

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



Harriet Tubman, by Mark Fredrickson. Used by permission.

MARCH 30, 2025

Peace Lutheran Church



West Seattle, Washington



OUR FOCUS FOR THIS LENT: LOVE CASTS OUT FEAR

There are many examples of ongoing trauma besetting our world. The Christians whose stories we are lifting up on Sundays during Lent—St. Patrick (3/16); St. Oscar Romero (3/23); Harriet Tubman & Sojourner Truth (3/30); and Dietrich Bonhoeffer (4/6)—refused to allow fear to control or silence them. These ordinary people became extraordinary witnesses, telling the truth, breaking down barriers, challenging the status quo, and putting their own lives at risk while leading others to freedom. They embody the saying, “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear.” 1 John 4:18



We celebrate Christ’s presence in the Sacrament of the Table each week at Peace. Christ, our Host, meets us in this meal of grace and offers himself, fully embodied, in the bread and wine. He invites all to come and meet him in this Holy Meal.

✝ GATHERING ✝

P – *Presider* C – *Congregation* A – *Assisting Minister* L – *Lector*
ELW – *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Hymnal* ACS – *All Creation Sings*

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please rise in body or spirit and face the font.

During the season of Lent the font is placed near the entrance to the nave, reminding us that in baptism we enter into fellowship with Christ, and the church. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the service begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection

P Compassionate One,

C **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We place our needs and desires above those of others, at great cost to them. We squander the very gifts with which you sustain life on Earth. For all these reasons and others we struggle to name, we seek your forgiveness and the will to begin anew. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross, in the way of Jesus. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, God’s arms are always stretched open wide to welcome wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God’s house forever.

C **Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING HYMN

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW #807



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas-ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea-sure, safe-ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

GREETING

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.

KYRIE

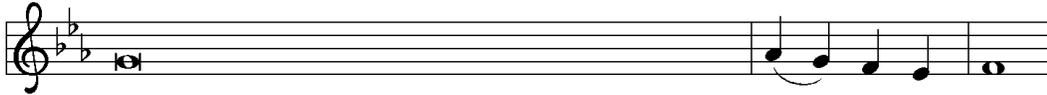
ELW page 98



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



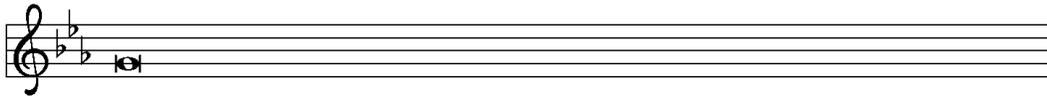
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



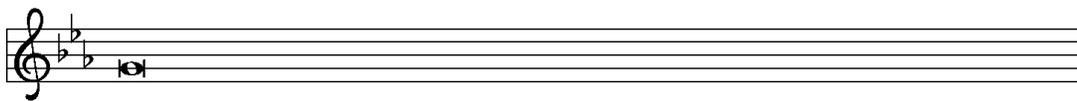
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. 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.

C **Amen.**

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-20

Scott Sunde

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us.

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 32 *Read responsively*

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle,
or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

CHOIR ANTHEM

"My Faith Looks Up to Thee"

Arr. John Carter

LENTEN ACCLAMATION *Please rise in body or spirit to receive the gospel.*

ELW page 103

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 15th Chapter.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in his father's home.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ¹¹"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything.

¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father.

But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

L The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ

CHILDREN'S TIME

Helen Hundley

SERMON

Rev. Erik Kindem

Time for reflection

Refrain
All

Wade in the wa - ter, wade in the wa - ter, chil - dren,



wade in the wa - ter, God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the wa - ter.

Leader All



1 See that host all dressed in white,
2 See that band all dressed in red, God's a-goin'-a trou-ble the
3 Look o - ver yon - der, what do I see?
4 If you don't be - lieve I've been re - deemed,

Leader



wa - ter. the lead - er looks like the Is - rael - ite.
looks like the band that . . . Mo - ses led.
the Ho - ly Ghost a - com - ing on me.
just fol - low me down to . . . Jor - dan's stream.

All *Refrain*



God's a - goin' - a trou - ble the wa - ter.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Chris Kindem

A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

Petitions are offered, ending with the response:

A God, in your mercy, C receive our prayer.

When all petitions have been offered:

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C Amen.

+ MEAL +

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Your financial gifts today support the ongoing ministry of our congregation, cooperative ventures of ELCA congregations throughout Western Washington, and Evangelical Lutheran ministries around the world. We invite you to give generously! You can place your gift in the offering plate, mail in a check, or connect to our secure [Tithe.ly Giving Page](https://www.tithe.ly) via this QR CODE. Whatever size, your gift makes difference—thank you!



OFFERTORY

We Raise Our Hands to You

ELW #690



1 We raise our hands to you, O Lord, like
2 What good and blessing you bestow are
3 Oh, make our barren trees to grow, our



emp - ty ves - sels. Oh, come to us and
free - ly giv - en. Your pow'r will make the
hands to blos - som, and let our lives bring



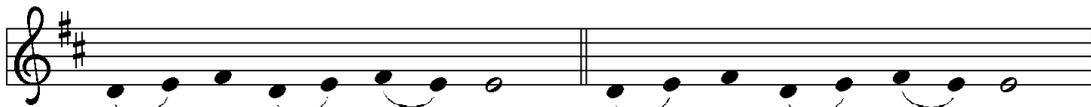
give us life from springs where liv - ing wa - ters flow.
weak - est strong and bar - ren branch - es start to bud.
forth such fruit that heals our neigh - bor's grief and pain.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Let us pray. Gracious Provider,
C you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW page 107



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.



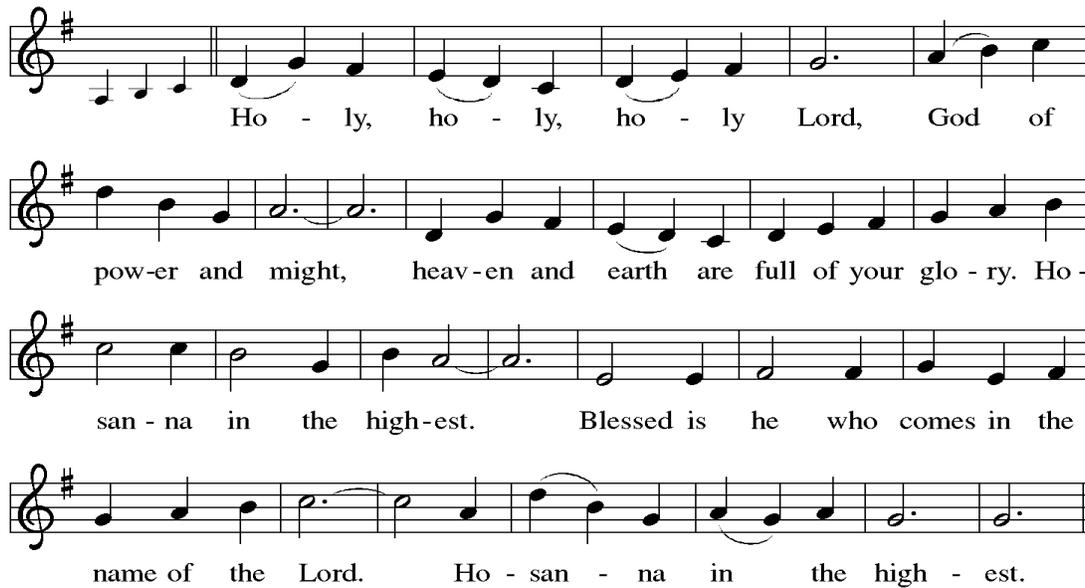
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE *Sung by Presider*

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

HOLY. HOLY. HOLY

ELW page 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

THE LORD'S PRAYER (*ecumenical*)

P Renew us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

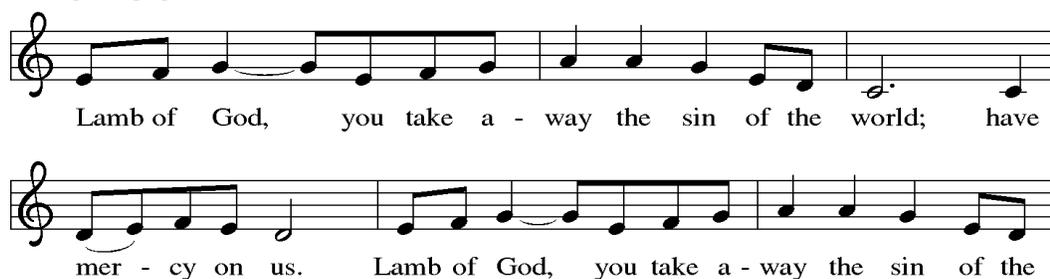
C **Thanks be to God.**

DISTRIBUTION

We commune at the rail either kneeling or standing. Extend your hands to receive bread. A gluten free wafer is also available. Both wine (dark) and grape juice (light) are found in the ceramic cups. Place your empty cup in the box at the end of the front pew on your way back. Children are welcome to receive when their parents believe they are ready, with the support of the pastor. Any who prefer a blessing may cross their hands over their chest as they come forward.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW page 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 HYMN

Amazing Grace

ELW #779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright
 saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to
 now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION *Please rise in body or spirit.*

- A** Let us pray. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
 Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love
 might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one,
 Jesus Christ, our Lord.
- C** **Amen.**

+ SENDING +

BLESSING

- P** God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit,
 + bless you now and forever.
- C** **Amen.**



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

A Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



CONTACT INFORMATION

8316 39th Avenue SW, Seattle, WA 98136

206-935-1962

Pastor Erik Kindem's mobile phone number:

206-930-3172

Pastor Erik Kindem's email:

Pastor@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org

Peace Lutheran web page:

www. PeaceLutheranSeattle.org

Kathleen Keyes Office Admin.

Office@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org

Church Office hours:

Tuesday through Thursday 10:00am-3:00pm

Nicole Klinemeier, Youth Director

206-427-6496

Jon Lackey, Minister of Music

Music@PeaceLutheranSeattle.org

Find us on  at **People of Peace Lutheran**

SERVING IN WORSHIP

Pastor

Rev. Erik Kindem

Minister of Music

Jon Lackey

Liturgical Assistant

Chris Kindem

Acolyte

Brooks Johnson

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| Lector | Scott Sunde |
| Children's Sermon | Helen Hundley |
| Greeters | Helen Hundley, Nancy Hauger |
| Ushers | Alan Jarvimaki, Audrey Zemke |
| Altar Care | Karl Coy |
| Communion Assistants | Karl Coy, Kathleen Keyes |
| Coffee Server | WELCA |
| Production Techs | Alex Wren, Matt Toso |
| Counters | Alan Jarvimaki, Kathleen Keyes |
| Nursery Attendant | Heidi Coy |

OUR FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP

Thank you for your gifts which support God's mission at Peace, in the Northwest region, and internationally through the ELCA!

Offering Income received in March 2025

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| 03/02/25 | \$ 3,433.00 |
| 03/09/25 | \$ 1,968.00 |
| 03/16/25 | \$ 3,575.00 |
| 03/23/25 | \$ 2,748.00 |
| <u>Electronic</u> | <u>\$13,903.06</u> |
| Total | \$25,627.06 |

Gifts and matching funds totaling \$11,530 were received in support of the Refugee Ministry of Lutheran Community Services NW. Thank you for your generosity.

THIS WEEK'S ACT FOR CREATION

This 26th day of our Lenten focus on *Forty Ways to Care for Creation*, is also the International Day of Zero Waste. How close can you get to an empty garbage can for next week's pickup? Challenge yourself this week to buy less, shop with reusable bags and containers, compost all your organic waste, and throw away nothing recyclable. **Pray for Creation:** Take us outside, creating God--outside of ourselves and outside of our dwellings--, into your magnificent creation to breathe in your Life and breathe out gratitude for your new-every-morning mercy.

WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPERS ARE HERE

For the next 2 Wednesdays in Lent the table will be set for you! Come and join others for a soup supper at 6:00 before we assemble for worship at 7:00. Two choices of soup are offered each week (one will be vegetarian), and they are accompanied by bread. We still need a few folks to bring bread as well as volunteers to set up the fellowship hall or clean up after the meal. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex.

HEALING CREATION RETREAT, SATURDAY APRIL 5

Our Synod LiVE PROJECT will host a one day retreat on the theme: **Healing Creation: Sacred Hope in Action**, on Saturday, April 5 from 9am – 3pm at Our Savior's Lutheran in Everett. Hope, active in love, provokes us to join in God's work of healing creation. Grounded in the image of the Tree of Life in Revelation, Biblical Scholar Rev. Dr. Barbara Rossing will explore how God's creation prompts the church to action and into a more expansive identity. Pastor Erik Kindem and members of the PLC Creation Care Team will explore ways to connect the dots between our worship life and the natural world. **This event is FREE to all Peace people! Use the promo code: LIVE BUNDLE2024.**

FIRST SUNDAY FOOD FOR OUR NEIGHBORS 4/6

CORN! TORTILLAS! Next Sunday, April 6 is (already!) 1st Sunday Food for our Neighbors.

April special features: canned corn and tortillas of all kinds. Other pantry items and fresh produce are welcomed, too. Please bring items to the front pews or place in the marked drawer in the narthex. Thank you!

WHAT? NO PALM BRANCHES?!?

On Palm Sunday this year, instead of palm branches, we will join Christians around the world in waving local plants, grasses and branches to commemorate the opening of Holy Week. Why the change? Many of the palms delivered in the past couple of years were moldy. While the worship team will have a variety of foliage available on Palm Sunday, we encourage *you* to bring plants, grasses or branches from your garden and perhaps decorate them with ribbons and flowers. Even without traditional palms, it promises to be a colorful and celebratory day! *Caution: please avoid bringing foliage that will shake off dust and seeds, such as ferns and dry lavender. Thanks!*

CODE RED BLOOD DONATIONS NEEDED!

More blood is being transfused to local patients than is being donated, and we're running out – fast. Blood donors are urgently needed to combat a severe shortage: less than half of the donors needed in March have signed up to give. Patient need is high locally and requests for emergency shipments of blood are coming in from across the country. We can change that by booking appointments today at **Bloodworks donor centers** and **drives** to donate in the weeks ahead. **How can you help?** We're urging everyone who is **eligible** and feeling healthy to fill immediate appointments at a donor center or blood drive near you. To make your next appointment, visit **BloodworksNW.org**, call **800-398-7888**, or text **BWAPP** to **999-777** to download and book an appointment on the new Bloodworks App.

PRAYER LIST

Please continue to remember the sick and home-bound of our congregation and others who have sought our prayers: **Sick/Recovering**: Rich Albers; Carrol Andersen; Brittany Baker; Marlen Boivin; Deric Bevier; Jan Burt; Jeff & Dolly Chale; Cortney; Mike & Marsha Davis; Georgine Epley; Jeffrey Epley; Bob Gaines; Ann Gault; Jon Gault; Caity Gerhardt; Donna Heiland; Ellen Heritage; Maria Iriarte; Beth Jacob-Files; Sandy Kaduce; Ken Keyes; Kari Kindem; Gordon Knight; John Lindsay; Jan Madsen; Evelyn Martinez; Pete & Kelly McIntyre; Steve Metzler; Bill Morrell; Kathy Peters; Michelle Pierce; Kelly Renfro; Aaden Smith; Nancy Spannaus; Doug Sprague; Dave Stansbury; Sean Stephens; Sarah Taylor; Michele Tomseth; Megan Kindem Webber; Pam Webber; Roger Wingfield; Audrey Zemke.

Homebound: Connie Benjamin; Lu Kramer; Marjorie Johnson; Inta Zagars

We express our Christian sympathy to the Kindem family on the death of Peter Dion-Kindem, Pastor Erik's brother.

PROTOCOL FOR PRAYER LIST We will keep people on the prayer list for one month unless otherwise specified or unless you contact the Peace office to extend the time.

RECONCILING IN CHRIST AFFIRMATION OF WELCOME



Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness in a world that can be filled with alienation and brokenness. In faithfulness to the Gospel and to our Lutheran heritage, we answer Christ's call to be agents of healing and safety, particularly for people who have been marginalized by our society. As a Christian community, we recognize that our congregation is strengthened by diversity, the embrace of equity, and our commitment to anti-racism. We welcome and celebrate the inclusion of those of any race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression into the life and mission of our congregation. We invite all people to join us as we work to better understand the meaning of grace for our lives.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We respectfully acknowledge that we gather on the ancestral homeland of the DUWAMISH PEOPLE. We recognize the DUWAMISH and other SALISH PEOPLES, the FIRST STEWARDS of this land, who have called this region home—and continue to call it home—from time immemorial. We join with them and with all people who see the Earth, its creatures, watersheds, and habitats, as part of an integral whole reflecting our Creator's intention for wholeness and balance.

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Wade in the Water Text and music: African American spiritual. Public domain

We Raise Our Hands to You Text: Svein Ellingsen; tr. Hedwig T. Durnbaugh © Hedwig T. Durnbaugh. Music: Trond Kverno © 1978 Norsk Musikforlag. Used by permission of OneLicense.net, License #A-708444, all rights reserved.

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound Text: John Newton, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5. Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*; arr. Edwin O. Excell, alt. Public domain

My Life Flows On in Endless Song Text and music: Robert Lowry. Public domain

EXTRAORDINARY WITNESSES March 30, 2025

Sojourner Truth, died 1813, renewer of society



Sojourner Truth was born Isabelle Baumfree in 1797 in Hurley, Ulster County, New York, one of thirteen children born to slave parents. She spoke only Dutch until she was eleven and afterward spoke English with a Dutch accent. She was forced to marry an older slave, Thomas, with whom she had five children. New York abolished slavery in 1827, and she settled in New York City, where she worked as a housekeeper, and became deeply involved in Christianity.

In 1843 she had a spiritual experience that caused her to change her name to Sojourner Truth and as a traveling preacher went through Long Island and Connecticut preaching “God’s truth and plan for salvation.” People found her testimony to be deeply moving. She was an imposing woman, six feet tall. She eventually added abolition and women’s suffrage to her message. She died November 26, 1883, in Battle Creek, Michigan.

“One of the most unique and interesting speeches of the convention was made by Sojourner Truth, an emancipated slave. It is impossible to transfer it to paper, or convey any adequate idea of the effect it produced upon the audience. Those only can appreciate it who saw her powerful form, her whole-souled, earnest gesture, and listened to her strong and truthful tones. She came forward to the platform and addressing the President said with great simplicity: ‘*May I say a few words*’ Receiving an affirmative answer, she proceeded:

“I want to say a few words about this matter. I am a woman’s rights. I have as much muscle as any man, and can do as much work as any man. I have plowed and reaped and husked and chopped and mowed, and can any man do more than that? I have heard much about the sexes being equal. I can carry as much as any man, and can eat as much too, if I can get it. I am as strong as any man that is now...”

“Women Rights Convention. Sojourner Truth.”

[*Anti-Slavery Bugle*](#), Salem, Ohio, June 21, 1851 – Marcus Robinson

EXTRAORDINARY WITNESSES March 30, 2025

Harriet Ross Tubman, Renewer of Society, died March 10, 1913



Harriet Ross Tubman Davis (*Minty*) was born a slave about 1820 in Dorchester County, Maryland. In 1828 at the age of six, her slaver Edward Brodess rented out Tubman at his whim to provide childcare for nearby overseers. Compensation for her work would go to Brodess and time periods for how long she would be rented out would vary. This work separated her from her mother and siblings for extended periods of time.

Tubman's life would change forever at the age of 13. In 1835, while she was running errands at a local store, she witnessed another enslaved person's attempted escape. She refused to assist the freedom seeker's enslaver in capturing the fugitive. As the enslaver became desperate in their attempt to recapture the freedom seeker, he threw a two pound weight. Rather than hitting the intended target, he struck Tubman in the back of the head and fractured her skull. She teetered between life and death. Her mother Rit nursed Tubman back to health as much as she could given their limited resources. After the incident, physical pain became a consistent part of Tubman's life. She experienced chronic pain from headaches and uncontrollable bouts of seizures, which Tubman herself referred to as "sleeping spells." Tubman's place in disability history is often overlooked. It is important to note that narcolepsy was a prominent part of both her identity and story. Vivid visions of freedom came to her while experiencing these seizures (PBS 2022). As a result of her visions, her disability is often associated with her religiosity. However, Tubman's dedication to her faith and her experience with chronic pain hold equal weight. Both elements were key in her determination to seek liberation for the enslaved.

Harriet escaped in 1848, leaving her husband John Tubman, who was not a slave but a free man. During the next ten years she made frequent trips south and helped some 300 slaves to freedom by means of the clandestine escape route known as the Underground Railway. She served the Union army in the Civil war as a scout, spy, and nurse. After the Civil War, her home in Auburn, New York, became a center for women's rights and served the aged and poor. Later she married Nelson Davis. She died March 10, 1913, in her home in Auburn, New York, twelve miles from Seneca Falls.