

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 14, 2021



GOLD HILL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

*A CONGREGATION OF THE MONTANA SYNOD OF
THE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA (ELCA)*

*Welcome to Gold Hill Evangelical Lutheran Church,
and a special welcome to our guests and those returning after a time away.
We're gathered as a Christian community to worship the Lord!*

*Thank you for worshipping with us this morning!
Please let us know if there are other ways we can be of service.*

***Our Congregation's Mission Statement:
EMPOWERED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT, UNITED TO SERVE***

The Guiding Principles of God's People at Gold Hill Lutheran

Principle 1: Jesus Christ is our Lord & Savior

Principle 2: The Holy Spirit & worship strengthen us

Principle 3: We are a welcoming & inviting community in Christ

Principle 4: We share the Word with confidence and courage

Principle 5: Our faith leads us to serve joyfully

Principle 6: We are generous with our gifts

www.Facebook.com/GoldHillLutheranChurch.ELCA.ButteMT

Check out our NEW website at www.GoldHillELCA.org

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Today's Worship Leader

Worship Leader:

Pastor Marlow Carrels

Lector:

Dorothy Tallon

Music Leader:

Dave Coleman

Ushers:

Chris Ketchum

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Bolded texts are said in unison.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Invocation

We gather in the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**

**We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

**We have not loved you with our whole heart;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight
in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.**

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 called and
ordained 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

Entrance Hymn: Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715

- 1 Longing for light, we wait in darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Refrain:

Christ, be our light!
Shine in our hearts.
Shine through the darkness.
Christ, be our light!
Shine in your church gathered today.

- 2 Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has pow'r to save us.
Make us your living voice. ***Refrain***

- 3 Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed. ***Refrain***

- 4 Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stone. ***Refrain***

- 5 Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
signs of your kingdom come. ***Refrain***

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

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

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our 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 God, 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

Prayer of the Day

**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

Word

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

Blessing of Lectors

Let us pray.

Gracious God, we do not live by bread alone, but by every word
that comes from you. Bless those who will read to us the scriptures.

Make us hunger for the Word of life, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

Epistle: Ephesians 2:1-10

¹You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived,
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. ³All of us once lived
among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses,
and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is
rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were
dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you

have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

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

¹Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good.

For God's mercy endures forever.

²Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim

that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

³Gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.

**¹⁸They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.**

¹⁹Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord
and you delivered them from their distress.

**²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.**

²¹Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.

**²²Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.**

Gospel: John 3:14-21

As the gospel is announced:

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

[Jesus said:] ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“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.

¹⁷“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. ¹⁸Those 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. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But 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.”

As the gospel is concluded:

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Old Testament: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The 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.” ⁶Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The 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. ⁸And 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.” ⁹So 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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Marlow Carrels

Hymn of the Day: Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound ELW 779

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
 that saved a wretch like me!
 I once was lost, but now am found;
 was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
 and grace my fears relieved;
 how precious did that grace appear
 the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
 I have already come;
 'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
 and grace will lead me home.
- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;
 his word my hope secures;
 he will my shield and portion be
 as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
 bright shining as the sun,
 we've no less days to sing God's praise
 than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

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

**Or, He descended to the dead.*

The Prayers

Called into unity with one another and the whole creation,
let us pray for our shared world.

A brief silence.

Each portion of the prayer concludes:

Your mercy is great.

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering Prayer

Faithful God,
you walk beside us in desert places,
and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven.
Accompany us in this meal,
that we may pass over from death to life
with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

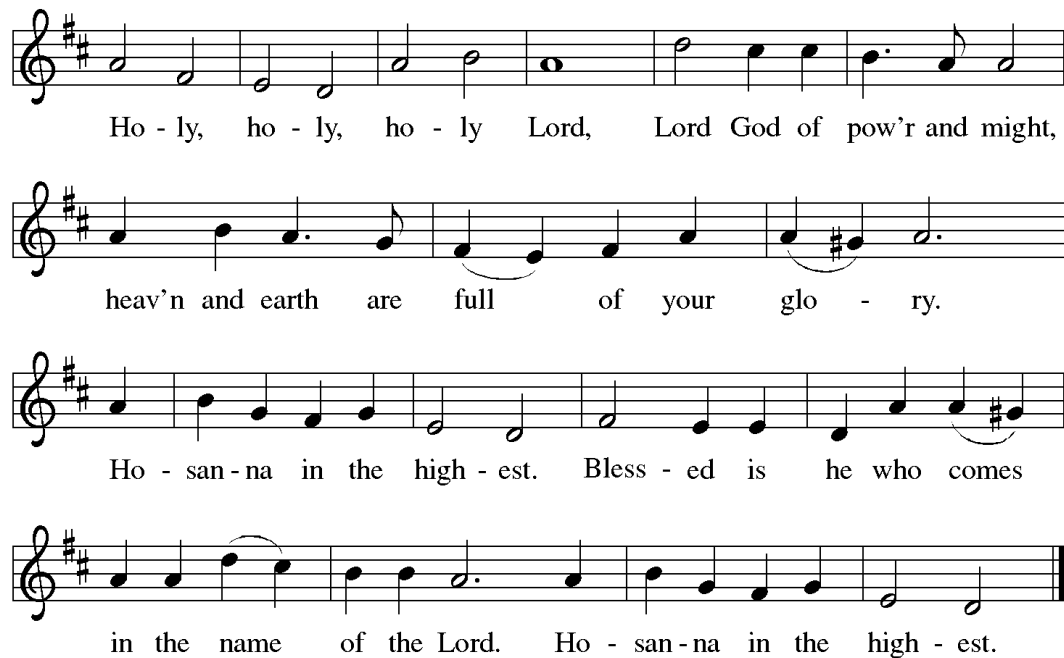
We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Although our road has been stony going, you have given us the power to stand firm in the face of wickedness and to rejoice in triumph over death and the grave. And so, with the multitude from east and west, from north and south, with angels and archangels and all the company of heaven, we lift our voices in the unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
 heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
 Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
 in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth, for you have had mercy on us and given your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. We give you thanks for the redemption you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send your Holy Spirit into our hearts to establish in us a living faith and prepare us joyfully to receive our Redeemer who comes to us in his body and blood.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
 and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

The 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**

Distribution of Communion

Prayer

God of steadfast love,
at this table you gather your people
into one body for the sake of the world.
Send us in the power of your Spirit,
that our lives bear witness to the love
that has made us new
in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

Silence for reflection.

Sending

Benediction

You are what God made you to be:
created in Christ Jesus for good works,
chosen as holy and beloved,
freed to serve your neighbor.
God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.
Amen

Sending Hymn: Lead Me, Guide Me ELW 768

Refrain:

Lead me, guide me, along the way;
for if you lead me, I cannot stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
to help me over my weakest hour.
Help me through the darkness thy face to see.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. ***Refrain***

2 Help me tread in the paths of righteousness,
be my aid when Satan and sin oppress.
I am putting all my trust in thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. ***Refrain***

3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,
I am blind without thy light to see.
Lord, just always let me thy servant be.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me. ***Refrain***

Text: Doris Akers, 1922-1995

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God.