

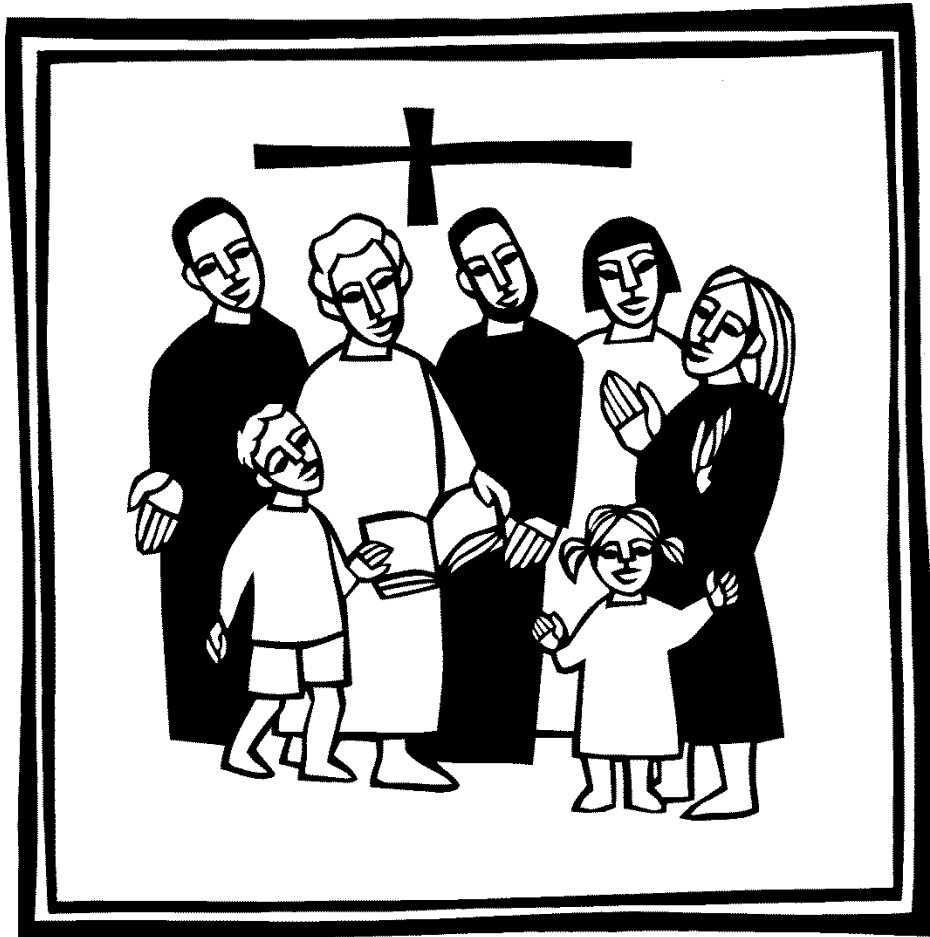


Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

Midweek Lenten Service
February 24, 2021 – 7:00pm

CREATED FOR COMMUNITY



A Midweek Lenten Series

OVERVIEW

The invitation to Lent spoken on Ash Wednesday reminds us that we enter this season together “with the whole church” It goes on to state that “we are created for communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.” Though many common Lenten practices rightly invite us to individual acts of “repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love,” Lent is also a time for deepening of community.

In the early church, the weeks before Easter were a time in which the whole community took responsibility for the training of catechumens. Not only were the catechumens enriched by this formation, but those already within the community were strengthened in their faith along with them.

Using readings from Mark’s gospel, this series invites the assembly to reflect on what it means to be in community with one another, with the world, with creation, and with God.

OPENING PRAYER

Gracious Creator, you fashioned us in your image in the midst of a world beyond our knowledge and understanding. Continue to weave us together in community with all created things, and deepen our awareness of the ways you connect us to the earth. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

WEEK ONE*In community with creation*

The Sunday readings for Lent 1, year B highlight the destructive power of the flood as well as the power of God's promise represented there. In the gospel reading Jesus is with the wild animals in the wilderness. While we often think of community as limited to human beings, our human existence is interdependent with all the created world. This theme is especially apparent in Mark 4:35-41, the account of the fishermen whose lives depend on the sea but who become afraid of its power in the storm.

SCRIPTURE*Jesus calms a storm***Mark 4:35-41**

³⁵On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, "Let us go across to the other side." ³⁶And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. ³⁷A great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. ³⁸But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, "Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?" ³⁹He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace! Be still!" Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. ⁴⁰He said to them, "Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?" ⁴¹And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, "Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?"

We engage the scripture together in a prayerful way, reading the texts three times.

Reading the first time: Listen for a word or short phrase that stands out to you.

Reading the second time: Listen for a way in which God is speaking to you personally.

Reading the third time: Listen for a way in which God is speaking to the community/communities of which you are a part.

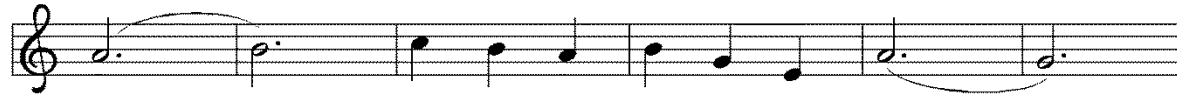
SUNG RESPONSE

God of the Sparrow

ELW #740



1 God of the spar - row God of the whale God of the swirl - ing
 2 God of the earth - quake God of the storm God of the trum - pet
 3 God of the rain - bow God of the cross God of the emp - ty
 4 God of the hun - gry God of the sick God of the prod - i -



stars How does the crea - ture say Awe
 blast How does the crea - ture cry Woe
 grave How does the crea - ture say Grace
 gal How does the crea - ture say Care



How does the crea - ture say Praise
 How does the crea - ture cry Save
 How does the crea - ture say Thanks
 How does the crea - ture say Life

5 God of the neighbor
 God of the foe
 God of the pruning hook
 How does the creature say Love
 How does the creature say Peace

6 God of the ages
 God near at hand
 God of the loving heart
 How do your children say Joy
 How do your children say Home

OFFERING

MUSICAL OFFERING

PRAYERS



Almighty God grant us a qui - et night and peace at the last.



A - men.

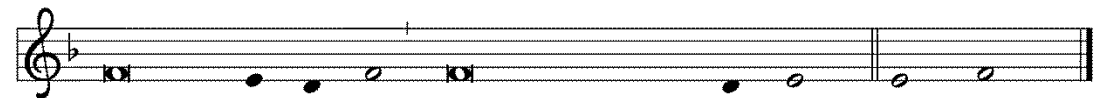
We pray in thanksgiving for God's provision, protection and mercy, and for the needs of our community and our world. Prayers may be spoken or offered in silence. We will conclude this time of silent and spoke prayer with the sung response.



Be present, merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night,



so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of life may



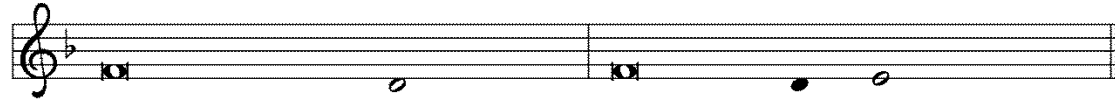
find our rest in you, through Jesus Christ our Lord. A - men.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

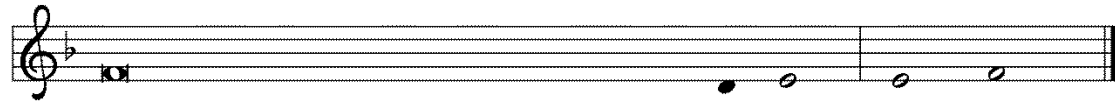
Amen.

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



Almighty and merciful God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit,



bless, preserve, and keep us, this night and forev-er - more. **A - men.**