believe that from time to time, God invites us to imagine the impossible.**

**I believe that from time to time, God invites us to change our minds.**

**This change is holy and important work, but challenging.**

**When fear and scarcity plague me,**

**or when the impossible feels out of reach,**

**I believe that God meets me with grace and invites me to follow.**

**Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

**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 Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling ELW 608**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the bread of life

and 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.**

**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 When We Are Tested ACS 922**

**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 10 | Susan Schoolman | Andrea Hovik | Bruce & Nancy Tibbett | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis | March:Nancy LenardJannalee Kolbeck LindquistHeidi Binder |
| 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 |
| March 31Easter | Dave & Kami Weis | Kris Tarter | Ron RothfuszAndrea Hovik | Nancy Leonard | Breanna Butler |

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| Sunday, March 10 | 9:00 am | Worship Service* Fourth Sunday in Lent
* Matthew 16:21-23; Jesus foretells his death and resurrection
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| Tuesday, March 12 | 6:30 pm | Council Meeting |
|  | 7:00 pm | AA Meeting |
| Wednesday, March 13 | 12:00 pm | Bible Study (discuss Season 2 Episode 8 of “The Chosen”) |
|  | 6:00 pm | Bread & Broth |
|  | 7:00 pm | Midweek WorshipConfirmation Class |
| Sunday, March 17 | 9:00 am | Worship Service – Sunday School* Fifth Sunday in Lent
* Matthew 18:15-22; Binding and loosing, and how often to forgive
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**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.

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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: Mayo and Paper Towels.**



During the season of Lent as we explore Peter’s faith journey, we consider our own faith journey as well. Think of important decisions you have made in your life. What made them important? How did you decide which choice to go with? How has your faith been part of making those decisions? And what has been the result of what you decided?