

Welcoming Statement

Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church is committed to welcoming, loving, and embracing all. We open our door to people regardless of gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, marital status, race, ethnicity, mental or physical abilities, neurodiversity, addiction, citizenship status, housing status, or past imprisonment. We acknowledge and honor our different backgrounds and life experiences, commit ourselves to the work of equity and anti-racism, and come together to celebrate the gifts of unity and diversity as one body of Christ (1 Corinthians 12:12).

As Jesus loves us, we are called to love one another (John 15:12).

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March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday In Lent

A special welcome to all visitors, it's a joy to worship with you!

Welcome to Worship at Minnehaha Communion Lutheran Church!

PLEASE TURN OFF CELL PHONES AND PAGERS. THANK YOU!

Worship Information

Hymns and liturgies for the service today are included in the bulletin. The congregation reads aloud anything in bold print following the “C”. You will note directions in the service for when to stand as you are able or to sit. If you would prefer to remain seated throughout worship, please feel free to do so.

Children Are Welcome!

Infants and children are encouraged to be present during worship. Youngsters are welcome and valued as important participants in worship and witness!

Hospitality

An elevator is available and can be accessed by taking the ramp at the front of the worship center entering the chapel and turning right. Restrooms are located off the stairwells leading to the Fellowship Hall and also outside the church office. Diaper changing tables have been placed in both the women’s and men’s restrooms off of Fellowship Hall.

Trouble Hearing?

Personal hearing amplifiers are available in the narthex. Please ask an usher to assist you.





The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

CENTERING

This is an intentional time to find a place of calm and to prepare through silent prayer and contemplation.

BELLS

WELCOME

READING OF THE WELCOMING STATEMENT

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C: Amen.

L: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

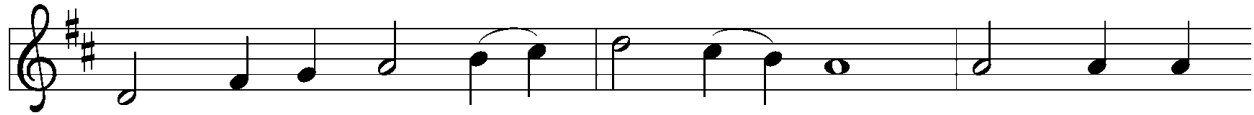
Silence is kept for reflection.

L: God, our rock and refuge,

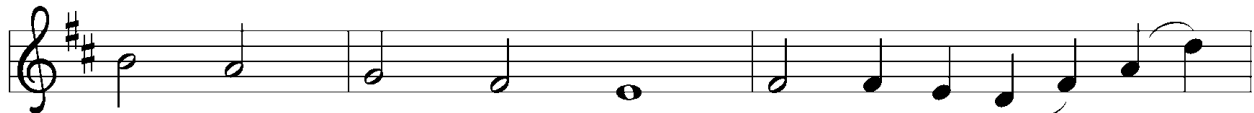
C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

L: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
 3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of



truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
 dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
 kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er



God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

GREETING

L: 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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: O God,

C: 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.

READING

Ephesians 2:1–10

While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.

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 107:1–3, 17–22

You deliver your people from their distress. (Ps. 107:19)

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 ACCLAMATION

ELW 142

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he 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.

GOSPEL

John 3:14–21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today’s first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

[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.”

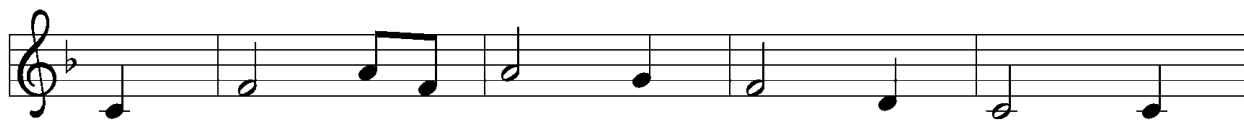
L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

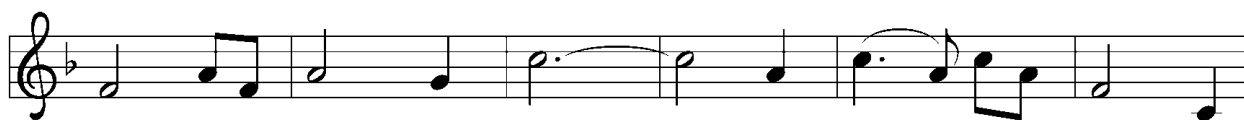
CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Reverend Babette Chatman



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.

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

Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

A NEW CREED

C: We are not alone, we live in God's world. We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit. We trust in God. We are called to be the church: to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in Creation, to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil, to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen, our life and our hope. In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us. We are not alone. Thanks be to God.

INSTALLATION OF CALL COMMITTEE

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(Please respond with your mercy is great after each petition)

L: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

L: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

L: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING

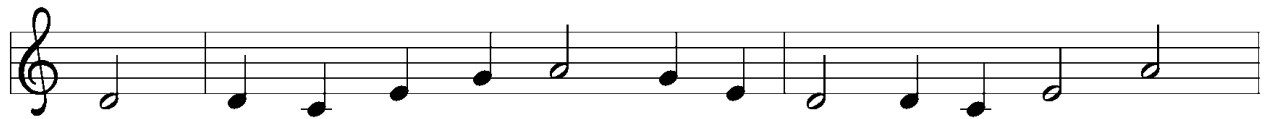
OFFERTORY HYMN

“What Wondrous Love Is This”

ELW 666

Verses 1, 2, & 4

(All, as are able, rise for the last verse of the hymn as the ushers come forward with the gifts)



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray.

C: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

BLESSING

L: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

"God Loved the World"

ELW 323

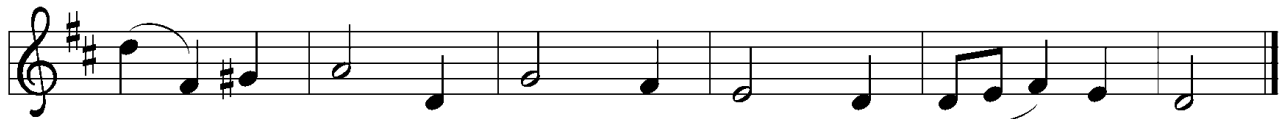
Verses 1-3



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt.
Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731-1807, adapt.

DISMISSAL

L: Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God.

BELLS

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INTERIM PASTOR: Matthew Johnson

ORGANIST: Richard Duncan

OFFICE MANAGER: Sophie Geister-Jones

FINANCIAL SECRETARY: Brenda Robbins

STREAMING TEAM: Zack Robbins, Roxanne Dunlop, Brenda Robbins, Paultina Rollay, Erin Brothen, Karl and Nick Salkowski

CANTORS: Margaret Wilkes, Bobbie Kuhlman

READER: Brenda Robbins

USHERS: Dan Waibel, Ron Halverson

TELLERS: Pat Botten, Bobbie Kuhlman

COOKIE AND COFFEE SERVERS: WELCA (Hotdish Sunday)

Short-Term Prayer Requests:

Vi Bjorkstrand, Harley Ring, Don Ruscheinsky, and Chuck Dolezalek (dear friend of Susan & Brian Albers, diagnosed with stage 4 cancer), Eileen Finley, Kathy Mackdanz, and the MCLC Call Committee

Long-Term Prayer Requests:

(ongoing spiritual support for recovery, life-transitions, conditions, and emotional support)

Please pray for: Sharesti Anderson; Raelynn Anderson; Norm Arlandson; Jon Borodine; Allen Eckman; Linda Erickson (sister of Vicky Anderson); Carol Fisher; Jan Foster; Nancy Gallo; Doug Houge; Wanda Jenne (Sherry Trego's sister-in-law); Deb Lindquist; David & Andrea Olson; LaRhae (longtime friend of Richard); Paultina Rollay; Darlene Sandey; Mickey Trego; Peggy Williams & family; Carol (friend of Roxanne); Peter & family; baby William & mother Isabelle; and those we name in our hearts...

Thank you!

A great many thanks to Reverend Babette Chatman, University Pastor and Director of Campus Ministry at Augsburg University, for leading worship today.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Confirmation following worship today at St. Peder's and next Sunday (3/17) here.

Hotdish Sunday

Following worship **today**, WELCA will be serving their famous Funeral Hotdish alongside jello, rolls, and cake. Everyone is invited! Please plan on joining us!

Winter Game Afternoons & Crafternoons

You are invited to some fun afternoons playing card and board games or working on your craft projects. We'll meet in the fireside room and enjoy a bit of fellowship and fun. Bring your own game or project, or try something we have. MCLC members and everyone in the surrounding community are welcome.

Saturday Game Afternoons:

March 16, 2–4 PM

Sunday Crafternoons:

March 24, 1–3 PM

Kids Choir!

There will be a brief post-worship rehearsal each Sunday in Lent for any child interested in singing as part of a choir on Palm Sunday and Easter. Eat your treats quickly and then come upstairs to sing around the piano!

Easter Breakfast

Please join us for breakfast before church on Easter Sunday. Food will be served continuously from 8:30–9:30 am. We'll be having deviled eggs, cinammon rolls, ham, orange juice, and coffee. We hope to see you there! If you would like to donate eggs or OJ, please contact Erin Brothen at ebrothen@gmail.com

Tea Party!

Saturday, April 20 | 11 am to 1:30 pm

Women of all ages are invited to attend WELCA's Annual Tea. A variety of tasty treats—sandwiches, salads, and desserts—will be served. The speaker this year is author, actor, and playwright Lorna Landvik. She is also a fellow Southsider and graduate of Roosevelt High School. Call the office for reservations by April 9th.

Gertens Flowers

Order your spring annuals and perennials through our church fundraiser through Gertens! Flowers will be delivered to the church on the morning of Monday, May 13. All orders must be placed *before* 10 pm on Monday, April 1st.

To order your flowers, go to:

www.gertensfundraising.com and use store ID 594.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 11–17		
Tuesday March 12	11 am 6:30 pm 7 pm	MCLC Staff Meeting Executive Committee Alcoholics Anonymous
Wednesday March 13	Noon 6 pm 7 pm 7 pm	Lent Potluck & Bible Study Songs of My Life Potluck Songs of My Life Alcoholics Anonymous
Thursday March 14	7 pm	Narcotics Anonymous
Friday March 15	7 pm	Alcoholics Anonymous
Saturday March 16	2:00 pm 4:30 pm	Saturday Games Recovery Group
Sunday March 17	9:45 am 10:45 am	Worship/Sunday School Confirmation (MCLC)