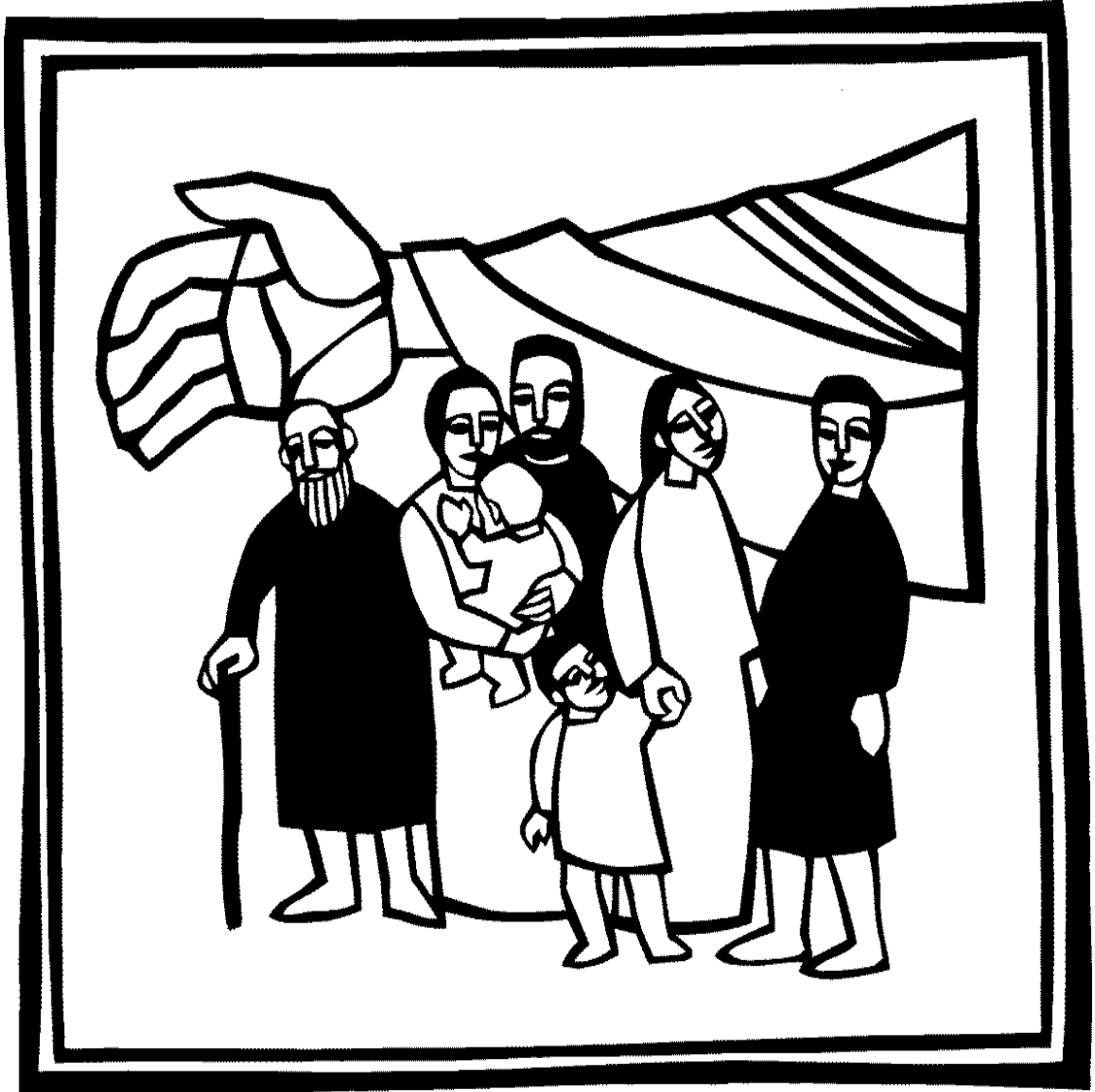




Salem Lutheran Church
401 S. Lake St. Lake Mills IA 50450

Welcome to the House of the Lord

WEEK TWO: MERCY
March 16, 2022 – 7:00pm



TURNING TOWARD GOD’S ABUNDANCE: a lenten service of word and prayer
Lent is a season of repentance, turning to God and asking for God’s goodness to wipe away our sins and show us how to live anew. Lent also turns us toward Easter and the abundant life God will offer through the Three Days. This Lenten midweek service turns us toward God’s abundance by focusing on five divine attributes drawn from the gospel texts for Lent (year C): faithfulness, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and love. Each service is designed for sustained reflection on the gospel in the context of contemplative prayer, readings, silence, and song.

LAMENT OVER JERUSALEM

Greeting

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

Opening Prayer

O God, rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love, you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together with Christ. Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ, through whom we pray.

Amen.

Silence

The beginning and end of our time of silence will be marked by the chiming of a prayer bowl

Opening Song

Kyrie

WOV p.28



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: B Lord, have mer - cy.
 Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: B Christ, have mer - cy.
 Christ, have mer - cy:



♪ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: ♪ Lord, have mer - cy.
 Lord, have mer - cy:

Reading: “To Live in the Mercy of God” by Denise Leverton

To lie back under the tallest
 oldest trees. How far the stems
 rise, rise
 before ribs of shelter
 open!

To live in the mercy of God. The complete
 sentence too adequate, has no give.
 Awe, not comfort. Stone, elbows of
 stony wood beneath lenient
 moss bed.

And awe suddenly
 passing beyond itself. Becomes
 a form of comfort.
 Becomes the steady
 air you glide on, arms
 stretched like the wings of flying foxes.
 To hear the multiple silence
 of trees, the rainy
 forest depths of their listening.
 To float, upheld,
 as salt water
 would hold you,
 once you dared.
 To live in the mercy of God.

To feel vibrate the enraptured
 waterfall flinging itself
 unabating down and down
 to clenched fists of rock.

Swiftness of plunge,
 hour after year after century,

O or Ah

uninterrupted, voice
 many-stranded.

 To breathe
 spray. The smoke of it.

Arcs

of steelwhite foam, glissades
 of fugitive jade barely perceptible. Such passion—
 rage or joy?

 Thus, not mild, not temperate,
 God's love for the world. Vast
 flood of mercy
 flung on resistance.

Denise Levertov, "To Live in the Mercy of God" from *Sands from the Well*. Copyright © 1996 by Denise Levertov. Reprinted with the permission of New Directions Publishing Corporation.

Silence

The beginning and end of our time of silence will be marked by the chiming of a prayer bowl

Sung response

There's a Wideness in God's Mercy

ELW #588



- 1 There's a wide-ness in God's mer - cy, like the wide-ness of the sea;
- 2 There is wel - come for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
- 3 For the love of God is broad-er than the mea - sures of our mind;
- 4 'Tis not all we owe to Je - sus; it is some-thing more than all:



there's a kind-ness in God's jus-tice which is more than lib-er-ty.
 there is mer-cy with the Sav-ior; there is heal-ing in his blood.
 and the heart of the E-ter-nal is most won-der-ful-ly kind.
 great-er good be-cause of e-vil, larg-er mer-cy through the fall.



There is no place where earth's sor-rows are more felt than up in heav'n.
 There is grace e-nough for thou-sands of new worlds as great as this;
 But we make this love too nar-row by false lim-its of our own;
 Make our love, O God, more faith-ful; let us take you at your word,



There is no place where earth's fail-ings have such kind-ly judg-ment giv'n.
 there is room for fresh cre-a-tions in that up-per home of bliss.
 and we mag-ni-fy its strict-ness with a zeal God will not own.
 and our lives will be thanks-giv-ing for the good-ness of the Lord.

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

Jesus' Lament over Jerusalem

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to him, "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²He 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. ³³Yet 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.' ³⁴Jerusalem, 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! ³⁵See, 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.'"

Time of prayer and reflection:

The leader invites the community into prayer.

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world. Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

You may wish to close your eyes and ask God to guide your sight and reflection. You are invited to light additional candles as you meditate and pray for guidance, for those who have gathered, for others who are unable to be with us, for healing, inspiration, for the needs of the community, our nation, the world.

Time of conversation: *Religious leaders who challenge and undermine his authority, governmental leaders who are wanting to kill him, people who come to have their needs met but are unwilling to follow, what was Jesus lamenting most? In Jesus' lament over Jerusalem where do you see and experience God's abundance?*

Concluding prayer:

God of all compassion, gather our prayers in your mercy and grant to us what you know we need, that we may walk in the life and the peace of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our hope and our salvation.

Amen.

Lord's prayer

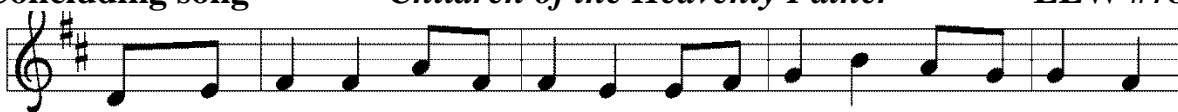
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.

Amen.

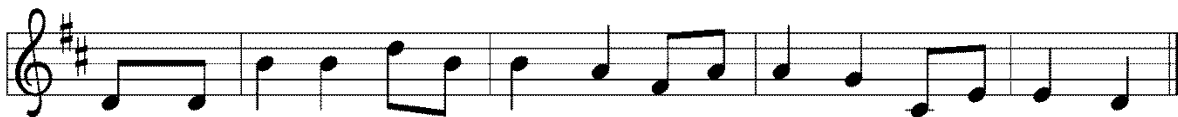
Concluding song

Children of the Heavenly Father

ELW #781



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Blessing

Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith,
 as we are being rooted and grounded in love,
 strengthened by the Spirit,
 and filled with all the fullness of God.

Amen.

A greeting of peace may be shared by all.

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Mid-Week
Lenten
Worship

