



Return to Love:

Showing and Receiving Mercy

April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:30 AM

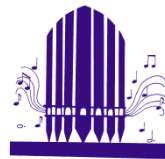
*(You are welcome to share a prayer request to be used in worship today.
Prayer Cards will be collected during the Sermon Song.)*

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 come to God in our weakness and sorrow.

All: **God receives us as we are.**

Leader: We are afraid to admit we need help.

All: **God is not embarrassed by our reluctance.**

Leader: We can ask for what we need, and God will answer us.

All: **God is not embarrassed to be God to us.**

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: You know the longing of our hearts to be in relationship with you,
despite living as though we do not need you.

Have mercy on us.

Call us into your presence.

Heal us, renew us, and lead us

in the new life that only you can provide.

In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

The Numberless Gifts of God's Mercies

ELW 683

1 The num - ber - less gifts of God's mer - cies my tongue can - not
2 Like all of the stars in the heav - ens, God's mer - cies can
3 I'll nev - er count all of God's mer - cies, but oh, I can

fath - om or tell. Like dew that ap - pears in the morn - ing,
nev - er be told. They shine through the dark - ness of mid - night;
give God my praise for all of that love, my thanks - giv - ing

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is 7/8. The lyrics are written below the vocal line.

they come to us shin - ing and full. The num - ber - less
 their beau - ties can nev - er grow old. Like all of the
 and love to the end of my days. I'll nev - er count

gifts of God's mer - cies my tongue can - not fath - om or tell.
 stars in the heav - ens, God's mer - cies can nev - er be told.
 all of God's mer - cies, but oh, I can give God my praise!

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Gracia Grindal, b. 1943
 Music: JAG KAN ICKE RÅKNA DEM ALLA, Albert Lindström, 1853–1955
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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 18:31-19:10

Reader: The reading today begins in the eighteenth chapter of Luke:

³¹ Then he took the twelve aside and said to them, "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem, and everything that is written about the Son of Man by the prophets will be accomplished.

³² For he will be handed over to the gentiles, and he will be mocked and insulted and spat upon. ³³ After they have flogged him, they will kill him, and on the third day he will rise again." ³⁴ But they understood nothing about all these things; in fact, what he said was hidden from them, and they did not grasp what was said.

³⁵ As he approached Jericho, a blind man was sitting by the roadside begging. ³⁶ When he heard a crowd going by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him, "Jesus of Nazareth is passing by." ³⁸ Then he shouted, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ³⁹ Those who were in front sternly ordered him to be quiet, but he shouted even more loudly, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁰ Jesus stood still and ordered the man to be brought to him, and when he came near, he asked him, ⁴¹ "What do you want me to do for you?" He said, "Lord, let me see again." ⁴² Jesus said to him, "Receive your sight; your faith has saved you." ⁴³ Immediately he regained his sight and followed him, glorifying God, and all the people, when they saw it, praised God.

¹ He entered Jericho and was passing through it. ² A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." ⁶ So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. ⁷ All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner." ⁸ Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." ⁹ Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

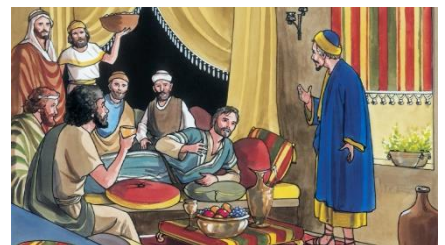
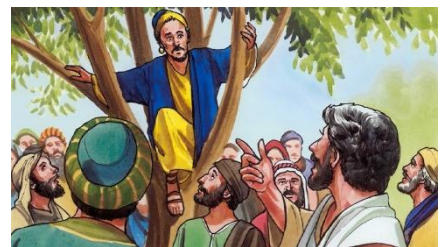
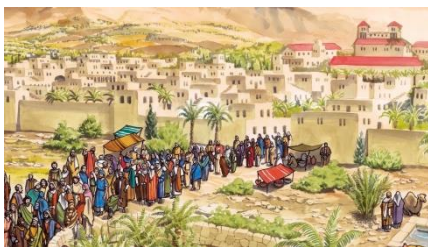
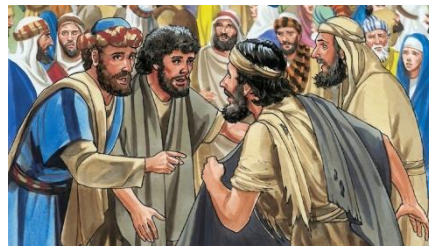
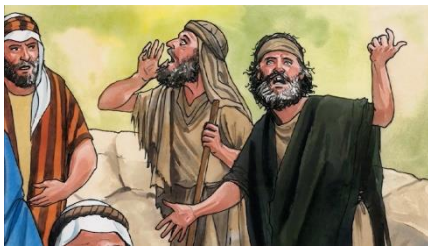
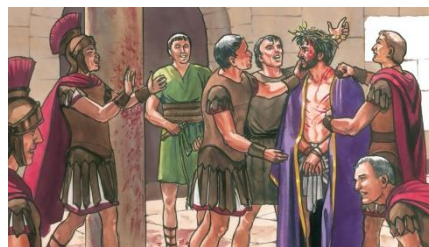
Response: Thanks be to God.


CHILDREN'S MESSAGE



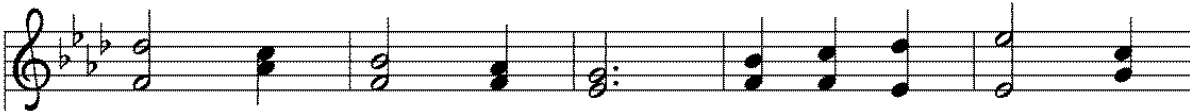
SERMON

Pastor Tormod Svensson

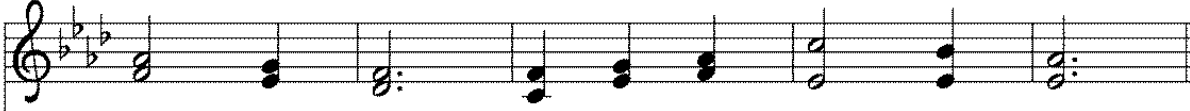




1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
 2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
 3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
 4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus
 5 In sick - ness, sor - row, want, or care, may we each
 6 And may your Ho - ly Spir - it move all those who



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
 world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
 those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
 Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and
 oth - er's bur - dens share; may we, where help is
 live to live in love, till you re - ceive in



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
 stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
 word and thought may work a work for you.
 grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.
 need - ed, there give help as though to you.
 heav'n a - bove all those who live in you.

Text: Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, alt.
 Music: JUST AS I AM, Joseph Barnby, 1838–1896; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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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: God, you answer us when we cry to you. Transform our hearts and lives just as you caused the blind man to see, and moved Zacchaeus to make amends for all his dishonesty.
Merciful God,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Even the sparrow and the swallow find care in you, as Psalm 84 proclaims:

³ Even the sparrow finds a home
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

Help us to cherish all creatures of the earth and work towards ensuring their flourishing.
Merciful God,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lift up leaders throughout the world who truly understand their people and communities.
Empower communities to recognize and affirm those who would be faithful leaders in their midst.

Merciful God,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Just as you heard the cries of the blind man, you know the needs of our hearts, minds, and bodies. Draw near to all who are in need of your care, and grant them courage, comfort, and healing. Guide and sustain those who are tending to their needs, and give support and comfort to their families and friends through these trying times.
Merciful God,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Tend to those who are experiencing the loss of a relationship, or the loss of some aspect of their lives they previously took for granted. May all find your compassion and peace as they journey through their pain.
Merciful God,

Response: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Teach us the stories of those gone before us, and inspire us by their faithful commitments, which are impacting us still today. We give you thanks for those beloved saints who are no longer with us, 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 physical 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 our gifts, 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: We do not have to cry out or climb a tree to see Jesus—
he is present here with us in this holy meal.
All are invited to dine with him today.
Come and be fed!



COMMUNION SONG

Eat This Bread

ELW 472, Repeated

Refrain

"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."

The image shows musical notation for a communion song. It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system is labeled "Refrain" and includes the lyrics "Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry." The second system includes the lyrics "Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst." The music is written in a simple, accessible style with a key signature of one sharp (F#).

Text: Taizé Community

Music: BERTHIER, Jacques Berthier, 1923–1994

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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.



Refrain Eb F7 Bb F7 Bb Eb7

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way,

Ab Gm/Bb Fm/Bb Eb Bb7 3 Eb

for if you lead me, I can - not stray.

Eb Db7 C7

Lord, let me walk each day with you,

Fm C7 Fm Eb/Bb F9 Bb7 Eb Ab/Eb Eb

lead me my whole life through.

Eb Eb/Db 3 C7 Fm Fm7 Bb7

1 I am weak and I need your strength and power to en-
 2 Help me walk in the paths of right - eous - ness; be my
 3 I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am

Fm Fm/Bb Gm/Bb Fm/Bb Eb/Bb Bb7 Eb

dure with grace my weak - est hour. Help me
 aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am
 blind with - out your light to see. Lord, for-

through the dark - ness your face to see.
 trust - ing you what - e'er may be.
 ev - er may I your ser - vant be.

Eb7 Fm/Ab C7/G Fm

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

to Refrain
 Eb

Eb/Bb F9 Bb7 Ab/Bb Bb7 Eb Ab/Eb

WORDS: Doris Akers (1922-1995), alt.
 MUSIC: Doris Akers (1922-1995); arr. Richard Smallwood (1948-)
 Words and Music © 1953, Ren. 1981 Doris Akers (Admin. Unichappell Music Inc. c/o Hal Leonard Corporation)

LEAD ME
 Irregular

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
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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>

Your Word Is a Lamp to My Feet ~ from <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/692578.htm>

Jesus with the Children ~ from https://www.clipartmax.com/middle/m2i8Z5K9Z5Z5m2i8_jesus-and-children-by-joeatta78-jesus-and-children-jesus-with-children-clipart/

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Death and Resurrection Prophecies ~from <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-075-resurrection-prophecies/>.

Jesus Heals a Blind Beggar ~ from <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-076-blind-beggar/>

Zacchaeus the Tax Collector ~ from <https://www.freebibleimages.org/illustrations/gnpi-077-zacchaeus/>

Mercy ~ from <https://clipart-library.com/clipart/369224.htm>

Praying Hands ~ from <http://clipart-library.com/clipart/516920.htm>

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