

# Blessed to Be a Blessing

(Fifth Sunday of Lent)

March 17, 2024

9:30 AM

*(You are welcome to share a prayer request to be used in worship today. Prayer Cards are in the wooden holder on the back of each pew. They will be collected by the ushers during the Hymn of the Day.)*

**INVITATION TO WORSHIP**

***Singing Bowl***

**HIGHLIGHTED ANNOUNCEMENTS**



**PRELUDE** *(and lighting of the altar candles)*



**CALL TO WORSHIP** *(Psalm 51:1-2, 10-13)*

Leader: <sup>1</sup> Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your steadfast love;  
according to your abundant mercy  
blot out my transgressions.

All: <sup>2</sup> **Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,  
and cleanse me from my sin.**

Leader: <sup>10</sup> Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and put a new and right spirit within me.

All: <sup>11</sup> **Do not cast me away from your presence,  
and do not take your holy spirit from me.**

Leader: <sup>12</sup> Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and sustain in me a willing spirit.

All: <sup>13</sup> Then I will teach transgressors your ways,  
and sinners will return to you.

## WELCOME

### LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

Kent Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Duwamish and Muckleshoot peoples, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

## GATHERING HYMN

### *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.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.  
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: **And also with you.**

Leader: Let us pray.

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever

**All: Amen.**



## CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**All: Amen.**

Leader: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*(Silence is kept for reflection)*

Leader: Holy God,

**All: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.  
We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.  
We speak in ways that silence others.  
We are silent when we should speak up.  
We keep score in our hearts.  
We let hurts grow into hatred.  
For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.  
Amen.**

## WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Pastor: Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through ✝ Jesus Christ,

**All: Amen.**

# KYRIE

S.M.Haley

{Organ}

Leader: Assembly:

In peace, in peace let us pray to the Lord. Lord . . . have

6 Leader: Assembly:

mer-cy. For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord. Lord . . . have

11 Leader: //

mer-cy. For the peace of the whole world, the well - be ing of the church of God, and for the

14 Assembly: Leader:

un-it-y of all, let us pray to the Lord. Lord . . . have mer-cy. For this ho-ly house,

19 Assembly:

and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. Lord . . . have mer-cy.

24 Leader: Assembly:

Help. save, com-fort, and de-fend us grac-ious Lord. A - - - men.

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# CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Sean M. Haley

(Organ)

*f*

Glo-ry to God in the high - est and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

7

Lord God, heav'n-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa - ther, we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we

13

praise you for your glo - ry. Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther,

20

Lord God, lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us;

27

you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer. For you a-lone are the

33

Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, You a-lone are the Most High Je-sus Christ,

39

— with the Ho-ly Spi-rit, in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A - men.

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## WORD

### THE FIRST READING Jeremiah 31:31-34

Reader: The first reading today is from the thirty-first chapter of Jeremiah:

<sup>31</sup> The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. <sup>32</sup> It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. <sup>33</sup> But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. <sup>34</sup> No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the LORD," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**



## THE SECOND READING Hebrews 5:5-10

Reader: The second reading is from the fifth chapter of Hebrews:

<sup>5</sup> So also Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

"You are my Son,  
today I have begotten you";

<sup>6</sup> as he says also in another place,

"You are a priest forever,  
according to the order of Melchizedek."

<sup>7</sup> In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. <sup>8</sup> Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; <sup>9</sup> and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, <sup>10</sup> having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of God, word of life.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

*We invite you to stand for the Gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Sean M. Haley

Re - turn to the Lord your God, for He is

5  
gra - cious and mer - ci - ful. Slow to an - ger and a - bound - ing in

9  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

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## GOSPEL READING John 12:20-33

Reader: The holy gospel according to the twelfth chapter of John.

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

Reader: <sup>20</sup> Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. <sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. <sup>25</sup> Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

<sup>27</sup> "Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." <sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. <sup>31</sup> Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

Reader: The gospel of the Lord.

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

*If you are standing, you may now be seated.*



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,

through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.

On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,

full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.

Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.  
 Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.  
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# CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



# SERMON

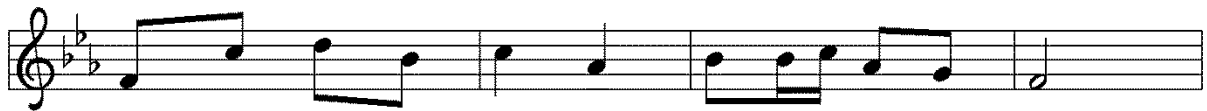
Pastor Tormod Svensson



# HYMN OF THE DAY

## *Now the Green Blade Rises*

ELW 379



1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,  
2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,  
3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,  
4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,



wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;  
think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,  
he that for three days in the grave had lain;  
your touch can call us back to life a - gain,



love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;  
laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;  
raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;  
fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;



love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958

Music: NOËL NOUVELET, French carol

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## DECLARATION OF FAITH *(Inclusive Language Version)*

Leader: Please join me as we declare our faith together.

**All: I believe in God, the Creator almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Creator,  
and he will come again to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and life everlasting.  
Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Leader: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*(a brief silence)*

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship. Bless our international and national ELCA Lutheran leadership, particularly our national Bishop, Elizabeth Eaton, and our Bishop of the Northwest Washington Synod, Shelley Bryan Wee. Guide our Northwest Washington Synod New and Emerging Congregations; our Local Partners in Ministry; our Global, National, and Local Ministries Supported; and our Kent Lutheran Ministries. Encourage and sustain all of our Kent Lutheran staff, church leaders, and committee members.

Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations.

Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of all children.

Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound or lonely. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. Bring healing and hope to all who are suffering in body, mind, or spirit—especially those who are homebound or hospitalized; those who have or are in treatment for cancer, diabetes, HIV/AIDS, or other potentially debilitating conditions; those who are struggling with mental illness, PTSD, or dementia; and those afflicted by addiction, depression, or uncontrolled anger. Give support and comfort to their families and friends through these trying times. And guide and sustain the medical care professionals, therapists, social workers, counselors, and caretakers who are tending to their needs, particularly those who are close to our congregational family.  
Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation, especially those who reach out to you during the Easter Prayer vigil.  
Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us, especially Patrick, the missionary to Ireland whom we commemorate today. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love as we remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they now have new life in you. We wait with anticipation and confidence that we will be reunited with them again at your heavenly banquet. Surround all who mourn with your mercy and care, providing them with comfort as they grieve the physical loss of their loved ones, especially the families and friends of.... Be with them as they struggle to find a path through their grief back to joy.  
Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Listen now to the prayers of your people, spoken aloud or silently...

*(pause for personal prayers)*

*(special congregational prayers are lifted up)*

*The complete list of all whom the congregation is praying for this week is in the announcement insert in your bulletin.*



Hear us, O God.

**All: Your mercy is great.**

Leader: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**All: Amen.**



## MEAL



*(Note: The ushers will collect your offerings in the center aisle during the hymn.)*

### OFFERING HYMN

### *What Wondrous Love*

### Acclamation Ringers

arr. by Martha Lynn Thompson

### OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.  
Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.  
Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.  
We pray this in your name.

All: Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

Reader: We give great thanksgiving as we participate in this meal of joy for God's presence is here.

We invite you in Jesus' name to commune with him at *this* table,  
across political lines and economic lines,  
in places of powerfully protected affluence,  
and among the poorest of the poor.

Come, for this is a table where all are invited.  
Come, whether this is your first time or your hundredth.  
Come, because this feast is a reminder that God's Table is big enough for all of us.

We share this meal, remembering and celebrating the One who increases joy.  
Jesus Christ has risen and he rose for *you*.  
God has a seat saved at this table, specifically for *you*.

So, come.  
*All* are welcome.

We will commune those in the Sanctuary first and then with those who are online.  
If you are joining us online and want to participate in Holy Communion, have your piece of  
bread or cracker and your wine or juice ready.

## DIALOGUE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

## PREFACE

Pastor: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ;  
who on this day overcame death and the grave,  
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.  
And so, with all the choirs of angels,  
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

S.M. Haley

Ho - ly, ho - ly ho - ly. Lord God of pow - er and might.

Heav'n and earth are full, full of Your glo - ry. Ho -

8

san - na in the high - est Bless - ed are they who

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

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

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## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed,  
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.

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.



## LORD'S PRAYER

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

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

All: **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.**

All: **For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power,  
and the glory,  
forever and ever.  
Amen.**



## COMMUNION HYMN

S.M.Haley

(Org.)

Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

Lamb of God you take a - way the sin of the world.

Lamb of God you take a - way the sin . . . of the world.

Grant us peace. Grant us peace.

## ABOUT COMMUNION

*All are welcome to receive the Lord's Supper. Please wait in your pew until the usher indicates that it is your turn, then come forward using the center aisle. If you and/or your children are not comfortable participating in the Rite of Communion, **know that all are still welcome to come forward for a blessing – just let the presider know your preference when you and/or your children are at the rail.** When you are at the front, please fill in a vacant spot at the altar rail. You may either kneel or stand, whichever is most comfortable for you. **If you would like a gluten free alternative to the bread, or if you prefer grape juice instead of wine, please indicate that to the appropriate provider.** After you have communed, please discard the empty cup to be recycled in the trash can by the side wall before returning to your seat.*

## COMMUNION INVITATION AND DISTRIBUTION

Pastor: Bread for the journey.  
A feast for hungry hearts.  
Come!



*(when all in the sanctuary have been fed)*

Pastor: Those joining us online – pick up your bread and hear these words:

*This is the body of Christ given for you.*

Eat and receive saying, "**Amen.**"

Lift up your cup of wine or juice and hear these words:

*This is the blood of Christ shed for you.*

Drink and receive saying, "**Amen.**"

## COMMUNION BLESSING

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

All: Amen.

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Let us pray:

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless - ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;  
 2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.  
 3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,

let us each, your love pos - sess - ing, tri - umph in re - deem - ing grace.  
 May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.  
 let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.

Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.  
 Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.  
 May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.  
 Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

## BLESSING

Leader: God bless you and keep you,  
 shower you with mercy,  
 fill you with courage,  
 and ✠ give you peace.

All: Amen.



## DISMISSAL

Pastor: The love and peace of Christ be with you always.

**All: And also with you.**

Pastor: Go now in peace. Share your blessings, work for the justice of God, and serve the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God!**

Pastor: Let us share God's peace with one another as we leave today.

*(As we pass the peace,*

***ALL** people have the right to choose if they would like  
a verbal greeting, a handshake, or a hug.)*

## POSTLUDE





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Offering Music – When I Survey the Wondrous Cross – HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792-1872

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## ***KENT LUTHERAN CHURCH***

*lives and celebrates the accepting love of Christ*

### **CORE VALUES**

We affirm the following values:

- \* We value the love of God revealed in Christ Jesus;
- \* We value God's love as a gift to be shared with everyone;
- \* We value everyone as a child of God, and invite all to be embraced by God;
- \* We value providing a loving, caring environment supporting spiritual needs;
- \* We value that all people are empowered by the Holy Spirit to serve God and community.
- \* We value the participation of people of all ages, ethnic background, sexual orientation, gender identity, educational background, different abilities, and economic conditions.

### **OUR VISION**

**Kent Lutheran Church**, a Christ-centered, sacred place  
for spiritual, cultural, and community enrichment.

**Kent Lutheran Church** is an **RIC (Reconciling in Christ)** congregation.

**336 Second Avenue South, Kent, WA 98032-5849**

Phone: 253-852-2057

Office email: [klcoffice@kentlutheran.org](mailto:klcoffice@kentlutheran.org)

Web Site: [www.kentlutheran.org](http://www.kentlutheran.org)

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Pastor Tormod Svensson

Pastor's Cell Phone: 301-707-1548

Pastor's email: [pastorsvensson@gmail.com](mailto:pastorsvensson@gmail.com)

Sean Haley, Director of Music Ministries

Jody McCaw, Office Ministries Manager

Mona Lee, Treasurer

Kathy Nixon, Financial Secretary

Joseph Lual, Seminarian

Lutheran Counseling Network counselors:

Karen Klemetson (Kent and SeaTac)

425-271-9711, ext. 3