

**PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF LINCOLN**  
**Worship Plan for Sunday, March 5, 2023**  
**Second Sunday in Lent**

**BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, and of the **☩** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **☩** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

**GATHERING HYMN: LBW #104 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”**

## In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

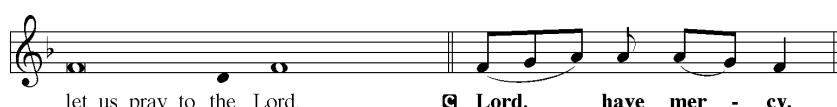
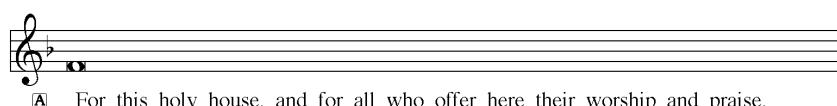
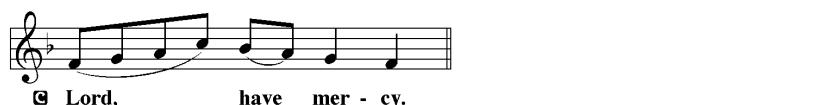
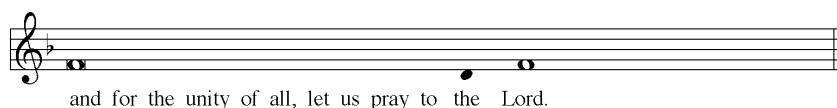
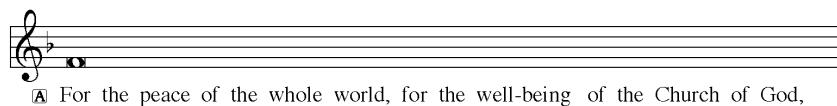
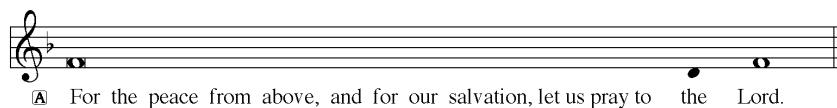
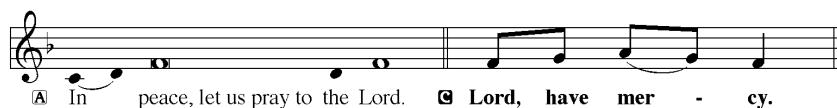
sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

*C: And also with you.*

## KYRIE



## SING HYMN OF PRAISE

A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.

C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:

We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.

Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:

You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.

You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.

For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,

in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you.

Let us pray. . . .

*Eternal God, it is your glory always to have mercy. Bring back all who have erred and strayed from your ways; lead them again to embrace in faith the truth of your Word*

***and to hold it fast; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen***

**FIRST LESSON: Genesis 12:1-4a**

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Here ends the reading.

**PSALM for the day is from Psalm 121**

**TODAY's THEME:** It is the LORD who watches over you.

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup>**My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>He will not let your foot be moved  
and he who watches over you will not fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup>**Behold, he who keeps watch over Israel  
shall neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>the LORD himself watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand,

<sup>6</sup>**so that the sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD shall preserve you from all evil;  
it is he who shall <sup>1</sup>keep you safe.

<sup>8</sup>**The LORD shall watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

**SECOND LESSON Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Here ends the reading.

## VERSE



## GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.



*A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.*

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water

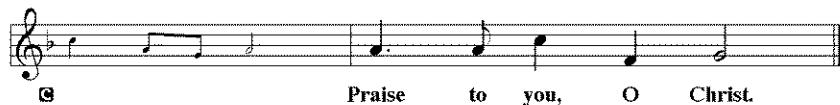
and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup>The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord.



## PROCLAMATION OF THE DAY

**HYMN OF THE DAY: LBW 448 “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”**

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - ready come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

## NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven;  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,  
and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

**and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.**  
**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

## THE PRAYERS

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony (*especially*). Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress (*especially*). Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

Abba Father, in our busy lives we don't take the time away from the distractions of this world to speak with you as we should, hear now the prayers that we offer in the silence of our hearts. *A brief silence.* Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

*C: And also with you.*

## OFFERING

G Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the  
seeds that were sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the  
prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray...

Blessed are you,

*O Lord our God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts. With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen*

## DIALOGUE

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are spoken in pairs (P) and pairs (C). The first two staves are spoken by the priest (P), and the last two staves are spoken by the people (C). The music features various note values including quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes.

P The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you.  
P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.  
P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

The musical notation consists of eight staves of music in G clef, common time, with a key signature of one sharp. The lyrics are spoken in pairs (P) and pairs (C). The first two staves are spoken by the priest (P), and the last two staves are spoken by the people (C). The music features various note values including quarter notes, eighth notes, and sixteenth notes.

P It is indeed right and sal - u - tary that we should at all times and in all places of - fer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and pre-pare with joy for the pas-chal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the chil - dren of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heav - en, we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:  
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san-na in the high - est.

## THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.  
In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,  
that all those who believe in him should not perish,  
but have eternal life.  
We give thanks to you  
for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.  
Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,  
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith  
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

*C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.*

On the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, blessed it;  
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:  
Take and drink; 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.  
For as often as we eat of this bread and drink of this cup,  
We proclaim our Lord's death until he comes again.

## 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.*

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*After each, the communicant responds:*

*C: Amen.*

## COMMUNION HYMN

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in common time with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are integrated into the music, appearing below the notes. The lyrics are:

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
*C: Amen*

G Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been ful-filled.

My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the

sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the

na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Glo- ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,

as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C:** *Amen*

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen**

**SENDING HYMN: LBW #377 “Lift High the Cross”**

## Lift High the Cross

377

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim Till  
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 Led on their way by this tri - umphant sign,  
3 All new - born sol - diers of the Cru - ci - fied  
4 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,

*Refrain*

Our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
The hosts of God in con - qu'ring ranks com - bine.  
Bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
As thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.

5 So shall our song of triumph ever be:  
Praise to the Crucified for victory! *Refrain*

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**