

WITNESSES TO CHRIST



Taize' Evening Prayer

New Life Lutheran Church

Fourth Mid-Week Lenten Service

March 15, 2023

7:00 PM

This evening we will use a style of music developed near the village of Taize' in France. It consists of short meditative passages of Scripture set to simple melodies and repeated many times. The purpose of the repetition is to give us time to reflect and internalize the truths of these words of Scripture.

Our goal as we gather at our mid-week Lenten services, is to find quiet, meditative time, so that we can escape the hustle and bustle of our busy lives, to hear of Jesus and to sing His praise and address Him in prayer. May the Lord bless us as we worship Him in prayer, meditation, and praise!

MARY, THE SISTER OF LAZARUS AND MARTHA

Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha, was a witness to Christ as recorded in John's Gospel. As Jesus and many others are gathered for dinner, Mary anoints Jesus' feet with an ointment that was worth a year's wages. What a generous act! Mary's generosity is contrasted with Judas' greed. Judas criticizes Mary's generosity toward Jesus, saying that the ointment could have been sold and the proceeds given to the poor. But John notes something important: Judas did not say this because he cared about the poor. Judas kept the moneybag for the disciples and had been continually stealing from it. While Mary is generous toward Jesus, Judas seeks his own advantage. We remember Mary's generosity and love, which point us to Jesus.

Welcome by the Pastor

Remain Seated

Invocation

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Opening Sentences

P: As we continue our Lenten journey, we see the contrast between Mary and Judas,

C: the contrast between generosity and greed,

P: the contrast between giving and getting,

C: the contrast between joy and jealousy.

P: Mary points us to the joys of giving.

C: Mary points us to the joys of Jesus.

Confession and Absolution

P: While we would like to think of ourselves as generous, joyful, and giving, we admit that our lives do not live up to the perfect standard God expects. Still, our heavenly Father invites us to return to Him, confessing our shortcomings and sins.

C: Heavenly Father, we confess that we have committed sins of greed, jealousy, and selfishness. We have sinned against You in thoughts, words, and actions. Have mercy on us, Lord. Forgive us, renew our generosity, and lead us out of greedy selfishness. Restore to us the joy of Your salvation.

P: Almighty God, in His generous mercy, has given His Son to die and rise for you. On account of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the grave, God has forgiven the sins of the world. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen. We are generously forgiven and joyfully restored.

(sing 3 times)

The musical score is written in G minor (one flat) and 3/4 time, with a tempo of 72. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a treble clef staff with lyrics and a bass clef staff with piano accompaniment. The second system also has a treble clef staff with lyrics and a bass clef staff with piano accompaniment. Chord symbols are placed above the treble staff, and dynamic markings are placed below the bass staff. The lyrics are: "Stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, light in our dark - ness." The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The first system ends with a double bar line and repeat dots. The second system also ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

♩ = 72

Gm *p* Cm D Gm Dm *mf*

Stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, night will soon fall. Then

Gm *f* Eb Cm F Bb Cm *p subito* Bb F Gm D

stay with us, O Lord Je - sus Christ, light in our dark - ness.

f *p subito*

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

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

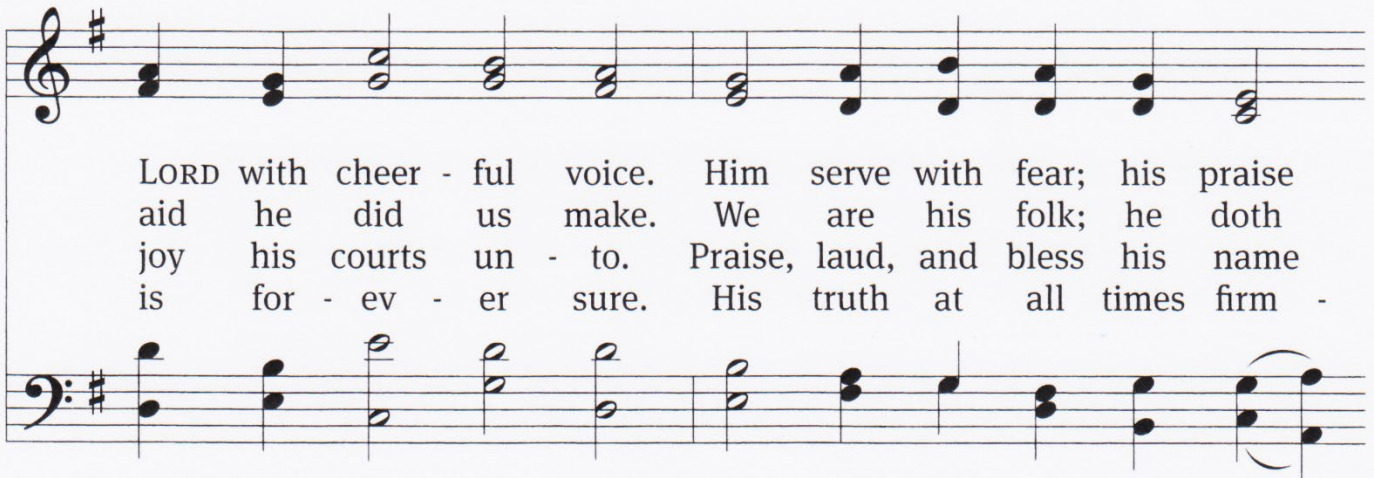
P: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

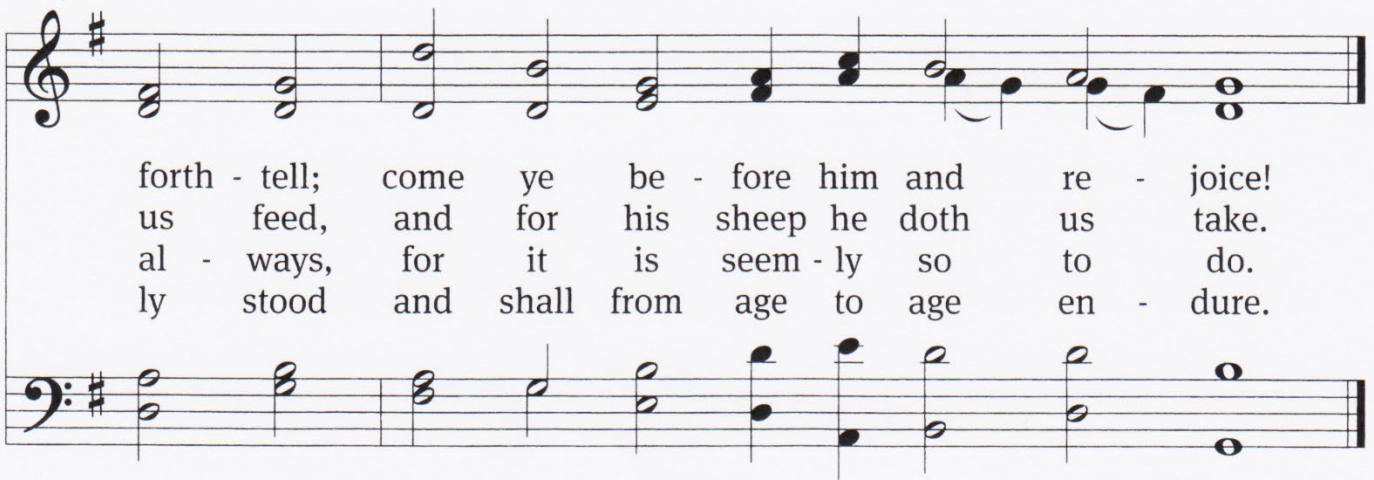
The Psalmody: **Psalm 110b** (tune, CW93 286, from CW Psalter)



1 All peo - ple that on earth do dwell, sing to the
2 Know that the LORD is God in - deed; with - out our
3 O en - ter then his gates with praise; ap - proach with
4 For why? The LORD our God is good; his mer - cy



LORD with cheer - ful voice. Him serve with fear; his praise
aid he did us make. We are his folk; he doth
joy his courts un - to. Praise, laud, and bless his name
is for - ev - er sure. His truth at all times firm -



forth - tell; come ye be - fore him and re - joice!
us feed, and for his sheep he doth us take.
al - ways, for it is seem - ly so to do.
ly stood and shall from age to age en - dure.

The Psalm Prayer:

P: God our Father, You made us, and we belong to You. Keep us mindful of Your goodness that with thankful hearts we may sing Your praise who alone is worthy of honor and glory together with Your Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The Passion Reading: Passion History Part 3 – **Matthew 26:57-75** (KJV)

Seasonal Response:

P: In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C: **But now in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son.**

A Lenten Hymn: (sing 2 times)

Capo 1 Γ Eb(D) Fm(Em) Bb(A) Eb(D) 7

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

Cm(Bm) Fm(Em) Bb(A) Eb(D)

Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom.

The image shows a musical score for a Lenten Hymn, consisting of two systems of music. Each system has a treble and bass staff. The first system is marked with a capo at the first fret and includes the following chords: Eb(D), Fm(Em), Bb(A), and Eb(D). The second system includes the following chords: Cm(Bm), Fm(Em), Bb(A), and Eb(D). The lyrics are: "Je - sus, re - mem - ber me when you come in - to your king - dom." The music is in 3/4 time and features a simple, melodic line in the treble clef and a supporting bass line in the bass clef.

The Sermon Text: **John 12:1-11**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. ² Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with Him. ³ Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped His feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

⁴ But one of His disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray Him, objected, ⁵ "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages." ⁶ He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

⁷ "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of My burial. ⁸ You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have Me."

⁹ Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of Him but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. ¹⁰ So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, ¹¹ for on account of Him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in Him. (NIV 2011)

The Sermon Theme: Witnesses to Christ—Mary

A Lenten Hymn: **CW 395** "What Grace is This" (CWS 715)

The Offering The ushers will gather the offering which will then be placed on the Lord's Altar. Offerings can also be given electronically by using your smart phone and the QR code which takes you to the donation part of New Life's website.



The Prayer of the Church:

P: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

P: Lord Jesus Christ, by Your death on the cross, You forgive the sins of all people. Help us to have compassion on others and reflect Your generous love to them, for all people are created in Your image. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C: blessed Jesus, King of grace.

P: Lord, give us the strength to forgive others as You have forgiven us. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C: blessed Jesus, King of grace.

P: Lord, embolden us to be generous with all the good gifts You have given us. Prevent us from any greed or dishonesty that would harm others and be a poor reflection upon You. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C: blessed Jesus, King of grace.

P: Lord, instill in us a love for the poor that is not rooted in our superiority over them or in some vain hope of making ourselves feel better. Rather, teach us how to love in true humility and service. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C: blessed Jesus, King of grace.

P: Lord, we pray for the leaders of this nation and of all the nations throughout the world, that Your wisdom would be upon them for the health and welfare of all people. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C: blessed Jesus, King of grace.

P: Lord, we pray for all Christians throughout the world. As we all follow You on whatever journeys You send us, remind us that we are united with You and with all who follow You by Baptism into Your death and resurrection. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C: blessed Jesus, King of grace.

P: Lord, be near to all those who are sick, injured, and recovering. Give them Your healing and patience. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C: blessed Jesus, King of grace.

P: Lord, send comfort and hope to all those who grieve. Grant that the power of Your resurrection to eternal life shines through the darkness of grief. On our hearts imprint Your image,

C: blessed Jesus, King of grace.

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours now and forever. Amen.

A Lenten Hymn: (sing 2 times)

We a - dore you, Je - sus Christ, and we bless your ho - ly name;

tru - ly your cross and pas - sion bring us life and heal - ing,

tru - ly your cross and pas - sion bring us life and heal - ing.

The musical score is written for piano and voice. It consists of three systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is G major (two sharps) and the time signature is 3/4. The first system covers the first line of lyrics. The second system covers the second line of lyrics. The third system covers the third line of lyrics. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note bass line and chords in the right hand.

P: Lord God, You have called Your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage and a hope that cannot be extinguished, not knowing where we go but only that Your hand is leading us, Your love supporting us and Your Son abiding with us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: **CW 782** “Luther’s Evening Prayer” (tune, CW93 368)

**I thank You, heav’nly Father, thro’ Jesus, Your dear Son,
That graciously You kept me while daily tasks were done.
I pray that You forgive me for all my sins and wrongs,
And in Your love continue to keep me all night long.**

**I trust my soul and body into Your loving hands.
All things that I encounter I leave to Your good plans.
Send me Your holy angel to rout the evil one
And crush his dreadful powers. Amen. Your will be done.**

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Announcements

Thank you to Pastor William Schubert from Our Savior Lutheran Church in Zion, IL, for serving as our guest preacher this evening.

Next Wednesday, Pastor David Carlovsky from Lord and Savior Lutheran Church in Crystal Lake, IL, will be here, preaching on the theme: Witnesses to Christ--Malchus.

A Five-Year-Planning Meeting will take place in the New Life Café immediately after the service.

Thanks to the Starcks for organizing tonight’s Lenten meal.

Invitation to Participate

As you recall, this past fall New Life's church council members participated in a series of strategic planning sessions to assist in the development of a viable five-year plan. The sessions were facilitated by pastor's brother, John Bauer. John is the founder and senior strategist of John Bauer Consulting, L.L.C.

The process of developing a long-range strategic plan for New Life will continue into the Spring and through the first half of 2023. The next step in this important activity is to collect feedback from members of our congregation. To accomplish this, we have scheduled a strategic planning brainstorming activity for members immediately following the Lenten service on **Wednesday, March 15, 2023**. If necessary, a second meeting has been penciled in following the Lenten service on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. Planning meetings will not go beyond one hour. Note that this invitation to participate is not only targeting voting members of our congregation. ALL members are encouraged to participate.

In considering strategic planning, you may want to begin by reflecting on New Life's mission statement *...rooted in the word, growing in faith, reaching out to our uprooted world*. Consider how well our mission statement aligns with what our church is and what direction our church should take going forward. What do you think needs to change or what do you want to see changed? We want our focus at this meeting to be on concrete ideas for change and not simply on activities. Our objective is to gather your suggestions and thoughts. The final goal is to identify a "preferred future state" for New Life.

Please give prayerful thought to our strategic planning effort and share your thoughts with us on March 15, 2023. Strategic planning can play a significant role in shaping our future....don't miss this opportunity to be part of it. This meeting will be open format, all ideas and thoughts will be welcomed. And, as always, feel free at any time to discuss strategic long-range planning with members of New Life's church council.

Thank You!
Mike Spangle

