

Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church

“Growing Relationships with God, Each Other, and Our Neighbors in the Way of Jesus”



Second Sunday in Lent

Saturday, March 15, 2025, 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 16, 2025, 9:00 AM

Welcome...There's a place for you here!

Welcome to the Lord's Table

All Christians—including visitors of all denominations— are invited to the altar to receive Holy Communion. If you prefer to remain at your seat, select a prefilled cup from a basket at the top of the ramps before the service begins.

Worshippers may come forward via the center aisle to receive communion at the altar, then return by the side aisles. Bread, wheat wafers or gluten-free wafers are offered, as is a choice of wine (lighter color, outer rings of tray) or grape juice (darker color, inner rings). Paper towel-lined baskets are provided for empty cups at the end of the first pew and at the top of the ramps. Those who are not yet communing may also come forward to receive a blessing, crossing your arms to indicate this choice.

Children have a place here, too!

During our Sunday services, children are invited to come forward for the children's time. They may also receive communion at whatever age their adult(s) agree(s) they may. "Busy bags" are hung along the wall in the sanctuary for use during services. Books and small toys can be found on a shelf under the window behind the choir/bells tables.

Our staffed nursery is located at the bottom of the spiral staircase in the entryway. A changing table is found in the bathroom near the top of the stairs, and another is located around the corner through the sanctuary door past the bell tables.

Restrooms are located in the entryway on either side (mirrored cubes).

Note: our Sunday service is livestreamed, and some worshippers may be seen in the broadcast. Those seated behind the ramps will not be seen on camera.

(Thank you for silencing your phone as you worship!)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

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

(silence is kept for reflection)

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and 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 oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

“Come and Gather”

(congregation sings refrain once before and after the verse)

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.

The musical notation consists of five staves of music in a 2/2 time signature with a key signature of three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

Cantor verse: *Flowing from the tree of grace and passion,
Oh how sweet the taste, how deep and rich the wellspring of your love.*

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

Cantor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

All

Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,

Lord, have mer - cy, mer-cy on us all.

The musical notation consists of two staves of music in a 2/2 time signature with a key signature of three flats. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below the notes.

Cantor: For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

All
Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,
Lord, have mer - cy, mer-cy on us all.

Cantor: For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord:

All
Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,
Lord, have mer - cy, mer-cy on us all.

Cantor: Help, save, and defend us, O God:

All
A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S SERMON (Sun.)

PSALM: Psalm 27

- ¹ The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- ² **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**
- ³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.
- ⁴ **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**
- ⁵ For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶ **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

⁹ Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper;
forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O LORD;
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹² **Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

¹³ This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD in the land of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the LORD and be strong. Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

A reading from Philippians:

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ACS #918

1
Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.

2
Turn now, and seek God's face, now be - hold God's in - vi - ta - tion.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’

³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

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

SERMON: Pastor Beth Ann L. Stone

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 613

“Thy Holy Wings”

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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 prayer petition ends: God, in your mercy,
The congregation responds: **Receive our prayer.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

CHOIR ANTHEM (Sun) “Nearer, Still Nearer” Leila Morris, arr. Marianne Forman

OFFERTORY

Use the QR code to reach our online giving page:



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: Gracious Provider,
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.

HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

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



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, ho - san-na, ho - san-na in the
 high - est. Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na, ho - san-na, ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. . . .
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

INVITATION

DISTRIBUTION *(see inside of bulletin cover for communion directions)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG

ELW 328

"Restore in Us, O God"

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Lent Meal in Fellowship Hall

Wednesdays, served from 5:30 – 6:15 PM

Midweek Lent Worship

"Broken and Beloved:

Stories of God's Steadfast Love"

Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Today's Worship Leaders

Preacher: Pastor Beth Ann Stone; Leader: Pastor Nathan Pratt
Musician: Michael Becker; Minister of Music: Dimitri Shapovalov
Sun. Greeter: Connie Aiello
Sat. Reader: *One needed*; Sun. Reader: Teresa Jacobs
Sun. Communion assistant: John Berge, Karen Magee
Acolyte: *One needed*
Video Producer: John Simpson
(*please see worship leader board for assistants needed*)

Worship Leaders for 3/22 & 3/23:

Musician: Michael Becker; Minister of Music: Dimitri Shapovalov
Sun. Greeter: *One Needed*
Sat. Reader: *One needed*; Sun. Reader: Kim Haigh
Sun. Communion assistant: Brenda Booker, Elaine Klandrud
Acolyte: *One needed*
Video Producer: Becky Litwin

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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THIS WEEK AT MPLC: March 16 - 23

Sun. Mar 16

9:00 AM: Worship (Sanctuary)

10:00 AM: Coffee Hour (Fellowship)

10:15 AM: Sunday School (Education)

10:20 AM: Adult Ed (Mygatts)

4:00 PM: Open Table (Fellowship)

Tues. Mar 18

11:00 AM: Chair Yoga (Fellowship)

6:30 PM: Bell Choir (Sanctuary)

Wed. Mar 19

5:30 PM: Lent Meal (Fellowship)

6:30 PM: Lent Midweek Worship (Sanctuary)

7:00 PM: Adult Choir (Choir room)

Sat. Mar 22

4:00 PM: Worship (Sanctuary)

Sun. Mar 23

9:00 AM: Worship (Sanctuary)

10:00 AM: Coffee Hour (Fellowship)

10:15 AM: Sunday School (Education)

11:30 AM: MPLC Book Club (The Dish)

MPLC STAFF DIRECTORY

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We are called by Jesus to **love God and one another**, to practice generous hospitality, and to serve all unconditionally. We fully welcome you to join us, embracing your race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical abilities, mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, background, and wherever you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God and are welcome here. You are accepted and openly affirmed just as you are. We commit ourselves to undertaking the work of racial equality and social and economic justice. We invite you to join us as we joyfully and inclusively love and serve God and our community, as **we are all one in Christ Jesus.**