



# CHURCH ON THE AVENUE

St. Luke's, Hampden

**First Sunday of Lent**

**February 18, 2024**

## **WELCOME & INSTRUCTION**

*Participants are invited to respond with the text in bold type.*

In the Name of the Father, and of the +Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

## **RITE OF CONFESSION**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Loving God, **we have turned against you.**

**By our thoughts, words, and deeds, we have broken our relationship with you and with each other.** *Breathe*

Gracious God, **when you showed us love, we have thought and spoken poorly of our neighbors.** *Breathe*

God of Abundance, **when you provided for our needs, we ignored the needs of others and often justified our wants.** *Breathe*

Consoling God, **when you said "do not be afraid," we allowed fear to fester, giving birth to anger and hatred of the other.** *Breathe*

Empowering God, **when you made us caretakers of the earth, we hurt your creation with our greed and selfishness.** *Breathe*

Merciful God, **often we do not recognize our own sinfulness though we are quick to point out the sinfulness of others;** *Breathe*

God of Compassion, **at times, we believe we are unforgiveable and we do not trust in the capacity of your Spirit.** *Breathe*

Redeeming God, **Forgive us, transform us, empower us by your grace. Amen.**

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.

Your sin is forgiven, in the name of the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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## 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.**

## PRAYER

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.**

**FIRST READING | 1 Peter 3:18-22**

*As God acted through Christ's suffering and death to bring us to God, so God acts through baptism to save us from a sinful existence. This spiritual cleansing marks our new life in Christ.*

<sup>18</sup>Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, <sup>19</sup>in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, <sup>20</sup>who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. <sup>21</sup>And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you—not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup>who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word. **Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 25:1-10**

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

<sup>2</sup>**My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be <sup>1</sup> put to shame,  
nor let my enemies triumph <sup>1</sup> over me.**

<sup>3</sup>Let none who look to you be <sup>1</sup> put to shame;  
rather let those be put to shame <sup>1</sup> who are treacherous.

<sup>4</sup>**Show me your <sup>1</sup> ways, O LORD,  
and teach <sup>1</sup> me your paths. R**

<sup>5</sup>Lead me in your <sup>1</sup> truth and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all <sup>1</sup> the day long.

<sup>6</sup>**Remember, O LORD, your compas- <sup>1</sup> sion and love,  
for they are from <sup>1</sup> everlasting.**

<sup>7</sup>Remember not the sins of my youth and <sup>1</sup> my transgressions;  
remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your good- <sup>1</sup> ness, O LORD.

<sup>8</sup>**You are gracious and up- <sup>1</sup> right, O LORD;  
therefore you teach sinners <sup>1</sup> in your way. R**

<sup>9</sup>You lead the low- <sup>1</sup> ly in justice  
and teach the low- <sup>1</sup> ly your way.

<sup>10</sup>**All your paths, O LORD, are steadfast <sup>1</sup> love and faithfulness  
to those who keep your covenant and your <sup>1</sup> testimonies. R**

**GOSPEL READING | Mark 1:9-15**

*The Spirit that comes upon Jesus at his baptism sustains him when he is tested by Satan so that he might proclaim the good news of God's reign.*

God is with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>9</sup>In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup>And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup>And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”

<sup>12</sup>And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup>He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup>Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, <sup>15</sup>and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

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

**MESSAGE |**

*Rev. Jim Muratore*

### **BREAKOUT QUESTION**

- On what matters in your life do you place greatest urgency?
- How might the kingdom of God breaking into your life and experience?

### **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. We pray for our bishops, Elizabeth and Bill, for the Eastern patriarchs, Pope Francis, and all who lead your Church throughout the world. May your Spirit move us to unity in you. 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. Bring an end to the senseless violence and destruction in Ukraine and Palestine. 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. Free this nation from terror of gun violence and our obsession with firearms. Heal the victims of the mass shooting in Missouri, and awaken legislators to common sense gun laws. 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. For Bob and Jeanette, Rob and Scott, Sharon and Erick, Ron and Beryl, Amanda, Rosha and Ron, Buddy, Luke and Melissa, Jack, Amelia, Matt and Kelly, Zach and Rae, Noah, Landis, Lauren Trish, Roman, Pam, Jim, Charles, Joe, Marie, Katie and for all whom we name now.... Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. 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.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **OFFERING**

*Offering may be made electronically on the church's website at [www.churchontheavenuehampden.org](http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org). You can also sign up for automated giving.*

## **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.**

## **COMMUNION**

*The assembly is invited to stand in body or spirit.*

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**



[P] The Lord is here

[A] God's Spir - it is with us

[P] Let us lift up our hearts

[A] We lift them to our God

[P] Let us give thanks to the Lord our God

[A] It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, O God, our Father and Mother  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.  
You call your people to cleanse their hearts  
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,  
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,  
we may come to the fullness of your grace.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord  
God of power and might,  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory  
Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord  
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.  
You are most holy,  
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish  
but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world  
to fulfill for us your holy will  
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

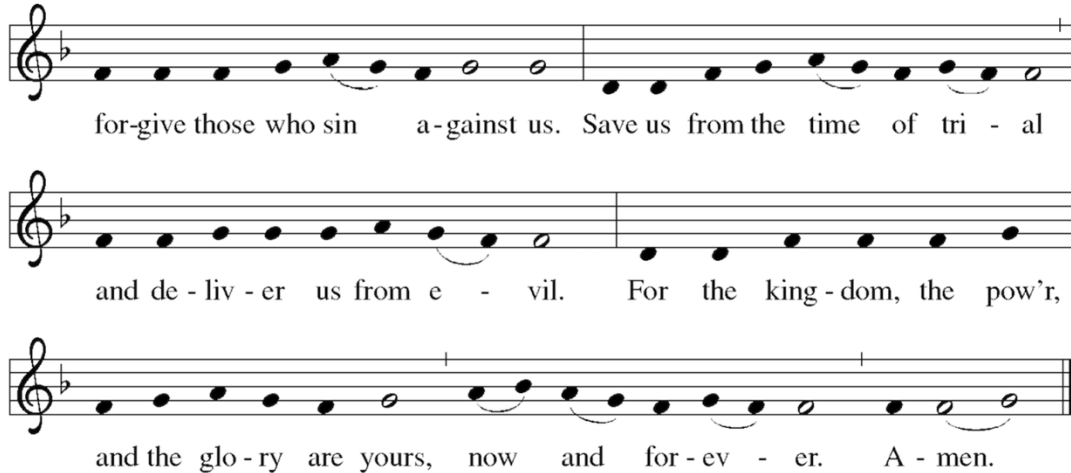
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Breathe your Holy Spirit on us, O God, and saturate these gifts of bread and wine in the presence of Christ, that as we await his return we may grow to love one another. Let us be nourished by this sacrament, this visible sign of your invisible grace, to live in your abundance.

Through Christ, with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours Almighty God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,  
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.  
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we



## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **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.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **THRIFT SHOP VOLUNTEERS NEEDED | Saturdays 11am-4pm**

Contact Cheryl Conrad if you would be interested in helping run the thrift shop!

### **PEERS AS PILLARS | Sundays, 5pm**

Peers as pillars is a new support group hosted by St. Luke's for those who lost loved ones to drugs and alcohol.

### **LENTEN EVENING PRAYER | Thursdays, February 15<sup>th</sup>- March 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:30 pm**

The practice of evening prayer returns during the season of Lent. The 30-minute service of prayer and reflection is an additional opportunity to pause for sustenance during the Lenten Fast.

### **LENTEN CATECHUMENATE | Thursdays, February 15<sup>th</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup>, 6 pm**

The catechumenate is an ancient tradition of preparation for the Sacraments. During this season, we will use the practice of Lectio Divina to guide discernment for individuals seeking to be baptized or affirming their baptism.

### **BALTIMORE FREE FARM SEED SWAP | Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm**

Begin preparations for your summer garden and bring your seeds to share! The event takes place in the church hall, use the side entrance on Chestnut Avenue.

### **HARMONY WORKS 2<sup>nd</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION | March 23<sup>rd</sup>, more info TBA**



## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE**

Maundy Thursday | March 28<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm

Good Friday | March 29<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm

Easter Vigil | March 30<sup>th</sup> 7:30 pm

Easter Sunday | March 31<sup>st</sup> 10:00 am

**THANK YOU** for your continued generosity and for sustaining our ministry together. You can provide offering or make a special gift at anytime through the church's giving portal. Links can be found in the e-newsletter and on the church website at

<http://www.churchontheavenuehampden.org>.

## **BENEDICTION**

God is with you! **And also with you!**

God, who gives life to all things  
and frees us from despair,  
bless you with truth and peace.

And may the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
guide you always in faith, hope, and love.

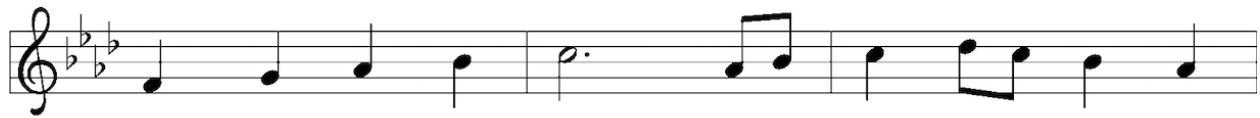
**Amen.**

**SENDING SONG** | O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

ELW 319



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930  
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816  
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## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

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