



## WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are worshipping with your children and want you to feel welcome.

There is a “**Pray Ground**” for quiet play in the front right of the sanctuary. We ask that families stay with their little ones and try to keep noise to a minimum.

If you or your little one needs “a break” or “louder play”, there is an “**Active Worship**” room on the West side of the sanctuary. You can see and hear the service from this room.

## GATHERING



The Holy Spirit gathers us together during this time of worship

# WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Second Sunday of Lent  
Longing for Mystery

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*Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion*

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## Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning  
the way you feel comfortable.

**All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!**

**Everybody Is Somebody Here**

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## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

## SILENCE FOR GATHERING

## OPENING HYMN

“Shall We Gather at the River”

ELW #423

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord C: **Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

**We confess to you, most loving God,  
the sins that both bind and scatter us.**

**We have knowingly believed dishonest words.**

**We have questioned your gracious power again and again.**

**We have given into temptation.**

**We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet  
holding ourselves apart.**

**In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors  
and ourselves.**

**Gather us back to you.**

**Forgive us, free us, and make us whole**

**for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

**SONG OF CONFESSION "Return to God" Marty Haugen**

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the  
source of grace and mer - cy; come  
seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of  
God. God.

Text and Tune: Marty Haugen, b 1950 © 1990, 1991, GIA Publications, Inc.  
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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Living God,  
**we come looking for signs of your heavenly kingdom.**  
**When certainty binds our spirits, astonish us and confound our expectations. Bring us through water and Spirit to trust that you speak of what you know; Birth us into the mystery that you desire to give all eternal life. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S TIME**

**FIRST READING**

**Genesis 12:1-4a**

Now the LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

L: The Word of the Lord C: *Thanks be to God*

**GOSPEL READING:**

**John 3:1-17**

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?"

**THE WORD**  
God speaks to us through  
scripture reading, preaching,  
and song.



"Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

L: The Gospel of the Lord C: *Thanks be to God*

**SERMON**

**Pastor Bil Sutlief**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**"What Wondrous Love Is This"**

**ELW #666**

**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 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.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**NOISY OFFERING**

**Luther Park Camp**

**OFFERING**

**"Pass It On"**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

L: Lord in Your Mercy

C: Hear our prayer

All young and young at heart  
are invited forward during the  
Children's time.

To support the ministry of  
FOC please use the QR  
Code below or donate to the  
offering plate.



## THE MEAL

God feeds us with the forgiveness and presence of Christ.

All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

No Exceptions!

Children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing and Goldfish Crackers



## THE SENDING

We are blessed and sent out into the world to share God's Love with all people.



## Serving Today

Pastor

Bil Sutlief

Musician

Ann Mikiska

Sound and Video

Cheryl & Gerry Wills

\*Thanks to all those who helped make worship possible.

## HOLY COMMUNION

### THE 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.**

### BLESSING

### PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

### CLOSING HYMN

“Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus”

ELW #802

### SENDING/POSTLUDE

*Special Thanks to Pastor Bil Sutlief  
for leading us in worship today*

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**FamilyofChrist**  
FAITH, LOVE, and COMPASSION

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Mission Partners with Usokami Parish, Iringa, Tanzania

Hearing Assistance devices are available at the soundboard  
Radio frequency for hearing assistance on 73.9 MHz on the FM band