

# Welcome to First Lutheran Church

309 Second Street North, PO Box 21, Pine River, MN 56474

Church Office: 587-2316

[www.1stluth.org](http://www.1stluth.org)

Pastor Hans Anderson

Fourth Sunday in Lent/Camp Sunday

March 10, 2024

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

*(Please pass the attendance pad along the pew. If you are a visitor, please include your mailing address.)*

**Temple Talk**

**Katie Maurer**

**Opening Hymn:** "Lift High the Cross" (*ELW 660*) (on back page)

**\*Confession and Forgiveness**

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Holy God,

**People: 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.**

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these words:*

Pastor: 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.

**People: Amen.**

**\*Prayer of the Day:**

**Pastor:** Let us pray

**People:** **O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation 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.**

**First Reading:** Numbers 21:4-9

<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom, but the people became discouraged on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole, and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze and put it upon a pole, and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

**Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

<sup>1</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good,  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,  
those he redeemed from trouble**

<sup>3</sup>and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>**Some were sick through their sinful ways  
and because of their iniquities endured  
affliction;**

<sup>18</sup>they loathed any kind of food, and they drew  
near to the gates of death.

<sup>19</sup>**Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he saved them from their distress;**

<sup>20</sup>he sent out his word and healed them  
and delivered them from destruction.

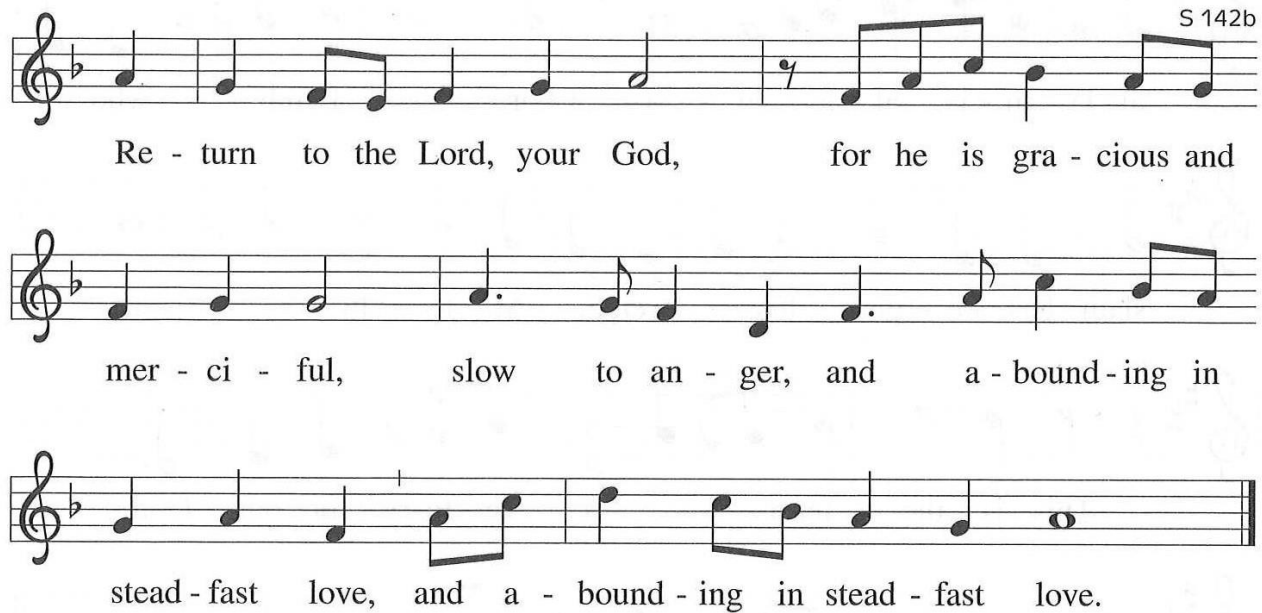
<sup>21</sup>**Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to humankind.**

<sup>22</sup>And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices  
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 2:1-10

<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, doing the will 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 so that we may walk in them.

## Gospel Acclamation



S 142b

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.

## \*Gospel Announcement

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to John.

**People:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

## \*Gospel: John 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup> And 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.”

**Pastor:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Children’s Message**

**Katie Maurer**

**Sermon- “Lifted”**

**Pastor Hans Anderson**

Song of the Day: "God Loved the World" (ELW 323)

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.  
Music: Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

Public Domain

**\*Statement of Faith – The Apostles’ Creed**

**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.**

**\*Prayers of Intercession:**

Pastor: Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

Pastor: Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth’s fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God..

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Merciful God, your love heals. Care tenderly for all whose loved ones perished from pandemic disease in every nation. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. Hear us, O God.

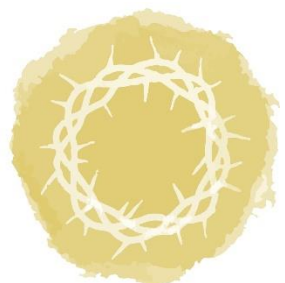
**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.. Hear us, O God.

**People: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**People: Amen.**



## Offering



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our  
cup of bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the  
hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence, and  
give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

### \*Offertory Prayer

People: 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.

### \*Words of Institution

### \*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;  
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.

## † Communion †

*All who believe in the death and resurrection as given in this bread and wine are welcome to the table today.  
Please follow usher's guidance to come forward to receive communion and then return to your seat.  
Gluten free wafers are available from the communion server upon request.*

*You are welcome to this Table of our Lord.*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of three systems of music. The first system has the lyrics: "This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with". The second system has the lyrics: "mer-cy and love. with mer - cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,". The third system has the lyrics: "bro - ken and blest. Heal us and make us one." The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 4/4 time signature. The piano accompaniment features block chords and simple melodic lines.

Text: Anne Krentz Organ, b. 1960  
Music: Anne Krentz Organ  
Text and music © 2020 Augsburg Fortress

BROKEN AND BLESSED  
5 4 7 5 4 6

### Holy Communion Distribution

#### \*Post Communion Blessing

Pastor: May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.  
People: Amen.

#### \*Post Communion Prayer

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

#### \*Blessing:

Pastor: God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and † give you peace.

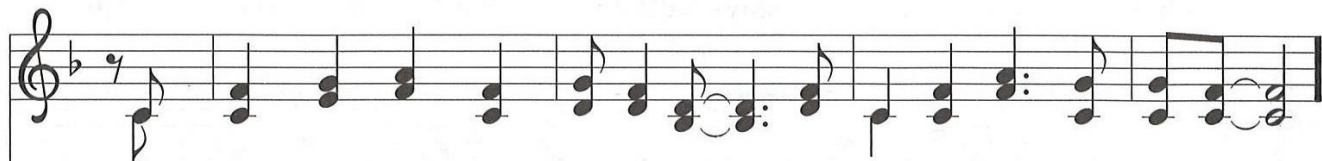
People: Amen.



\*Sending Hymn: "My Life Flows on in Endless Song" (ELW 763)



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.  
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?



*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?





\*Dismissal:

Pastor: Go in peace. Share your bread.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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**Reader:** Kayci Finley  
**Communion Assistants:** Val Johnson  
**Zoom:** Cora Hohnstadt  
**Sound:** Sandy Gilbertson  
**Ushers:** Paul Pearson & Vincent Norman  
**Altar Guild:** Annette Newton & Gloria Johnson  
**Counter:** Brenda Anderson

Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 31:31-34, Psalm 51:1-12, Hebrews 5:5-10, John 12:20-33

## The Week Ahead

### Sunday, March 10, 2024

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent/ Camp Sunday*

Worship Service (*in-person & Zoom*)  
Coffee & Fellowship,  
Sunday School

9:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
10:15 AM

### Wednesday, March 13, 2024

*Lenten Worship*

Soup Supper  
Holden Evening Prayer

5:30 PM  
6:30 PM

### Sunday, March 17, 2024

*5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

Worship Service (*in-person & Zoom*)  
Coffee & Fellowship,  
Sunday School  
Church Council

9:00 AM  
10:00 AM  
10:15 AM

*If you are not able to attend the Worship Service in person, you will still be able to listen to the sermon or watch video of the service online at the First Lutheran website.*

*Links will be on First Lutheran's website and on our Facebook page by Monday morning.*

**"Quiet Activity Bags"** are available for children's use during worship. They are at the back of the sanctuary on the right-hand side.

# Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Those with medical concerns...

Caleb Prushek, great nephew of Jane Orth

Cleone Hoplin

Barb Richards

Lars Larson

Clifford, great grandson of Leonard and Jan Nelson

Bonnie Bandy, sister of Shirley Schmidt

Andy Anderson

Denny Aleckson

Harvey and Marion Kelley

Penny Siewert

Gordon Greenwald, friend of Cora Hohnstadt

Pat Hardy



Those in the service...

MSgt Bradford, son of Bill & Kaye Schroeder

Captain A.J. Depman, nephew of Bill & Kaye Schroeder

## ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Sunday, March 3, 2024

Attendance: 74

### Offering:

Mar. 3, 2024	\$3,422.00	Weekly Budget:	\$3,132.40
Direct Deposit:	\$ 325.00		
Total Offering:	\$3,747.00		

Year-to-Date (Fiscal year starts September 1)

Giving:	\$78,171.05	Expenses:	\$65,090.06
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Income less Expenses for February:

\$11,473.25 - \$10,623.83 = \$849.42

If you would like a visit from pastor or have a pastoral care need, please contact Pastor Hans Anderson at 218-820-2969 or email him at [pastorhanspineriver@gmail.com](mailto:pastorhanspineriver@gmail.com)

# The Chosen

**Lenten Challenge:** For anyone who has not joined us for the Chosen Videos this past Fall, the Lenten Challenge will be to watch them at home. For people who have seen the videos, please read the corresponding scripture and/or rewatch episodes:

<https://www.angel.com/the-chosen>

We will start the videos again as a group on April 3, 2024.

“You are Chosen.” The sermon series will be based on the first 6 “chosen” episodes. The format for Wednesday Evenings will be 5:30 soup & 6:30 worship. Holden Evening Prayer will be sung on Wednesdays this Lent.

## Wednesday Lent Schedule

March 13 <sup>th</sup>	Soup Supper	“The Rock on Which It is Built”
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	Soup Supper	“The Wedding Gift”
March 27 <sup>th</sup>	Soup Supper	“Indescribable Compassion”

“The Rock on Which It is Built”



Opening Hymn: "Lift High the Cross" (ELW 660)

*Refrain*

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till  
all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

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