

FORGIVENESS

The most ~~challenging~~ word.

beautiful

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Our 40 day journey through Lent

March 22, 2020 | 11 am



St. John's Lutheran Church | Salisbury, NC

Welcome to St. John's!

For more information about today's worship, please refer to the pew card found in the hymnal. You'll notice that our worship follows a simple pattern that has guided the church's worship since the first century — Gather, Word, Meal, Sending — a pattern designed to nourish and strengthen us for the week ahead. Welcome to worship!



Gathering

The Holy Spirit gathers us as the people of God

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Here I am to Worship
Bradley Chestnut, soloist

written by Tim Hughes

Prayers of Confession

We make the sign of the cross as a reminder of our baptism.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us pray. God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God, **we confess that we are not perfect. We have said and done things we regret. We have tried to earn your redeeming grace, while denying it to others. We have resisted your call to be your voice in the world. Forgive us, loving God. Give us your righteousness, the strength to put aside our failures, and the courage to try again. Amen.**

God's Promise of Forgiveness

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. May Almighty God strengthen you with his light, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Martin Luther's "Morning Prayer"

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all harm and danger. We ask that you would also protect us today from sin and all evil, so that our life and actions may please you. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

Amen.



Word

We hear God's word in scripture reading, preaching, and song

First Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:10-11, 18-23

¹⁰According to the grace of God given to me, like a skilled master builder I laid a foundation, and someone else is building on it. Each builder must choose with care how to build on it. ¹¹For no one can lay any foundation other than the one that has been laid; that foundation is Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Do not deceive yourselves. If you think that you are wise in this age, you should become fools so that you may become wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written,

"He catches the wise in their craftiness,"

²⁰and again,

"The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise,
that they are futile."

²¹So let no one boast about human leaders. For all things are yours, ²²whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future — all belong to you, ²³and you belong to Christ, and Christ belongs to God.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Second Reading: Psalm 119:33-40

³³Teach me, O LORD, the way of your statutes, and I will observe it to the end.

³⁴Give me understanding, that I may keep your law and observe it with my whole heart.

³⁵Lead me in the path of your commandments, for I delight in it.

³⁶Turn my heart to your decrees, and not to selfish gain.

³⁷Turn my eyes from looking at vanities; give me life in your ways.

³⁸Confirm to your servant your promise, which is for those who fear you.

³⁹Turn away the disgrace that I dread, for your ordinances are good.

⁴⁰See, I have longed for your precepts; in your righteousness give me life.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God!**

Response

Return to the Lord

From Joel 2:13

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and

mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in

stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff ends with a double bar line, and the second and third staves also end with double bar lines.

The Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:38-39, 43-48

³⁸"You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' ³⁹But I say to you, Do not resist an evildoer. But if anyone strikes you on the right cheek, turn the other also. ⁴³"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'

⁴⁴But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵so that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous. ⁴⁶For if you love those who love you, what reward do you have? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷And if you greet only your brothers and sisters, what more are you doing than others? Do not even the Gentiles do the same? ⁴⁸Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Hymn 807

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

NETTLETON

Apostle's Creed. Gathered as God's people across time and space, let us confess our faith using the words of the 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.**

Offertory Music

How Great is Our God

Bradley Chestnut, soloist

written by Chris Tomlin, Jesse Reeves, Ed Cash

Prayers of Intercession. *Each petition ends: Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.***

Lords 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.**



Sending

Forgiven and nourished, we are now sent into the world to share God's love.

Benediction

Sending Hymn 836

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

HYMN TO JOY

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

*Unless otherwise indicated, today's service is from Evangelical Lutheran Worship
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JOIN US IN PRAYER FOR THE FOLLOWING:

CONDOLENCES—Gary and Betty Pinkston on the passing of Betty's mother, Janie B. Wise, on Tuesday, March 17.

Sandra, Robert, Robert II, and Katherine Sullivan; Steven Gardner, and family, on the passing of Connie Gardner on March 15. A graveside service was held on Wednesday, March 18 at Rowan Memorial Park.

Sidney Honeycutt, Charles Heilig III and family, on the passing of Charles Heilig on March 10. His funeral was held on Saturday, March 14 at St. John's.

Terri Martin, Morgan, and family on the passing of Art Martin on Saturday, March 7. His funeral was held on Sunday, March 15 at Linn-Honeycutt Funeral Home.

THIS WEEK'S PRAYER CONCERNS — Jane Barrier, Pat Nelson, Julie Carr

ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS — Judy Ann Deal, Henry Kluttz, Larry Cartner, Franco Goodman, Kathy (Eric) Norris, Melody Moxley, Jack Connery, Alda Smith, John Myers, Perry Hood, Bob Melton, Phyllis Edwards, Jane Shuping, Barbara Rufty, Hal Furr, Walter Tatum, Jim Rabon, Matt Stahl, Sonny Lippard, Nancy Parrish, Thomas Livesay, David and Paula Kafitz, Karen Shelton, Gene Myers, Kent Brown

HOMEBOUND — Burt Harris, Peggy Taylor, Lois and Paul Carter, Nan Graeber, Margaret Ketner, Steve Summers, Sonny Allen, Shirley Trexler, Benny Banks, Dottie Bedford, Audrey Bradshaw, Hal Furr, Fran Hoke, Sherry Morgan, Ermine Peeler, Rachel Safrit, Shirley Smith, Peggy Smith, Fran Tannehill

St. John's Lutheran Church

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Pastoral Ministry

Senior Pastor.....The Rev. Rhodes Woolly
Pastor for Youth and Discipleship.....The Rev. Laura Henrik
Visitation.....Wade Rouzer

Worship and Music Ministry

Minister of Worship and the Arts.....Rob Durocher, deacon
Associate Parish MusicianRosemary Kinard
9:27 Worship Leader.....Bradley Chestnut
8:30 Organist.....Deanna Boksleitner
Production Manager.....Taylor Hutchins
Director of Music Emeritus.....Karl Kinard, deacon

Program Ministry

Youth.....The Rev. Laura Henrik
Children.....Stacey Shafer
Adults.....Danny Hines
Senior AdultsDiane Poole
St. John's Kindergarten (4 and 5 year olds)Teresa Stoner
Child Development Center (infant through 4 and after school)Courtney Bost

Administrative Team

Business ManagerRuth Ann Diehl
Office Manager.....Deborah Cross
Communications Specialist.....Angel Owens
Accounting.....Brenda Munday
Facilities Manager.....Jon Koppe
Maintenance.....David Ellenburg



Let's connect faith and life. *Together.*

We Praise You, O God

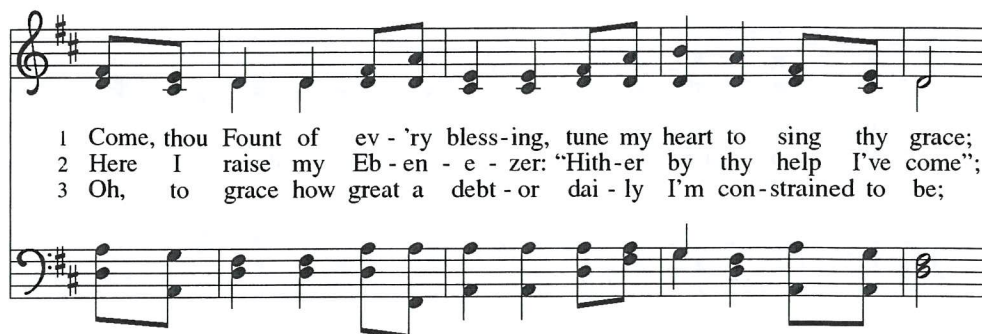
1 We praise you, O God, our re - deem - er, cre - a - tor;
 2 We wor - ship you, God of our fa - thers and mo - thers;
 3 With voic - es u - nit - ed our prais - es we of - fer

in grate - ful de - vo - tion our trib - ute we bring.
 through tri - al and tem - pest our guide you have been.
 and glad - ly our songs of thanks - giv - ing we raise.

We lay it be - fore you; we kneel and a - dore you;
 When per - ils o'er - take us, you will not for - sake us,
 With you, Lord, be - side us, your strong arm will guide us.

we bless your ho - ly name; glad prais - es we sing.
 and with your help, O Lord, our strug - gles we win.
 To you, our great re - deem - er, for - ev - er be praise!

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



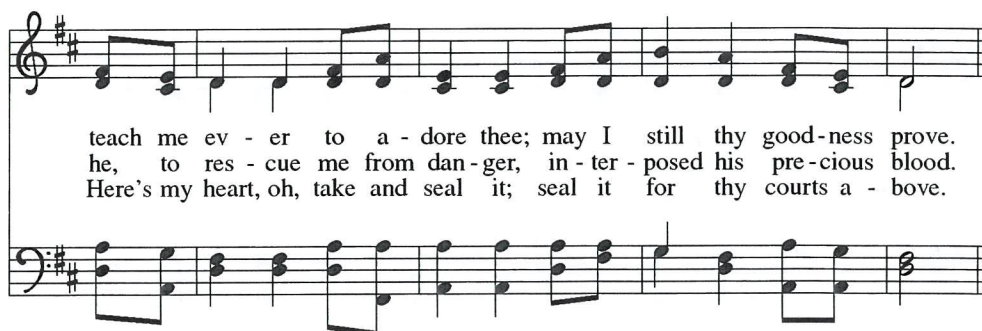
1 Come, thou Fount of ev-'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb-en-e-zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt-or dai-ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer-cy, nev-er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar-rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet-ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo-ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je-sus sought me when a strang-er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan-der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev-er to a-dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res-cue me from dan-ger, in-ter-posed his pre-cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a-bove.

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,

Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!

Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;

Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!