

INCARNATION LUTHERAN CHURCH

✠ Fourth Sunday in Lent • March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024 ✠

**Worship Notes:** • Our Lector is Cheryl Carroll • Our Crucifer is Jeff Shealy • Our assisting minister is Seminarian Beth Sheedy • We are in Setting 1 of the ELW •

**VOLUNTARY:** First-Day Thoughts, from A Quaker Reader Ned Rorem  
"In calm and cool and silence, once again  
I find my old accustomed place among  
My brethren, where, perchance, no human tongue  
Shall utter words; where never hymn is sung,  
Nor deep-toned organ blown..." -John Greenleaf Whittier (1807-1892)

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS** *Please stand as able and face the back of the church.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation. **Amen.**

God is patient and merciful, desiring all to come to repentance. Trusting this promise of grace, let us confess our sin. Everlasting God, **you love justice and you hate wrongdoing. We confess the fear, greed, and self-centeredness that make us reluctant to work against oppression. We are complicit in systems of exploitation. We choose comfort over courage. We are careless with creation's bounty. Look upon us with mercy. Turn our hearts again to you. Make us glad to do your will and to walk in your ways for the sake of our waiting world. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN:** ELW 335

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross  
*NEAR THE CROSS*

**GREETING**

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.**

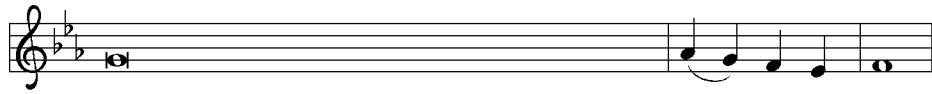
**KYRIE:** p.98



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



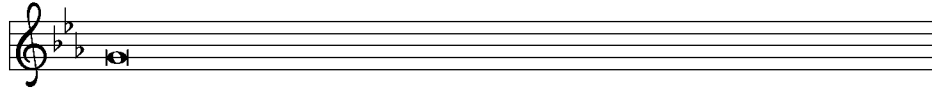
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



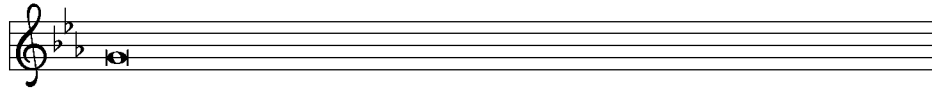
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**O God, rich in mercy, by the gift of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect 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.**

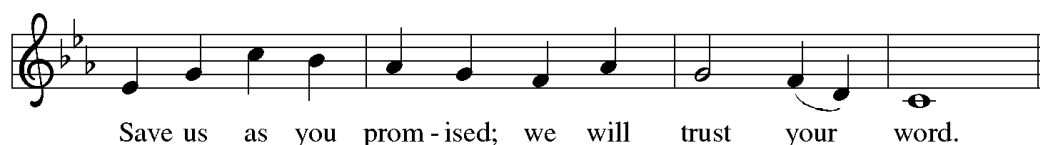
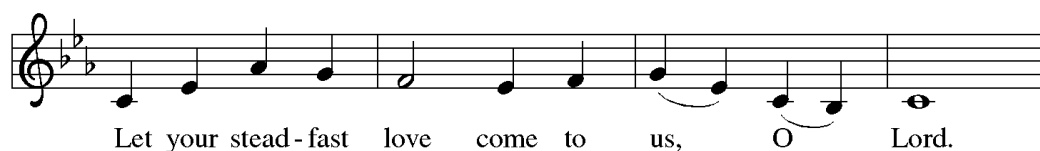
*Please be seated.*



desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:** ELW p.103



**GOSPEL:** John 3:14-21

*Please stand as able.*

*Before the Reading:* The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**”

<sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup>“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. <sup>17</sup>“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. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

*After the Reading:* The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Emily Willhide

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** ELW 660

Lift High the Cross  
CRUCIFER

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*Please stand as able.*

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.

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition concludes "Hear us, O God." We respond: "Your mercy is great."

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## MEAL

*The offering plate will be passed throughout the Congregation for those not using online giving.*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM:

When We Are Living

Kevin McChesney

*Please stand as able.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. **Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING: ELW p.190

The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

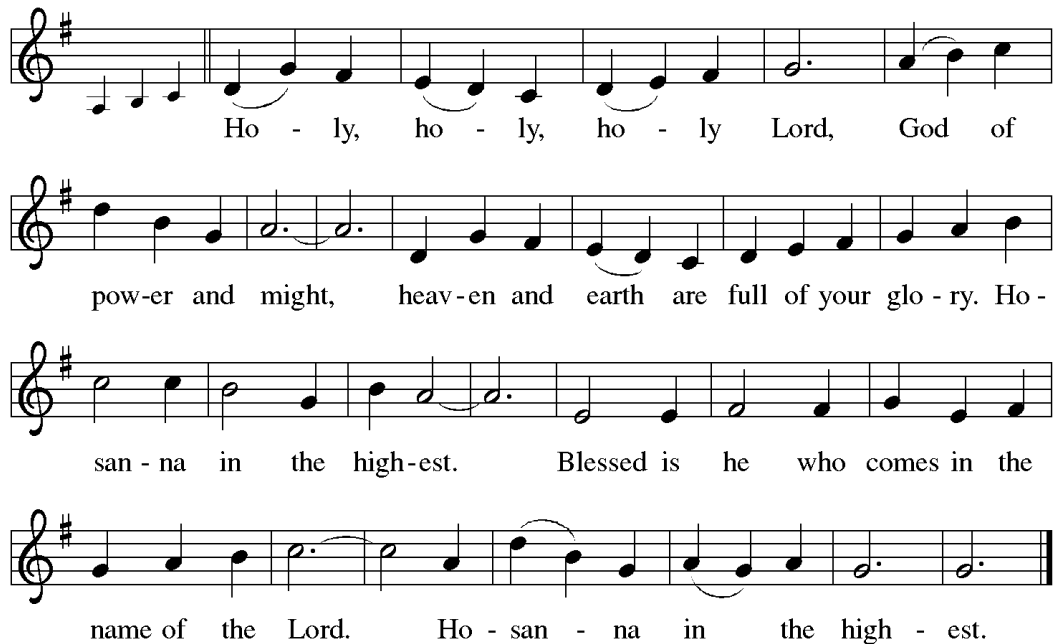
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### HOLY, HOLY, HOLY: ELW p.108



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### 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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. Welcome to the table of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**  
*Please be seated.*

**COMMUNION** - *We invite you to join with us in the sacrament of Holy Communion, as Jesus invites us all to the table. Please take an empty communion glass from the trays at the front of the church. The innermost ring of glasses are pre-filled with grape juice for those who prefer juice to wine. There are discard trays by the side aisles. Please follow the directions of the Ushers.*

LAMB OF GOD: ELW p.112

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -  
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS: ELW 598

ELW 323

For by Grace, You Have Been Saved  
*ARMOLLAULU*  
God Loved the World  
*ROCKINGHAM OLD*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*Please stand as able.*

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, make us one to care for the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN: ELW 779

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound  
*NEW BRITAIN*

DISMISSAL:

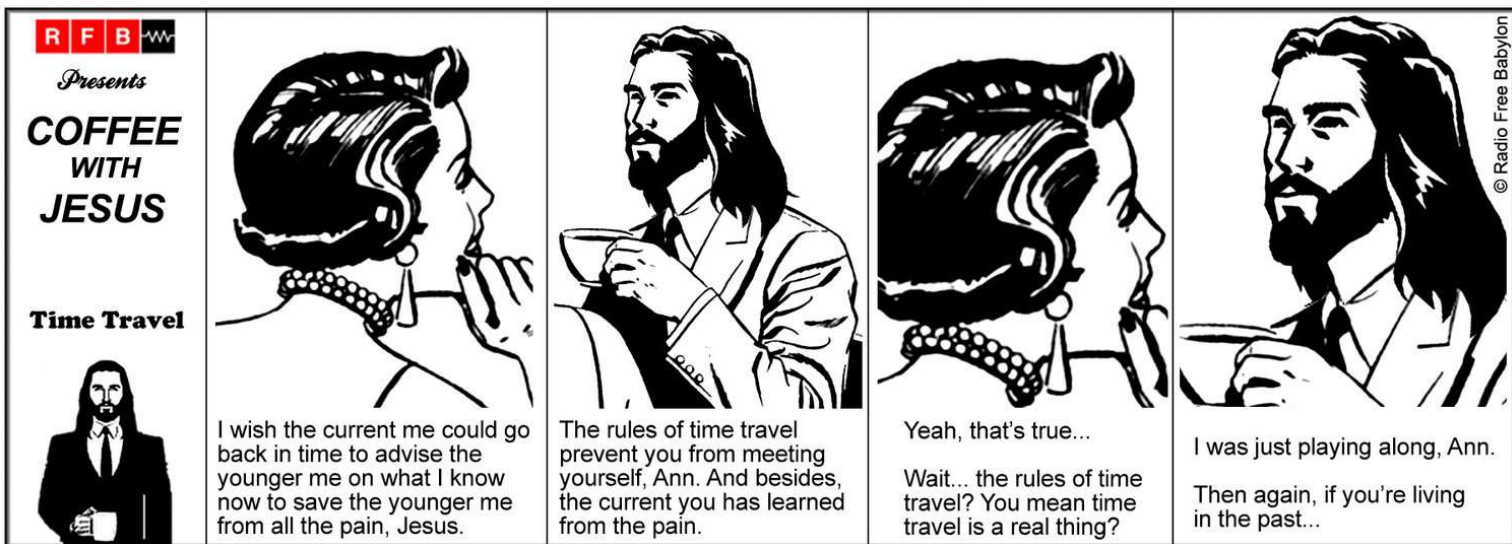
Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

VOLUNTARY:

"There Is a Spirit That Delights to Do No Evil..." from *A Quaker Reader*  
-from the dying words of James Nayler (1660)

Ned Rorem

*Join us for Coffee Time in the Fellowship Hall*



**Our Ministry Staff contacts are:**

Rev. Emily Willhide.....pastoremily@incarnationlutheran.com  
 Dr. Patrick Hawkins; Dir. of Music & Organist.....music@incarnationlutheran.com  
 Kimi Dail; Faith Formation Coordinator.....youth@incarnationlutheran.com  
 Teresa Boykin; CDC Director.....cdc@incarnationlutheran.com  
 Charlotte Dover; Parish Administrator.....office@incarnationlutheran.com  
 Beth Sheedy; Seminarian.....office@incarnationlutheran.com

**Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m.**

(10 a.m. Worship is also live streamed on Facebook.)

Office Hours: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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