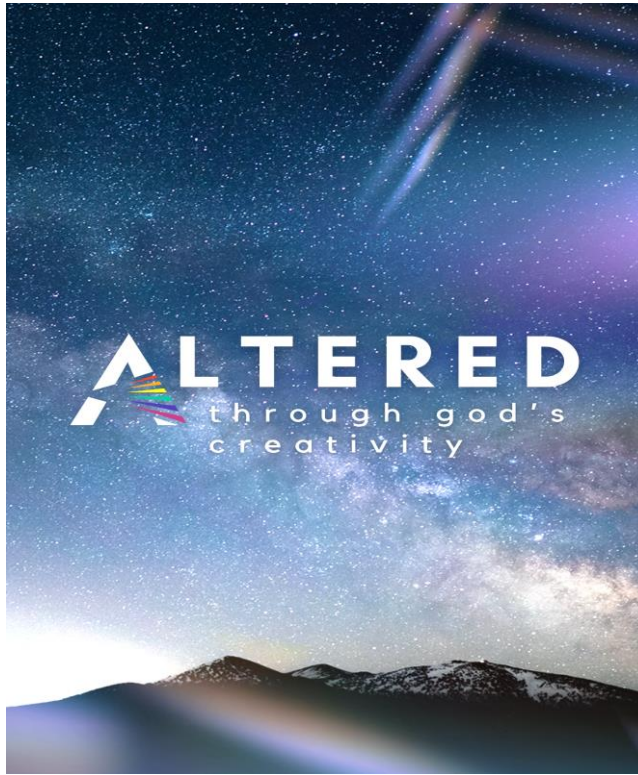


Fourth Sunday of Lent

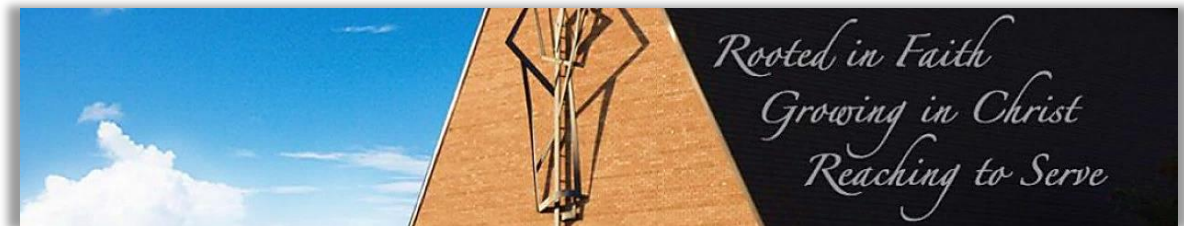
March 10th, 2024



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

Virginia, MN

Pastor Liz Cheney



WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

For us, you created mountains and valleys,
hummingbirds and albatross, mustard seeds and redwoods,
wild animals and beloved pets.

We praise you, creative God.

In us, you created hearts that long for wholeness,
minds that seek understanding, senses that experience Creation,
and a divine spark of your holy image.

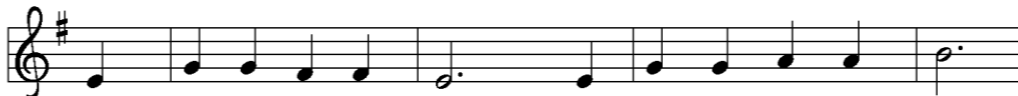
We praise you, creative God.

With us, you are creating stories of life beyond death,
songs of hope beyond despair, meals of abundance beyond greed,
and visions of heaven on earth.

We praise you, creative God.

May we create blessings for our neighbors,
peace in our communities, and harmony with the Holy Trinity. **Amen.**

KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Holy God, we confess that we have rejected the refuge you offer.

**We try to hide behind self-sufficiency and pride,
but you see us and love us still.**

We confess that we have chosen strife over peace;
we want to be right more than we want to be in right relationship.
**Forgive us for the ways we have rebelled against you
and harmed our neighbors in action, thought, or indifference.**

We confess that we have settled for convenient comforts,
for palm-sized imitations of mercy and justice.
**Your mighty hands break the bow and topple the throne,
yet also gather and shelter us like a mother hen.**

We confess that you know what we need and gladly provide it.
Grant us the courage, patience, and trust to receive and share your love. Amen.

Hear this, beloved children of God:
God rejoices when you turn and return.
Search, that you may find.
Find, that you may be found.
Loosen your grip, that you may be more tightly held,
more warmly comforted, and more tenderly nourished.
Your stony heart will soften like the river's frozen mouth.
Your stiff neck will relax as you accept God's love,
allowing you to see more of the world around you.
God forgives your sins and remembers them no more.
In the name of the Creator, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
receive this divine peace. **Amen.**

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, your creativity is apparent in the stark, simple beauty of nature. In a butterfly's life cycle or the changing of seasons, we find stability, order, and intention. In the complex stories of our lives, however, we struggle to find that same clarity. Help us to trust that your goodness is expressed perfectly in the slow unfolding of history. Even when it's hard to recognize, may we search for the saving love of your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Numbers 21:4-9

⁴From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live."

⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSLAM: Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

¹Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.

²**Let 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.

¹⁷**Some 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.

¹⁹**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from ¹ their distress.**

²⁰You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

²¹**Let 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.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 2:1-10

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.

Word of God. Word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

GOSPEL JOHN 3:14-21

The Holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.”

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

CHILDREN'S TIME

“Jesus Loves Me” ELW 595

SERMON

Pastor Liz Cheney

HYMN OF THE DAY

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW 666

APOSTLES CREED

pg. 105

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

There will be three prayer petitions each petition will end with "Jesus, walk with us" and we will respond with Vs 1 of ELW 325 "I Want Jesus To Walk With Me."

*I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.*

SHARING THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Please share a sign of God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

OFFERING 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

pg. 191

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come! All are welcome.

LAMB OF GOD



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

COMMUNION HYMNS

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

ELW 592

TABLE BLESSING

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

BENEDICTION

People of God, May you be disrupted ... altered.... and transformed
As you pursue the Holy Spirit out ahead of you. May the power of the Holy Trinity +
bless you this day and every day. **Amen.**

(Written by: Rev. Tessa Moon Leiseth Bishop, Eastern North Dakota Synod, ELCA)

SENDING SONG

O God of Mercy, God of Light

ELW 714

DISMISSAL

Altered by the Spirit, we go in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

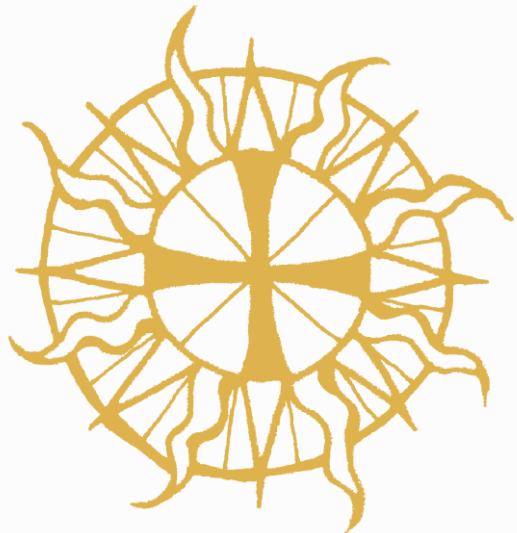
Mark Ongalo

*The pieces of worship that have a * by them are part of a Lent in Box series by Church ANEW and have been written by Andy and Rev. Elise Pokel. This series has been purchased for church use and is being used with permission.*

Join us in the Fellowship Hall for
Intergeneration Be the Light
activities following worship!

Come back at 5 for a pizza party and
join in the Escape Room fun!

All ages welcome!



WE HOLD IN OUR PRAYERS

Please pray for people in need of comfort, hope, healing, or safe transition: Pastor Erika, Phyllis S., Roya, Ave, Archer, Laurie, Amy, Colton, Wally C., Deb L., Bob, Tom, Carol, Steve, Gary, Jeannie, Cliff, Dale, Larry, Mickey, Tom, Mark, Jess, Kate, Joe, Matthew, Russ, Dan, Adeline, Jesse, Tedd, Ed & Karen, Ralph, Diane, Chuck, Sue, Mike, Kate, Matt, Ken, Hermine, Matt, Ross-(needs transplant of kidneys & pancreas) Marlene K. Call Janet Heglund prayer leader for this month, at 218-749-6143, for prayer needs. Please keep the friends & family of Carolyn Blossom and Norma Bodovinac in your prayers at their passing.

If you are in need of any pastoral care or if you or someone you know would like a visit, please call Pastor Liz Cheney at 218-780-8907 or the church office at 218-741-6207.

CONTACT US

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YouTube Page "Our Savior's Lutheran Church, Virginia MN Office"

OFFICE HOURS

Office Admin hours are Tuesday - Friday 9am - 5pm

PASTOR'S OFFICE HOURS

Pastor Liz will be here Mon. - Thurs. & off Fridays.

Call @ 218-780-8907

or email at lizcheney44@gmail.com

STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Liz Cheney

Secretary: Colleen Brown Jacobson

Bookkeeper: Carole Rutka

Custodian: Steve Gagnon

Musicians: Kristen Weikum, Mark Ongalo, and Ginny Ahrlin



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America
God's work. Our hands.