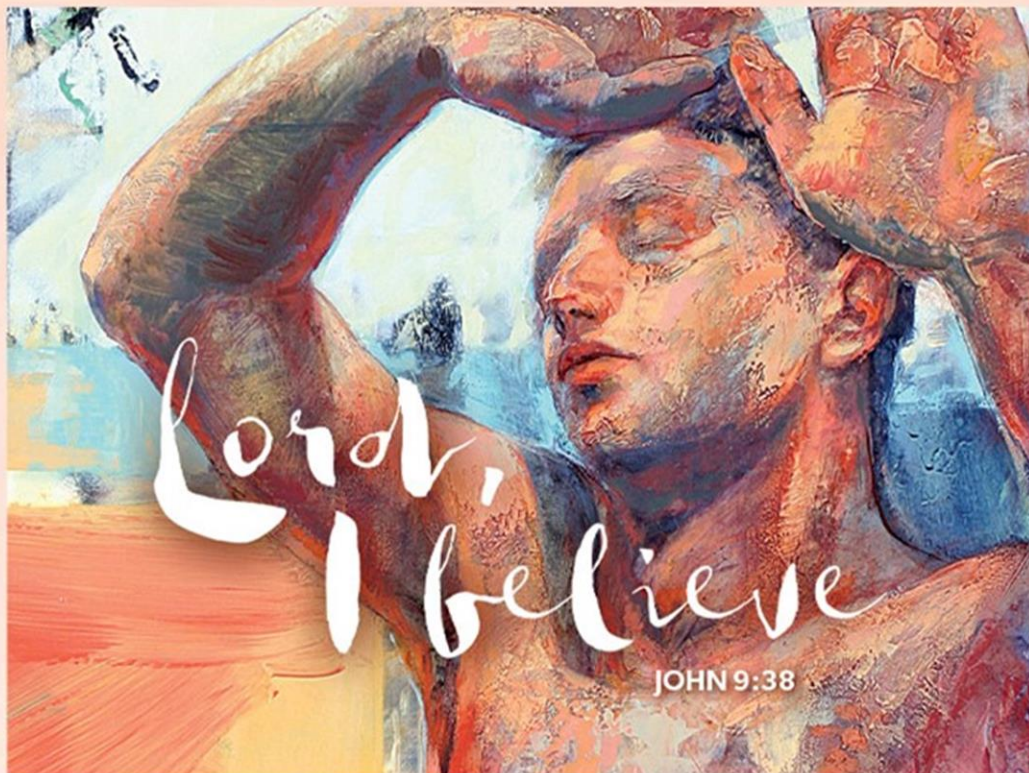


Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church



March 19, 2023

GATHER

Prelude

Words of Welcome

Lenten Preface

Now Is the Time of Grace

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.
Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in - vi - ta - tion.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9
Music: TIME OF GRACE, Marty Haugen
Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

† forgives you in Christ's name,

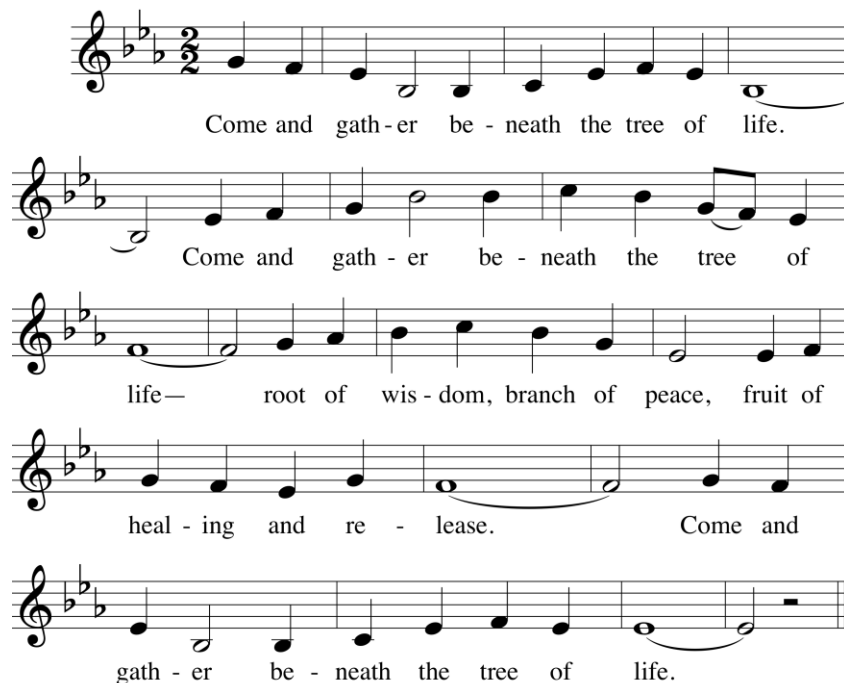
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

Gathering Song

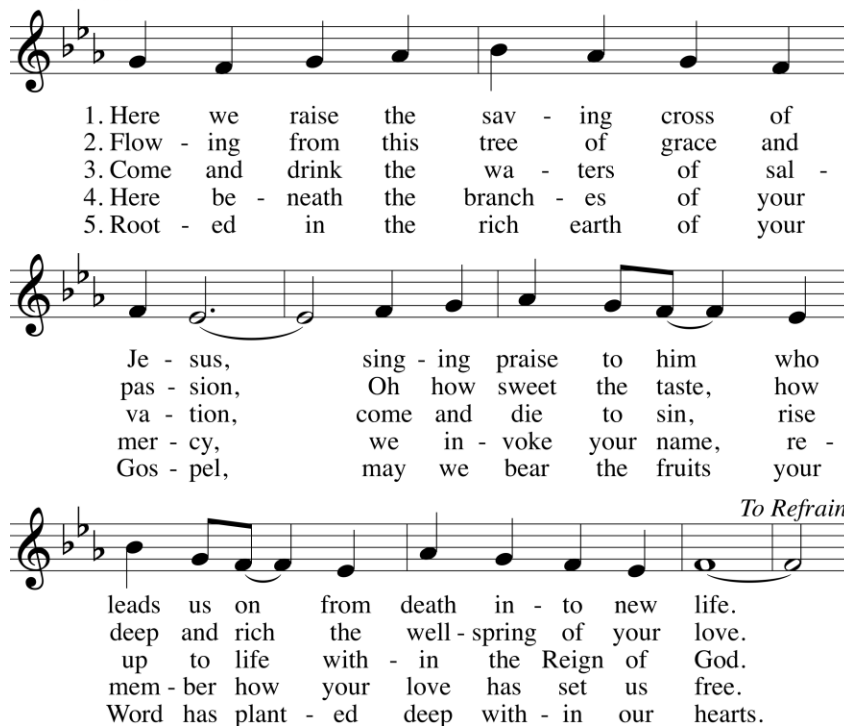
Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life (vs. 1 & 4)

Refrain



Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of life.
Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of
life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of
heal - ing and re - lease. Come and
gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

Verses



1. Here we raise the sav - ing cross of
2. Flow - ing from this tree of grace and
3. Come and drink the wa - ters of sal -
4. Here be - neath the branch - es of your
5. Root - ed in the rich earth of your
Je - sus, sing - ing praise to him who
pas - sion, Oh how sweet the taste, how
va - tion, come and die to sin, rise
mer - cy, we in - voke your name, re -
Gos - pel, may we bear the fruits your
To Refrain
leads us on from death in - to new life.
deep and rich the well - spring of your love.
up to life with - in the Reign of God.
mem - ber how your love has set us free.
Word has plant - ed deep with - in our hearts.

Text: Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.
Music: Marty Haugen; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

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 mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
 Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all. 1. For the
 2. For your
 reign of God, and for peace through - out the
 peo - ple here who have come to give you
 world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
 thanks, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the
 Lord: Lord: Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
 Help, save, and de -
 Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all.
 fend us, O God: A - men.

Text: Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.
 Music: Marty Haugen; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Repeat the refrain of Come and Gather Beneath the Tree of Life

Refrain

Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

Come and gath - er be - neath the tree of

life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of

heal - ing and re - lease. Come and

gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

Prayer of the Day

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Children's Time

WORD

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.

1The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you, and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." 4Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5He said, "Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed is now before the Lord." 7But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 8Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 11Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he

said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here." 12He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; for this is the one." 13Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God**

Psalm 23

¹The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

³You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. R**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Second Reading: Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light that is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

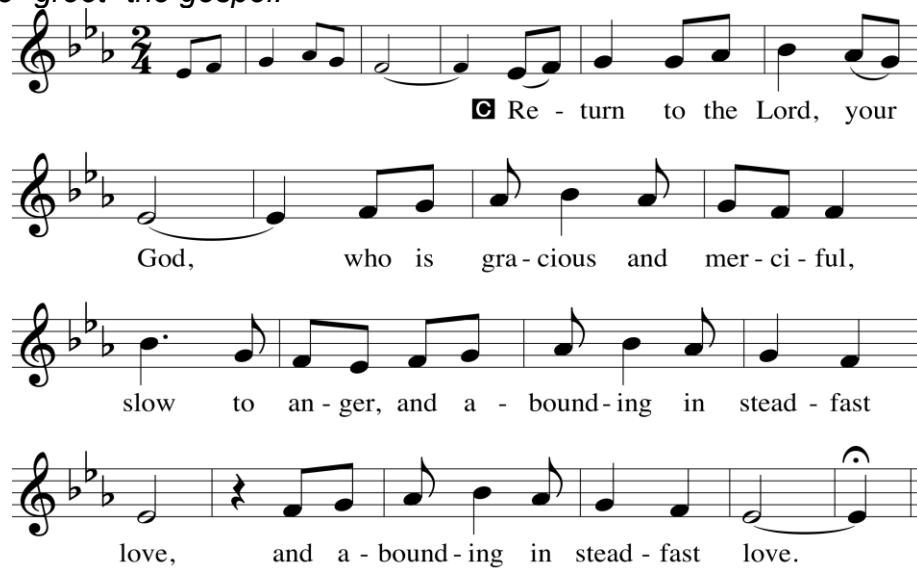
"Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Verse

We stand to "greet" the gospel.



Re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who 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.

Music: Marty Haugen; © 2000, GIA Publications, Inc.

Gospel: John 9:1-41

Glory to you, O Lord

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." 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, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 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?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 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." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 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." 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. 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."

The religious leaders 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 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; 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." His parents said this because they were afraid of the religious leaders; for they had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

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." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he

do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 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?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, he is the one speaking with you." The man said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. 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." Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

Praise to You, O Christ

Sermon

Pastor Richard Rollefson

Song of Response

I Saw the Light

**I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin.
I wouldn't let my dear savior in.
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night.
Praise the Lord, I saw the light**

Chorus

**I saw the light I saw the light
no more darkness no more night
Now I'm so happy no sorrow in sight
Praise the lord, I saw the light.**

**Just like a blind man I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Then like the blind man that God gave back his sight
Praise the lord I saw the light. (Chorus)**

**I was a fool to wander and astray
Straight is the gate and narrow the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the lord I saw the light. (Chorus)**

Affirmation of Faith

An ancient creedal expression of the teachings of the Christian faith.

We believe in God:

Creator of all things, in heaven and on earth.

We believe in Jesus Christ

who lived among us and shared our burdens.

Like a grain of wheat,

he died that new life might grow in us.

We believe in the Holy Spirit,

**the presence of God at work within us,
Who comforts us in our struggles,
strengthens us in faith,
and bestows upon us the gift of hope eternal.**

Prayers of Intercession

Prayer requests: Sid & Beryl Bennett; Elsa Brody; Steve & JoAnn Bennett; Dave Lonsway & Family; Matthew Moersdorf; Family of Ed Dresp

Prayers for our church family: Carolyn Baker; Pat Bathke; Kiaya Batkin

The Peace & Announcements

MEAL

Prayer over the Gifts

We give thanks for God's gifts.

Let us pray:

**O loving God, We cry out for the hope and healing you offer.
Guide us to care for your creation; make us your hands to feed the hungry;
and prepare us to receive the bread of life, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Eucharistic Prayer

A prayer recounting the story of God's love.

The Lord's Prayer

The prayer Jesus taught his disciples.

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.

Communion Songs

Amazing Grace, My Chains Are Gone

1. **Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm 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**

**Chorus: My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace**

3. **The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures**

4. **The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine**

CCLI Song # 4768151

Chris Tomlin | John Newton | Louie Giglio

Blessing

Prayer

Compassionate God,

You have fed and renewed us in your holy meal. Bless those who go forth from this assembly bearing your word and sacrament. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be a hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace, and our prayer, the song of humble and grateful hearts.

Amen.

SENDING

Sending Song

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



1. Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2. Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling
3. Give us eyes to see you clear - ly; make us



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and
chil - dren of your light. Give us hearts to live more



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the
near - ly as your gos - pel shin - ing bright, as your



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
riv - er, you the sea.
gos - pel shin - ing bright.

Benediction

God, the giver of love, ✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks to:

Greeter:

Usher: John & Rebecca Keisler

Lector: Diane Mansell

Communion Servers:

Coffee Server: Ingrid Frokjer

Altar Guild: Vicky Tway

Musicians, Singers: Paul Woodring / Dave Becker / Joan Pedersen / Richard Rollefson / Matt
Schultze / Ryan Reck / Phil Strauss / Talia Ortega / Janis Sexton / Carlyn Hinds

Guest Musician: Brynn Albanese

Flowers are sponsored by Deanna & Matt Schultze in celebration of their wedding anniversary.

Arrangement prepared by Cal Poly Plant Shop.