

# Third Sunday In Lent



**March 23, 2025**

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**11:00 am**

**Holy Communion**

# Gathering Music



**Reed Wagner, organist**

MARCH 22/23, 2025

THIRD SUNDAY  
IN LENT

Rev. Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson,  
Preaching

Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson,  
Presiding



**“Sharing Shelf”  
March S.A.F.E. Center  
Donation:  
Household Cleaning  
Products!**

**Please set donated items on  
the shelf in the Narthex.**



The S.A.F.E. Center is the Spouse/Sexual Abuse Family Education Center. The S.A.F.E. Center's mission is to provide free and confidential services for those affected by dating violence, domestic violence, human trafficking, sexual assault, and stalking while bringing awareness and prevention efforts to all individuals across South Central Nebraska.

# **Adult Sunday School with Pastor Rick:**

**Sundays | 9:50 am | Centennial Hall  
March 23 & 30**

**The Nicene Creed:  
Where it  
came from and  
why it still matters**



# Lenten Services



6:30pm: March 26, April 2, and 9

# *NATALIE & FRIENDS IN CONCERT*

*SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025*

*3:00 PM*

*FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH*

No charge. Freewill offering accepted to support the handbell program.



**Participants:  
Natalie Radcliffe-flute,  
Chancel Bells, Praiser Bells  
UNK Flute Choir,  
and Assorted Performers**

**First Communion Class:  
receive the Sacrament of  
Holy Communion  
the first time.**

**Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup>**



- **5:45 pm - Photos in the Sanctuary**
- **6:30pm - First Communion at Maundy Service**
- **8:00 pm - Reception in Centennial Hall**



# Holy Week Services:

**Maundy Thursday, April 17th - 6:30 pm**

**Good Friday, April 18th - 6:30 pm**

**Holy Saturday, April 19th - 6:00 pm**



# Easter Services

Sunday, April 20<sup>th</sup>

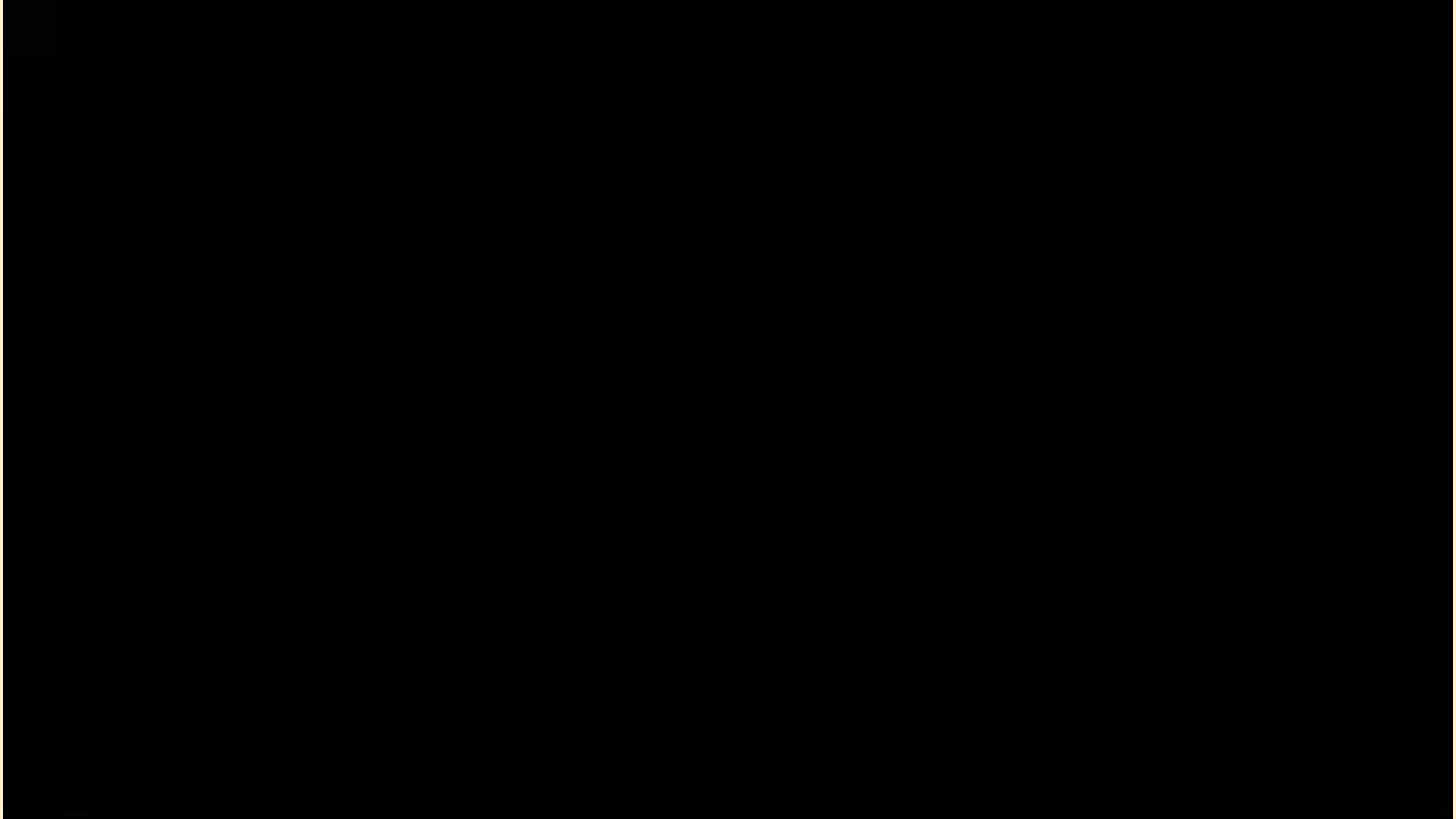
- **SONrise: 7:00 am**  
North Parking Lot
- **8:45 am and 11:00 am**



This is the last series of our “minute for ministries” as we give **THANKS** for our great partners in ministry!

Today we ReConnect with  
Cheri Clark at the  
Kearney Jubilee Center.

# Last Series of "Minute for Mission" with Cheri Clark from the Jubilee Center



# Greeting

## GREETING ONE ANOTHER

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord using words such as “Peace be with you.”*



# Worship Song



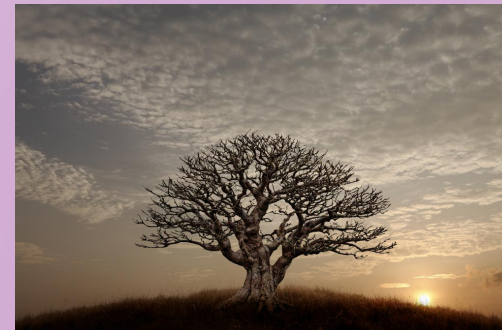
*“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”*

**ELW 618**

# **“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”, ELW 618**

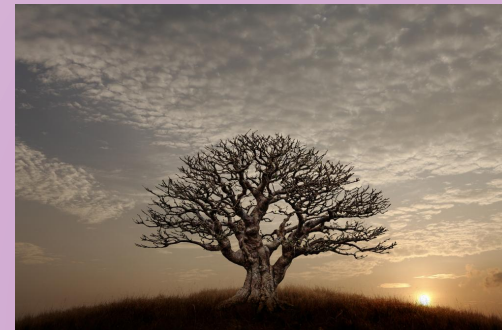
**Guide me ever, great Redeemer,  
pilgrim through this barren land.**

**I am weak, but you are mighty;  
hold me with your pow’rful hand.**



# **“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”, ELW 618**

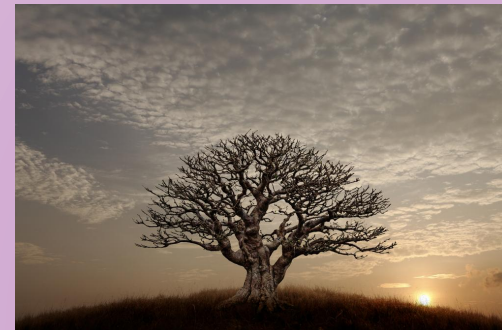
**Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,  
feed me now and evermore,  
feed me now and evermore.**





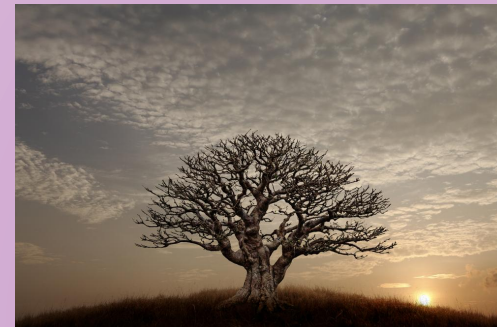
# **“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”, ELW 618**

**Open now the crystal fountain  
where the healing waters flow;  
let the fire and cloudy pillar  
lead me all my journey through.**



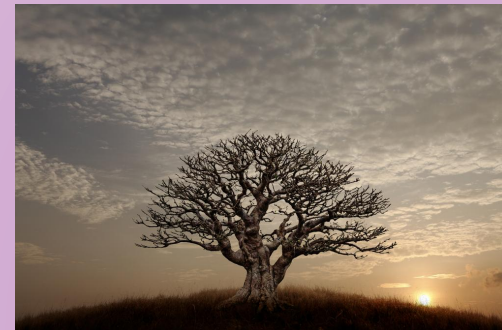
# **“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”, ELW 618**

**Strong deliv’rer, strong deliv’rer,  
shield me with your mighty arm,  
shield me with your mighty arm.**



# **“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”, ELW 618**

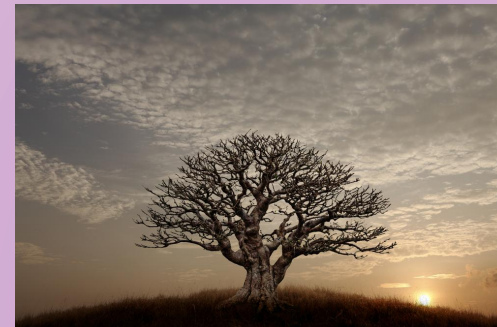
**When I tread the verge of Jordan,  
bid my anxious fears subside;  
death of death and hell's destruction,  
land me safe on Canaan's side.**



# **“Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer”, ELW 618**

**Songs and praises,  
songs and praises  
I will raise forevermore,  
I will raise forevermore.**

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt. Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932  
Text and Music Public Domain



# Greeting

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

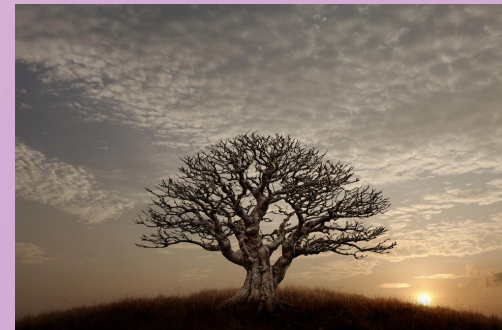
**C:** **And also with you.**



# Prayer of the Day

**L:** Let us pray.

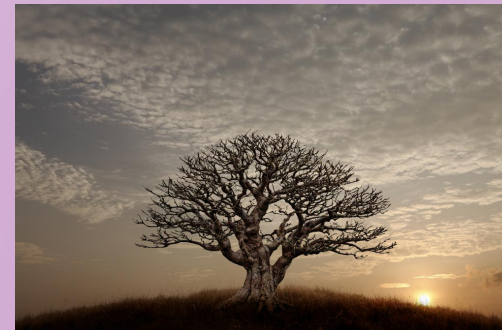
Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.



## Prayer of the Day

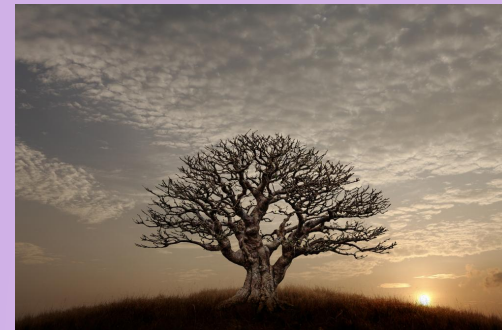
Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**



## Word: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

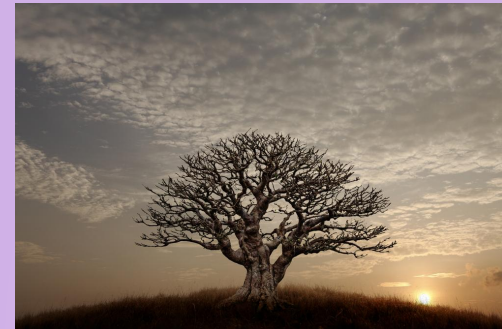
**L:** A reading from 1 Corinthians the tenth chapter.





## Word: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

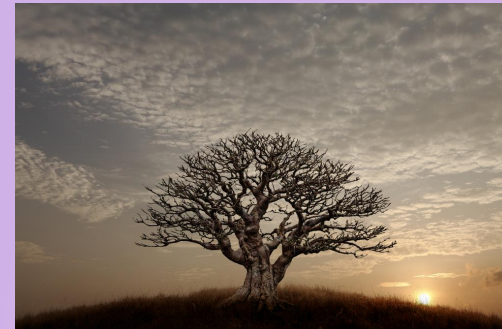
**L:** <sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink.



## Word: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

<sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did.



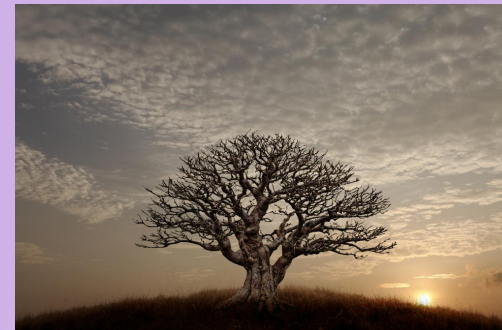
## Word: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

<sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day.



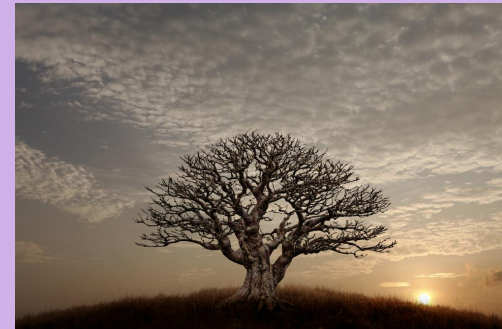
## Word: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

<sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come.



## Word: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

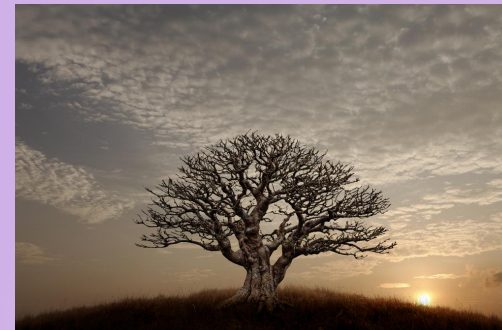
<sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it. *(1 Corinthians 10:1-13)*



# Word: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

**L:** Word of God. Word of Life.

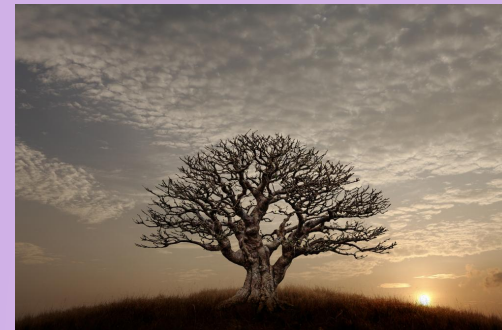
**C:** Thanks be to God.



## Word: Luke 13:1-9

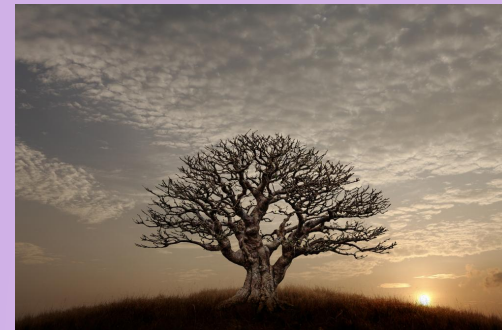
**P:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the thirteenth chapter.

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



## Word: Luke 13:1-9

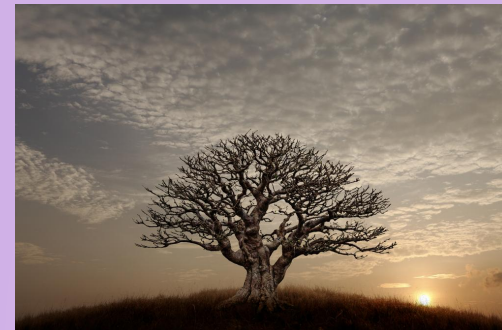
**P:** <sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”<sup>3</sup>





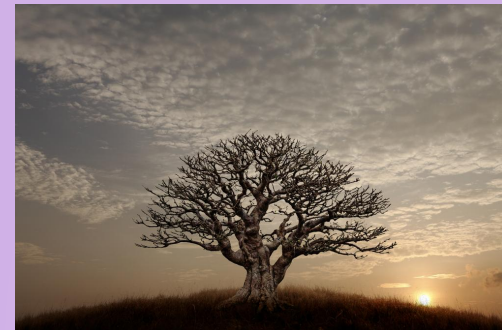
## Word: Luke 13:1-9

<sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”



## Word: Luke 13:1-9

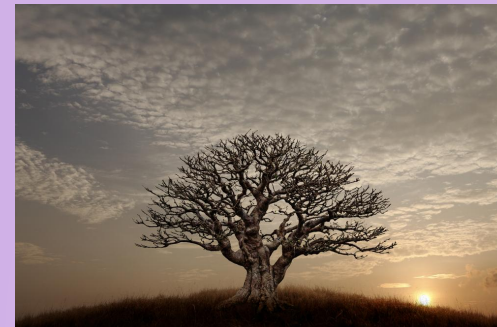
<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’



## Word: Luke 13:1-9

<sup>8</sup> He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

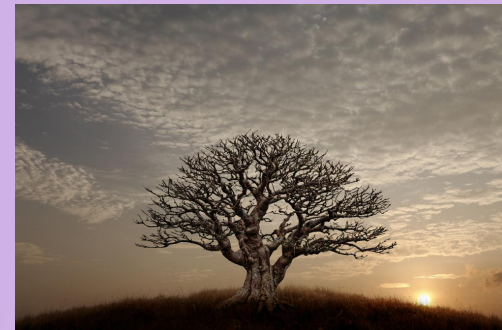
*(Luke 13:1-9)*



## Word: Luke 13:1-9

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

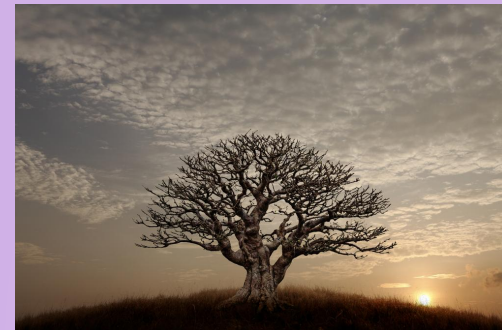
**C:** Praise to you, O Christ.



# Children's Message

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE AND "NOISY" OFFERING

*Children's Offering goes to  
Operation Shine*



# Sermon



## SERMON

**Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson**

# Worship Song

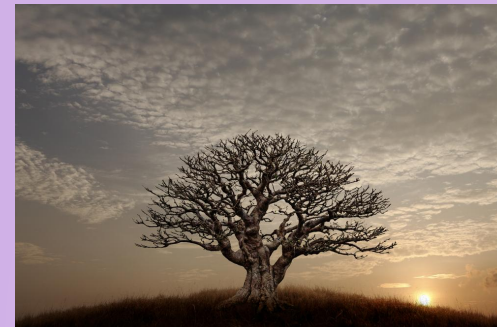


*“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”*

**ELW 756**

**“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”, ELW 756**

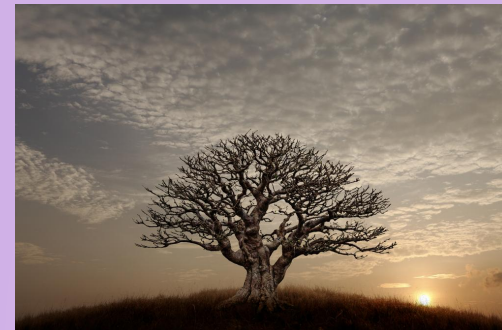
**Eternal Father, strong to save,  
whose arm has bound the restless wave,  
who bade the mighty ocean deep  
its own appointed limits keep:**





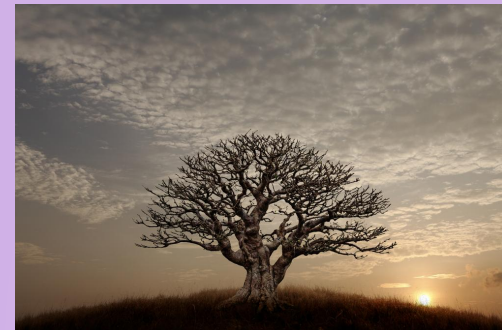
**“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”, ELW 756**

**oh, hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.**



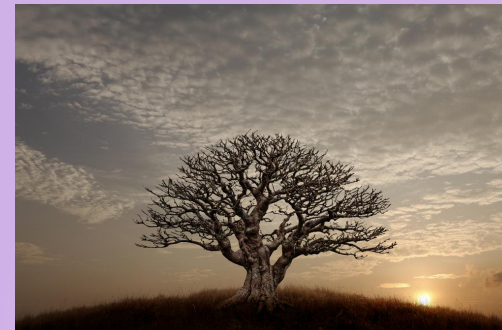
# **“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”, ELW 756**

**O Savior, whose almighty word  
the winds and waves submissive heard,  
who walked upon the foaming deep,  
and calm amid the storm didst sleep:**



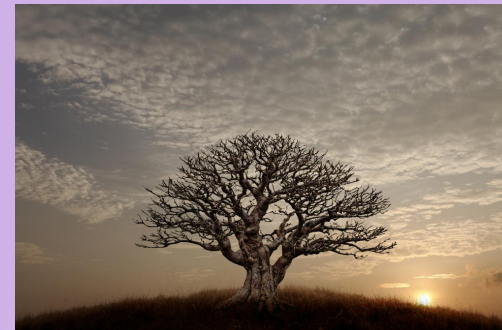
# **“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”, ELW 756**

**oh, hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.**



# **“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”, ELW 756**

**O Holy Spirit, who didst brood  
upon the chaos dark and rude,  
and bid its angry tumult cease,  
and give, for wild confusion, peace:**



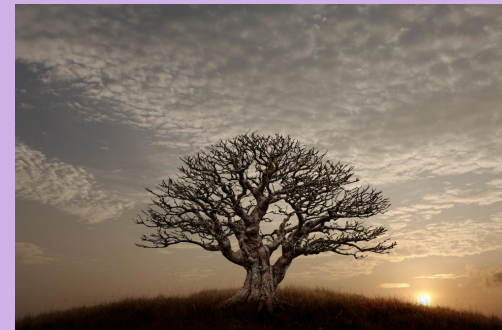
**“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”, ELW 756**

**oh, hear us when we cry to thee  
for those in peril on the sea.**



# **“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”, ELW 756**

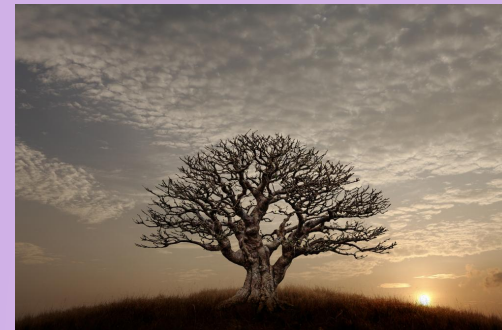
**O Trinity of love and pow'r,  
all trav'lers guard in danger's hour  
from rock and tempest, fire and foe,  
protect them wheresoe'er they go;**



# **“Eternal Father, Strong to Save”, ELW 756**

**thus evermore shall rise to thee  
glad hymns and praise  
from land and sea.**

Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876. Text and Music Public Domain



# Creed

**L:** Let us profess our faith.

**C:** I believe in God, the Father almighty.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son,  
our Lord and Savior. I believe in the  
Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian  
church, the forgiveness of sins and  
the life everlasting.

**Amen.**



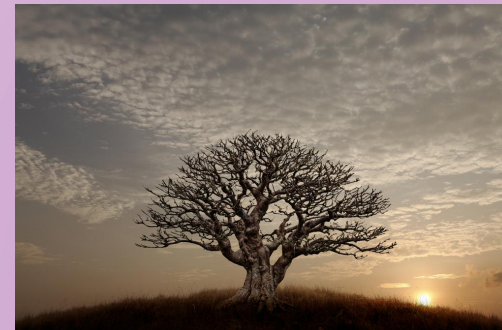


# Prayers of Intercession

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

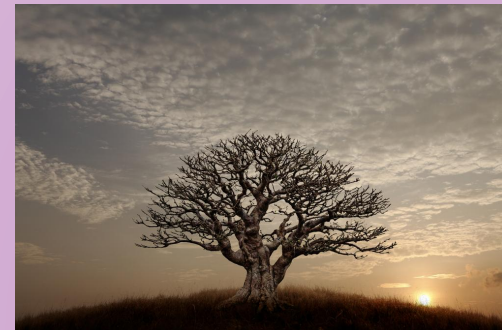
**L:** Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence for reflection.*



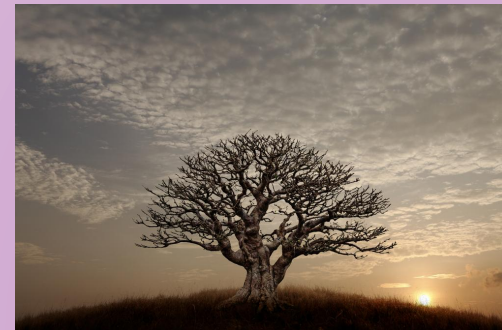
# Prayers of Intercession

**L:** We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all people. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions.



# Prayers of Intercession

**L:** We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home.



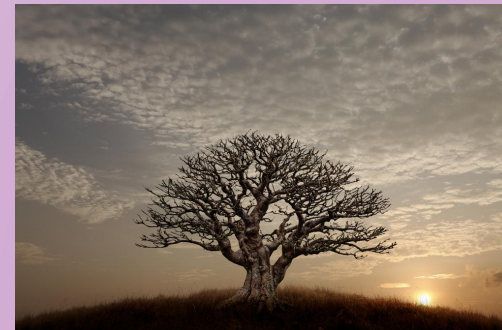
# Prayers of Intercession

**L:** We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live.



# Prayers of Intercession

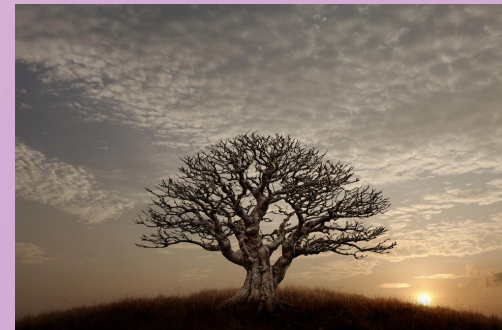
**L:** We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst.



# Prayers of Intercession

**L:** We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild.

We pray especially for...



# Prayers of Intercession

Skylar Marie Adams

Jim Anderson

Bertha Boyer

Vicki Buschelman

Gregory Carrico

Jim Catterson

Wayne Deterding

Terry Eirich

Leonard Fowler

Tyler Freeland

Randy Fritson

Larry & Jane Giddings

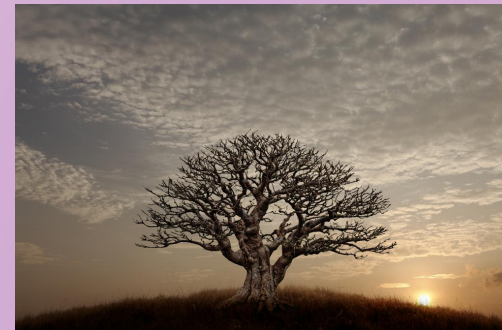
Chuck Gilson

Linda Sue Jensen

Betty Kempf

Ron Kruse

Bob Lammers



# Prayers of Intercession

Emily McArthur

Bob Placzek

Eileen Richter

Brent Roemmich

Tricia Samuelson

Garth Scism

Kyle Smidt

Addison Sullivan

Tony Tauer

Dave Vest

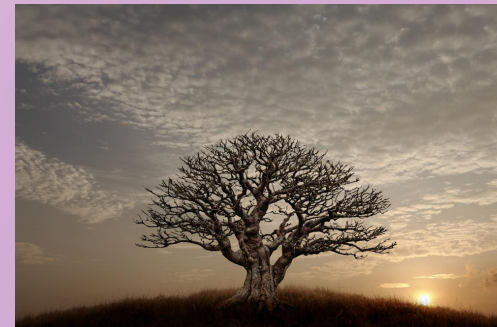
Eunice Warner

Carl Weber

Misty White

Dean Wiese

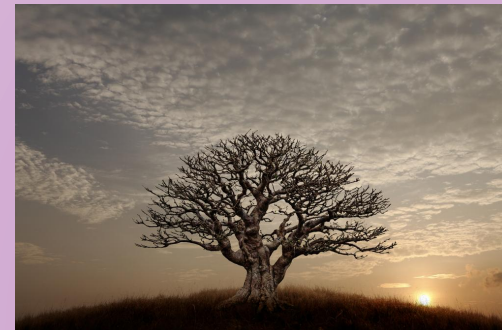
Miranda Wright





# Prayers of Intercession

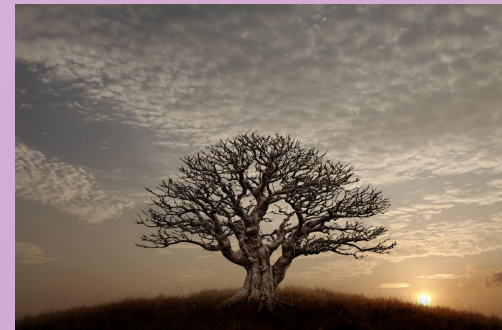
**L:** We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own.



# Prayers of Intercession

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**



**Meal**

# **OFFERING**

**Reed Wagner, organist**

*Communion Servers,*

*please come forward at this time.*

ELECTRONIC GIVING OPTIONS

**VANCO**

FAITH

**ON-LINE**  
visit FLC's  
website

**MOBILE  
APP**  
iPhone & Android

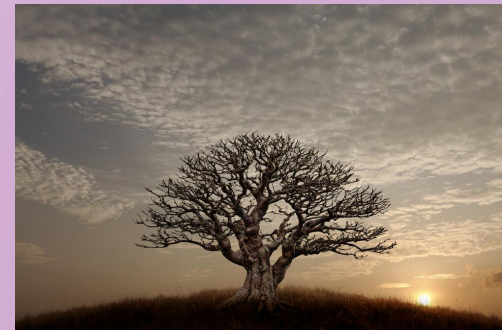
**VANCO MOBILE IS SIMPLE AND SECURE.  
TRY IT TODAY!**

# Confession and Forgiveness

*Please stand as you are able.*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**



# Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

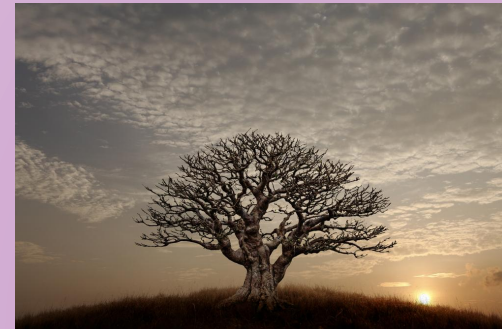


# Confession and Forgiveness

**P: Compassionate One,**

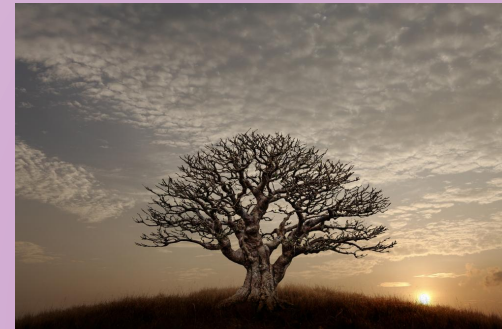
**C: you are slow to anger and  
abounding in steadfast love,**

**but our lives do not always reflect  
you and your love for the world. We  
do not show others the tender  
compassion you have  
shown to us.**



# Confession and Forgiveness

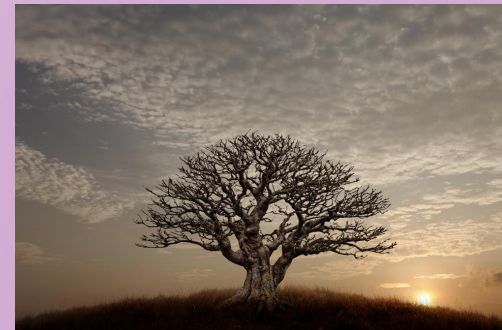
**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.**



# Confession and Forgiveness

**We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

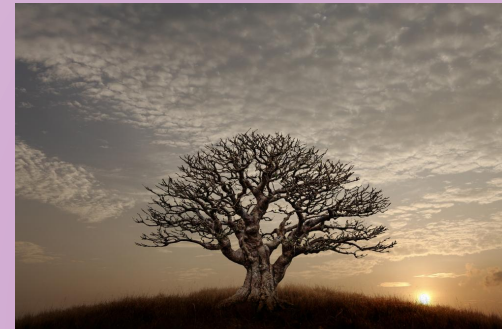




# Confession and Forgiveness

**P:** Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

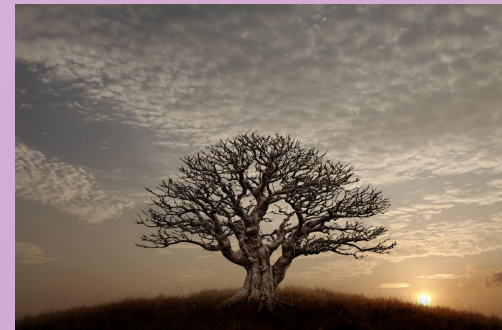
**C: Amen.**



# Offertory Prayer

**L:** Let us pray.

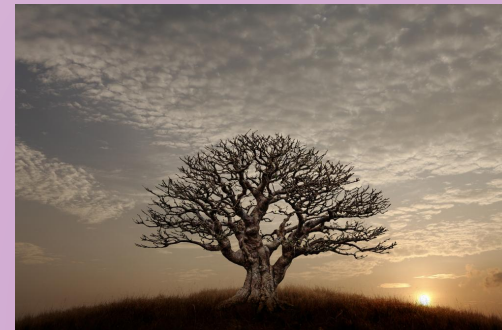
Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.



# Offertory Prayer

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**



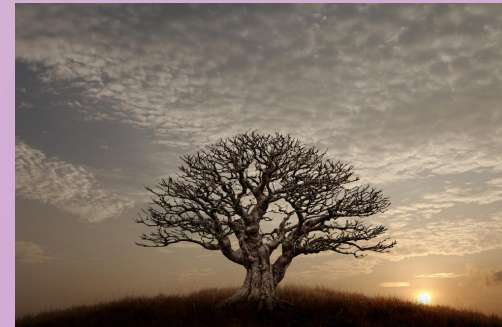
# The Great Thanksgiving

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** And also with you.

**P:** Lift up your hearts.

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



# The Great Thanksgiving

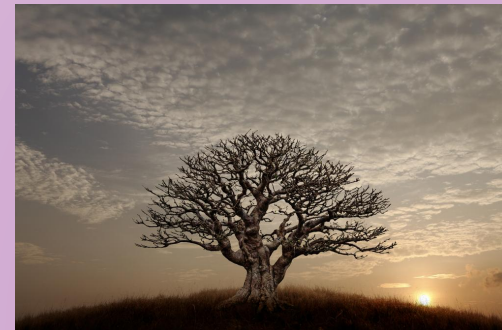
**P:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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



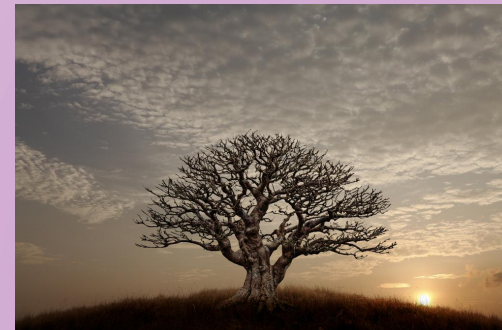
# Words of Institution

**P:** In the night in which he was handed over, 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.



# Words of Institution

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.



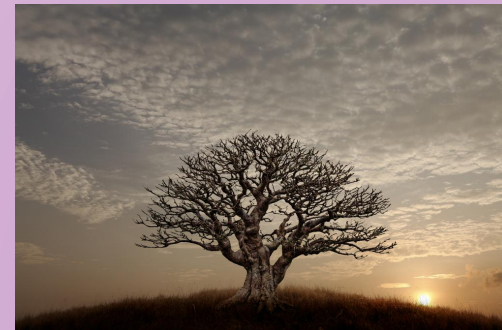
# Words of Institution

**P:** Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**C: Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

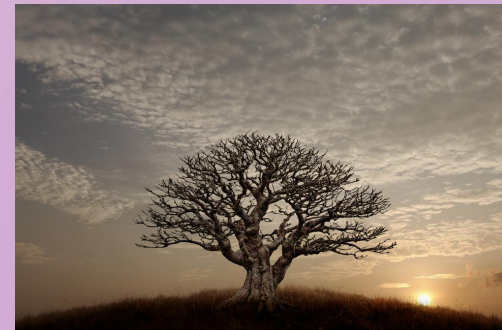




# The Lord's Prayer

**P:** Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

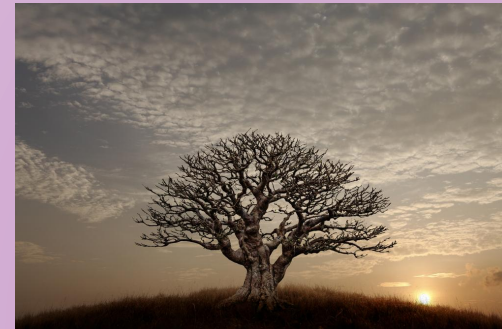
**C:** **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.**



# The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

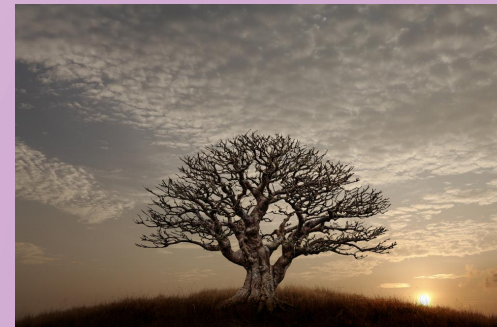
**Amen.**



# Invitation to Communion

**P:** All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

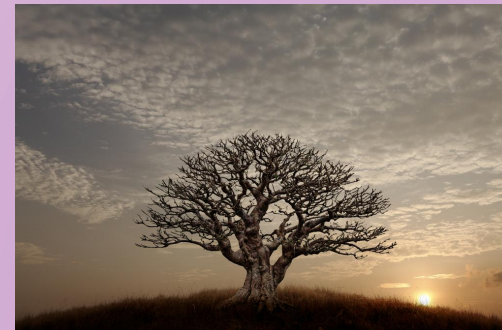
*Please be seated.*



# Communion

*We practice open communion at First Lutheran.  
All are welcome to receive the elements. Please let  
the Pastor know if you need a gluten-free wafer.  
The wine is red, and the grape juice is clear in the trays.*

**COMMUNION MUSIC**  
**Reed Wagner, organist**

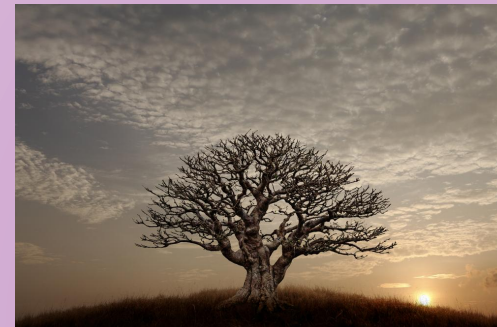


# Table Grace

*Please stand as you are able.*

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C:** Amen.

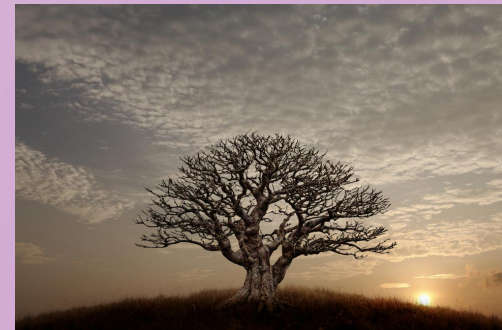


# Prayer after Communion

**L:** Let us pray.

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and  
made us new.



## Prayer after Communion

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.

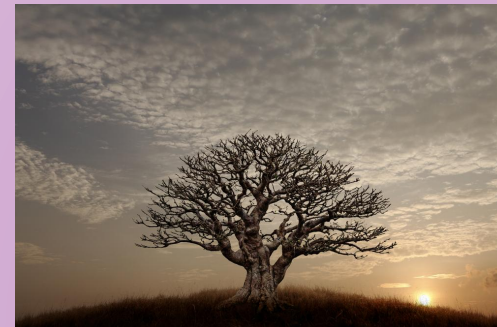
**C: Amen.**



# Blessing

**P:** God our tender caregiver,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**





# Worship Song

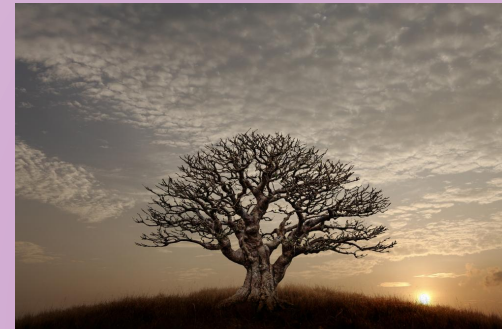


*“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”*

**ELW 623**

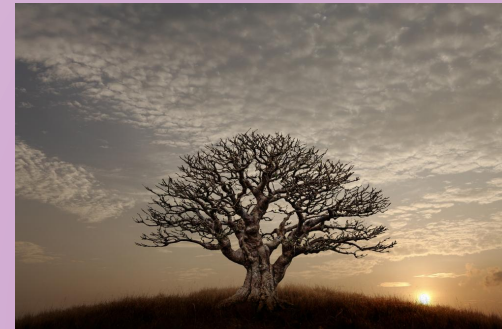
# **“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” ELW 623**

**Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide myself in thee;  
let the water and the blood,  
from thy riven side which flowed,  
be of sin the double cure;  
cleansing me from  
its guilt and pow'r.**



# **“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” ELW 623**

**Not the labors of my hands  
can fulfill thy law's demands;  
could my zeal no respite know,  
could my tears forever flow,  
all for sin could not atone;  
thou must save,  
and thou alone.**



# **“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” ELW 623**

**Nothing in my hand I bring;  
simply to thy cross I cling.  
Naked, come to thee for dress;  
helpless, look to thee for grace;  
foul, I to the fountain fly;  
wash me,  
Savior, or I die.**



# **“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” ELW 623**

**While I draw this fleeting breath,  
when mine eyelids close in death,  
when I soar to worlds unknown,  
see thee on thy judgment throne,  
Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
let me hide  
myself in thee.**



# Dismissal

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

**C:** **Thanks be to God.**



# **Sending Music**



**Reed Wagner, organist**