



Temptations | Hannah Garrity | Sanctified Art

First Weekend of Lent – *Tree of Life*  
*Sanctified Art - Full to the Brim*  
*Even in the Desert* – March 8/9, 2025

+ Indicates please stand as you are able

The congregation is invited to **speak text appearing in bold**  
Please sign the red attendance folder and pass down your row

### GATHERING

#### PRELUDE

#### WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

##### +CALL TO WORSHIP

L) Jesus went to the mountaintop to pray.

**C) Jesus went into the city to heal.**

Jesus walked to Samaria to extend love.

**Jesus went to the water's edge to teach.**

Jesus went to places of peace and connection,  
**but Jesus also went to the wilderness.**

There is nowhere we can go that God does not walk with us.

**We are in God's house. Let us worship Holy God.**

##### +CALL TO CONFESSION

P) Friends, we worship a God who doesn't keep score and doesn't hold grudges. We worship a God who invites us into a richer faith, a deeper love, a more compassionate existence with a million chances to try again. So let us speak truth into our lives, asking for God's help where we need it. Let us pray the prayer of confession together.

##### +PRAYER OF CONFESSION

P) Holy God, when we think that expansive life is about power—

**C) Teach us a new way.**

Gracious Creator, when we think that expansive life is about material wealth—

**Teach us a new way.**

Gracious Author, when we think that expansive life is about control—

**Teach us a new way.**

Teach us to live as you live.

**Teach us to love as you love.**

Forgive us when we don't.

**Gratefully we pray, amen.**



First Fruits | Lauren Wright Pittman

##### +WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

P) Siblings in Christ, no matter how many times we mess up, no matter how far we wander, no matter how lost we feel, God's grace is full to the brim. It overflows in desert places. It finds us where we are and it covers us in mercy. Hear and believe this good news—

**C) God's love is overflowing. We are drenched in mercy. Thanks be to God, amen.**

##### +GATHERING SONG

*Beneath the Tree of Life (vs 1-3)*

###### Refrain

Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of life.

Come and gath-er be - neath the tree of

life— root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of

heal - ing and re - lease. Come and

gath - er be - neath the tree of life.

###### Verses

1. Here we raise the sav - ing cross of  
 2. Flow - ing from this tree of grace and  
 3. Come and drink the wa - ters of sal -  
 4. Here be - neath the branch - es of your  
 5. Root - ed in the rich earth of your

Je - sus, sing - ing praise to him who  
 pas - sion, Oh how sweet the taste, how  
 va - tion, come and die to sin, rise  
 mer - cy, we in - voke your name, re -  
 Gos - pel, may we bear the fruits your

*To Refrain*

leads us on from death in - to new life.  
 deep and rich the well - spring of your love.  
 up to life with - in the reign of God.  
 mem - ber how your love has set us free.  
 Word has plant - ed deep with - in our hearts.

**+GREETING**

P) 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.**

**+KYRIE - Tree of Life**

**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

**C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all. **A** 1. For the  
**A** 2. For your

reign of God, and for peace through-out the  
 peo - ple here who have come to give you

world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the  
 praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the

Lord:  
 Lord: **C** Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

**A** Help, save, and de -  
 Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all.

fend us, O God: **C** A - men.

**WORD**

**+PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

L) God of the wilderness places in our lives, it can be hard to hear you in the desert. It can be hard to hear you in the city, in the midst of our calendar reminders, rush-hour traffic, and notification alerts. It can be hard to hear you, so we ask: make everything quiet. Pause the chaos. Still the rushing. Ease our racing thoughts. Give us ears to hear your Word for us today which promises that even in the desert you are full to the brim. We are listening. We ache for your good news. Gratefully we pray, **Amen.**

**CHILDREN'S SERMON**

**FIRST READING: Romans 10:8b-13**

*Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.*

L) <sup>8b</sup> "The word is near you,  
 on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); <sup>9</sup> because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

L) The word of the Lord.

**C) Thanks be to God.**

**+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Tree of Life**

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

**+GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13**

P) The holy gospel according to Luke, the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**C) Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."*

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.'

<sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'

<sup>11</sup> and 'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'

<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P) The Gospel of the Lord.

**C) Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Pastor Ruth Ann

**+HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Restore in Us, O God*

**ELW 328**

1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -  
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from  
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -  
 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that  
 new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.  
 fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.  
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.  
 we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

**+AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

We believe God is love.

**We believe God's love is overflowing.**

We believe Jesus is a river.

**We believe that river is running toward us.**

We believe the Holy Spirit is a vessel.

**We believe that vessel holds mercy for you and for me.**

We believe the wilderness is real.

**We believe the desert is lonely.**

We believe that Jesus has been there.

**We know that we do not walk alone.**

Even in the desert, **we are loved.**

Even in the desert, **God is with us.**

Even in the desert, **this love overflows.**

Thanks be to God, **amen.**

**+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

L) Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

(God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**)

L) Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

**+PEACE**

P) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C) And also with you.**

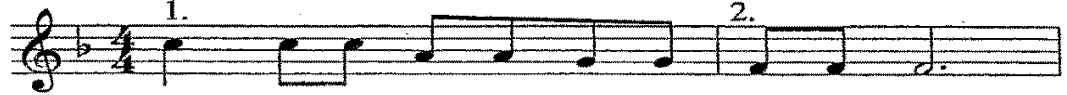
**MEAL**

**OFFERING** Please take this opportunity to sign and date the red friendship pad and greet the people in your row.

**OFFERING MUSIC**

*Come, Let Us Bring*

*Tree of Life*



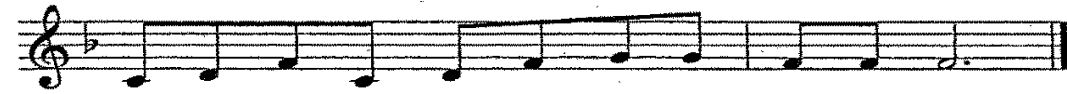
1. Come, let us bring the warm and fra-grant bread.  
2. Come, let us bring the sweet a - bun-dant wine.  
3. Praise be to you who set all peo - ple free.



Come, let us bring the warm and fra-grant bread.  
Come, let us bring the sweet a - bun-dant wine.  
Praise be to you who set all peo - ple free.



Bro-ken here so all God's peo - ple might be fed.  
In this cup we taste the joy of grace di - vine.  
Blest are they who share the feast of ju - bi - lee.



Bro-ken here so all God's peo - ple might be fed.  
In this cup we taste the joy of grace di - vine.  
Blest are they who share the feast of ju - bi - lee.

**+OFFERING PRAYER**

C) Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

**+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – *Tree of Life***

(P) The Lord be with you.

(C) And also with you.

(P) Lift up your hearts.

(C) We lift them to the Lord.

(P) Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

(C) It is right to give our thanks and praise.

(P) It is indeed right and good that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you.  
Holy God, mighty and immortal through Christ our Lord. →

(C) You bid us return to you and be renewed, that your justice may shine like the sun and the poor of the earth lifted up. And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

**+HOLY, HOLY – *Tree of Life***



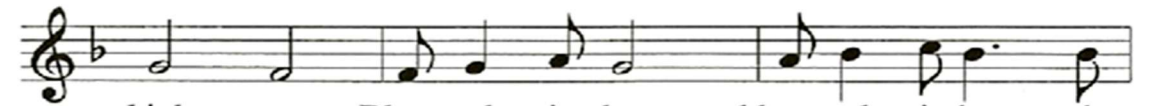
Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord,



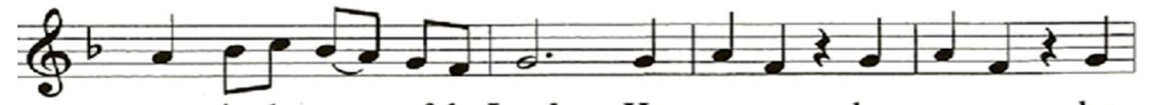
God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your



glo-ry. Ho - san-na, ho - san-na, ho - san - na in the



high - est. Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na, ho - san-na, ho -



san-na in the high - est, ho - san-na in the high - est.

**+WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**+LORD'S PRAYER**

C) 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.

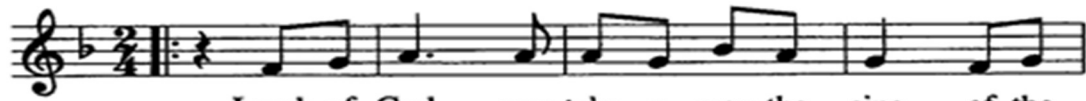
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.

**+INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

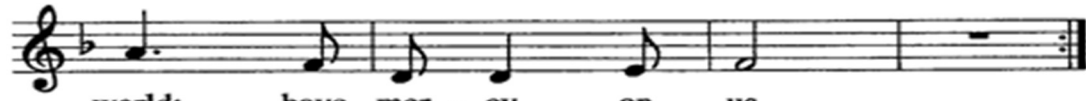
P) All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread. Amen.

**COMMUNION**

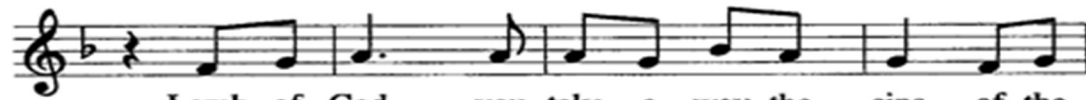
*Lamb of God*



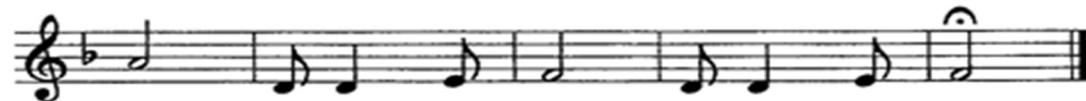
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the



world: have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the



world: grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

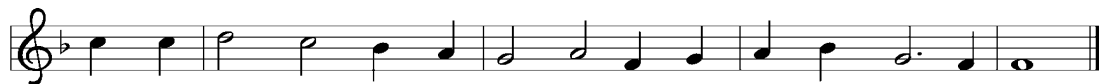
**COMMUNION HYMN**

*For the Bread Which You Have Broken*

ELW 494



- 1 For the bread which you have bro-ken, for the wine which you have poured,
- 2 By this prom-ise that you love us, by your gift of peace re-stored,
- 3 With the saints who now a-dore you, seat-ed at the heav'n-ly board,
- 4 In your ser-vice, Lord, de-fend us; in our hearts keep watch and ward;



for the words which you have spo-ken, now we give you thanks, O Lord.  
by your call to heav'n a-bove us, hal-low all our lives, O Lord.  
may the church still wait-ing for you keep love's tie un-bro-ken, Lord.  
in the world to which you send us let your king-dom come, O Lord.

**+POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P) May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C) Amen.

**+PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

C) Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**SENDING**

**+BLESSING**

P) God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever. Amen.

**+SENDING SONG**

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

ELW 611



- 1 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Come un-to me and rest;
- 2 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "Be-hold, I free-ly give
- 3 I heard the voice of Je-sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea-ry one, lay down your head up-on my breast."  
the liv-ing wa-ter, thirst-y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un-to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je-sus as I was, so wea-ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je-sus, and I drank of that life-giv-ing stream;  
I looked to Je-sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re-vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

**+DISMISSAL**

L) Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C) Thanks be to God!

**Worship Leaders**

- Pastors Ruth Ann Loughry and Carlos Schneider Music Director: Gavin Allen-Dunn
- Worship Accompanists – (Sat.) Michael Millan; (Sun.) Gavin Allen-Dunn
- Sound – Eric Backsen Lectors – (Sat.) Bob Prael; (Sun.) Nancy Judson
- Ushers – Randy & Shelley Johnson, Greg Warfield
- Altar Guild/Communion – Judy Richardson, Pam Maddox
- Bread Baker – Carolyn Greeb; Coffee cups – Nancy French
- Nursery Attendant – Meredith Grandia
- Altar Flower Sponsor – Bob & Sarajane Grandia, for Lesley's birthday
- Fellowship/Donut Sponsor – Judy Richardson

## WORSHIP

- ❖ **Pastors Ruth Ann and Carlos** will be co-leading our worship services in the next few weeks.

## GROW

- ❖ **Sunday Adult Ed - L. I. F. E.** Living In Faith Everyday. - Casual and interactive, come join the class in the fellowship room at 10:45 AM.
- ❖ **We are using Sanctified Art: "Full to the Brim"** for Lent this year. You might remember the "seeking" theme we had two years ago during Lent. There is a guiding question for each weekend. On the information table, you will find a Wellness Meditation wheel. The reflection questions are yours to fill out as you begin this Lenten journey. It will help you visually see where you are now and where you would like to end up by Easter. Please pick one up or print off the link that is in the Friday email. Also, Kathy is putting a link in the Friday emails for the devotional booklet.
- ❖ **KOG Quilters** – Meeting on **Monday, March 10 at 10:00am**. If you are interested, please come! All quilting levels are welcome – beginners through expert. For more information, please contact Arlene Yauk.

## Reading & Discussion - any interested member of the congregation is welcome to join!

- ❖ **The Sonrisers** - This reading group is for men who like to read Christian/spiritual books, meet on a weekly basis, and engage in discussion about the reading and their experiences. We meet at Perkins Restaurant every **Friday at 8:00am**. Contact Nick Balogh [baloghn@comcast.net](mailto:baloghn@comcast.net) for more information. 
- ❖ **Coffee & Conversation -Saturday, March 22 from 9:00 to 10:30am.**  
**Title: "Maslow Meets Meditation"** We'll discuss Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, which most people are already familiar with, and look at each rung of ladder as it pertains to our present circumstances in the United States and other parts of the world. I'll briefly introduce Tibetan Buddhist Tonglen Meditation and apply it to the world's need for compassion. Contact Jeanne Berryman for more information.
- ❖ **2<sup>nd</sup> Wind (Retirees)** Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Wind group of retirees welcomes any interested member of the congregation to join us. We regularly meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month (**March 12 & 26**) at 9:30am in the church library for discussion and coffee. Contact Jerome Beckmann for more information. 

## SERVE

- ❖ If you are willing to share with Pastor the name and phone number of an adult child, in case of emergency (your emergency contact), please send an email to the office ([office@aplace2grow.org](mailto:office@aplace2grow.org)) or give us a call (970) 669-5983. Thank you.

## Updated Prayer Concerns

- \* **Cyndie**, sister-in-law of Nadine Trimble, recovering from reverse shoulder replacement surgery on Wednesday, March 5. Recovery is up to a year.
- \* **Thanksgiving** for the birth of baby grandnephew to Ruth Ann. Theodore (Theo) was born March 2 to Pastor's nephew Peter and wife Kimmy Kline
- \* **Carol McDivitt**, life transition and healing (2/27)
- \* **Denise Lauerman**, recovering from hip surgery (2/26)
- \* **Steve**, best friend of Steve Lauerman, recovering from heart transplant surgery (3/5)
- \* **Kathe Solomonson**, recovering at home with a head injury
- \* **Earle Solomonson**, recovering from surgery, ongoing prayers needed (2/21)

- \* **Pr Ruth Ann**, herniated disc pain, thankful for injection (3/5)
- \* **Dennis Schlenker**, doing physical therapy (2/15)
- \* **Danielle**, daughter of Joe & Pam, with chronic pulmonary disease, continued prayers for ongoing treatment (2/13)
- \* **Rachel**, niece of Rindy Dahlin, new diagnosis of a rare liver disease (1/24)
- \* **Ardene Hartshorn**, prayers for healing of body, spirit and mind
- \* **Elizabeth**, daughter of Janna Cannady, Prayers for long-term healing and regaining abilities. (1/9)
- \* **Gregg**, friend of Dan Hoaglund, stage four chronic kidney disease (1/9)
- \* **Jeff Grandia**, Bob & Sarajane's nephew, struggling with cancer treatments (11/25)
- \* **Lou Schlauder**, Brandon's dad, not doing well with cancer. (11/19)
- \* **Pam Breitbarth**, patience in healing process (9/15)



## ELCA WORLD HUNGER'S 40 DAYS OF GIVING

*Psalm 32 for this week draws us into the emotional and spiritual experience of repentance and forgiveness. "Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven," the psalmist writes, "whose sin is covered" (verse 1). The verses describe the internal turmoil with vivid and visceral language, such as "groaning" (verse 3). The "heavy" hand of God bears down on the psalmist, sapping their strength to keep going (verse 4). When they experience forgiveness, it is like being "surround[ed]" by gladness and finding a comforting, secure "hiding place" (verse 7).*

What the psalmist describes is the experience of stigma. The word comes from a Greek term meaning "mark" or "puncture," which seems apt when one considers how deeply being stigmatized can cut. To be stigmatized is to be made to feel ashamed or broken because of something we have done or, more often, for who we are. This is one reason why food pantries and other hunger ministries are often underutilized by the people who need them. To be hungry, all too often, is to be stigmatized for circumstances beyond one's control, so neighbors commonly try to deal with hunger or food insecurity on their own. The social and emotional costs of stigma are simply too high.

This stigma is reinforced often in the ways we talk about hunger. Language such as "the hungry" or "the poor" makes it seem as if a person's whole identity is nothing more than the challenges they face. People dispensing angry rhetoric about "freeloading" or calls for "self-sufficiency" ignore the hard work people do to avoid or escape hunger or poverty — and our lack of control over the systems or events that may drive us into them.

The psalmist takes comfort in knowing that, with God, there is no stigma. In God the only "mark" we carry is being God's children. This faith motivates the robust hunger ministries that accompany neighbors every day. Food pantries and other feeding programs may provide food, but perhaps the most important part of all our ministries may be building a community that reinforces God's love of all rather than society's stigmatizing of some.

*How are you preparing for the ELCA World Hunger Lenten offering so that wholistic and effective programs can continue for our neighbors here and around the world?*

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