

# AND WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?

Talking about race and racial equity



Peace Lutheran Church of Plymouth

March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday in Lent

“How Do We Listen?”

## Welcome to Worship

*This symbol + indicates for the congregation to stand as able.*

### GATHERING

PRELUDE

*Ah, Holy Jesus, Bless Us Here Today*

arr. David N. Johnson

PRELUDE HYMN

*O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

ELW 632

1 O God, our help in a - ges past, our hope for years to come,  
2 Un - der the shad - ow of your throne your saints have dwelt se - cure;  
3 Be - fore the hills in or - der stood or earth re - ceived its frame,  
4 A thou - sand a - ges in your sight are like an eve - ning gone,

our shel - ter from the storm - y blast, and our e - ter - nal home:  
suf - fi - cient is your arm a - lone, and our de - fense is sure.  
from ev - er - last - ing you are God, to end - less years the same.  
short as the watch that ends the night be - fore the ris - ing sun.

### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

ONE: O God our Healer, show your compassion for the whole human family that is in turmoil and burdened with illness and with fear. Lord, in your mercy,

**MANY: hear our prayer.**

ONE: Come to our aid as the coronavirus spreads globally, heal those who are sick, support and protect their families and friends from being infected. Lord, in your mercy,  
**MANY: hear our prayer.**

ONE: Grant us your spirit of love and self-discipline so that we may come together in spirit, working to control the coronavirus. Lord, in your mercy,  
**MANY: hear our prayer.**

ONE: Make us vigilant, attentive, and proactive in the eradication of all diseases that create suffering for your people. Lord, in your mercy,  
**MANY: hear our prayer.**

ONE: Heal our self-centeredness that makes us worry only when the virus threatens us. Free us from the fear that causes us to ignore our neighbor. Lord, in your mercy,  
**MANY: hear our prayer.**

ONE: Strengthen and encourage those in public health services and in the medical profession: care-givers, nurses, attendants, doctors, and all who commit themselves to caring for the sick and their families. Lord in your mercy,  
**MANY: hear our prayer.**

ONE: Inspire, give insight and hope to all researchers focused on developing a vaccine. Lord in your mercy,  
**MANY: hear our prayer.**

ONE: Sustain all workers and business owners who suffer loss of livelihood due to shut-downs, quarantines, closed borders, and other restrictions and protect all those who must travel. Lord, in your mercy,  
**MANY: hear our prayer.**

ONE: Guide the leaders of the nations that they speak the truth, halt the spread of misinformation, and act with justice so that all your family may know healing. Lord, in your mercy,  
**MANY: hear our prayer.**

ONE: Heal our world, heal our bodies, strengthen our hearts and our minds, and in the midst of turmoil, give us hope and peace. Lord, in your mercy,  
**MANY: hear our prayer.**

ONE: Hold in your gentle embrace all who have died, and all who will die this day. Comfort their loved ones in their despair. Lord, in your mercy,  
**MANY: hear our prayer.**

ONE: Remember all your family, the entire human race, and all your creation, in your love.  
**MANY: AMEN**

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 throng to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

## +PRAYER OF THE DAY

ONE: Son of Man, you encouraged your followers to obey only your voice, and promised that they would see your glorious presence.

MANY: Show us your glory and teach us to obey. AMEN

# +CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*We sing verse 1 together.*

1 O God of ev - 'ry na - tion, of ev - 'ry race and land,  
2 From search for wealth and pow - er and scorn of truth and right,

re - deem your whole cre - a - tion with your al - might - y hand;  
from trust in bombs that show - er de - struc-tion through the night,

where hate and fear di - vide us and bit - ter threats are hurled,  
from pride of race and sta - tion and blind-ness to your way,

in love and mer - cy guide us and heal our strife - torn world.  
de - liv - er ev - 'ry na - tion, e - ter - nal God, we pray.

ONE: Gracious and loving God, In the beginning, you created humanity and declared creation very good. Humans began in Africa. All of our beginnings are rooted there.

**MANY: We are all related. We are all your children.**

ONE: Through the prophets you showed us how to love you: to loosen the bonds of injustice and to free the oppressed. Yet white people in the United States created religious, economic and judicial systems that continue to exploit people of color.

**MANY: Guide us toward actions of justice that create freedom for all people.**

ONE: In great love you sent Jesus, who was born with brown skin and in poverty. Jesus welcomed those who were different and marginalized—the foreigners, the sick, and the poor.

**MANY: You teach us that in Christ, “There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female.” In Christ, all are loved.**

ONE: We are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.

**MANY: We are all captive to the sin of white privilege. In a nation built on the genocide of indigenous people and the slavery of Africans we confess our part in the continued racism and injustice.**

ONE: The Church exists to proclaim Jesus Christ, whose life, death, and resurrection means freedom for the world. As the church, we fall short of God’s dream. In the midst of our sin and inaction we seek to repent.

**MANY: We will pursue justice by building a society where diversity is truly valued;**

ONE: we will pursue justice by addressing how race influences political decisions on immigration, crime, and environmental pollution;

**MANY: and we will pursue justice so that economic forces work for people of color in housing, medical care, education and employment.**

ONE: Our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We ask for the strength to live into our repentance. We trust in God’s compassion and rely on God’s mercy.

**MANY: We pray this, as your children. AMEN**

*We sing verse 2 together.*

## WORD

### SCRIPTURE

Mark 12:26-37

Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. 27 Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.


“From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

“But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. 35 Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, 36 or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

ONE: Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

**MANY: Thanks be to God.**

## LENTEN ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer-ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a-bound - ing in stead-fast love.

## SERMON

Sarah Ruble, Ph. D  
Associate Professor of Religion,  
Gustavus Adolphus College

## +HYMN OF THE DAY

### *We Are Called*

ELW 720



1 Come! Live in the light! Shine with the joy and the love of the  
2 Come! O - pen your heart! Show your . . mer - cy to all those in  
3 Sing! Sing a new song! Sing of that great day when all will be

Lord! We are called to be light for the king - dom, to  
fear! We are called to be hope for the hope - less so  
one! God will reign, and we'll walk with each oth - er as

live in the free - dom of the cit - y of God.  
ha - tred and blind-ness . . . will be . . . no more.  
sis - ters and broth - ers . . . u - nit-ed in love.

*Refrain*  
We are called to act with jus - tice, we are called to  
love ten - der - ly; we are called to serve one an -  
oth - er, to walk hum - bly with God.

+APOSTLES' CREED

ONE: With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the Triune God.

**MANY: 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 Christ rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and 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

ONE: Our gracious and loving God invites us into a time of prayer. Since COVID-19 began affecting communities across the world, we have seen how interconnected and interdependent we are as humans. Everyday practices, like handwashing and covering our sneezes, have become the most basic duty we owe to our friends and strangers alike. We're finding thoughtful ways to care for one another amidst the tumult. May our prayers renew us in faith and embolden our actions, creating transformation in the world.

*Silence*

Let us pray. God of the Journey, you give your son for the healing of the world. We pray for all who are suffering from COVID-19 near and far. May there be comfort for sick and their loved ones. Empower all who work in the field of health care; keep them healthy, protect their families, and give them energy and creativity as they live out their vocations. Comfort individuals and families as we shelter in place. It is our nature to seek out people, so give us wisdom to connect where we are able.

**MANY: Help us to see how we are all in this together and that we are surrounded by God's love.**

ONE: God of all creation, you know our weaknesses and frailties, and how easily we succumb to the desires of comfort and privilege. Let the healing power of nature move in us.

**MANY: Strengthen our resolve to commune with your beautiful creation, that we along with deserts and wetlands, mountains and valleys, might know renewal and restoration.**

ONE: Jesus, you walked with the most vulnerable in your time on earth. Grant your church the courage to walk in your footsteps seeking out those in need and solving the problems of our time.

**MANY: Empower us with your Spirit to embrace your call for the sake of the thriving of our neighbor and the world you love. Help us to bring your new life, justice, and peace to our cities, nation and world.**

ONE: Holy Spirit, you work among us in ways we do not understand. Bind us together as people of faith, centered in the gospel and generous with our time, thoughts, and treasures. We name before you, aloud and in our hearts, those we know who are in need of your healing comfort ...

ONE: Into your hands, O God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**MANY: AMEN**

+SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

ONE: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**MANY: And also with you.**

ONE: Let us share a sign of God's peace with one another.

OFFERING

*Interlude No. 5*

Paul A. Tate

+OFFERTORY PRAYER

ONE: Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions.

**MANY: Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN**

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

ONE: The Lord be with you.

**MANY: And also with you.**

ONE: Lift up your hearts.

**MANY: We lift them to the Lord.**

ONE: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**MANY: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

+PRAYER JESUS TAUGHT US

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

**MANY: 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.**

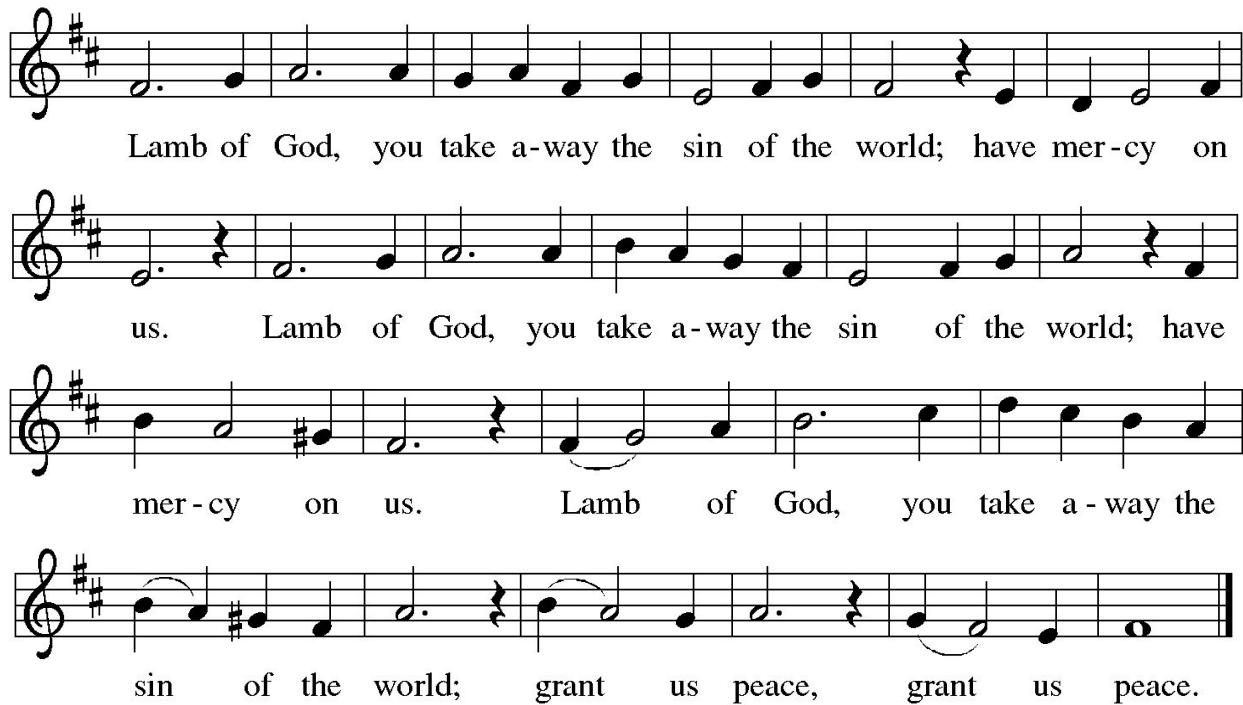
**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. AMEN**

WELCOME TO THE TABLE



## LAMB OF GOD

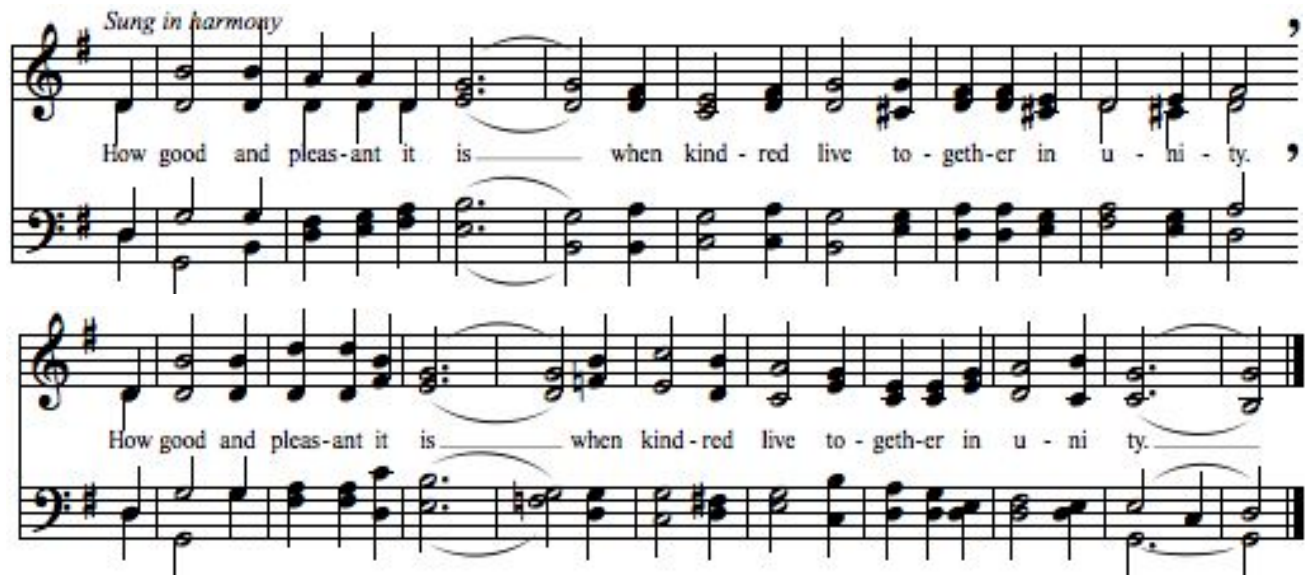


Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## HOLY COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

*How Good and Pleasant it Is*

David Cherwien



*Sung in harmony*

How good and pleas-ant it is when kind - red live to - geth-er in u - ni - ty.

## COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER

### SENDING

+BENEDICTION

ONE: Let us pray together the Prayer of Good Courage.

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown.

**MANY: Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**AMEN**

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,  
 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;  
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.  
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.  
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,  
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;  
 but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.  
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.  
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

+DISMISSAL

ONE: Go in Peace, serve the Lord.

**MANY: Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

*Agincourt Hymn*

John Dunstable

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*Return to the Lord Your God* (music, ELW Setting 4, Ronald A. Nelson)  
*Lamb of God* (music, ELW Setting 4, Ronald A. Nelson)  
ELW 326 *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* (music)

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ELW 720 *We Are Called* (music & text)  
ELW 689 *Praise and Thanksgiving* (text)  
ELW 326 *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* (text)

Serving today:

<i>Presider</i>	Rev. Kjell M. Ferris
<i>Preacher</i>	Sarah Ruble, Ph. D
<i>Accompanist</i>	Anne Phillips
<i>Vocalists</i>	David Kleppe, Stefanie Fiser Kleven, Matt Peterson, Videll Pfeifer
<i>Lector</i>	Deb Weir
<i>Prayer</i>	Avy Weinhandl
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