

# GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH

A Congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**ALL ARE WELCOME AT GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH.**

**God makes no exceptions. In the spirit of Jesus Christ, we offer trust and respect to all, including those who may experience alienation, distrust, or rejection.**

**We rely on the healing, unconditional love of God to shape our community in the name of the Good Shepherd.**

O Lord my God,  
I cried to you for help,  
and you have healed me.  
You have turned my mourning into dancing;  
you have taken off my sackcloth  
and clothed me with joy,  
so that my soul may praise you  
and not be silent.  
I will give thanks to you forever.

# MOURNING INTO DANCING

**PSALM 30:2, 11–12**

Setting by Benjamin Splichal Larson

# \*Gathering Song

6

1. Here I am a - gain, your hum - ble ser - vant.  
 2. Here we are a - gain, your ho - ly peo - ple.

Here I am a - gain, I need your help.  
 Here we are a - gain, in need of grace.

Here I am a - gain, will you come and heal me?  
 Here we are a - gain, will you come re - new us?

O - pen our eyes to see your glo - ry. O - pen our

lips to praise your name. O - pen our hearts to the

love that sur - rounds us. O - pen our arms;

take us home. Take us home. Take us home.

*\*Those who are able, stand*

# *Lord Jesus, You Are Our Song As We Journey.*

*Our theme for the season is, "Lord Jesus, You Are Our Song As We Journey." Each week we will sing a verse or two of hymn 808. Each week we will hear a homily on the "Theology of the Cross" as it is lived out in a context each Lenten preacher knows personally and deeply. Martin Luther said, "The only true theology is a theology of the cross, not the false theology of glory." We need to be constantly reminded by Luther and Apostle Paul, the Gospel writers and the entire Scriptures, of our God who is revealed most clearly, not in glory but in the cross, in weakness, in suffering, in loss, in loneliness, pain, and sorrow. Tonight, we gather around the cross and listen and pray and worship together.*

## **\*Greeting**

*All may make the sign of the cross as the presiding minister begins:*

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + one God,  
rich in mercy and full of love,  
who forgives our sin, heals our lives,  
and enfolds us with tender care.

**Blessed be God forever.**

## **\*Prayer of the Day**

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept.*

O God of steadfast love,  
you draw near to those who call,  
crying out from their hearts.  
Hear our cries and save us,  
grant to us your grace and peace,  
through your Son, Jesus Christ,  
our healer and our hope.

**Amen.**

*The congregation may be seated.*

# Word

## Psalmody

Psalm 139



1. Lord, you search me out; you know me.  
3. If I climb to heav - en, you are there.  
5. E - ven there your hand will lead me;



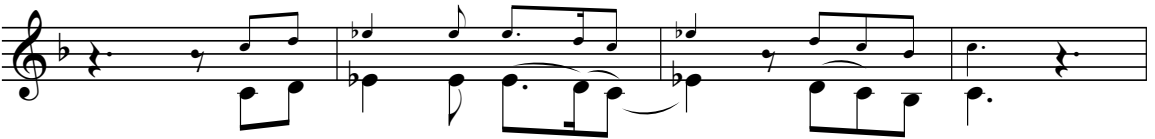
You know when I sit down and when I rise up.  
If I make the grave my bed, still you\_\_\_ are there.  
Your hand\_\_\_ will lead me and hold\_\_\_ me fast.



You dis - cern my thoughts from a - far; You trace my joys  
If I climb to heav - en a - bove, you, God, are there.  
E - ven there your hand will lead me and hold me fast.



and my rest - ing plac - es; you know all my ways.  
If I make the grave my bed, still you\_\_\_ are there.  
Your hand will lead me\_\_\_\_\_ and hold\_\_\_ me fast.



2. You en - com - pass me, all a - round,  
4. If I take the wings of the dawn

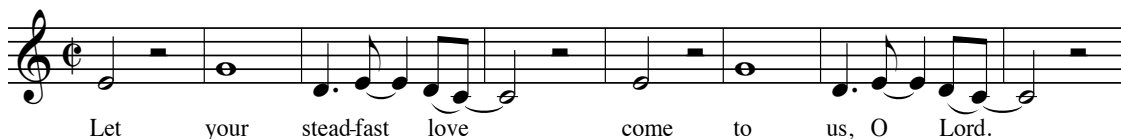


and lay your own hand up - on me.  
and if I should dwell a - cross the sea,

## Psalm Prayer

Holy God,  
source of all wisdom and life,  
you know us better than we know ourselves.  
Your love encircles us wherever we go.  
In joy and in sorrow, resting and rising,  
living and dying, we pray,  
hold us fast through Jesus Christ,  
your holy Wisdom-with-us.  
**Amen.**

## Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord. *Fine*



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word. *D.C. al Fine*

Text: based on Psalm 119:41-42  
Music: Benjamin Splichal Larson  
Music @ Renee Splichal Larson

STEADFAST LOVE  
Irregular

## Reading

A reading from John 15:9-13.

*After the reading:*

Holy Wisdom. Holy Word.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Homily

**\*Hymn of the Day (verses 1 and 4)**

1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*  
1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;  
2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,  
4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

*Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an-non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,*  
I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:  
May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.  
to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.  
but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931  
Music: LES PETITES SOEURS, Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community  
Text and music ©1987 Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Tr. © 1970 Stephen Somerville, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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*car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:*  
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.  
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.  
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.  
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,

*Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.*  
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.  
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.  
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.  
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

## Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray.

Holy God,  
 Source of life and love,  
 you remember how we are made,  
 frail as dust and fleeting as breath.  
 Hear our prayers; listen to our cries.  
 Encompass with mercy all who need your care.

Psalm 103:14-16  
 Psalm 61:1

Be their light in darkness.  
 Be their help in trouble.  
 Be their shelter in distress.  
 Be their hope in sorrow.  
 Be their strength in weakness.  
 Be their comfort in mourning.

John 1:4-5  
 Psalm 46:2; 18:6  
 Psalm 27:5  
 Psalm 62:5  
 2 Corinthians 12:9  
 Isaiah 63:2

Be their rock in the storm.  
Be their way through the day.  
Be their song in the night.  
Be their joy in the morning.  
Be their life in death.  
Be their peace at the last.

Psalm 18:2  
Psalm 18:32  
Psalm 42:8  
Psalm 30:5  
Colossians 3:4

*The intercessor closes the prayers.*

Be their love, O God, ever be their Love,  
through Christ Jesus. **Amen.**

Gathered by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught.

**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 Offering**

## **Prayer from our Children and Youth**

## **Offering and Offering Music**

*The congregation is invited to place their offering in the box in front of the altar during the music or at any time before, during, or after the service.*



# Thanksgiving

## Refrain



You've turned my mourn - ing in - to danc - ing. You have tak - en my sor -



- rows and clothed me with joy so that my soul



may praise and not be si - lent, may praise and not be si - lent.

As tender as parent is to child, O God,  
so gentle are you with us.

As far as east is from west,  
so far you remove our sin.

## Refrain

As a hen gathers her young, Christ Jesus,  
so you give refuge to your people.

As the vine enlivens the branch,  
so you fill us with your abundant life.

## Refrain

As rain renews parched soil, blest Spirit,  
so you cleanse and heal us.

As the dawn awakens the earth,  
so you awaken our hearts to love.

## Refrain

# Blessing

The grace of Christ Jesus,  
the love of God,  
and the unity of the Holy Spirit  
bless you, keep you  
and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

## Sending Song: Grace and Peace

O God, for-give me. And O my Lord, pro-  
tect  
me. And O my Lord, help me. And O  
my God, send me Grace and peace, — send it down.  
Teach us to spread it a-round. Grace and peace, — send it down.  
Teach us to spread it a-round. And when I  
go out, I'll go out in your love. And if I sink, it will not be in vain,

  
'cause you show me how you feel. This love is so real. I know

  
that I am loved by you. Grace and peace, send it down.

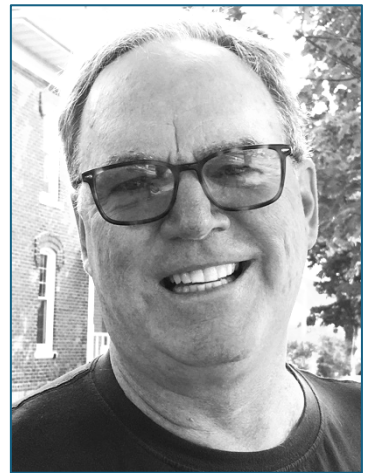
  
Teach us to spread it a-round. Grace and peace, — send it down.

  
Teach us to spread it a-round.

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**Thank you to Dr. Martin Klammer for proclaiming God's word in our midst.**

Martin Klammer is Professor of English at Luther College. One of his teaching interests is South Africa, where he has taken student groups since 1998. In addition to his PhD in English from Iowa, he earned an MA in Religion from Lutheran School of Theology for work done at Christ Seminary-Seminex in 1981-83.



# Lenten Schedule

**March 12: Rev. Dr. Wanda Deifelt**, Luther College Professor of Religion; Brazilian Lutheran pastor: *Isaiah 58*

**March 19: Dr. David Scott, Ph.D.**, Religious Studies with a concentration in History of Christianity; Director of Mission Theology and Strategic Planning at the General Board of Global Ministries of The United Methodist Church: *Luke 10:25-37*

**March 26: Rev. Melissa Bills**, Luther College Pastor and Director of Campus Ministries

**April 2: Dr. Martin Klammer**, Luther College Professor of English; MA, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago

**April 9: Rev. Dr. Rolf Svanoe**, retired ELCA pastor: *Revelation 5:1-14*

*All Lenten Midweek Services are available to view at [goodshepherddecorah.org/lenten-midweek](http://goodshepherddecorah.org/lenten-midweek)*

## Reflection on the Theology of the Cross

How is faith to endure, O God, when you allow all this scrapping and tearing on us? You have allowed rivers of blood to flow, mountains of suffering to pile up, sobs to become humanity's song—all without lifting a finger that we could see. You have allowed bonds of love beyond number to be painfully snapped. If you have not abandoned us, explain yourself.

We strain to hear. But instead of hearing an answer we catch sight of God himself scraped and torn. Through our tears we see the tears of God.

A new and more disturbing question now arises: Why do you permit yourself to suffer, O God? If the death of the devout costs you dear (*Psalms 116:15*), why do you permit it?

— Nicholas Wolterstorff

*Unless otherwise noted, all musical texts and tunes are by Benjamin Splichal Larson. © 2017 Renee Splichal Larson*