

HYMN OF THE DAY

“As The Grains of Wheat”

ELW #465

Chorus

*As the grains of wheat once scattered on the hill were gathered into one to become our bread;
so may all your people from all the ends of earth be gathered into one in you.*

As this cup of blessing is shared within our midst,
may we share the presence of your love. *Chorus*

Let this be a foretaste of all that is to come
when all creation shares this feast with you. *Chorus*

APOSTLES' CREED

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH L) Lord in your Mercy C) Hear our Prayer

SHARING THE PEACE: L) “The peace of Christ be with you all” C) And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

“Give Thanks”

Words and Music by Henry Smith ©1978, Arrg. © 1992 Integrity’s Hosanna! Music. CLI # 1616198

Give thanks with a grateful heart. Give thanks to the Holy One.

Give thanks because he’s given Jesus Christ his son. *Repeat*

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. *Repeat*

(end with) Give thanks.

LORD’S PRAYER

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

“Will You Come and Follow Me”

ELW #798

Will you come and follow me if I but call your name? Will you go where you don't know and never be the same? Will you let my love be shown, will you let my name be known, will you let my life be grown in you & you in me?

Will you leave yourself behind if I but call your name? Will you care for cruel and kind and never be the same? Will you risk the hostile stare, should your life attract or scare? Will you let me answer pray'r in you & you in me?

Will you let the blinded see if I but call your name? Will you set the pris'ners free and never be the same? Will you kiss the leper clean, and do such as this unseen, and admit to what I mean in you and you in me?

Will you love the you you hide if I but call your name? Will you quell the fear inside and never be the same? Will you use the faith you've found to reshape the world around, through my sight and touch and sound in you and you in me?

Lord, your summons echoes true when you but call my name. Let me turn and follow you and never be the same. In your company I'll go where your love and footsteps show. Thus I'll move and live and grow in you and you in me.

THE DISMISSAL

L) Go in peace. Share your bread. All) **Thanks be to God.**

Benton & Willow Creek Lutheran Churches

Fifth Sunday in Lent – March 17th, 2024

Guest Pastor: Lon Kvanli Organist: Lisa Rave & Kari Vosburg

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP - Psalm 51:1-12

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

²**Wash me through and through from my wickedness, and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses, and my sin is ever before me.

⁴**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight; so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness, a sinner from my mother’s womb.

⁶**Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me, and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

⁸**Let me hear joy and gladness that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my wickedness.

¹⁰**Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

¹²**Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

GATHERING HYMN:

“Lift High the Cross”

ELW #660

Chorus

*Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.*

Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. *Chorus*

All newborn servants of the Crucified
bear on their brows the seal of him who died. *Chorus*

O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. *Chorus*

So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! *Chorus*

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Holy God,

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.

Here is a flood of grace: Out 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. **Amen.**

Kyrie Setting Ten - "Have Mercy on Us"

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Hymn of Praise - "Glory be to God"

pg. 204a ELW

PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

L) Word of God, Word of Life. All) Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON **Hebrews 5:5-10**

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; ⁶as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek." ⁷In the days of his flesh,

Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

L) Word of God, Word of Life. All) Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S INVITATION SONG: *"Jesus Loves The Little Children"*

Jesus loves the little children, All the children of the world.

Red and yellow, black and white, They are precious in His sight.

Jesus loves the little children of the world.

CHILDREN'S WORD

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *"Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil"* **ELW #512**

Lord, let my heart be good soil, open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

GOSPEL **John 12:20-33**

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor. ²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

L) Word of God, Word of Life All) Thanks be to God.

SERMON – Pastor Lon Kvanli