

#### PASTORAL WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

## THOUGHTS FOR THE DAY:

- From childhood on I have had the dream of life lived as a sacrament... the dream implied taking life ritually as something holy.
   Bernard Berenson
- God is the true actor in baptism, bringing everyone involved to the font and inspiring trust and faith.

Water is the earthly element in baptism. God uses it to wash away sin and to drown the "old Adam" or "old Eve" in the baptized person. Water in itself can't do it-baptism is water connected to the power of God's word, and is received by God's gift of faith.

The sacrament of Holy Communion (sometimes called the Lord's Supper, the Eucharist, or simply the Meal) is a central event in Lutheran worship. All five senses are engaged in communion, and it is the most interactive part of the service.

- Entries from The Lutheran Handbook

## **CALL TO WORSHIP:**

One: In beauty and mystery,

All: We see the face of God.

One: In the common and the ordinary,

All: We know the love of Christ.

One: In the waters of baptism,

All: We are touched by God's love and forgiveness.

One: In the bread and the cup,

All: We taste the presence of God.

One: We long to touch and be touched by God,

All: And so God reaches out to us.

PRAISE SONG: Child of the Water (music at end of bulletin)

## **OUR CONFESSION PRAYER:**

Loving Jesus, your love for us reaches from the cradle to the grave. There is no place or time or situation in which we are cut off from your care.

Remind us of that love whenever we doubt our own worth, forget our blessing in baptism or act out of fear or anger. Forgive us for acting as if you have forgotten us and just don't care. Forgive us for failing to return and experience your love in the life of the Church.

Forgive us and turn our world upside down occasionally and surprise us with grace and joy. Touch us and embrace us in water and bread and wine and in our love for one another. Keep us forever close to you. Amen.

# **BLESSING/ASSURANCE OF PARDON:**

Our God comes and claims us even when we stray. Receive God's grace and forgiveness and share God's love with all God's people.

CONFESSION RESPONSE: The Water of Change (music at end of bulletin)

# THE FIRST READING: Acts 2:38-41

Peter replied, "Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call." With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, "Save yourselves from this corrupt generation." Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.

## THE GOSPELS:

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# Matthew 28:19-20

Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

## Matthew 26:26-28

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

**MESSAGE:** "Experiencing God" - Pastor Cristy Schoob

SONG: God Bestows on Every Sense - vs. 1, 2, 4, 5 (music at end of bulletin)

## THE PRAYERS

## THE LORD'S PRAYER:

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 and 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.

#### THE SENDING:

Leader: Let God's gift of the water of life and the Holy meal of grace penetrate our lives. Let us leave our sin and our hunger behind. Remember that we are people embraced by God, people ready to share God's love and make sure that everyone is respected, welcome, invited and fed.

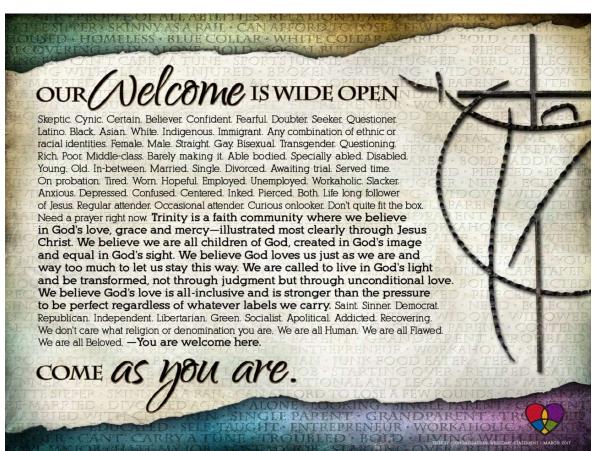
All: Amen!

THE SENDING SONG: Have You Thanked the Lord – vs. 2 & 3 (music at end of bulletin)

## THE DISMISSAL:

Leader: Go in peace and serve the Lord.

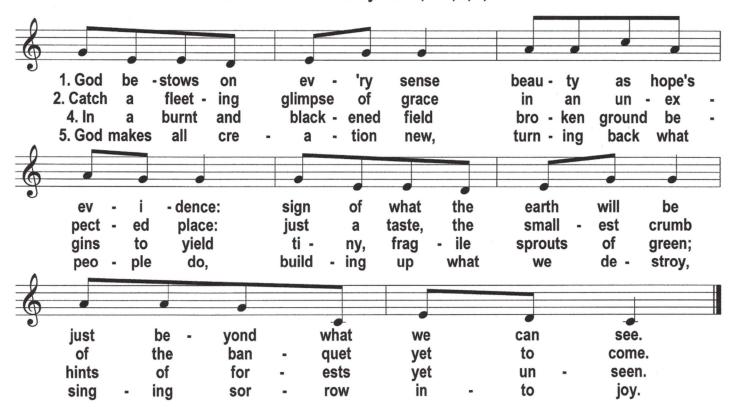
People: Thanks be to God.







God Bestows on Every Sense, v. 1, 2, 4, 5





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