

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

10 MARCH 2024



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 4

The liturgy is in the front of the ELW starting on page 147.

The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Holy God,

**C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

**For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.**

Amen.

P: Here is a flood of grace: Our of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

HYMN #335 "JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS"

GREETING [PAGE 147]

P: 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** [PAGE 147]

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...now and forever.*)

C: Amen

READINGS

NUMBERS 21:4-9 / PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22 / EPHESIANS 2:1-10

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

♪ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** [PAGE 151] **“RETURN TO THE LORD...”**

GOSPEL [JOHN 3:14-21]

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

YOUTH SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN

SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN

HYMN #323 “GOD LOVED THE WORLD”

CONFESSION OF FAITH: APOSTLES’ CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 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

P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation and a world in need.

(Each petition ends: P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.)

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Let us pray. *(concluding ...our Savior and Lord.)*

C: Amen.

♪ **GREAT THANKSGIVING** [*PAGE 152*]

PREFACE [*PAGE 153*]

P: It is indeed right...and join their unending hymn:

C: ♪ "Holy, holy, holy..."

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.**

Holy Communion is celebrated today

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

COMMUNION [PAGE 154] “LAMB OF GOD...”

HYMN #592 “JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA”

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen

POST COMMUNION HYMN

♪ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise him, all creatures here below;
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...Jesus Christ our Lord.*)

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and
forever.

C: Amen.

HYMN #779 “AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND”

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C: Thanks be to God!

RINGING OF THE BELL

POSTLUDE

Pastor: Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen
Organist: Jason Boussetot or Linda Whitman
Acolyte: David Burke
Lector: Jason Boussetot
Communion Assistant: Deb Detlefs
Usher: Dan Burke
Cleaners: Shane and Amy Glover

Contact Information:

Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

Cell Phone: (262) 914-9392
Email: pastorleahhollnil@gmail.com

Church Office

Phone: (563) 246-2622
Email: clparish@fbcom.net
Website: www.clparish.org
Facebook: www.facebook.com/clparish1861

This Week At A Glance

Tuesday	12:00 pm	“Meet and Eat” at Buck’s Corner
Wednesday	6:00 pm	Worship Committee at Our Savior’s
	6:15 pm	Midweek Lenten meal at Our Savior’s
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship at Our Savior’s
	7:30 pm	Bible Jam at Our Savior’s
	7:30 pm	Council meetings at Our Savior’s
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship service at Faith
	9:25 am	Sunday School at Our Savior’s
	10:30 am	Worship service at Our Savior’s

Those to keep in prayer: Mallory Boussetot, Diane Sievers; the homebound: Carol Christensen, Ron Gasper, Delores Lahann, Lucy Lee Petersen, Myrna Kay Peterson, Rusty Porth, Betty Schau, Bus Seastrand and Vera St. John; and those serving in the military.

Jars of peanut butter (chunky or smooth, any size, any brand) will be gathered from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday for the Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland.

Midweek Lenten services: A meal will be served at 6:15 pm followed by worship at 7:00 pm. The March Wednesdays are at Our Savior's.

There are several opportunities to support the youth of Our Savior's and Faith. The **confirmation students** are leading the midweek Lenten services with Pastor. On Easter Sunday, the **God Squad** will host an Easter breakfast and egg hunt at Faith. Thank you to our youth, their parents and leaders.

"Meet and Eat" will meet on Tuesday, March 12th, at Buck's Corner in Calamus at noon. Invite your friends and neighbors to come have a lunch of pizza or pasta and join in the conversation.

The **noisy offering** will be collected on Sunday, March 17th. The 2024 recipient is Calamus-Wheatland Schools.

April newsletter items are due on March 18th.

Palm Sunday: March 24

8:00 am Worship at Faith

9:25 am Sunday School at Our Savior's

10:30 am Worship at Our Savior's

Maundy Thursday: March 28

7:00 pm at Faith

Good Friday: March 29

7:00 pm at Our Savior's

Easter Sunday: March 31

8:00 am Worship at Faith

9:00 am Breakfast at Faith

9:45 am Easter Egg Hunt at Faith

10:30 am Worship at Our Savior's

The Joint Council wants to form a committee to develop an **online parish directory**. Needed are two or three people from each congregation to serve on that committee. You can contact Pastor Leah, Amy Glover, or Mark Witte to volunteer or to get more information.

You can help the four youth planning to attend the **2024 ELCA Youth Gathering** by becoming a stockholder. Shares cost \$50 each. Investors will receive mail from the youth while at the Gathering and an invitation to a supper when they return. Forms can be found at both churches. Contact Heather Grau (563-424-0507) or Pastor Leah (262-914-9392) if you have questions.

Love and Judgment

John 3: 17-21 For God did not send his son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. He who believes in him is not condemned, but he who does not believe already stands condemned. And this is the reason of this condemnation--the light came into the world and men loved the darkness rather than the light, for their deeds were evil. Every one of whose deeds are depraved hates the light, and does not come to the light, but his deeds stand convicted. But he who puts the truth into action comes to the light, that his deeds may be made plain for all to see, because they are done in God.

Here we are faced with one other apparent paradox of the Fourth Gospel--the paradox of love and judgment. We have just been thinking of the love of God, and now suddenly we are confronted with judgment and condemnation and conviction. John has just said that it was because God so loved the world that he sent his Son into the world. Later he will go on to show us Jesus saying: "For judgment I came into this world" (John 9:39). How can both things be true?

It is quite possible to offer a man an experience in nothing but love and for that experience to turn out a judgment. It is quite possible to offer a man an experience which is meant to do nothing but bring joy and bliss and yet for that experience to turn out a judgment. Suppose we love great music and get nearer to God in the midst of the surge and thunder of a great symphony than anywhere else. Suppose we have a friend who does not know anything about such music and we wish to introduce him to this great experience, to share it with him, and give him this contact with the invisible beauty which we ourselves enjoy. We have no aim other than to give our friend the happiness of a great new experience. We take him to a symphony concert; and in a very short time he is fidgeting and gazing around the hall, extremely bored. That friend has passed judgment on himself that he has no music in his soul. The experience designed to bring him new happiness has become only a judgment.

This always happens when we confront a man with greatness. We may take him to see some great masterpiece of art; we may take him to listen to a prince of preachers; we may give him a great book to read; we may take him to gaze upon some beauty. His reaction is a judgment; if he finds no beauty and no thrill we know that he has a blind spot in his soul. A visitor was being shown round an art gallery by one of the attendants. In that gallery there were certain masterpieces beyond all price, possessions of eternal beauty and unquestioned genius. At the end of the tour the visitor said: "Well, I don't think much of your old pictures." The attendant answered quietly: "Sir, I would remind you that these pictures are no longer on trial, but those who look at them are." All that the man's reaction had done was to show his own pitiable blindness.

This is so with regard to Jesus. If, when a man is confronted with Jesus, his soul responds to that wonder and beauty, he is on the way to salvation. But if, when he is confronted with Jesus, he sees nothing lovely, he stands condemned. His reaction has condemned him. God sent Jesus in love. He sent him for that man's salvation; but that which was sent in love has become a condemnation. It is not God who has condemned the man; God only loved him; the man has condemned himself.

The man who reacts in hostility to Jesus has loved the darkness rather than the light. The terrible thing about a really good person is that he always has a certain unconscious element of condemnation in him. It is when we compare ourselves with him that we see ourselves as we are. Alcibiades, the spoilt Athenian man of genius, was a companion of Socrates and every now and again he used to break out: "Socrates, I hate you, for every time I meet you, you let me see what I am." The man who is engaged on an evil task does not want a flood of light shed on it and him; but the man engaged on an honourable task does not fear the light.

Once an architect came to Plato and offered for a certain sum of money to build him a house into none of whose rooms it would be possible to see. Plato said: "I will give you double the money to build a house into whose every room everyone can see." It is only the evil-doer who does not wish to see himself and who does not

wish anyone else to see him. Such a man will inevitably hate Jesus Christ, for Christ will show him what he is and that is the last thing that he wants to see. It is the concealing darkness that he loves and not the revealing light.

By his reaction to Jesus Christ, a man stands revealed and his soul laid bare. If he regards Christ with love, even with wistful yearning, for him there is hope; but if in Christ he sees nothing attractive he has condemned himself. He who was sent in love has become to him judgment.

Barclay's Daily Study Bible (NT) – Public Domain