



Sunday, February 18, 2024  
First 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 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**

*ON ASH WEDNESDAY THE CHURCH BEGAN ITS JOURNEY TOWARD BAPTISMAL IMMERSION IN THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF CHRIST. THIS YEAR, THE SUNDAYS IN LENT LEAD US TO FOCUS ON FIVE COVENANTS GOD MAKES IN THE HEBREW SCRIPTURES AND TO USE THEM AS LENSES THROUGH WHICH TO VIEW BAPTISM. FIRST PETER CONNECTS THE WAY GOD SAVED NOAH'S FAMILY*

*IN THE FLOOD WITH THE WAY GOD SAVES US THROUGH THE WATER OF BAPTISM. THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT IS MADE WITH US INDIVIDUALLY, BUT THE NEW LIFE WE ARE GIVEN IN BAPTISM IS FOR THE SAKE OF THE WHOLE 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.

*Brief silence for reflection.*

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.**

**OPENING HYMN                      TO BE YOUR PRESENCE                      ELW 546**

*NOTE: FINAL LINE OF EACH VERSE HAS BEEN ALTERED FOR THE SEASON OF LENT BY PASTOR JULES*

**I TO BE YOUR PRESENCE IS OUR MISSION HERE,  
TO SHOW COMPASSION'S FACE AND LIST'NING EAR,**

TO BE YOUR HEART OF MERCY EVER NEAR,  
*HELP US TO SERVE YOU NOW!*

**2** TO BE YOUR PRESENCE IS OUR MISSION BOLD,  
TO FEED THE POOR AND SHELTER HOMELESS COLD,  
TO BE YOUR HANDS OF JUSTICE, RIGHT UPHOLD,  
*HELP US TO SERVE YOU NOW!*

**3** TO BE YOUR PRESENCE IS OUR MISSION BLEST,  
TO SPEAK FOR ALL THE BROKEN AND OPPRESSED,  
TO BE YOUR VOICE OF HOPE, YOUR LOVE EXPRESSED,  
*HELP US TO SERVE YOU NOW!*

**4** WE ARE YOUR HEART, O CHRIST, YOUR HANDS AND VOICE,  
TO SERVE YOUR PEOPLE IS OUR CALL AND CHOICE,  
AND IN THIS MISSION WE, THE CHURCH, REJOICE,  
*HELP US TO SERVE YOU NOW!*

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**Mighty One, your love for all creation endures every flood. Accompany us with vivid, persistent hope. Refract your love into a thousand wavelengths, bright and varied, more tenacious than the storm. Amen.**

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

#### **PSALM 25 TRAVELING SONG:**

To You, oh Lord I lift up my soul, In You I trust, oh Lord.  
To You, oh Lord I lift up my soul, In You I trust, oh Lord.  
Higher than the mountains, Deeper than the sea,  
Wider than the ocean is your love for me!  
You're with me on the mountain and the valley below,  
You are right there beside me everywhere that I go!

## HEAR THE WORD OF GOD THROUGH SCRIPTURE

**PSALM 25** *PRAYER FOR GUIDANCE AND FOR DELIVERANCE OF DAVID.*

1 TO YOU, O LORD, I LIFT UP MY SOUL.

2 **O MY GOD, IN YOU I TRUST;**  
DO NOT LET ME BE PUT TO SHAME;  
DO NOT LET MY ENEMIES EXULT OVER ME.

3 DO NOT LET THOSE WHO WAIT FOR YOU BE PUT TO SHAME;  
LET THEM BE ASHAMED WHO ARE WANTONLY TREACHEROUS.

4 **MAKE ME TO KNOW YOUR WAYS, O LORD;**  
TEACH ME YOUR PATHS.

5 LEAD ME IN YOUR TRUTH AND TEACH ME,  
FOR YOU ARE THE **GOD** OF MY SALVATION;  
FOR YOU I WAIT ALL DAY LONG.

6 **BE MINDFUL OF YOUR MERCY, O LORD, AND OF YOUR STEADFAST  
LOVE, FOR THEY HAVE BEEN FROM OF OLD.**

7 DO NOT REMEMBER THE SINS OF MY YOUTH OR MY TRANSGRESSIONS;  
ACCORDING TO YOUR STEADFAST LOVE REMEMBER ME,  
FOR THE SAKE OF YOUR GOODNESS, O LORD!

8 **GOOD AND UPRIGHT IS THE LORD;**  
THEREFORE HE INSTRUCTS SINNERS IN THE WAY.

9 HE LEADS THE HUMBLE IN WHAT IS RIGHT  
AND TEACHES THE HUMBLE HIS WAY.

10 **ALL THE PATHS OF THE LORD ARE STEADFAST LOVE AND  
FAITHFULNESS, FOR THOSE WHO KEEP HIS COVENANT AND HIS DECREES.**

WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE.  
**THANKS BE TO GOD!**

## **SECOND LESSON: 1 PETER 3:18-22 FROM THE MESSAGE**

*BAPTISM AND HOLY COMMUNION ARE PURE GIFTS FROM GOD. WE DON'T EARN THEM, WE DON'T DESERVE THEM, AND YET GOD GIVES THEM TO US AS AN OUTWARD EXPRESSION OF GOD'S INCREDIBLE GRACE. IN THIS PASSAGE WE ARE REMINDED THAT WE HAVE BEEN WASHED CLEAN BECAUSE OF THE DEATH AND RESURRECTION OF JESUS, NOT BECAUSE OF SOMETHING THAT WE HAVE DONE.*

**13-18** IF WITH HEART AND SOUL YOU'RE DOING GOOD, DO YOU THINK YOU CAN BE STOPPED? EVEN IF YOU SUFFER FOR IT, YOU'RE STILL BETTER OFF. DON'T GIVE THE OPPOSITION A SECOND THOUGHT. THROUGH THICK AND THIN, KEEP YOUR HEARTS AT ATTENTION, IN ADORATION BEFORE CHRIST, YOUR MASTER. BE READY TO SPEAK UP AND TELL ANYONE WHO ASKS WHY YOU'RE LIVING THE WAY YOU ARE, AND ALWAYS WITH THE UTMOST COURTESY.

KEEP A CLEAR CONSCIENCE BEFORE GOD SO THAT WHEN PEOPLE THROW MUD AT YOU, NONE OF IT WILL STICK. THEY'LL END UP REALIZING THAT THEY'RE THE ONES WHO NEED A BATH. IT'S BETTER TO SUFFER FOR DOING GOOD, IF THAT'S WHAT GOD WANTS, THAN TO BE PUNISHED FOR DOING BAD. THAT'S WHAT CHRIST DID DEFINITELY: SUFFERED BECAUSE OF OTHERS' SINS, THE RIGHTEOUS ONE FOR THE UNRIGHTEOUS ONES. HE WENT THROUGH IT ALL—WAS PUT TO DEATH AND THEN MADE ALIVE—TO BRING US TO GOD.

**19-22** HE WENT AND PROCLAIMED GOD'S SALVATION TO EARLIER GENERATIONS WHO ENDED UP IN THE PRISON OF JUDGMENT BECAUSE THEY WOULDN'T LISTEN. YOU KNOW, EVEN THOUGH GOD WAITED PATIENTLY ALL THE DAYS THAT NOAH BUILT HIS SHIP, ONLY A FEW WERE SAVED THEN, EIGHT TO BE EXACT—SAVED FROM THE WATER BY THE WATER. THE WATERS OF BAPTISM DO THAT FOR YOU, NOT BY WASHING AWAY DIRT FROM YOUR SKIN BUT BY PRESENTING YOU THROUGH JESUS' RESURRECTION BEFORE GOD WITH A CLEAR CONSCIENCE. JESUS HAS THE LAST WORD ON EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE, FROM ANGELS TO ARMIES. HE'S STANDING RIGHT ALONGSIDE GOD, AND WHAT JESUS SAYS GOES. WORD OF GOD, WORD OF LIFE. THANKS BE TO GOD!

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.

**GOSPEL: MARK 1:9-15**

*THE SPIRIT THAT COMES UPON JESUS AT HIS BAPTISM SUSTAINS HIM WHEN HE IS TESTED BY SATAN SO THAT HE MIGHT PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD'S REIGN.*

**9**IN THOSE DAYS JESUS CAME FROM NAZARETH OF GALILEE AND WAS BAPTIZED BY JOHN IN THE JORDAN. **10** AND JUST AS HE WAS COMING UP OUT OF THE WATER, HE SAW THE HEAVENS TORN APART AND THE SPIRIT DESCENDING LIKE A DOVE ON HIM. **11** AND A VOICE CAME FROM HEAVEN, "YOU ARE MY SON, THE BELOVED; WITH YOU I AM WELL PLEASED."

**12** AND THE SPIRIT IMMEDIATELY DROVE HIM OUT INTO THE WILDERNESS. **13** HE WAS IN THE WILDERNESS FORTY DAYS, TEMPTED BY SATAN; AND HE WAS WITH THE WILD BEASTS; AND THE ANGELS WAITED ON HIM.

**14**NOW AFTER JOHN WAS ARRESTED, JESUS CAME TO GALILEE, PROCLAIMING THE GOOD NEWS OF GOD, **15** AND SAYING, "THE TIME IS FULFILLED, AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD HAS COME NEAR; REPENT, AND BELIEVE IN THE GOOD NEWS."

THIS IS THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST! THANKS BE TO GOD!

**Sermon**

Persistent JOY!

Pastor Jules

**Sermon Hymn:**

**Thy Holy Wings**

ELW 613

1 Thy holy wings, O Savior,  
spread gently over me,  
and let me rest securely  
through good and ill in thee.

Oh, be my strength and portion,  
my rock and hiding place,  
and let my ev'ry moment  
be lived within thy grace.

2 Oh, let me nestle near thee,  
within thy downy breast  
where I will find sweet comfort  
and peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me  
and keep me safely there,  
for I am but a newborn  
and need thy tender care.

3 Oh, wash me in the waters  
of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit,  
a heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping  
thy children great and small,  
and while we sweetly slumber,  
enfold us one and all.

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

God of mercy and grace, you are present. You are within each person here and you are among us as your gathered people. Trusting in your presence, your promises, and your joy, even when we cannot perceive them, we bring to you our gratitude for all you have done, and the burdens that weigh on our hearts.

We pray for creation.

Thank you for its beauty and bounty and for the ways it reminds us of your presence, through the persistent filling of our lakes that feed the Mississippi, the sweet goodness of the maple sap distilling into syrup, and the joy of a new



pet in a family. Guide the work of those who advocate for the wellness of your wondrous creation, and help us to better tend and keep it. We pray for all habitats, creatures, and peoples harmed by natural disasters. This week we pray for the people of California displaced by mudslides and for those buried by the snow in the northeast.

God of unending joy,

**answer us.**

We pray for the nations and their leaders.

Thank you for cooperation among world leaders and for the ways people work together for the wellbeing of everyone. We pray for King Charles as he learns more about his cancer and continues to provide leadership for the country. We thank you for the continued bipartisan work in congress as they try to help fund relief for those impacted by warzones.

We pray for places that know violence, famine, and economic hardship. Today we pray especially for those suffering in Ukraine and Gaza, and for the ongoing work after the elections last week in Pakistan. Pour out your spirit of wisdom on all who govern, that they will care for the most vulnerable and work for the good of those they vowed to serve.

God of unending joy,

**answer us.**

We pray for peace throughout the earth.

Thank you for the gift of peace. We pray that you send peace with power into our world, our neighborhoods, into All Saints and Zion, our hearts, and our homes. Bring an end to gun violence. Stop cycles of domestic abuse. Give peace to every nation.

God of unending joy,

**answer us.**

We pray for those who are vulnerable.

Thank you for giving us gifts to share with others. Bring justice to anyone who has been used or abused. Feed those who are hungry for food or for companionship. House those who need shelter. Protect those who live in fear. Work through our hands and hearts to provide for them.

God of unending joy,

**answer us.**

We pray for the church.

Thank you for the goodness we know when we gather as your people, for the gifts of community, shared ministry, and the chance to pray for and with one another. We thank you for the work of the church around the world. Thank you for our partnership with Bega Kwa Bega and our sister congregations in Tanzania. We thank you also for the ways in which the church is at work close to home like the Planting Hope campaign here in the St. Paul Area Synod. Renew us in the promises of baptism and draw us into closer relationships with other people of faith.

God of unending joy,

**answer us.**

We pray for healing and wholeness.

Thank you for gifts of healing and recovery, for Aaron Schalk and all those in our community who have experienced healing. We pray also for all those known to us in need of healing and wholeness who we name aloud now.

God of unending joy,

**answer us.**

God of abundant life, you bring a quiet, constant joy to our most trying times. Remind us of your goodness in grief and your presence in pain. **Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION - INSTALLATION OF COUNCIL & NEW MEMBERS**

*New Members and New Council Members*, both your work and your rest are in God. Will you endeavor to pattern your life on the Lord Jesus Christ, in gratitude to God and in service to others, at morning and evening, at work and at play, all the days of your life?

**I will, and I ask God to help me.**

Almighty God, by the power of the Spirit you have knit these your servants into the one body of your Son, Jesus Christ. Look with favor upon them in their commitment to serve in Christ's name. Give them courage, patience, and vision; and strengthen us all in our Christian vocation of witness to the world and of service to others; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God of mercy and grace,  
you give us so much:  
our days, our loved ones,  
our passions and talents,  
the food we eat, the homes we know,  
a place to worship.

God, you pour out an abundance of goodness.  
Receive the gifts we offer back to you today.  
Bless them and bless us,  
that we will give generously,  
love boldly, and share widely,  
our offering reflecting your joyful gift. **Amen.**

## THE SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERING      *AS I WENT DOWN TO THE RIVER TO PRAY*

### OFFERING SONG

**CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART**

**ELW 186**

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.

### EUCCHARISTIC 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 time 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.*

God, our ancestors knew the long road toward joy.  
Noah saw your rainbow after a devastating flood.  
Sarah and Abraham found hope for their future  
in a covenant promise.  
Moses cradled your law in his arms  
and the Israelites found wilderness life  
where they should have died.  
The prophets read your faithfulness  
traced indelibly on their hearts.  
Your love sent us Jesus  
and his persistent, irrational joy:  
dripping with the Jordan's baptismal flood,  
teaching in the crowd's beating heart,  
tossing the tables of empire and profit,  
falling like a seed into warm dark soil  
as he offered his life for us all.

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.

All glory, power, and honor are yours,  
God of brilliant resurrection and quiet joy,  
today and every day. **Amen.**

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

### **COMMUNION MUSIC**

Lamb of God

ELW 146, Setting 3

### **O Lord, throughout These Forty Days**

**ELW 319**

1 O Lord, throughout these forty days  
you prayed and kept the fast;

inspire repentance for our sin,  
and free us from our past.

- 2 You strove with Satan, and you won;  
your faithfulness endured;  
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust  
in God's eternal word.
- 3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed  
and fixed your mind above;  
so teach us to deny ourselves  
that we may know God's love.
- 4 Be with us through this season, Lord,  
and all our earthly days,  
that when the final Easter dawns,  
we join in heaven's praise.

## **Amazing Grace**

**ELW 779**

### **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      Ten Thousand Reasons / Bless the Lord**

Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, o my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning  
It's time to sing Your song again  
Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me  
Let me be singing when the evening comes

Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, o my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger  
Your name is great and Your heart is kind  
For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing  
Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find

Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, o my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name (bless you Lord)



And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still, my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore  
Forevermore

Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, o my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name, come on

Bless the Lord, o my soul, o my soul  
Worship His holy name  
Sing like never before, o my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name

Yes, I will worship Your holy name  
Lord, I'll worship Your holy name  
Sing like never before, o my soul  
I'll worship Your holy name  
Jesus, I will, worship Your holy name  
Worship Your holy name

### **Sending of You, the Disciples of Christ**

Go now and proclaim the Persistent JOY of God in your lives.  
**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray, ask for help, be kind, fulfill a need, forgive, and give thanks.



Prayers of Comfort Sara Lauthen for her father, Roy J. Anderson.  
Jana White for her dear friend Susan Flaherty.

Hospice Care Millie Romanchuk, Sally McCartin, Noosa Mikhail, Polly Rhode

Continued healing Sharon Marcotte, Harriet Marquardt, David Prosen, Deb Schnack,  
Vera Sampson, Kathleen, Mary, Lynn, Laura, Darwin

Good care for people in care centers: Doris Autio, Dick Coleman, Dean Houdek, Julie Stapf

Unsheltered people. All Saints is a temporary cold-weather shelter for unhoused people.

Circle of Compassion: Many people imprisoned by ICE are resettled refugees who have green cards but are not yet U.S. citizens. Namiko, Norma, Oscar, Patricio, Porfirio, Ramiro, Rodrigo, Roosevelt, Samer, Samuel, Tranquilino, Vagehela, Victor (2), William, Ya, Yared, Yerlin, Yocksan, Vondelberth, Youssef

All Saints joins with our sister church in Kipaduka, Tanzania and their evangelist Asifiwe Chengula. We pray for the safety and well-being of all the students and their families: Blaston Mgaya, Dorikas Longo, Elvin Mdeka, Ezra Medeka, Jakobo Ndolela, Lidia Nosa, Naomi Mtewa, Saraphina Msola, Tulinave Mtewa.

Zion Lutheran Church is in a year of transition and discernment. Support their Pastor Steve Biedermann and Council.

Closing Prayer. Almighty God who created the world, help us to know that no matter what we face, You can help us get through it. Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

When you have prayer requests use the Prayer Request form on the church's website [allsaintscg.org/care-ceremonies](http://allsaintscg.org/care-ceremonies) or leave a message with Prayer Chain coordinator Joan Axdal at 651-270-5111.