

WE GATHER OUR OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE: **Hear Our Prayer** (see screen for music)

Prayer Petition Response: Lord, in your mercy—**Hear our prayer.**

### **MEAL**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**  
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the LORD.**  
Give thanks to the LORD your God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION; LORD'S PRAYER  
INVITATION TO THE TABLE; LAMB OF GOD

### **COMMUNION/PRAYERS**

Please take an empty cup when you come forward for communion.  
We have gluten free wafers—let your server know of this need.  
There is both wine and grape juice. You may lift up your prayers after  
communion by lighting a candle. Make your own way back to your seat.

VIDEO \_\_\_\_\_

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

*Blessing Song*

**The Lord bless you, and keep you  
Make his face shine upon you  
Be gracious to you  
The lord turn his face toward you  
And give you peace.  
Amen, amen, amen. Amen, amen, amen.**

L: Go now in peace to love and serve the LORD.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

Worship and Music Coordinator—Theron Jeppesen  
Pastor—Jean Ohman; Youth Leader/SAM—Natalie Hanson



**Please join us for Fellowship with coffee, treats,  
and lemonade following the service.**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 30, 2025**

United Lutheran Church, Elbow Lake, MN



### **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the People of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/GREETING

SUNG CONFESSION *Create In Me a Clean Heart*

ABSOLUTION

KYRIE ELEISON (See screen for words)

FROM PSALM 32 (The Message Translation)

Count yourself lucky, how happy you must be—  
you get a fresh start,  
your slate's wiped clean.

**Count yourself lucky—  
God holds nothing against you  
and you're holding nothing back from him.**

When I kept it all inside,  
my bones turned to powder,  
my words became daylong groans.

**The pressure never let up;  
all the juices of my life dried up.**

Then I let it all out;

I said, "I'll come clean about my failures to God."

**Suddenly the pressure was gone—  
my guilt dissolved, my sin disappeared.**

These things add up. Every one of us needs to pray;  
when all hell breaks loose and the dam bursts  
we'll be on high ground, untouched.

**God's my island hideaway,  
keeps danger far from the shore,  
throws garlands of hosannas around my neck.**

Let me give you some good advice;  
I'm looking you in the eye  
and giving it to you straight:

**"Don't be ornery like a horse or mule  
that needs bit and bridle  
to stay on track."**

God-defiers are always in trouble;  
God-affirmers find themselves loved  
every time they turn around.

**Celebrate God.  
Sing together—everyone!  
All you honest hearts, raise the roof!**

OPENING SONG: *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing* #807  
Vs. 1-3

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.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

**God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you  
embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with  
garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns  
with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **WORD**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching, and in song.

SPARK STORY BIBLE: The Prodigal Son pages 378-383

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## Lenten Acclamation

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*The proper verse may be sung by a leader. Then the acclamation is repeated.*

EPISTLE READING: 2 Corinthians 5:14-21

L: Paul's second letter to the Corinthians from *The Message*  
translation, chapter 5:14-21

**C: Open our ears to hear your Word.**

Christ's love has moved me to such extremes. His love has the first  
and last word in everything we do.

Our firm decision is to work from this focused center: One man  
died for everyone. That puts everyone in the same boat. He includ-  
ed everyone in his death so that everyone could also be included in  
his life, a resurrection life, a far better life than people ever lived on  
their own.

Because of this decision we don't evaluate people by what they  
have or how they look. We looked at the Messiah that way once  
and got it all wrong, as you know. We certainly don't look at him  
that way anymore. Now we look inside, and what we see is that  
anyone united with the Messiah gets a fresh start, is created new.  
The old life is gone; a new life emerges! Look at it! All this comes  
from the God who settled the relationship between us and him, and  
then called us to settle our relationships with each other. God put  
the world square with himself through the Messiah, giving the  
world a fresh start by offering forgiveness of sins. God has given us  
the task of telling everyone what he is doing. We're Christ's repre-  
sentatives. God uses us to persuade men and women to drop their  
differences and enter into God's work of making things right be-  
tween them. We're speaking for Christ himself now: Become friends  
with God; he's already a friend with you. How? you ask. In Christ.  
God put the wrong on him who never did anything wrong, so we  
could be put right with God.

L: A Word that is still speaking.

**C: Praise to You, O Christ!**

MESSAGE

SONG: *No Longer Slaves* (See Screen for Music)