

Full to the Brim

*Brazen
acts of
beauty*

April 3, 2022 + Fifth Sunday in Lent

*An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read responses found in **bold**.*

You are welcome to sing during worship if you are vaccinated!

Welcome to First Lutheran Church!

Gathering in God's Presence

Prelude — "Holy Woman, Graceful Giver"

Hymnal Setting, Anne Krentz Organ
Men's Ensemble

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** —

"The Lord Went to a Dinner"
Sung to the tune AURELIA

The Lord went to a dinner,
and Mary took perfume.
As she anointed Jesus
the fragrance filled the room.
She'd sat as a disciple,
she'd been a faithful friend,
and now, with costly fragrance,
she honored Christ again.

Soon Judas was complaining,
"This gift could have been sold;
We could have helped the poor here —
the young ones and the old.
Yet Jesus said, "My people
will always help the poor,
but Mary chose to give this —
to me, her dying Lord."

Her gift was her expression
of thankfulness and praise,
and so it makes us wonder,
in these long Lenten days:
What would we give to Jesus
if he sat at our meal?
What gift would be our kindness
and what would it reveal?

O Lord, today we offer
the best that we can bring —
our worship as a fragrance,
our love, an offering.
And now, as we're reminded
the poor are with us still,
we pray that we may serve them —
to honor you, as well.

*Confession and Forgiveness

There are very few things as powerful as a group of people that admits they are not perfect, and asks for grace as they grow. Imagine what our world might be like if every institution had such a weekly rhythm? Friends, we can light the way. Let us be brave in our truth-telling and honest in our confession. For we will always be met by grace. Let us pray.

Jesus of Nazareth, we admit that often we tuck our faith into our pockets, hiding in a place of comfort rather than proudly declaring: yes we are Christian, yes we believe, yes this faith has changed me.

We are so afraid of offending others or embarrassing ourselves that we have established rules: no faith at the dinner table, no faith in politics, no faith with strangers.

Forgive us for whispering when we could be singing. Forgive us for staying quiet when we could be part of rewriting the narrative.

We want to be brave. We want to pour out perfume over your feet.

Holy One,
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.
Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

Family of faith, hear this good news: in ☩ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. Even in our silence, God loves us. Even in our fear or shame, God chooses us. Even when we sin, God wraps us in grace. You are free—to be bold, to be brazen, to be exactly who God called you to be. **Thanks be to God, amen.**

***Kyrie** — pg. 156, front of hymnal, from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*, Setting Five

*Lenten Litany

May we find courage here—
courage to follow our call, courage to live out our faith.
May we find hope here—
hope for a better world, hope that refuses to let us go.
May we find truth here—
truth that lives in sacred community, truth that lives in ancient stories.
May we find all that we seek.
And in our seeking, may we know God. Amen.

*Prayer of the Day

May God be with you. **And also with you.** Let us pray.

Holy God, sometimes our waking is a prayer. Sometimes the song stuck in our heads, rumbling around on repeat, is a prayer. Sometimes the way we talk to children and the way we hug a pet is a prayer. Sometimes the way we take a phone out to get a picture of the sunset or of the people we love—that is a prayer. Other times, prayer is moments like this— heads bowed, eyes closed, hearts quiet for just a moment. And in all of it, we trust you to hear us. Help us to hear you in return. In Jesus' name, gratefully we pray, **amen.**

Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from the book of Isaiah — Isaiah 43:16-21

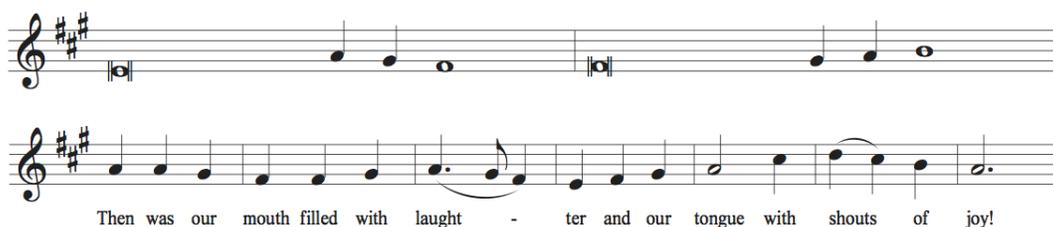
16Thus says the Lord,
who makes a way in the sea,
a path in the mighty waters,
17who brings out chariot and horse,
army and warrior;
they lie down, they cannot rise,
they are extinguished, quenched like a
wick:
18Do not remember the former things,
or consider the things of old.
19I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert.
20The wild animals will honor me,
the jackals and the ostriches;
for I give water in the wilderness,
rivers in the desert,
to give drink to my chosen people,
21the people whom I formed for myself
so that they might declare my praise.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 126 —

The refrain will be sung twice at the start and once thereafter; the psalm will be sung responsively by verse



1When the Lord restored the for- | tunes of
Zion,
then were we like | those who dream.
2**Then was our mouth filled with laughter,**
and our tongue with | shouts of joy.
Then they said among the nations, “**The**
Lord has done great | things for them.”
3The Lord has done great | things for us,
and we are | glad indeed.

4**Restore our for- | tunes, O Lord,**
like the watercourses | of the Negeb. R
5Those who | sowed with tears
will reap with | songs of joy.
6**Those who go out weeping, carry- | ing the seed,**
will come again with joy, shoulder- | ing their
sheaves. R

A Reading from Paul's Letter to the Philippians — Philippians 3:4b-14

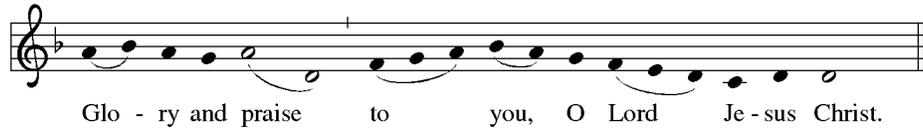
[Paul writes:] 4bIf anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: 5circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; 6as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

7Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. 8More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ 9and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. 10I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, 11if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

12Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. 13Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, 14I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation** — from *Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Five* “Glory and Praise”



***Gospel** — John 12:1-8

The Gospel of John, the 12th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

1Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 2There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. 3Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. 4But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, 5“Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” 6(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) 7Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. 8You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon — “Brazen Acts of Beauty”

Pastor Chris Culuris

***Hymn** — from *Glory to God*

“A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar”

Sung to the tune HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING

**A prophet-woman broke a jar,
by Love's divine appointing.
With rare perfume she filled the room,
presiding and anointing.
A prophet-woman broke a jar,
the sneers of scorn defying.
With rare perfume she filled the room,
preparing Christ for dying.**

**A faithful woman left a tomb
by Love's divine commission.
She saw, she heard, she preached the Word,
arising from submission.
A faithful woman left a tomb,
with resurrection gospel.
She saw, she heard, she preached the Word,
apostle to apostle.**

**Though woman wisdom, woman truth,
for centuries were hidden,
unsung, unwritten and unheard,
derided and forbidden,
the Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire,
on free and slave descending,
can tumble our dividing walls,
our shame and sadness mending.**

**The Spirit knows, the Spirit calls,
by Love's divine ordaining,
the friends we need, to serve and lead,
their powers and gifts unchaining.
The Spirit knows, the Spirit calls,
from women, men and children,
the friends we need, to serve and lead.
Rejoice and make them welcome!**

*Affirmation of Faith — Apostles' Creed

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 power of 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.

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

*Prayers of Intercession

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

Do a new thing in the church. Free us from paradigms that no longer serve the gospel and bring forward leaders who imagine fresh ways of doing ministry. Give us courage in the face of change. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing for creation. Reverse the trajectory of climate change and environmental catastrophe. Revive habitats already impaired by human disregard. Amplify the voices of climate scientists and researchers working to chart a new course. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing in our world. Break barriers that prevent political enemies from working together for the well-being of all. Make a way for peace and collaboration among the nations, especially for the people of Ukraine who are suffering in an unjust war. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing for those who suffer or need guidance. Reveal a path for any who are unemployed or underemployed, for those experiencing homelessness, and for all who struggle with money. Be with the Saint Peter High School Band as they travel abroad in Italy, and may their experience be enriching. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing within us. Direct us into encounters that broaden our understanding of the human experience. Amplify voices that are ignored or devalued. Deliver us especially from the scourge of racism. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Do a new thing in our death. Fill us with the knowledge of Christ and the power of his resurrection as we give thanks for all the saints who have attained the prize of their heavenly call. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray: **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Offering

Music at the Offering

“Come, Ye Disconsolate”

Setting by Terre Johnson, Adapted by Christopher Aspaas
Men's Ensemble

Departing to Serve God's World

Announcements

*Sending Hymn — no. 659

“Will You Let Me Be Your Servent”

*Blessing & Dismissal

As you leave this place, may you be awestruck by the beauty of this world.

May you laugh, and may it be contagious.

May you overflow with love for those around you.

May you be effusive with hope and quick to point out joy.

And in all of your living, and breathing, and being, may you find yourself full to the brim with God's Holy Spirit, and may it change your life. In the name of the Lover, the Beloved, and Love itself—

go in peace, full to the brim. **Thanks be to God.**

*Postlude — “How Can I Keep from Singing”

Setting by David Christiansen

Acknowledgements

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Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Lathe Bly, Joe Greenig

Acolytes: Laird Bly, Dylan Greenig, Kolby Nixon

Greeter: Lewis Nowell, Nancy Timm

Reader: Grace Timm

Ushers: Pat Pehrson, Tom Thorkelson

Musicians: Men's Ensemble

Announcements

- Our Lenten “Full to the Brim” midweek series concludes this coming Wednesday, April 6. All are invited to attend as we prepare for Holy Week.
- The High School Youth Group is worshipping at GAC with Joe Davis tonight. Meet at Christ Chapel at 6:30!
- Thanks for your generosity to the MN FoodShare campaign! We will still accept any donations!
- To support Lutheran Disaster Response to aid the people of Ukraine, you can make a donation <https://www.elca.org/our-work/relief-and-development/lutheran-disaster-response>
- Our next forum will be held on Sunday, April 24. Former interim pastor Bill Nelsen, along with his co-author Professor Darrell Jodock, will be with us to discuss the ideas in their new book *Embracing Diversity: Faith, Vocation, and the Promise of America*. You are invited to attend.

Prayers

- We lift up prayers for those on our long-term list: Tom and Deb Johnson, Abigail Christenson, Betty Gustafson, Elgene Lund, Chuck Petry, Bob Cady, Joan Williams, Myrene Bunge, Glenn Stryker, Erika Schuldt, Gloria Kane, Gwen Powell, Nancy Maag, Patricia Freiart, Urusla McRostie
- We pray for the family of Mary Bell Gordenier mother of Kim Bovee. Mary Bell passed away on Sunday.
- We pray for the families of those who have recently died: Martin Larson, Dale Haack
- We pray for all those families continuing to adjust to the loss of loved ones.
- We pray for the high school students on their band trip in Italy!