

Prayer of the Day: P: Let us pray

C: O God, you have promised through your Son to be with your church forever. We give you thanks for those who founded this community of believers and for the signs of your presence in this building. As this congregation moves to our new building, grant that we continue following the way, truth, and life, set before us in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ. Amen.

The Reading: Exodus 40:1-5, 33-38

¹The Lord spoke to Moses, ²“On the first day of the first month you shall set up the tabernacle of the tent of meeting. ³You shall put in it the ark of the covenant, and you shall screen the ark with the curtain. ⁴You shall bring in the table and arrange its setting, and you shall bring in the lampstand and set up its lamps. ⁵You shall put the golden altar for incense before the ark of the covenant and set up the screen for the entrance of the tabernacle.

³³He set up the court around the tabernacle and the altar and put up the screen at the gate of the court. So Moses finished the work. ³⁴Then the cloud covered the tent of meeting, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁵Moses was not able to enter the tent of meeting because the cloud settled upon it, and the glory of the Lord filled the tabernacle. ³⁶Whenever the cloud was taken up from the tabernacle, the Israelites would set out on each stage of their journey, ³⁷but if the cloud was not taken up, then they did not set out until the day that it was taken up. ³⁸For the cloud of the Lord was on the tabernacle by day, and fire was in the cloud[a] by night, before the eyes of all the house of Israel at each stage of their journey.

P: This is the Word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Children’s Prayer

Sermon: *Pastor Eric Hanson*

Hymn of the Day & Offering:

Offerings will be collected during the hymn of the day. Thank you also to those who give online. If you’d like to sign up for online giving please visit <http://www.stlukegoodhue.org/online-giving.html>. Children’s coin offering will go toward ELCA Good Gifts serving communities in need around the world.

“They’ll Know We Are Christians By Our Love”

**Verse 1: We are one in the Spirit We are one in the Lord. We are one in the Spirit We are one in the Lord
And we pray that all unity May one day be restored**

**Chorus: And they’ll know we are Christians By our love by our love
Yes they’ll know we are Christians By our love**

**Verse 2: We will walk with each other We will walk hand in hand. We will walk with each other
We will walk hand in hand. And together we’ll spread the news That God is in our land [Chorus]**

**Verse 3: We will work with each other We will work side by side. We will work with each other
We will work side by side And we’ll guard each man’s dignity And save each man’s pride [Chorus]**

**Verse 4: All praise to the Father From whom all things come. And all praise to Christ Jesus His only Son
And all praise to the Spirit Who makes us one [Chorus]**

Offertory Response: *“Give Thanks” (ushers bring offerings forward)*

**Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son.
And now let the weak say, “I am strong”.
Let the poor say, “I am rich Because of what the Lord has done for us”. Give thanks.**

Offertory Prayer: P: Let us pray.

C: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and our community through these gifts, which we received first from your hand, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Thanksgiving for the Means of Grace: *(please stand as you are able)*

P: At the decommissioning of a church building, it is customary to thank God for His grace given in word and sacrament throughout the years. Because proclaiming the word and celebrating the sacraments are the heart of a congregation’s ministry, we give thanks for the ways that God has nurtured this congregation through out the years and has led us to serve others in Christ’s name in this holy place.

Prayer at the Place of the Word:

P: Let us pray together,

C: O God, at the dawn of creation your Word breathed life into all things. By the gift of your incarnate Word, Jesus, you brought the Gospel to all humankind. Through your word proclaimed here, this congregation has been challenged and blessed. Let your voice, which sounded in this place, echo in our lives as we continue to proclaim your word in the place that you send us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer at the Place of Baptism:

P: Let us pray together,

C: O God, through the flood in the time of Noah, and through the waters of the Red Sea, you saved your people of old. Through the waters of baptism in this place, your people have been born to new life and have been commissioned for service in Christ’s name. May all the baptized continue to give witness to your saving grace in the place that you send us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Prayer at the Table:

P: Let us pray together,

C: O God, through manna on a wilderness journey and through loaves of bread multiplied on a hillside, you fed people who needed sustenance for their bodies and souls. May all who have been nourished here with the body and blood of Christ give themselves away as food for the hungry. May we continue to feed those in need, in body and soul, in the place that you send us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

The Prayers: *(call and response)*

Trusting in God who moves with His people, we join our hearts in prayer. *A brief silence.* For the one holy catholic and apostolic church in all times and places, of which this building has been a part, we give our thanks and praise. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For the men and women who founded this congregation, who made personal sacrifices in order for it to grow and flourish, and who used their talents and skills in building up a community of faith, we give our thanks and praise. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For lives of faith celebrated among these walls; for our gatherings for worship and prayer, for our faithful use of the means of grace, for scripture study, for the sharing of laughter and tears, for being sent in mission from this place we give our thanks and praise. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For mouths that were fed here, for souls that were nourished here, for marriages celebrated here, for children confirmed here, for loved ones we’ve said good-bye to here, for friendships made here, for faith challenged here, and for faith blessed here, we give our thanks and praise. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For this building that has sheltered St. Luke Lutheran Church for over a century, may the memory of this place continue to inspire devotion to the God who makes all things New. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

For we who will gather as the people of God in a new place, may today mark not only an ending but also a new beginning of new opportunities to worship you and serve our neighbors. Guide us O Lord. God of grace, **receive our prayer.**

All these prayers we lift into your loving arms O God, trusting that you hear us. **Amen.**

Sharing the Peace: P: The peace of Christ be with you always, **C: And also with you.**

The Great Thanksgiving:

P: The Lord be with you **C: And also 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 & praise.**

The Words of Institution

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.

Meal and Hymns: *(you may be seated)*

All are welcome at this meal. We believe in the saving power of Jesus Christ through the gift of his life, death, and resurrection experienced in bread and wine.

Please move forward via the center aisle. Bread is received in the hands. Wine is received by dipping the bread into the wine chalice and consuming both together. All ages are welcome to commune. Those not communing may receive a blessing by simply keeping your hands folded or extending your arms over your chest in the sign of a cross inviting blessing. For those unable to consume either wine or bread, communion is received fully in either element alone, for Christ is fully present in the meal. You may return to your seats via the side aisles after communing. Gluten-free is available, simply make the server aware of your need. Also, if you cannot come forward, but wish for communion or blessing, let the usher know it will come to you at the end.

Choir Sings: *"This Is The Place"*

"Amazing Grace" #779

Vs 1: Amazing grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; Was blind, but now I see.

Vs 2: 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear The hour I first believed!

Vs 3: Through many dangers, toils and snares, I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, And grace will lead me home.

Vs 4: The Lord has promised good to me, His Word my hope secures;
He will my Shield and Portion be, As long as life endures.

Vs 5: When we've been there ten thousand years, Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise Than when we'd first begun.

Communion Prayer: *(please stand as you are able)*

P: Let us pray,

C: Gracious God, at your table you strengthen us for service wherever you send us. As we leave this place that has been a home for worship and mission, help us to gather in our new building that will provide further opportunities for our life and ministry. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

The Blessing:

P: May God who moves with you from place to place strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace. **Amen.**

Sending: *"You Shall Go Out With Joy" 3X*

You shall go out with joy & be led forth with peace; the mountains and the hills will break forth before you; there'll be shouts of joy, and all the trees of the field will clap, will clap their hands.

And all the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands; the trees of the field will clap their hands while you go out with joy.

Dismissal: P: You are the Church. The home of God is with His People.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God.

Postlude



Service of Decommissioning

St. Luke Lutheran Church • Pastor Eric Hanson

9:30AM • February 25, 2024

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lenten Greeting *(stand as you are able)*

P: Friends in Christ, we gather during this season of Lent to remember Jesus' Passover from death to life. We journey through this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's grace. We are created to live in joyful communion with God & one another, but we oftentimes wound our relationship with God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended. As disciples of Jesus, we long for repentance leading to change.

C: God of heaven and earth, you come in close and make us yours. Equip us by your Spirit to confess our sin, embrace your forgiveness, and seek your will for our lives.

Confession and Forgiveness:

P: With honesty of heart, we confess our sin together. Merciful God,

C: Lord, Forgive us. Our will is handcuffed to sin, and we cannot break free. We have spoken when we should have kept quiet. We were silent when we should have said something. We were still when we should have moved. We moved when we should have been still. For the wrong we have done, and for the good we have failed to do, have mercy on us and bring us new life, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces us in tender care. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet us again this day. In Jesus Christ your sins are forgiven. You are free from sin and death. Live anew with God and each other today. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: *"God, We Gather As Your People" (you may be seated)*

Vs 1: God, we gather as your people to raise our song above, and we dare to claim the promise of your love.
Though the day may not yet be here, we trust it soon will be, when your children will be free.

Refrain: Oh, may our hearts and minds be opened, fling the church doors open wide.

May there be room enough for ev'ryone inside. For in God there is a welcome, in God we all belong.
May that welcome be our song.

Vs 2: Oh, we sing for all the children, that one day they be free; and we sing for generations yet to be,
that they never have a reason to doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest. [Refrain]

Vs 3: Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear & shame, so afraid of who they are & whom they love.
May the message now be banished that your love is for the few; may their faith in you renew. [Refrain]

Vs 4: God, we're working for the future when children far & wide can live their lives with dignity and pride.
As they grow in strength & stature, may they join us hand in hand, as against all hate we stand. [Refrain]