

# Full to the Brim

*You  
are  
worthy*

**March 20, 2022 + Third 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** — “O Healing River”

Setting by David Cherwien  
Jessica Echtenkamp, vocalist

**Words of Welcome**

**\*Gathering Hymn** — no. 331

“As the Deer Runs to the River”

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

There is something so healing, so life-giving, about telling our stories. In the prayer of confession, that is what we get to do. The mask comes off. Any pretense of perfection is removed. We let the pressure to perform slip away and we sit here, face to face with God, sharing honestly who we long to be. Friends, there is healing here. There is life to be gained here. So join me in this moment of honesty. Join me in the prayer of confession.

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.**

Friends, take a deep breath. Release the tension in your jaw. There is good news here: in ☩ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. For even when we stumble, even when we take the easy way out, even when we forget our own self-worth, even when we lose our way—we belong to God. **We are loved. We are claimed. We are under God's wing. We are worthy of grace. We belong to God. Amen.**

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

\***Lenten Litany**

Come, all who are thirsty.

**Come, all who are seeking.**

Come, all who are waiting.

**Come, all who labor.**

Come, all who need rest.

**Come, all who dream dreams.**

Come—

whether you're young or old,

confident or curious,

lonely or hopeful.

**This is God's house. All are welcome here.**

**Let us worship holy God.**

\***Prayer of the Day**

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

God of fig trees and foxes, of today and tomorrow, we would like to ask that you pick us up like a great gust of wind. Startle us awake like a first love. Light a fire in us like tomorrow depends on today. Do all of this to get our attention and then turn us toward you. We are a scattered people, God. The world is moving faster than we can keep up. So we pray—catch our eye. Open our ears. Capture our attention. We are here. We long to be close to you. In Jesus' name, gratefully we pray, **amen.**

## Hearing & Responding to Scripture

A Reading from the book of Isaiah — Isaiah 55:1-9

1Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.  
2Why do you spend your money for that  
which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not  
satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.  
3Incline your ear, and come to me;  
listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.  
4See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.

5See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.  
6Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
7let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy  
on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
8For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
9For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

**Psalm 63:1-8** — sung responsively by verse between choir and congregation



1O God, you are my God; eager- | ly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for  
you, as in a dry and weary land where there | is  
no water.

2Therefore I have gazed upon you in your |  
**holy place,**  
that I might behold your power | and  
**your glory.**

3For your steadfast love is better than | life  
itself;  
my lips shall | give you praise.

4So will I bless you as long | as I live  
and lift up my hands | in your name.

5My spirit is content, as with the rich- | est of  
foods,

and my mouth praises you with | joyful lips,

6**when I remember you up- | on my bed,**  
and meditate on you in | **the night watches.**

7For you have | been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I | will  
rejoice.

8**My whole being | clings to you;**  
**your right hand | holds me fast.**

**A Reading from Paul's First Letter to the Corinthians** — 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

1I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3and all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

6Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." 8We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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"



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

**\*Gospel** — Luke 13:1-9

The Gospel of Luke, the 13th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you

think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

6Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ 8He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.  
Praise to you, O Christ.

**Sermon** — “You Are Worthy”

Pastor Chris Culuris

\***Hymn** — no. 447

“O Blessed Spring”

\***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.

We pray for the church around the world in all its forms: for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders; for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future of their ministry. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society; for all working toward peaceful resolutions for conflicts in Ukraine and around the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the advocacy efforts of this congregation: for those whose faith leads them to speak difficult truths and engage in difficult conversations with policymakers; for those who promote mercy over vengeance or retaliation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. With all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. 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*

“Seed that in Earth Is Dying”

Setting by Bradley Ellingboe  
Bonse Aba Singers

# Departing to Serve God’s World

## Announcements

\***Sending Hymn** — no. 342, stanzas 1-4

“There in God’s Garden”

## \*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** — “Trinitarian Blessings”

Setting by K. Lee Scott  
Jessica Echtenkamp, vocalist

## Acknowledgements

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## Worship Assistants

Pastor: Chris Culuris

Director of Music: Emily Bruflat

Audio/Video: Shanon Nowell, Audrey Menning, Finn Olson

Acolytes: Laird Bly, Dylan Greenig, Graham Menning

Greeter: Mary Long

Reader: Becky Otterness

Ushers: Gordon Long

Musicians: Jessica Echtenkamp, Bonse Aba Singers

## **Announcements**

- This Sunday is Pack the Pews Sunday! Don't worry if you forgot to bring something to donate; there are still three weeks left of the MN Food Share drive - plenty of time for you to bring a contribution!
- Our next forum about safety scheduled for next Sunday has been postponed. We will let you know when we are able to reschedule.
- You are invited to our Lenten midweek worship services, which are Wednesdays from 7:00-7:30 p.m. They fit into our Lenten "Full to the Brim" series.
- Following worship today, please stop by and see Nancy Timm in the Gathering Space. She will help those who wish to sign up to be an usher or greeter and assist anyone who wishes to purchase Kwik Trip cards. 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>

## **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, and Urusla McRostie.
- 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.