



Weekly Announcements

Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church

For Week of March 12, 2023

WELCOME PASTOR CHRISTOPHERSON

Pastor Christopherson (Pastor C.) begins his ministry with us on Wednesday, March 15th. His first Sunday service will be on March 19th. This is an exciting time for Mt. Carmel. You are encouraged to join us for worship and a "Meet and Greet" fellowship time on the 19th. Let's give Pastor C. a warm Mt. Carmel welcome!

SUNDAY SCHOOL AND YOUTH GROUP TODAY

Sunday school (preschool-5th grade) will follow worship, running from 10:45 – 11:30 a.m. Masks are optional.

SOUP SUPPER AND CULVER'S LUNCH

There are two opportunities for worship and fellowship during Lent. A community meal will be served Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. followed by Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m.

New this year is an 11:30 a.m. lunchtime gathering at Culver's in St. Anthony. Order your food and join the group for prayer and discussion in the meeting room.

GLOBAL HEALTH MINISTRIES UPDATE

Together we collected 9 pairs of crutches, 8 walkers, 4 stools, 3 walking boots, 1 wheelchair, 1 cane and a box of medical supplies. Thank you everyone for supporting this medical mission in under-resourced parts of the world.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar. 14 – Marlene Black, Doug Jacobsen, Jens Benedict

Mar. 16 – Audrey Erickson

THRIVENT MEMBERS – CHOICE DOLLARS

March 31 is the deadline to direct your Choice Dollars. Please, consider directing some or all of these to Mt. Carmel. You should have received an e-mail about this from Thrivent with a link to their website. These dollars are made by Thrivent and do not take the place of your pledged contributions. Thanks.

2023 ONE FOR TWO FOUNDATION MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE

At the annual meeting we discussed our congregation's challenging budget shortfall. The Mt. Carmel Foundation has announced an opportunity to grow your donations. For every \$2.00 donated to the church as a Special Offering over and above your pledged giving for 2023, the Foundation will gift \$1.00. In other words if you give a \$10.00 donation, the Foundation will match half, or another \$5.00, which will grow your \$10.00 gift to \$15.00. A \$50.00 gift will be matched with \$25.00 to grow to \$75.00. Please designate any amount you'd like to give to this as "special offering" and we will track our progress towards the 6/30/23 benchmark of \$5000. We'll report to our success to the Foundation, and they will add their dollars! **Join on the fun to erase the deficit.**



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JOIN THE BELL CHOIR!

Do you enjoy listening to the Jubilate Bells ring during services and for special occasions? Are you able to read easy piano music? We are struggling to keep the bell choir from disintegrating and would love some new members. We usually play on the 1st Sunday of the month and practice on the two Wednesdays before at 6:30 pm in the church sanctuary. Interested? Contact Ruth Bills or the church office.

THOSE WE ARE PRAYING FOR

- The family of Rudy Roy, who passed away on March 8
- Katy, Bob and Sandy Bauer's daughter, healing after successful cancer treatment
- Steve Metzler, Janell Wampler's friend, undergoing cancer treatment for a brain tumor
- Marilyn, Janell Wampler's sister, whose wound is almost healed and is staying in the health care center.

To include your prayers on this list, contact the church office.

HOMEBOUND AND LONG-TERM CARE

Ethel Antonson, Marlene Black, Lorraine Carlson, Annette Dahl, Gerry Johnson, and Dorothy Warhol

CARE NOTES

Are you or a loved one struggling with a diagnosis of cancer or dementia? Are you having difficulties as a caregiver? Have you recently lost a job? These are a few of the topics addressed by Care Notes. They are being provided by our Befriender Ministry. Browse the pamphlets on the shelves beneath the flower sign up sheet in the narthex, and take one or more for yourself or a loved one. If you would like to speak to someone more in depth about one of these subjects, call the church office or Pr. Dave Olson at 651-528-7459.

EARTHQUAKE RESPONSE - ELCA DISASTER RELIEF

Special offerings to ELCA Lutheran World Relief are being collected for those impacted by the earthquake in Turkey. Make checks payable to Mt. Carmel. Please write "Turkey" in the memo and place them in a pew envelope. We will send our gifts on to LWR.

REMEMBERING TO GIVE

Please continue to support our congregation with your faithful financial contributions to Mt. Carmel as you are able. There are several ways to give:

- Mail your check to the church or drop off in the secure mailbox.
- Online by credit card or bank account. Visit mountcarmelmpls.org/give or scan the QR code for online giving opportunities.



Your generous support for Mt. Carmel and our ministry is truly appreciated.



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Third Sunday in Lent

March 12, 2023

Congregation parts are printed in **bold**.

For those communing at home, please make sure you have the following items on hand and ready for communion: Bread on a small plate. You may put a cloth or napkin on top if you like. Wine or grape juice (or some other beverage) and small glasses to drink from.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

C: **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: **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.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O Jesus Joy of Love Hearts

ELW 658

- 1 O Jesus, joy of loving hearts,
the fount of life, the light of all:
from ev'ry bliss that earth imparts
we turn, unfilled, to hear your call.**
- 2 We taste you, ever-living bread,
and long to feast upon you still;
we drink of you, the fountainhead;
our thirsting souls from you we fill.**
- 3 For you our restless spirits yearn,
where'er our changing lot is cast;
glad, when your smile on us you turn,
blest, when by faith we hold you fast.**
- 4 O Jesus, ever with us stay!
Make all our moments fair and bright!
Oh, chase the night of sin away!
Shed o'er the world your holy light.**

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: Let us pray. Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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

Exodus 17: 1-7

L: From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

L: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord

ELW p. 142

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL READING

John 4:5-42

P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 4th chapter.

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

P: So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob

had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, 'Give me a drink'. (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, 'How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?' (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, 'If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, "Give me a drink", you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?' Jesus said to her, 'Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.' The woman said to him, 'Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.'

Jesus said to her, 'Go, call your husband, and come back.' The woman answered him, 'I have no husband.' Jesus said to her, 'You are right in saying, "I have no husband"; for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!' The woman said to him, 'Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshipped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.' Jesus said to her, 'Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshippers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.' The woman said to him, 'I know that Messiah is coming' (who is called Christ). 'When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.' Jesus said to her, 'I am he, the one who is speaking to you.'

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, 'What do you want?' or, 'Why are you speaking with her?' Then the woman left her water-jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, 'Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?' They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, 'Rabbi, eat something.' But he said to them, 'I have food to eat that you do not know about.' So the disciples said to one another, 'Surely no one has brought him something to eat?' Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, "Four months more, then comes the harvest"? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, "One sows and another reaps." I sent you to reap that for which you did not labour. Others have laboured, and you have entered into their labour.'

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, 'He told me everything I have ever done.' So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there for two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Saviour of the world.'

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

ELW 777 verses 1,2,5

- 1** "Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty; drink the water I will give.
If you knew what gift I offer, you would come to me and live."

Refrain

**Jesus, ever flowing fountain, give us water from your well.
In the gracious gift you offer there is joy no tongue can tell.**

- 2** "Come to me, all trav'lers weary; come that I may give you rest.
Drink the cup of life I offer; at this table be my guest." *Refrain*

- 5** "Come to me, distressed and needy; I would be your trusted friend.
Come and seek the gift I offer, come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*

APOSTLES CREED

C: 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 THE PEOPLE

L: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

L: We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely, and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness *especially*..... Give them your living water always. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for this congregation, especially those preparing for baptism. Nurture their faith and pour your love into their hearts. Inspire our community by their testimony to God's grace in their lives. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

L: We give thanks for the lives of all your saints. Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service. Encourage us with the hope they shared in you. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

L: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

PEACE

OFFERTORY

Sanctuary Choir "Be Known to Us in Breaking Bread"

OFFERTORY RESPONSE

Change My Heart O God

ELW 801

Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the potter; I am the clay.
Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God; make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C: **Amen.**

MEAL

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

C: **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 TO COMMUNION

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

Lamb of God

ELW p. 146

C: **Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Grant us peace.**

RECEIVING THE MEAL

P: This is the body of Christ, broken for you.
This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

For those communing online, take the bread. This is the body of Christ, broken for you. Now take the cup. This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: Let us pray: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

C: **Amen.**

FINAL BLESSING

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

C: **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing

ELW 807

- 1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee; may I still thy goodness prove.**
- 2 Here I raise my Ebenezer: "Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.**
- 3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts above.**

DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

You are invited to remain and enjoy the postlude.

Serving in Worship Today

Presiding..... Rev. Dave Olson
Music Director Ruth Bills
Altar Guild Janell Partyka
Liturgist Audrey Erickson
Lector Diane Langer
Soundboard Tech Dave Larson and Paul Lathrop
Usher..... Fred Chiquist and Steve Ristuben
Mini-bus Dave Larson
Coffee Fellowship..... Myrna Flatland

Altar flowers are given by Marlys Hegstrom in celebration of Marlene Black's 90th birthday!

O Jesus Joy of Loving Hearts - Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091-1153; tr. Ray Palmer, 1808-1887, alt

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty - Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939. Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374

Change My Heart O God - Text and music © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing (ASCAP), admin. Music Services

Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing - Text: Robert Robinson, 1735-1790, alt.