**Kerkhoven Lutheran Church**

**A Ministry of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

**Living and trusting in god’s amazing grace we welcome all to worship, learn and serve in celebration of Christ’s love.**

**THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**MARCH 20, 2022 9:00 AM**

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God’s invitation to attentiveness: “Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.” The landowner’s ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener’s readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

**Prelude**

**GATHERING**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS ELW p. 94**

In the name of the Father,

and of the Son,

and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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.**

**GATHERING HYMN** **“My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less” ELW # 597**

1 My hope is built on nothing less

than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

no merit of my own I claim,

but wholly lean on Jesus' name.

*Refrain*  On Christ, the solid rock, I stand;

all other ground is sinking sand.

2 When darkness veils his lovely face,

I rest on his unchanging grace;

in ev'ry high and stormy gale

my anchor holds within the veil. *Refrain*

3 His oath, his covenant, his blood

sustain me in the raging flood;

when all supports are washed away,

he then is all my hope and stay. *Refrain*

4 When he shall come with trumpet sound,

oh, may I then in him be found,

clothed in his righteousness alone,

redeemed to stand before the throne! *Refrain*

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

**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…” ELW p. 138**

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**CANTICLE OF PRAISE “This is the Feast” ELW p. 140**

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**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Eternal God, **your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**WORD**

### **First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9**

### 1Ho, everyone who thirsts,  come to the waters;  and you that have no money,  come, buy and eat!  Come, buy wine and milk  without money and without price.  2Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  and delight yourselves in rich food.  3Incline your ear, and come to me;  listen, so that you may live.  I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  my steadfast, sure love for David.  4See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  a leader and commander for the peoples.  5See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  for he has glorified you.  6Seek the LORD while he may be found,  call upon him while he is near;  7let the wicked forsake their way,  and the unrighteous their thoughts;  let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  8For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  9For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  so are my ways higher than your ways  and my thoughts than your thoughts.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm:** **Psalm 63:1-8 Reading Responsively**

O God, you are my God, I seek you,  
 my soul thirsts for you;  
 my flesh faints for you,  
 as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
 **So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary,  
  beholding your power and glory.**Because your steadfast love is better than life,  
 my lips will praise you.  
**So I will bless you as long as I live;  
  I will lift up my hands and call on your name.**  
 My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast,  
 and my mouth praises you with joyful lips  
  **when I think of you on my bed,  
  and meditate on you in the watches of the night;**  
 for you have been my help,  
 and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.  
  **My soul clings to you;  
  your right hand upholds me**.

*Here ends the Psalm*

### **Second Reading: I Corinthians 10:1-13**

### 1I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, 2and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, 3and all ate the same spiritual food, 4and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. 5Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. 6Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. 7Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." 8We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. 9We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. 10And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. 11These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. 12So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

### The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation “Return to the Lord…” ELW p. 142**

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### **Gospel:   Luke 13:1-9**

The Holy Gospel **… Glory to you, O Lord.**

1At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. 2He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? 3No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. 4Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them — do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? 5No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."  
6Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. 7So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' 8He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. 9If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

### The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON Pastor Michael Buller**

**HYMN OF THE DAY “Lord, Let My Heart Be Good Soil” ELW # 512**

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

open to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil,

where love can grow and peace is understood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone away.

When my heart is cold, warm it with the day.

When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart,

Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950

Text © 1985 Prince of Peace Publishing, Changing Church, Inc., admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Text: African American spiritual

**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 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 INTERCESSION**

Each portion of the prayers ends with “Merciful God”. Congregation response: “**receive our prayer”.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you.

**And also with you**.

**THANKSGIVING**

**OFFERING Special Music**

**OFFERTORY**  **“We Are an Offering”** **ELW #692**

We lift our voices

We lift our hands

We lift our lives up to You

We are an offering

Lord use our voices

Lord use our hands

Lord use our [lives](https://www.definitions.net/definition/lives) they are Yours

We are an offering

We are an offering

**MEAL**

**The GREAT THANKSGIVING ELW p. 144**

**THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND LORD’S PRAYER ELW p. 108**

**Hymns during Communion:**

**“Lamb of God” ELW p.146**

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**“Healer of Our Every Ill” ELW # 612**

*Refrain* Healer of our ev'ry ill,

light of each tomorrow,

give us peace beyond our fear,

and hope beyond our sorrow.

1 You who know our fears and sadness,

grace us with your peace and gladness;

Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*

2 In the pain and joy beholding

how your grace is still unfolding,

give us all your vision, God of love. *Refrain*

3 Give us strength to love each other,

ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;

Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*

4 You who know each thought and feeling,

teach us all your way of healing;

Spirit of compassion, fill each heart. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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**“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ” ELW # 335**

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,

there's a precious fountain;

free to all, a healing stream

flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

*Refrain*  In the cross, in the cross

be my glory ever;

till my ransomed soul shall find

rest beyond the river.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,

love and mercy found me;

there the bright and morning star

sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,

bring its scenes before me;

help me walk from day to day

with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,

hoping, trusting ever,

till I reach the golden strand

just beyond the river. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

**“Blessed Assurance” ELW # 638**

1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!

Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!

Heir of salvation, purchase of God,

born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

*Refrain* This is my story, this is my song,

praising my Savior, all the day long:

this is my story, this is my song,

praising my Savior all the day long.

2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,

visions of rapture now burst on my sight;

angels descending bring from above

echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;

I in my Savior am happy and blest,

watching and waiting, looking above,

filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain* Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

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**Prayer after Communion**

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**SENDING**

**BLESSING**

The Lord bless you and keep you;  
The Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious you;  
The Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace. **Amen.**

**SENDING SONG “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” ELW # 733**

1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father;

there is no shadow of turning with thee;

thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not;

as thou hast been, thou forever wilt be.

*Refrain*  Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

all I have needed thy hand hath provided;

great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2 Summer and winter and springtime and harvest,

sun, moon, and stars in their courses above

join with all nature in manifold witness

to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. *Refrain*

3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,

thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;

strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,

blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! *Refrain*

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960

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**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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**SERVING THIS MORNING**

Pastor –Pastor Michael Buller

Musicians – Alison Nelson & Mariah Rudningen

Lector – Ross Carlson

Ushers – Ross and Beth Carlson

Communion Assistant – Sue Nelson

Acolytes –

Greeter –

***PRAYER CONCERNS:*** *(Periodically these prayer concerns will be moved to the prayer concerns list in the newsletter )*Jeff Armstrong, Dennis Doering, Calvin Carls

**Welcome:** We welcome all visitors to KLC this morning. We extend to you an invitation to join us for coffee in the fellowship hall immediately following the worship service.

**Tonight: Come and Join the Fun:** Tater Tot Hot Dish Challenge/Bingo night: It's time to settle the debate - what is the best way to make a Tater Tot Hot Dish? Brush up on your skills and bring your best recipe to the challenge. Some basic rules:

* Recipes can be traditional or more unusual/exotic
* Make in a clear glass or aluminum 9 x 13 pan (no personalized or distinct containers, to keep the judging fair and anonymous)
* Must use standard sized tots, Ore-Ida or other brand

Challenge will be Sunday, March 20, at 5:00 p.m. in the fellowship hall. To enter, bring your hot dish ready to eat by 4:45 p.m. Tasting will go on until 6:00 p.m., when votes are tallied, and a winner announced. Bingo to follow.

You don't have to bring a hot dish - everyone is invited to be part of the tasting and judging! There will be a free-will offering collected, which will go toward the new freezer meal ministry.

**This Week . . . March 21-27, 2022**

**Wednesday, March 22, 2022**

9:00 am WELCA quilting

5:30 pm Lenten Supper

6:15 pm Lenten Worship

**Next Sunday, March 27, 2022**: **Fourth Sunday in Lent**

9:00 am Worship

10:00 am Sunday School and Coffee Fellowship

**Stewardship Snippet - March 20, 2022** - **Isaiah 55:2–**Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. *Stewardship is about making wise choices*–*choices that promote health, wellbeing, and faithful living. Isaiah asks the right questions and gives good advice. --Rob Blezard Copyright © 2022, Rev. Robert Blezard. Reprinted by permission.*

**New Members:** We have had some new members that have joined our church family by transfer since our last new member recognition and we are planning a new member recognition on Sunday, May 1, 2022, at our 9:00 am worship service. If you would like to become a member of KLC please make your wishes know to either Pastor Michael or the church office. If you are a currently a member of another congregation you can request that church to send us a letter of transfer or we can assist you in requesting that.

**Offering Envelopes:** We have had a request from a member for numbered individual offering envelopes. We do have a generic KLC envelope available on the table at the bottom of the stairs. But, if you would like your own box of envelopes, please contact a member of the Board of Finance or the church office and we will attempt to order a small number of individual envelopes.

**Lenten Meal and Worship Schedule:**

**Wednesday, March 23:**

**Meal: 5:30 – 6:15 pm**

**Worship: 6:15 – 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday, March 30:**

**Meal: 5:30 – 6:15 pm**

**Worship: 6:15 – 7:00 pm**

**Wednesday, April 6:**

**Meal: 5:30 – 6:15 pm**

**Worship: 6:15 – 7:00 pm**

**Maundy Thursday, April 14:**

**Sedar Meal 6:00 – 7:00 pm First Communion in Fellowship Hall**

**Good Friday, April 15: 6:45 -7:30 pm**

**Flowers for Easter Sunday 2022**

The Board of Worship and Witness would like to invite you to bring your favorite flower for all to enjoy on Easter Sunday.

This may be a Easter Lilly or a flower of your choosing to drop off at church Saturday April 16th . Please put your name on the bottom or an identifying mark so you can take it home with you after the service.

We would love for all to bring to have a beautiful sanctuary on Easter Sunday, so please include this with your answer .

Ann will make an “in memory of “ list in the bulletin for Easter Sunday.

Please let Ann or any other board member know if you are bringing a flower and who’s memory you are bringing it for. We will also have a sign-up sheet at church as well.

PLEASE LET US KNOW BY MARCH 31st so we can anticipate the number of flowers we will have.

**Meals on Wheels:** KLC is responsible for the local delivery of Meals on Wheels for the month of April. The meals are delivered once a week on Wednesdays at 11:00 am. The options of each person ordering the meals is to order as many frozen meals as they would like to receive for the week and they can also order a hot meal for the day of delivery. There are currently approximately 4 local Kerkhoven residents that receive these meal. This varies by week. It takes approximately an hour to deliver the meals. Please sign up on the list on the table between the church offices for the Wednesdays that you would be able to deliver the meals. Thank you.

**Noisy Offering:** March is Food Share Month and the KLC Noisy Offering for this month was designated to go to the Swift County Food Shelf. Our offering was $123.90. This will be sent to the food shelf prior to the end of the month so that it will be eligible for the financial match that is available during the month. If you would still like to donate to the food shelf please get your donations to the church office, designated for the food shelf by March 27, so that they can be sent in time.