



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."

1st Sunday of Lent

Service of the Word

February 26, 2023

This worship is being livestreamed. Your presence in the sanctuary signifies your agreeing to be on our live broadcast.

*NOTE: **Bold text** indicates worshippers' response, and *' means please stand as able.*

PRELUDE

Michelle Young

WELCOME/MINISTRY MOMENT

GATHERING

* #307 Green Hymnal GATHERING HYMN *"Forgive Our Sins, As We Forgive"*



1 "For - give our sins as we for - give," you taught us, Lord, to pray;
2 How can your par - don reach and bless the un - for - giv - ing heart
3 In blaz - ing light your cross re - veals the truth we dim - ly knew:
4 Lord, cleanse the depths with - in our souls and bid re - sent - ment cease;



but you a - lone can grant us grace to live the words we say.
that broods on wrongs and will not let old bit - ter - ness de - part?
how tri - fling oth - ers' debts to us; how great our debt to you!
then, by your mer - cy rec - on - ciled, our lives will spread your peace.

Text: Rosamond E. Herklots, 1905–1987, alt.
Music: DETROIT, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844
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* P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ , the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

* CALL TO WORSHIP (*Please respond with **bold text***)

All have sinned and fall short, **And God has mercy on us all.**

Therefore we should have mercy on others, **And forgive as we are forgiven.**

*KYRIE In peace let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for all salvation, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of Christ, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.



☐ Great and won-der-ful are your deeds, O God of the u-ni-verse;



just and true are your ways, O Rul-er of all the na-tions.



Who can fail to hon-or you, Lord, and sing the glo-ry of your name?



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.



☐ For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One. All



na-tions will draw near and wor-ship be-fore you,



for your just and ho-ly works have been re-vealed.



☐ Sal-va-tion be-longs to our God and to Christ the Lamb for-ev-er and ev-er.

* P: The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY Let us pray. God of grace and mercy, **you have forgiven us far more and more often than we deserve. Make us equally forgiving to all those in our lives, that we may live together in harmony, in Jesus name. Amen.** ¹

GROWING

Please join me reading the first two verses of Psalm 32:

¹ Blessed is the person whose lawless acts are forgiven. Their sins have been taken away. ² Blessed is the person whose sin the LORD never counts against them. That person doesn't want to cheat anyone.

We hear in today's gospel reading how Jesus uses a parable to explain God's forgiveness as experienced in the kingdom of God. We also hear how we as humans often struggle to forgive in a similar manner. Jesus' wants all believers to understand how forgiving as we have been forgiven brings freedom into one another's lives and relationships. THE HOLY GOSPEL according to Matthew the 18th chapter **Glory to you, O Lord**

¹⁵ "If another member of the church sins against you, go and point out the fault when the two of you are alone. If the member listens to you, you have regained that one. ¹⁶But if you are not listened to, take one or two others along with you, so that every word may be confirmed by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷If the member refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church; and if the offender refuses to listen even to the church, let such a one be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸Truly I tell you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹Again, truly I tell you, if two of you agree on earth about anything you ask, it will be done for you by my Father in heaven. ²⁰For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

²¹Then Peter came and said to him, "Lord, if another member of the church sins against me, how often should I forgive? As many as seven times?" ²²Jesus said to him, "Not seven times, but, I tell you, seventy-seven times. ²³"For this reason the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his slaves. ²⁴When he began the reckoning, one who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him; ²⁵and, as he could not pay, his lord ordered him to be sold, together with his wife and children and all his possessions, and payment to be made. ²⁶So the slave fell on his knees before him, saying, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷And out of pity for him, the lord of that slave released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸But that same slave, as he went out, came upon one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii; and seizing him by the throat, he said, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹Then his fellow slave fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰But he refused; then he went and threw him into prison until he would pay the debt. ³¹When his fellow slaves saw what had happened, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their lord all that had taken place. ³²Then his lord summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked slave! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³Should you not have had mercy on your fellow slave, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴And in anger his lord handed him over to be tortured until he would pay his entire debt. ³⁵So my heavenly Father will also do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother or sister from your heart."

The Gospel of the Lord **All: Praise to you O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON *How life-giving is it to know your sins are forgiven? How can we offer the same?* Pr Mary Eide #733 Blue HYMN OF THE DAY "Our Father We Have Wandered" page 6

SOMETHING TO PONDER: What would it mean for you to be free of ALL financial debts? Would such freedom inspire you to be more generous to others? Even to help others to be also free from this burden? Now consider the forgiveness God has already given you, because of Jesus' death on the cross. How can such divine forgiveness inspire you to forgive others?

GIVING

*THE APOSTLES' CREED (*professed together*)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.* On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

*Or, He descended to the dead.

*The OFFERING PLATE is located at the entrance of the church sanctuary.
Giving to support God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill can be mailed to (Mailing address: 207 University St., Elk Mound, WI 54739 – OR – as a 'bill pay' on your bank account – OR – go to <https://www.sothem.org/give> to make a one time or reoccurring donation. Setting up an account with GivePlus offers you control over the amount & timing of your giving.*

* OFFERING PRAYER Gracious God, **we cannot possibly repay the debt we owe to you for all that you have given us. We return now what we can for the life of your church, that all might be richly blessed through these gifts. Accept them for the sake of your son, Jesus Christ. Amen.** ¹

PRAYERS AND PETITIONS (L: Merciful God, **All: You hear our prayer.**)

* LORD'S PRAYERS **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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen**

* ANNOUNCEMENTS/BLESSING Go now into God's world not only with the promise of being forgiven, but also the responsibility of forgiving others. Go empowered by God the Father, the Holy Spirit, ✚ and through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

* #734 Blue Hymnal SENDING HYMN "*Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling*" p.7

* SENDING LITANY/DISMISSAL

It is not always easy to forgive. **Our feelings are easily hurt.**

We may not even realize why. **Underneath there is fear.**

Fear of not having enough. **Fear of not being enough.**

We feel threatened, and so we are angry. **But Jesus calls us to forgive.**

Not seven times, but seventy-seven times. **Forgiveness means being free of resentment.**

Forgiveness is as much a gift to ourselves as to others. **Let us err on the side of compassion.**

Let us give the benefit of the doubt. **Let us remember that God has forgiven us,**

Even when we have not deserved it. **Let us forgive as God forgives, and live in peace with our community.**

Go now and share God's grace. **Thanks be to God.**

* POSTLUDE

Michelle Young

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|--------------|--------------------|---|
| TODAY | 8:45am | - Sunday School Classes |
| | 10:00am | - Worship |
| | 11:00am | - Fellowship |
| | 1:30-3:30pm | - Grief Share at Trinity United Methodist Church |
| MONDAY | 6:00pm | - New Council Member Training |
| | 6:30pm | - Church Council Meeting |
| | 7pm | - AA |
| TUESDAY | 4-6pm | - Food Pantry |
| | 6pm | - Finance |
| WEDNESDAY | 10am | - Adult Bible Study...join our conversation re: 10 Commandments |
| | 6pm | - Soup Supper |
| | 7pm | - Holden Evening Worship |
| FRIDAY: | 10am-Noon | - Food Pantry |
| SUNDAY: | 8:45am | - Sunday School Classes |
| | 10:00am | - Communion Worship |

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARE YOUR FAVORITE BIBLE VERSE/WHY during our Lent Midweek Services (2/22, 3/1, 3/8, 3/15, 3/22, 3/29 Sign up sheets will be up soon...or email/text Pastor Mary. meide@luthersem.edu

10am ADULT BIBLE STUDY Wed. at 10am. We didn't get a chance to gather last Wednesday due to the storm, so let's try this again as we dig into the 10 Commandments. Printed Bible study available at church or email

6pm SOUP SUPPER THIS WEDNESDAY, followed by 7pm HOLDEN EVENING PRAYER SERVICE. Sign up to help with the weekly soup suppers by coming into church or contacting us at meide@luthersem.edu

Our church is volunteering at **The Community Table** on Sunday afternoon **March 26th**. Sign-up sheet is in the Gathering Place. Questions? Contact Holly Sweeney 715-456-6960. The Community Table is 320 Putnam Street in Eau Claire. Please park in the back of the building.

LUTHER PARK BIBLE CAMP **Summer staff applications** are being accepted now. Most staff are college age or older. Please go to <http://lutherpark.org/> for details. We need to hire about 30 staff people.

ALSO: Full-time salaried with benefits **Maintenance Position** at LPBC is open. Please contact **Dick Iverson**, Interim Camp Executive Director at **(608) 792-6875**

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Our Father, We Have Wandered

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool-ish-ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com-pas-sion-ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
in glad-ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy*. © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

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Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909
 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson