



**Sunday, March 17,
2024
Fifth Sunday in Lent,
Year B
All Saints Lutheran
Church, ELCA**

**Meeting people
where they're at and
connecting them to
the Full LIFE of
Christ.**

Centering Song

Don't Be Afraid

ACS 1027

Don't Be Afraid

Don't be a-fraid. My love is stron-ger, my love is stron-ger than your
fear. Don't be a-fraid. My love is stron-ger and
I have prom-ised, prom-ised to be al-ways near.

Announcements

Introduction

God promises Jeremiah that a “new covenant” will be made in the future: a covenant that will allow all the people to know God by within their heart. The church sees this promise fulfilled in Christ, who draws all people to himself when he is lifted up on the cross. Our baptismal covenant draws us to God’s heart through Christ and draws God’s love and truth into our hearts. We join together in worship, sharing in word, song, and meal, and leave strengthened to share God’s love with all the world.

Call to Worship

People of God, we gather for worship to practice joy:
not because our lives are perfect, but because joy is resilient,
God’s gift for every season and the wellspring at the heart of our
faith.

When our sins feel heavy,

we practice joy.

When floods rise and fall,

we practice joy.

When hope surprises us,

we practice joy.

When God sets people free,

we practice joy.

When Jesus heals us,

we practice joy.

When we are called,

we practice joy.

When we endure,

we practice joy.

We practice joy together,
and God is with us.

Confession and Forgiveness

People of God, the Merciful One already knows everything we confess. By naming our sins and hearing words of forgiveness, we are drawn deeper into relationship with God and one another. Let's bring before God what we have done wrong and what we've failed to do, trusting that we will receive the joy of being forgiven.

(Selah)

God of abundant goodness,
**we have hurt those we love,
those far from us,
ourselves, and your creation
by what we do and by what we neglect.**

**We cling to disappointments, judgments, and failures
and refuse to enjoy what you give.
We are too content when injustice, violence, and hardship
plague our neighbors.**

**We ignore the gift of your presence
in times both tragic and triumphant.
Forgive us for what we have done
and for what we have failed to do.**

**Pour out on us the joy of your presence
and heal what we have harmed.**

Friends, receive these joyful words:

You are entirely and completely forgiven for all of your sins.
You are entirely and completely welcomed as God's beloved child.
You are released to live out God's love in a world that needs such
joy. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

Let Us Talents and Tongues Employ

- 1 Let us talents and tongues employ,
reaching out with a shout of joy:
bread is broken, the wine is poured,
Christ is spoken and seen and heard.

Refrain

Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!
Jesus lives again, earth can breathe again,
pass the Word around: loaves abound!

- 2 Christ is able to make us one,
at the table he sets the tone,
teaching people to live to bless,
love in word and in deed express. Refrain
- 3 Jesus calls us in, sends us out
bearing fruit in a world of doubt,
gives us love to tell, bread to share:
God (Immanuel) ev'rywhere! Refrain

Hear The Word of God through Scripture

Psalm 51 read from The Message

- 1-3** Generous in love—God, give grace!
Huge in mercy—wipe out my bad record.

**Scrub away my guilt,
soak out my sins in your laundry.**

I know how bad I've been;
my sins are staring me down.

**4-6 You're the One I've violated, and you've seen
it all, seen the full extent of my evil.**

**You have all the facts before you;
whatever you decide about me is fair.**

I've been out of step with you for a long time,
in the wrong since before I was born.

What you're after is truth from the inside out.

Enter me, then; conceive a new, true life.

7-15

**Soak me in your laundry and I'll come out clean,
scrub me and I'll have a snow-white life.**

Tune me in to foot-tapping songs,
set these once-broken bones to dancing.

**Don't look too close for blemishes,
give me a clean bill of health.**

God, make a fresh start in me,
shape a Genesis week from the chaos of my life.

**Don't throw me out with the trash,
or fail to breathe holiness in me.**

Bring me back from gray exile,
put a fresh wind in my sails!

**Give me a job teaching rebels your ways
so the lost can find their way home.**

Commute my death sentence, God, my salvation God,
and I'll sing anthems to your life-giving ways.

**Unbutton my lips, dear God;
I'll let loose with your praise.**

The Fifth Covenant Reading: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The Judeans in Babylon blamed their exile on their ancestors, who had broken the covenant established at Sinai. Here the prophet looks to a day when God will make a new covenant with the people. There will be no need to teach the law, because God will write it on their hearts.

The text reads:

31The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah.

32It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. 33But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 34No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

ELW page 142, Setting 3

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

Holy Gospel according to St. John 12:20-33 from The Message

Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time to celebrate the Passover festival. Here Jesus’ words about seeds planted in the ground turn the disaster of his death into the promise of a harvest in which everyone will be gathered.

A Grain of Wheat Must Die

20-21 There were some Greeks in town who had come up to worship at the Feast. They approached Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee: “Sir, we want to see Jesus. Can you help us?”

22-23 Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip together told Jesus. Jesus answered, "Time's up. The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

24-25 "Listen carefully: Unless a grain of wheat is buried in the ground, dead to the world, it is never any more than a grain of wheat. But if it is buried, it sprouts and reproduces itself many times over. In the same way, anyone who holds on to life just as it is destroys that life. But if you let it go, reckless in your love, you'll have it forever, real and eternal."

26 "If any of you wants to serve me, then follow me. Then you'll be where I am, ready to serve at a moment's notice. The Father will honor and reward anyone who serves me."

27-28 "Right now I am shaken. And what am I going to say? 'Father, get me out of this'? No, this is why I came in the first place. I'll say, 'Father, put your glory on display.'"

A voice came out of the sky: "I have glorified it, and I'll glorify it again."

29 The listening crowd said, "Thunder!"

Others said, "An angel spoke to him!"

30-33 Jesus said, "The voice didn't come for me but for you. At this moment the world is in crisis. Now Satan, the ruler of this world, will be thrown out. And I, as I am lifted up from the earth, will attract everyone to me and gather them around me." He put it this way to show how he was going to be put to death.

This is the Gospel of Jesus Christ! **Thanks be to God.**

As the Grains of Wheat

Refrain

As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill
were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth
be gathered into one in you.

- 1 As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. Refrain

- 2 Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. Refrain

Baptism

God, who is rich in mercy and love, gives us a new birth into a living hope through the sacrament of baptism. By water and the Word God delivers us from sin and death and raises us to new life in Jesus Christ. We are united with all the baptized in the one body of Christ, anointed with the gift of the Holy Spirit, and joined in God's mission for the life of the world.

Called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have your children baptized into Christ?

Response: I do.

As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities: to live with them among God's faithful people, bring them to the word of God and the holy supper, teach them the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten Commandments, place in their hands the holy scriptures, and

nurture them in faith and prayer, so that your children may learn to trust God, proclaim Christ through word and deed, care for others and the world God made, and work for justice and peace. Do you promise to help your children grow in the Christian faith and life?

Response: I do.

Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Evelyn Kay Bryerwell in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help her live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Response: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Evelyn Kay Bryerwell and pray for her in their new life in Christ?

We do.

The assembly stands.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

Response:

I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

Response:

I renounce them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidates and the assembly.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?
**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by 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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?
**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.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring, you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams. Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow. Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you. You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters: Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well. The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock. Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

At this font, holy God, we pray: Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us in this water. Breathe your Spirit into all who are gathered here and into all creation. Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears. Wash away the sin within us, and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

BAPTISM

Evelyn Kay Bryerwell, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Laying both hands on the head of each of the newly baptized, the minister prays for each:

Sustain Evelyn with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

Amen.

Evelyn Kay, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

WELCOME with the Christ Light

Let your light so shine before others
that they may see your good works
and glorify your Father in heaven.

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

Peace is Shared

Offering Song: Bell Choir

Prayers of Intercession | O God We Call – ACS 1075

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Bless all the baptized and today, Evelyn. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us especially St. Patrick, missionary to Ireland, whom we commemorate today. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. 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.**

Eucharistic Prayer

God is with you.

And also with you.

Rejoice with full hearts.

We offer them to God.

Let us give thanks to our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

God, there is no time, no place where you are not present, and there is no time, no place where we should not practice the joy of praising you: even here, even now, in our ordinary lives. As we give thanks, we join the choir of our ancestors and our heirs and all God's angels as they tune their breath to the rhythm of joy and sing of heaven despite the world.

The Sanctus is Sung!

ELW 144, Setting 3

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are filled with your glory.**

Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

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

Hosanna in the highest.

On the last night of his life, as evening fell,
Jesus sat down to dinner with his friends.
He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it,
and passed it around the table for everyone to eat, saying,
 This is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the meal had ended, the shadows closing in,
Jesus took the cup, blessed it,
and invited everyone 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.

In the heart of fear and pain, God plants the seed of our joy:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup, Christ's body and
blood, the food that gives us the strength to persist until joy
appears.

**Send your Spirit upon us and fortify us to be your body, too,
a wellspring of hope for a world in need.**

Communion Music

Lamb of God

ELW 146, Setting 3

Create in Me a Clean Heart ELW 185

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit
within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take
not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your
salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit
within me.

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

ELW 803

- 1 When I survey the wondrous cross
on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss
and pour contempt on all my pride.

- 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast
save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most,
I sacrifice them to his blood.

- 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet,
sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

- 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,
that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine,
demands my soul, my life, my all.

Blessing of The Meal

Prayer After Communion

Heavenly Creator, we come to You in unity and reverence. We thank You for the gift of communion and the bond we share in our faith. May our love for You and each other draw us closer together. Guide us in our faith journey and help us remain humble and accepting of one another. May we be united in spirit, mind, and heart to honor You with our lives. Keep us in Your loving embrace, and let Your mighty power flow through us so that our unity can be a source of strength and **joy** for all. **Amen.**

Benediction

Go with blessing. The One who wove joy throughout the whole cosmos weaves joy within your own heart.

The One who experienced all our human joys and sorrows travels right beside you. The One who whispers joy to our hearts is present within you. You are blessed in the name of God, Holy Three in One.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

Refrain

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.

- 1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. Refrain
- 2 All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. Refrain
- 3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. Refrain
- 4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! Refrain

Sending of You, the Disciples of Christ

Go now and proclaim the Vocational JOY of God in your lives.

Thanks be to God. Amen.