



Return to Love: Compassion

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:30 AM

*(You are welcome to share a prayer request to be used in worship today.
Prayer Cards will be collected during the Sermon Song.)*

WELCOME AND HIGHLIGHTED HAPPENINGS TO COME

GATHERING

(A time of silence to let go of daily worries and refocus on worshipping God)

PRELUDE *(and lighting of the altar candles)*



CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: We gather to hear God's word,

All: God's word of love and justice.

Leader: We will open our ears and our hearts,

All: And listen for God's commands.

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT PRAYER

Leader: Lord God,

O Loving Creator, we acknowledge this traditional home of the Duwamish and Muckleshoot peoples on which we live and worship today. We give thanks for their stewardship of this land over centuries. We ask for your guidance in our efforts to care for this place, and to honor the First Peoples' legacy with humility, respect and responsibility.

Response: Amen

OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Holy God,

All: We are daily bombarded by messages telling us we need to acquire more at the expense of ourselves and others. Relieve us of our self-absorption, and call us back to the path you would have us walk, O God, and walk alongside us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

GATHERING SONG

Here I Am To Worship

CCLI 3266032

Words and Music by
Tim Hughes

VERSE

♩ = 75

F C^{sus} Gm F C^{sus}

1. Light of the world, You stepped down in - to dark - ness, o - pened my eyes, let me
2. King of all days, oh so high - ly ex - alt - ed, glo - rious in heav - en a -

4 B \flat 2(no3) F C^{sus} Gm F C^{sus}

see. Beau - ty that made this heart a - dore You, hope of a life spent with
- bove. Hum - bly You came to the earth You cre - a - ted, all for love's sake be - came

8 B \flat 2(no3) C^{7sus} F C/E

CHORUS

You. So, here I am to wor - ship, here I am to bow down, here I am to
poor.

12 F/A B \flat

say that You're my God. And You're al - to - geth - er

14 F C/E

love - ly, al - to - geth - er wor - thy, al - to - geth - er

16 F/A Last time to Coda Φ 1. B \flat B \flat 2(no3) 2. B \flat

won - der - ful to me. And I'll nev -

BRIDGE

20 C/E F/A B \flat C/E F/A

- er know how much it cost to see my sin up - on

23 1. B \flat 2. B \flat D.S. al Coda C 7 sus

that cross. And I'll nev - that cross. So, here I am to

26 Φ Coda B \flat B \flat 2(no3) F

CONFESSION

Leader: We confess our sins before God and one another.

(Pause for a time of reflection)

God of the journey,

All: We do not want to follow where you lead.

**Instead, we turn inward,
focusing on satisfying our own wants,
even at the expense of our neighbors.**

**We do not see their suffering;
we do not act for their justice.**

**We are motivated by the fear of not getting what we want,
or of losing what we have.**

**We ignore the example of your sacrificial love,
which has the power to heal and make whole.**

Forgive us for refusing to heed your call.

**Change our hearts, our minds, and our actions,
so that we might return to following you,
no matter where your journey leads.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Pastor: Our God is a God of abundant grace and mercy, and never lets us go.
For the sake of Jesus, God With Us,
who gave all for the redemption of creation,
our sins are forgiven.

**All: We will follow in Christ's loving footsteps.
Amen.**



THE WORD

THE READING Luke 16:19-31

Reader: The reading today is from the sixteenth chapter of Luke:

Reader: ¹⁹ “There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰ And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹ who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man’s table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²² The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³ In Hades, where he was being tormented, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴ He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things and Lazarus in like manner evil things, but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶ Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷ He said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house—²⁸ for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹ Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰ He said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone from the dead goes to them, they will repent.’ ³¹ He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’ ”

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

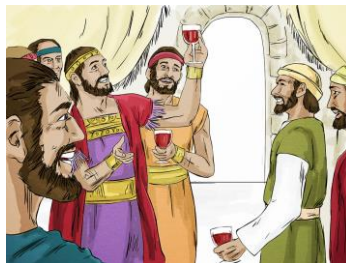
Response: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

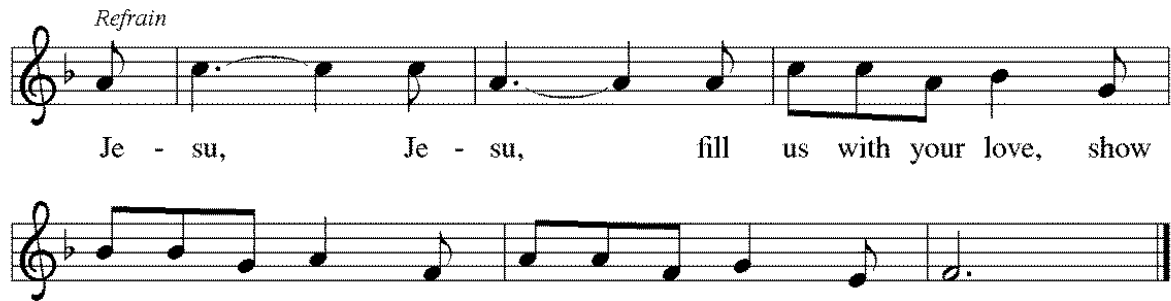


SERMON

Pastor Tormod Svensson



Refrain




Je - su, Je - su, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.



1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, si - lent - ly wash - es their feet,
 2 Neigh - bors are wealth - y and poor, var - ied in col - or and race,
 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love;
 4 Kneel at the feet of our friends, si - lent - ly wash - ing their feet:

Refrain



mas - ter who acts as a slave to them.
 neighbors are near - by and far a - way.
 all these are neigh - bors to us and you.
 this is the way we will live with you.

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925–2000, alt.
 Music: CHEREPONI, Ghanaian folk tune, adapt. Tom Colvin
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DECLARATION OF FAITH

Leader: We declare our faith:

All: We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God, who knows our names and recognizes our deepest needs.

We believe that Christ is the divine Child of the living God, and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the birthing, renewing, enabling Spirit of God who yearns over our welfare as a mother yearns for her child.

We believe that God is in the arid desert as well as in green pastures, and that hard times and disciplines are also loving gifts.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination, and that our path leads to a human glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road, and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

This is our faith and we are humbled to profess in Jesus the Christ.

Amen.



COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Leader: With trust and hope, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.
(silence for reflection)

Leader: Open our eyes to the ways in which our financial practices cause harm to other people, sustaining systems that perpetuate poverty. Turn us away from our self-concern that we might work for lasting change that brings equity to all people.
Merciful God,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Open our eyes to the ways in which our material practices cause harm to your creation. Inspire us to advocate for the wellbeing of the natural world, and to create and enact policies that center on its care.
Merciful God,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Open our eyes to the ways in which our governments cause harm to the marginalized. Make us hold our elected leaders to the ideals of equality for all people.
Merciful God,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Open our eyes to the ways in which those around us are suffering in body, mind, and spirit. Hold them in your loving arms and give them strength and courage through their difficulties. Help us and all of their care givers to provide the loving care needed to bring healing and wholeness to them. And give support and comfort to their families and friends through these trying times.
Merciful God,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Open our eyes to the ways in which our social practices cause harm to those who are not exactly like us. Teach us true hospitality, and help us to welcome all people.
Merciful God,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Be with those who are passing from this life into the next. May they be comforted and brought deep peace. Help us to remember with gratitude and be strengthened by the example of those who have completed their earthly journey, including.... Confident in the promise of the resurrection, we wait with anticipation and with certainty that we will be reunited with them again at your heavenly banquet. Until that time, comfort those who are mourning the loss of their loved ones, and be with them as they struggle to find a path through their grief back to joy.
Merciful God,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Listen now to the prayers of your people, spoken aloud or silently...
(pause for personal prayers)
(special congregational prayers are lifted up)

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

Merciful God,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We entrust all these prayers and those of our hearts to you, O God.
In Jesus name we pray.

Response: Amen.

MEAL



*(Note: Receptacles for your offerings are available on stools at the front
on either side of the center aisle as you come forward for communion)*

OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Our offering prayer:
Merciful God,
we know that nothing we have is our own.
Receive these gifts that we offer,
and bless them for the work of caring for all those in need,
on our own doorsteps and in communities around the world.

Response: Amen.

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: We join in the prayer Jesus taught us to pray.

All: Our [Father | Mother | Heavenly Parent | Creator] 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.



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. You may choose either the rail side or the side where there is no rail. 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 in front of the first Chancel step.** When you are at the front, please fill in a vacant spot. **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 presider.** 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 DISTRIBUTION

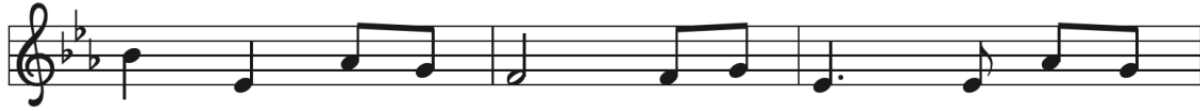
Leader: Jesus, who has redeemed all of creation—without exception—
now welcomes you into his presence,
and promises newness of life through this holy meal.

Come and eat; all is ready for you.





1 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken by the
 2 Loaves were bro - ken, words were spo - ken in a
 3 Loaves are bro - ken, words are spo - ken, as in
 4 By the loaves you break and give us, send us



Gal - i - le - an shore. Je - sus, Bread of life from
 qui - et room one night. In the bread and wine you
 faith we gath - er here. Je - sus speaks a - cross the
 in your name to share bread for which the mil - lions

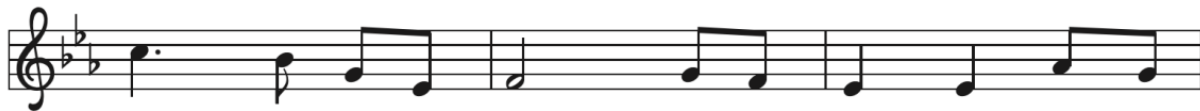


heav - en, was their food for - ev - er - more.
 gave them, Christ, you came as Light from Light.
 a - ges: "I am with you; do not fear!"
 hun - ger, words that tell your love and care.

Refrain



By your bod - y bro - ken for us, by your



wine of life out - poured, Je - sus, feed a - gain your



peo - ple. Be our Host, our Life, our Lord.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007
 Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen, b. 1950
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(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: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Response: Amen.

BLESSING

Leader: May the path that Christ walks
to bring justice upon the earth,
to bring light to those who sit in darkness,
to bring out those who live in bondage,
to bring new things to all creation:
may this path run through our life.
May we be the road Christ takes.





1 Sent forth by God's bless - ing, our true faith con - fess - ing,
2 With praise and thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er - liv - ing,



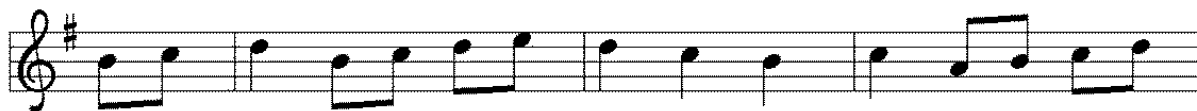
the peo - ple of God from this dwell - ing take leave.
the tasks of our ev - 'ry - day life we will face—



The sup - per is end - ed. Oh, now be ex - tend - ed
our faith ev - er shar - ing, in love ev - er car - ing,



the fruits of this ser - vice in all who be - lieve.
em - brac - ing God's chil - dren, the whole hu - man race.



The seed of Christ's teach - ing, re - cep - tive souls
With your feast you feed us, with your light now



reach - ing, shall blos - som in ac - tion for God and for all.
lead us; u - nite us as one in this life that we share.



Your grace shall in - cite us, your love shall u - nite us
Then may all the liv - ing with praise and thanks - giv - ing



to work for your king - dom and an - swer your call.
give hon - or to Christ and his name that we bear.

Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916–1997, alt.

Music: THE ASH GROVE, Welsh folk tune

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WE GO

Pastor: Let us go now, to follow Jesus,
to serve our neighbor,
to stand with the oppressed,
to proclaim and live God's grace,
and to share God's peace with one another and our world!

Response: **Thanks be to God!**

*(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





Resources: All bible texts are from the New Revised Standard Version Bible Updated Edition, Friendship Press, 2021

Call to Worship, Opening Prayer, Confession and Forgiveness, Community Prayers, Offering Prayer, and Communion Invitation ~ written by Pastor Katelyn Rakotoarivelo, Narrative Lectionary *Program 2*, 2024-25 Worship Resources, copyright © 2024 Clergy Stuff, 11260 Deer Ridge Lane, Minnetonka, MN 55343.

Declaration of Faith ~ from **Traveling to Easter with Jesus as our Guide**, posted on the website of Patmos Abbey—The Order of Saint Columba. <http://www.patmosabbey.org/>

Blessing ~ written by Jan L. Richardson, and posted on **The Painted Prayerbook**. <http://paintedprayerbook.com/>

Special Clip Art:

Return to Love ~ montage of Rainbow Heart from <https://clipart-library.com/clipart/rainbow-heart-clipart-52024.html>,
Script Love Heart from <https://worksheets.clipart-library.com/worksheet/printable-love-heart-shapes-33.html>,
and Mosaic Cross from <https://clipart-library.com/clipart/f4883c82-ee4a-4a7b-8b58-2b5885904201.html>

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Come to the Table ~ from <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/702688.htm>

Have a blessed day! ~ from https://clipart-library.com/clipart/blessed-day-cliparts_14.htm

Piano with Music ~ from <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/314679.htm> and recolored

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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

Web Site: www.kentlutheran.org

Visit us on Facebook: Kent Lutheran Church, Kent Lutheran Youth, KLC South Sudan

Other KLC related web sites: www.KentGrandOrgan.org, www.klcsouthsudan.blogspot.com

Pastor Tormod Svensson

Pastor's Cell Phone: 301-707-1548

Pastor's email: pastorsvensson@gmail.com

Sean Haley, Director of Music Ministries

Ken Brooks, Office Ministries Manager

Mona Lee, Treasurer

Kathy Nixon, Financial Secretary

Joseph Lual, Seminarian

Lutheran Counseling Network counselor:

Karen Klemetson (Kent and SeaTac)

425-271-9711, ext. 3