**Shape

Description automatically generated with low confidenceGood Shepherd Lutheran Church**

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**Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 23, 2025, 9:00 am**

***Introduction to the day…***

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**GATHERING**

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God’s invitation to attentiveness: “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.” The landowner’s ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener’s readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

**GATHERING HYMN All Who Are Thirsty ACS 981**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,

**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,**

**but our lives do not always reflect you** **and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion** **you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality** **you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,**

**even though you have set us free again and again.**

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.**

**Transform our lives**

**and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,

God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God’s house forever.

**Amen.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

**CHILDREN’S MUSIC Goodness is Stronger than Evil ELW 721**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9**

A graphic of a cross and a road

AI-generated content may be incorrect.1 Hear, everyone who thirsts;  
  come to the waters;  
 and you who have no money,  
  come, buy and eat!  
 Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.  
 2 Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread  
  and your earnings for that which does not satisfy?  
 Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
  and delight yourselves in rich food.  
 3 Incline your ear, and come to me;  
  listen, so that you may live.  
 I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
  my steadfast, sure love for David.  
 4 See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
  a leader and commander for the peoples.  
 5 Now you shall call nations that you do not know,  
  and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
 because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
  for he has glorified you.  
  
 6 Seek the Lord while he may be found;  
  call upon him while he is near;  
 7 let the wicked forsake their way

and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
 let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
  and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
 8 For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
  nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
 9 For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
  so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8**

1 O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
 my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,

as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
2 **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,**  
 **that I might behold your power and your glory.**  
3 For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
 my lips shall give you praise.  
4 **So will I bless you as long as I live** **and lift up my hands in your name.**  
5 My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
 and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
6 **when I remember you upon my bed,**  
 **and meditate on you in the night watches.**  
7 For you have **|** been my helper,  
 and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.  
8 **My whole being clings to you;**  
 **your right hand holds me fast.**

**SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

1 I do not want you to be ignorant, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2 and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3 and all ate the same spiritual food, 4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5 Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.  
  6 Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7 Do not become idolaters as some of them did, as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” 8 We must not engage in sexual immorality, as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9 We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10 And do not complain, as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11 These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12 So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION ACS pg. 34**

**GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9**

1 At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.2 [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?3 No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. 4 Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem? 5 No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did.”  
  6 Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7 So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ 8 He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9 If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY Change My Heart, O God ELW 801**

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

A logo of a religious symbol

AI-generated content may be incorrect.**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,**

**who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,**

**born of the Virgin Mary,**

**suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;**

**he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,**

**the holy catholic Church,**

**the communion of saints,**

**the forgiveness of sins,**

**the resurrection of the body,**

**and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

…God, in your mercy,

**Receive our prayer**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**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 be going to* ***SOS.***

**OFFERING SONG** **Rock of Ages ELW 623**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us,

opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,

deepen our commitment to sharing those

****treasures with others,

through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**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, Holy ACS pg. 36**

**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.*

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

**HOLY COMMUNION**

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,

that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,

in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

☩ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN There is a Longing in Our Hearts ACS 1078**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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| **Coming up at GSLC** | | |
| Sunday, March 23 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Third Sunday in Lent * Luke 13:1-9; Unless you repent, you will perish: parable of the fig tree |
|  | 10:00 am | Book Study (*Unclobber* Ch. 5-6) |
| Tuesday, March 25 | 7:00 pm | AA Meeting |
| Wednesday, March 26 | 12:00 pm | Bible Study (Exodus 3 & 4) |
|  | 6:00 pm | Bread & Broth |
|  | 7:00 pm | Midweek Worship  Confirmation Class |
| Sunday, March 30 | 9:00 am | Worship Service   * Fourth Sunday in Lent   Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32; The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son |
|  | 10:00 am | * Book Study (*Unclobber* Ch. 7-8) |

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| ***Upcoming Worship Assistants*** | | | | | | |
|  | **Usher** | **Lector** | **Communion** | **Offering Counters** | | **Deep Clean** |
| March 23 | Dave & Shelly Schneider | Shelly Schneider | Dan & Pam Mundt | Robin Beeman | David Schneider | March:  Chris Tipping  Julie Will  Andrea Hovick  Deb Janz |
| March 30 | Chris & Sara Bauer | Rob Pankratz | Dave & Sue Schraeder | Heidi Binder | Kami Weis |
| April 6 | Susan Schoolman | Jon Hill | Sarah Kopitzke  Tammy Neuman | Pam Mundt | Margo Berrier | April:  John & Jane Wagner  Laurel Peterson |
| April 13 | Julie Will | Tammy Neumann | Matt & Margo Berrier | Dan Mundt | Bob Peterson |

**Pastor Katie’s Office Hours**: Monday-Thursday 9am-2pm. Tuesday mornings at Uptown Coffee. Afternoons available by appointment. You are welcome to stop in any time for conversation or concerns.

We are seeking one person to be on the nominating committee. If you are willing to serve, please speak with Pastor Katie or a council member.

Names on the prayer list will now default to 6 weeks. If you would like a name to remain on the list longer, please let Pastor Katie know.

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SOS has provided their list of needs for this month, which includes: **Pasta Sauce, Mayo/Miracle Whip and Broth**. Your continued generosity greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all the Good Shepherd members for their support.

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| A yellow key with a ring  AI-generated content may be incorrect. | Starting Monday March 24th, accessing Good Shepherd main entrance doors will change from a “keyed” entry to a “key fob” entry system.  Prior to that all users must fill out and return the attached “GSLC Key Fob Request Form” to the church office.  Once that is returned a key fob(s) will be assigned and activated. |

The Reconciling in Christ team will be hosting a 6-week book study on *Unclobber: Rethinking Our Misuse of the Bible on Homosexuality* to discuss how the Bible has been used as a tool to discriminate against the LGBTQ+ community. The book study will begin after worship today. Books are available for pickup from church.

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| **Good Shepherd Directory Update**  Watch for upcoming dates to share your photos and personal information for the revised Good  Shepherd Directory. The team comprised of Jon Hill, Margo Berrier, Pam Mundt, and Jane  Wagner are seeking input whether you prefer an online or printed directory or both. They  would also like to know what members’ details to include such as phone numbers and  addresses, email, etc… Please provide feedback to our team as they begin their work. |

**Bible Study is returning for Lent!**

We’ll follow a series on Exodus beginning Wednesday, March 12 at noon. All are welcome to join!

Session 1: Exodus 1:8-2:10

Session 2: Exodus 2:11-25

Session 3: Exodus 3 & 4

Session 4: Exodus 14

Session 5: Exodus 16:2-30

Session 6: Exodus 17:1-7