



CROSS OF CHRIST  
Lutheran Church

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

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*Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary*



**Cross of Christ Lutheran Church**  
**March 22, 2020**

**PRELUDE**

**WELCOME**

**NEW BEGINNINGS WORSHIPING COMMUNITY**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed by the Holy Trinity, one God,  
who is present in ordinary circumstances,  
who is present in extraordinary circumstances,  
who gives us life and who gives us hope and a time for renewal.

**Amen**

The writer of Psalm 130 declares,  
*“If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?  
Yet with you is forgiveness!”*  
And so we confess together.

*Silent for reflection.*

Grace-filled God,

**Have mercy on us.**

**We confess that we have taken for granted  
our everyday activities, our everyday resources,  
that in those ordinary events, we have turned away from you,  
sinning against you and our neighbors.**

**In some instances, we know what we have done wrong;  
at other times, we do not.**

**In our playing, we have not always been kind to others.**

**In our consumption, we have not always been generous or have cared for creation.**

**We have not always remembered to love our neighbors.**

**And so we pray that you create in us new hearts,  
that you turn us back to you, and that you forgive us.**

**Amen.**

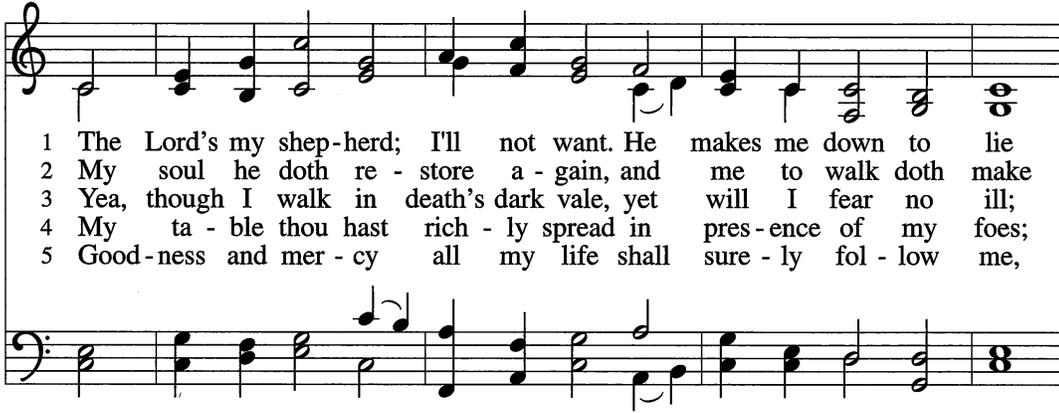
God says in Ezekiel, “I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live.

In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

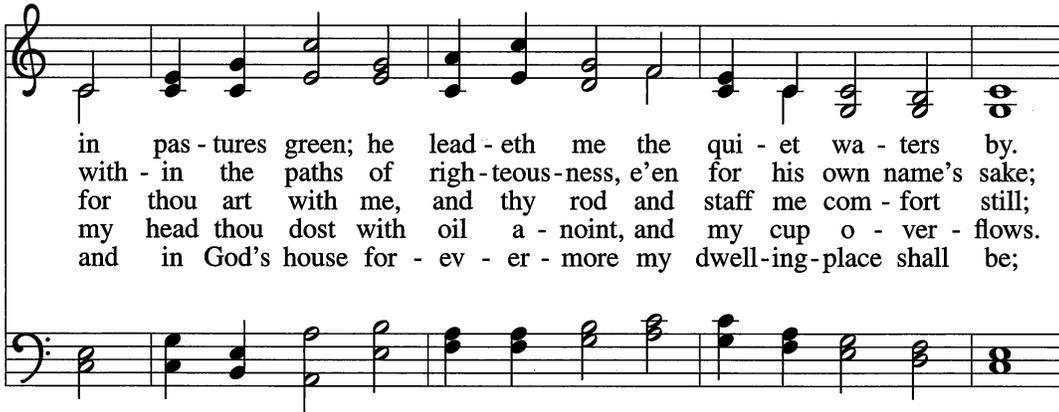
May you be at peace in the gift of God’s abundant life.

**Amen**

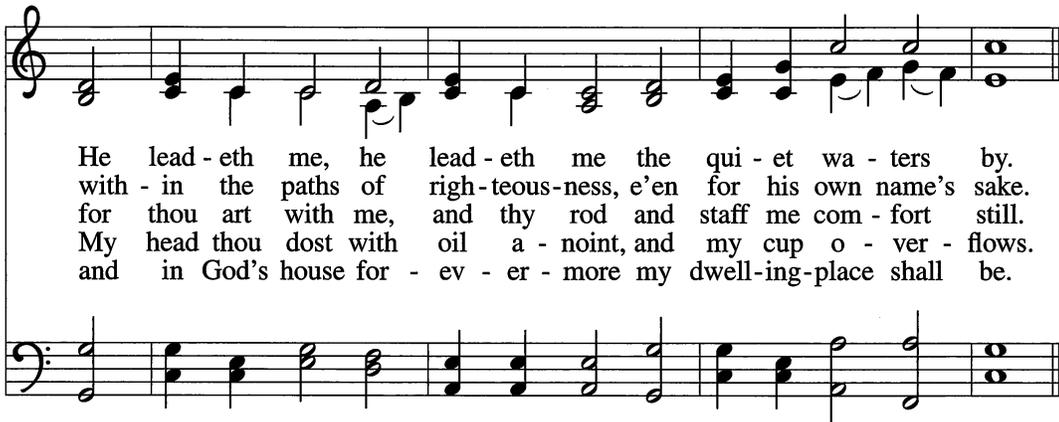
## SONG

*The Lord's My Shepherd*


1 The Lord's my shep-herd; I'll not want. He makes me down to lie  
 2 My soul he doth re - store a - gain, and me to walk doth make  
 3 Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale, yet will I fear no ill;  
 4 My ta - ble thou hast rich - ly spread in pres - ence of my foes;  
 5 Good - ness and mer - cy all my life shall sure - ly fol - low me,



in pas - tures green; he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake;  
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still;  
 my head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be;



He lead - eth me, he lead - eth me the qui - et wa - ters by.  
 with - in the paths of righ - teous - ness, e'en for his own name's sake.  
 for thou art with me, and thy rod and staff me com - fort still.  
 My head thou dost with oil a - noint, and my cup o - ver - flows.  
 and in God's house for - ev - er - more my dwell - ing - place shall be.

Text: *The Psalms of David in Meeter*, Edinburgh, 1650  
 Music: James L. Macbeth Bain; arr. Gordon Jacob, 1895–1984  
 Arr. © Oxford University Press

BROTHER JAMES' AIR  
 86 86 86

## **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**

Have mercy on us Lord,

**And hear our solemn prayer.**

We come to hear your living word;

**It saves us from despair**

Have mercy on us Christ,

**And wash away our sin.**

Pour out your grace and make us whole

**That new life may begin.**

Have mercy on us, Lord,

**Make sin and shame depart.**

Renew us with your saving power

**Create in us new hearts.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O playful God, you teach us that through your holy word and healing touch, that we are your beloved children. Anoint us with your Spirit so that we may strengthen our relationships with one another and with you as our shepherd, one God now and forever. **Amen**

## SCRIPTURE READING

Psalm 23 (King James Version)

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL LESSON

John 9: 1 - 41

The Gospel according to John, the 9th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 6 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." 10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. 17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 21 but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." 25 He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" 28 Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." 30 The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." 38 He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"

41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, "We see,' your sin remains.

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

**SERMON**

Finding the Extraordinary in the Ordinary: Play

Pastor Kathleen Armstrong



## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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 the 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 THE PEOPLE**

*Prayer Response:*

*Hear us, O God.*

*Your Mercy is great.*

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always

**And also with you.**

## **THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD**

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illuminate our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to you feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

**Amen.**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
Hallowed by 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

### **BENEDICTION**

May the Triune God,  
The one who makes ordinary things extraordinary,  
Be with you in all that you do, all that you say,  
And all that you are.  
**Amen**

SONG

*Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness*

1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;  
 2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;  
 3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.  
 praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.  
 Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,  
 Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;  
 Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.  
 from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.  
 Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955  
 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813  
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SENDING

Go in peace, always living the love of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God!**