

First Sunday in Lent – Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

**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**

**Announcements**

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

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**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.**  
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.  
**Amen.**

**Gathering Hymn**

**“All Are Welcome”**

**#641 vs. 1,2,3**

**Prayer of the Day**

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Children’s Message**

**Psalm 25:1-10**

<sup>1</sup>To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame, nor let my enemies triumph over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be put to shame; rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your ways, O LORD, and teach me your paths.**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your truth and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compassion and love, for they are from everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and upright, O LORD; therefore you teach sinners in your way.**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the lowly in justice and teach the lowly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast love and faithfulness to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies.**

The Word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel according to Saint John 8:2-11**

<sup>2</sup>Early in the morning he came again to the temple. All the people came to him, and he sat down and began to teach them. <sup>3</sup>The scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery, and, making her stand before all of them, <sup>4</sup>they said to him, “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. <sup>5</sup>Now in the law Moses commanded us to stone such women. Now what do you say?” <sup>6</sup>They said this to test him, so that they might have some charge to bring against him. Jesus bent down and wrote with his finger on the ground. <sup>7</sup>When they kept on questioning him, he straightened up and said to them, “Let anyone among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” <sup>8</sup>And once again he bent down and wrote on the ground. <sup>9</sup>When they heard it, they went away, one by one, beginning with the elders, and Jesus was left alone with the woman standing before him. <sup>10</sup>Jesus straightened up and said to her, “Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?” <sup>11</sup>She said, “No one, sir.”<sup>[a]</sup> And Jesus said, “Neither do I condemn you. Go your way, and from now on do not sin again.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to You, O Christ**

### **Sermon**

**Pastor Keith Ruehlow will be filling in for Pastor Josh this weekend.**

**Mission Offering – Northwest Synod of Wisconsin Endowment Fund Appeal**

**Hymn of the Day**

**“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”**

**#325**

### **Apostle’s Creed**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

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.

*A brief silence.*

God our truth, the ark of your church has room for many expressions of faith. We give thanks for voices that challenge and awaken your people (*especially that of Martin Luther, renewer of the church, whom we commemorate today*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our maker, you remember your covenant with the earth and its inhabitants. Rescue communities and creatures hurting from natural disasters. Preserve species and habitats endangered by human carelessness and disregard. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our light, you know our weakness. Free all who govern from the temptations of power. Sustain all who work for human rights in every nation (*organizations may be named*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our help, you care for your beloved children. Comfort all who are grieving, ill, afraid, in pain, or in despair. Feed hungry people living in food deserts. Protect any at risk from exploitation and abuse. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our home, you gather your people. Grant us health and safety as we assemble. Keep us mindful of any who are homebound, hospitalized, convalescing, or traveling (*We pray especially for Peyton, Matt, David, Clarice, Steve, Kathy, Val, Jacob, Cherri, Keith and JoJo, Bob and Joanne, Frank and Heather, Bob and Sonja, Bill and Betty, Tom and Kay, Sherm and Mary, Peggy, Dan and Sharon*). Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our hope, you promise eternal life to your beloved children. We remember with gratitude those who have lived and died in faith. Grant that we may also dwell with you in everlasting peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

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

**Amen.**

### **Offering**

#### **Offertory Prayer**

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.**

### **Words of Institution**

#### **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**

**Communion            #471 & #466**

#### **Prayer**

Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**Amen.**

#### **Dismissal**

Jesus invites us into the world! Go in peace!

**Okay! We will! Thanks be to God!**

And all of Good Shepherd said...

**AMEN!**

**Sending Song            "All Are Welcome"**

**#641 vs. 4,5**

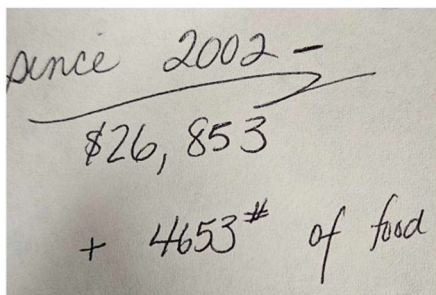
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## Blessing

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.

**Amen.**

## Your Generosity in Action:



A generosity moment update!  
Here is a quick scratch pad note that  
was sent to Pastor Josh after our  
confirmation students had been at  
Feed my People.

This is the impact that Good Shepherd  
has made in the community through FMP  
since 2002.

### THANK YOU!!

Monthly Financials to date:	Total Revenue \$10,132 2023: \$23,547	Total Expenses \$7,964 2023: \$27,224	Difference \$2,168
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# Jesus Invites Us

## CREATED TO BE

Sundays in Lent	Wednesdays in Lent
Worship at 9 am	Dinner at 5:00    Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30
2/17 Invite...to Repent	2/14 Ash Wednesday
2/24 Invite...out of Shame	2/21 Created to Be...Brave
3/3 Invite...to be Genuine	2/28 Created to Be...Authentic
3/10 Invite...to Dream	3/6 Created to Be...Disruptive
3/17 Invite...to Rest	3/13 Created to Be...Free
3/24 Invite...to Invite	3/20 Created to Be...Disciples

**GOOD SHEPHERD ~ GOOD FRIDAY**

# **FISH FRY**

**MARCH 29**  
**4- 6 PM**

**FISH, POTATOES,  
GREEN BEANS, COLE  
SLAW, DINNER ROLLS,  
DESSERT  
FREE WILL DONATION**

**MAC & CHEESE AND  
CHICKEN NUGGETS  
KIDS MEAL**

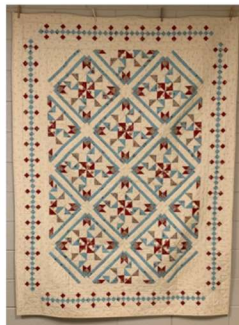
**QUILT RAFFLE**

**SPONSORED BY: LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD ENDOWMENT**



## **GOOD FRIDAY QUILT RAFFLE QUILTS ON DISPLAY IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL**

\$10/ticket or 3 for \$20



Pieced, quilted and  
donated by Betty Davey  
60" x 80"



Pieced and quilted by  
LCGS Quilters  
50" x 64"



Pieced and quilted by  
LCGS Quilters  
59" x 59"