

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; ¹⁷but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.” ¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, ³but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” ⁴“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. ⁵“For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ⁷Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

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

Gospel Acclamation: “Tree Of Life” vs 1, 2, 3 & Lent 1 #334 *(stand as you are able)*

**Verse 1: Tree of Life and awesome myst’ry, in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of hist’ry, still you rise with ev’ry morn, still you rise with ev’ry morn.**

**Verse 2: We remember truth once spoken, love passed on through act and word;
ev’ry person lost and broken wears the body of our Lord, wears the body of our Lord.**

**Verse 3: Christ, you lead and we shall follow, stumbling though our steps may be;
one with you in joy and sorrow, we the river, you the sea, we the river, you the sea.**

**Lent 1: From the dawning of creation you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation, make us turn to you alone, make us turn to you alone.**

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

¹Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” ⁴Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. ⁶“If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: “‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’” ⁷Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. ⁹“All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’” ¹¹Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

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

Children’s Message: Susie Matthees *(you may be seated)***Message: Susie Matthees****Hymn of the Day & Offering:** *(you may be seated)* **“A Mighty Fortress” #504**

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.

**Vs 1: A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious; he breaks the cruel oppressor’s rod and wins salvation glorious. The old satanic foe has sworn to work us woe!
With craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.**

**Vs. 2: No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected. But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he!
Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God’s only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.**

**Vs 3: Though hordes of devils fill the land all threat’ning to devour us, we tremble not, unmoved we stand; they cannot over pow’r us. Let this world’s tyrant rage; in battle we’ll engage!
His might is doomed to fail; God’s judgment must prevail! One little word subdues him.**

Vs 4: God’s Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who fear it; for God himself fights by our side with weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house, goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away, they cannot win the day. The kingdom’s ours forever!

Offertory Response: “Give Thanks”

**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 these your gifts, which we receive first from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Apostles’ Creed: *(please stand as you are able)*

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

Sharing the Peace:

P: The peace of Christ be with you always,

C: And also with you.

The Prayers: *(call and response)*

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

A brief silence. You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love, especially; Keith Brown, Dolly Mensink, Judy Carpenter, Larry Reese, Jan Benidt, Dave (Pud) Gnotke, Jen Berg, Marilyn O’Brien, Kellie Peterson, Naomi Berland, Kay Kurtti, Donald & Marcy Jonas, Harold Lensch, McKenna Dicke, and Shawn Frederixon. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery attendants. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. 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.**

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.

The Blessing:

P: May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed. The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine upon you and be gracious to you, the Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace. **Amen.**

Sending: "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" #618

Vs. 1: Guide me ever great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land; I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand: bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.

Vs. 2: Open now the crystal fountain, where the healing waters flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through: strong deliverer, strong deliverer, shield me with your mighty arm, shield me with your mighty arm

Vs. 3: When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death, & hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side: songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forever more, I will raise forever more.

Dismissal:

P: Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude



A Journey Through Lent

St. Luke Lutheran Church • Guest Leader Susie Matthees
First Sunday in Lent • 9:30AM • February 26, 2023

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Lenten Greeting: *(please stand as you are able)*

L: 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 and 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. We are created anew, freed from sin and death for new life in Christ. Amen.

Gathering Hymn: "God, We Gather As Your People"

Vs 1: God, we gather as your people to raise our song above, & 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 & pride. As they grow in strength & stature, may they join us hand in hand, as against all hate we stand. [Refrain]

Prayer of the Day: *(you may be seated)*

P: Let us pray together

C: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

St. Luke Lutheran Church • 308 First Ave. PO Box 276 Goodhue, MN 55027

Sunday School 8:30AM • Sunday Worship: 9:30AM • Wednesday Worship 6:45PM

Pastor Eric Hanson • Cell: 612-834-2149 • E: anspachh2002@gmail.com

www.stlukegoodhue.org • P: 651-923-4695 • E: office@stlukegoodhue.org • FB: @stlukegoodhue

Organist: Debbi St. John • Administrative Assistant: Tara Marklevits

Faith Formation Facilitator: Nicole Wananda • Treasurer: Sara Nolte