Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



Second Sunday in Lent March 5, 2023 9:30 a.m.



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Instagram: goodsoilchurch

YouTube: Good Soil Lutheran Ministries

<u>Welcome</u>

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshiping with you. There's also a "prayground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshiping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Key:
Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation
Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant
† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

Please Note: In an effort to protect those who are vulnerable, <u>masking is strongly</u> <u>recommended.</u> In addition, the first four rows of pews on the left side of the sanctuary are reserved as a "masking only" section (for those who wish to be in close proximity only with others who are masking).

Second Sunday in Lent

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are a given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

	Prelude Welcome to Worship
In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble	† Confession and Forgiveness Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. Amen.
around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism	Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy. Silence is kept for reflection.
through repentance.	God of new life, you call us into unknown places, and we bury our heads in the sand.

You promise all the stars in the sky, and we doubt it can be true.

You speak of new life in the Spirit, and we tell ourselves we've missed our chance.

Over and over again, you invite us closer to you.

Show us the way.

Forgive our mistakes.

Give us the courage to begin again with you. Amen.

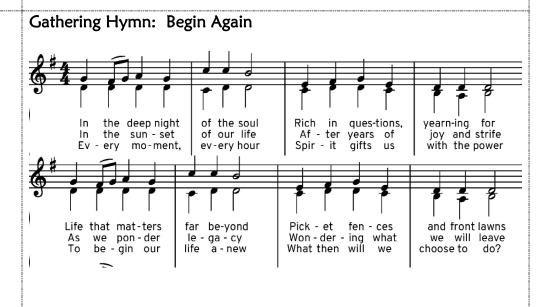
Hear and believe this good news:

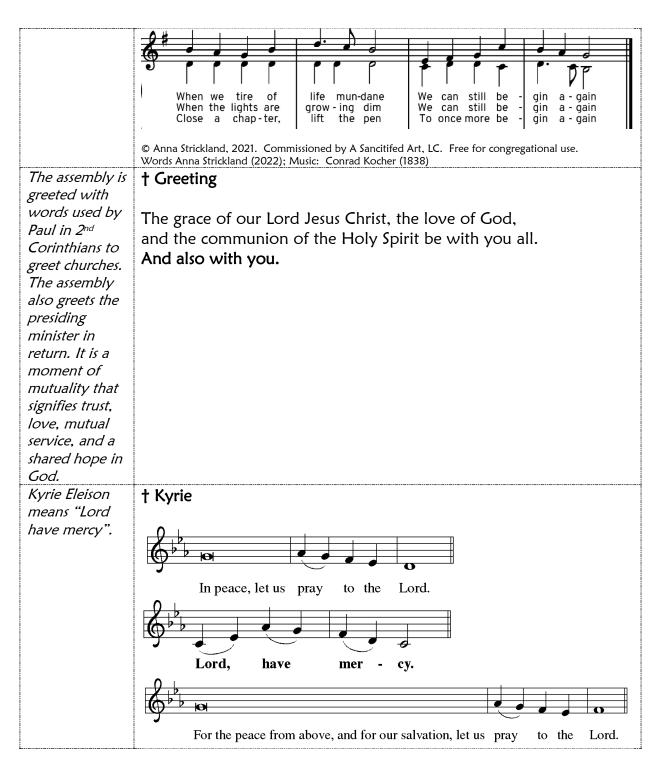
There is a grace to God's love that is bigger than we can imagine. No matter what we did or didn't do yesterday, we have been forgiven. Today, the slate is wiped clean. Today, we are made new.

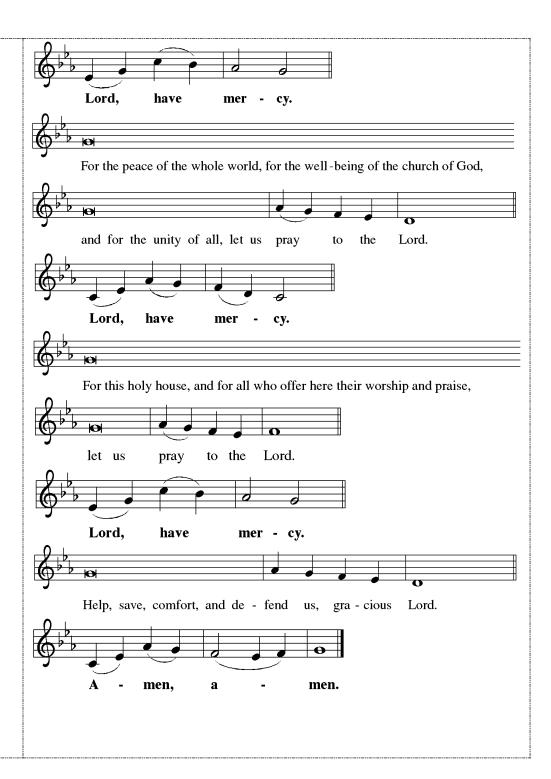
We belong to God.

We are held in God's love.

We are being made new. Amen.







The Prayer of
the Day
highlights
themes from
the scripture
readings we
are about to
hear.

† Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

To put this reading into context:

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

Hear now the reading:

¹The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Word of God. Word of Life.

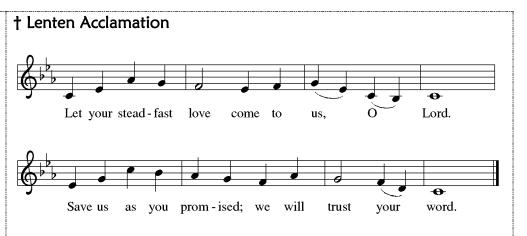
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 112:1-7, 9



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress. May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

- ¹Hallelujah! Happy are they who | fear the Lord and have great delight in | God's commandments!
- ²Their descendants will be mighty | in the land; the generation of the upright | will be blessed.
- ³Wealth and riches will be | in their house, and their righteousness will | last forever.
- ⁴Light shines in the darkness | for the upright; the righteous are merciful and full | of compassion.
- 5It is good for them to be gener- | ous in lending and to manage their af- | fairs with justice.
- ⁶For they will nev- | er be shaken; the righteous will be kept in everlast- | ing remembrance.
- ⁷They will not be afraid of any | evil rumors; their heart is steadfast, trusting | in the Lord.
- They have given freely to the poor, and their righteousness stands | fast forever; they will hold up their | head with honor.



The Gospel is announced. Following the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel Reading: John 3:1-17

To put this reading into context:

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The holy gospel according to John. Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⑦Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ®The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it

goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon

Children aged Pre-K through 3rd grade are invited to leave the service after the Children's Sermon and attend the 1st part of Sunday School instruction (2nd part to resume in classes after worship.)

Sermon: The Rev. Deborah Michaels

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.

You're invited to reflect on the following question:

Describe a "new beginning" you experienced in your life. What was that like and how was God present?

† Hymn of the Day: What a Friend We Have in Jesus ELW 742

- 1 What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
 What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
 Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bearall because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
- 2 Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere? We should never be discouraged-take it to the Lord in prayer. Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share? Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness-take it to the Lord in prayer.
- 3 Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
 Precious Savior, still our refuge-take it to the Lord in prayer.
 Do your friends despise, forsake you?
 Take it to the Lord in prayer.
 In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

As the church, we pray for those in our community and around the world. The prayers are

† Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

also responsive, emphasizing our own participation.

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless all who are called to vocational ministry, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress especially Helen, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew, Willie, Char, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Jeanette, Andrew, Patricia . . . and those whom we lift up in our hearts silently or aloud. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, curiosity and holy noise. Enliven our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.

† Passing of the Peace

The Peace of Christ be with you always And also with you.

The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.

The Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.

Offering

God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:

You can also use this same QR code to make a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response to help the people suffering in Turkey and Syria after the devasting earthquake. Please note "Earthquake" in the description field.

Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.



The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude for God's blessings.

† Offering Hymn: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ELW 335

Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain; free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever; till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

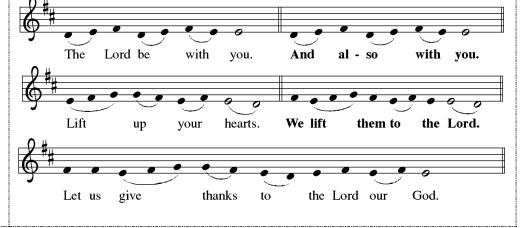
† Offering Prayer

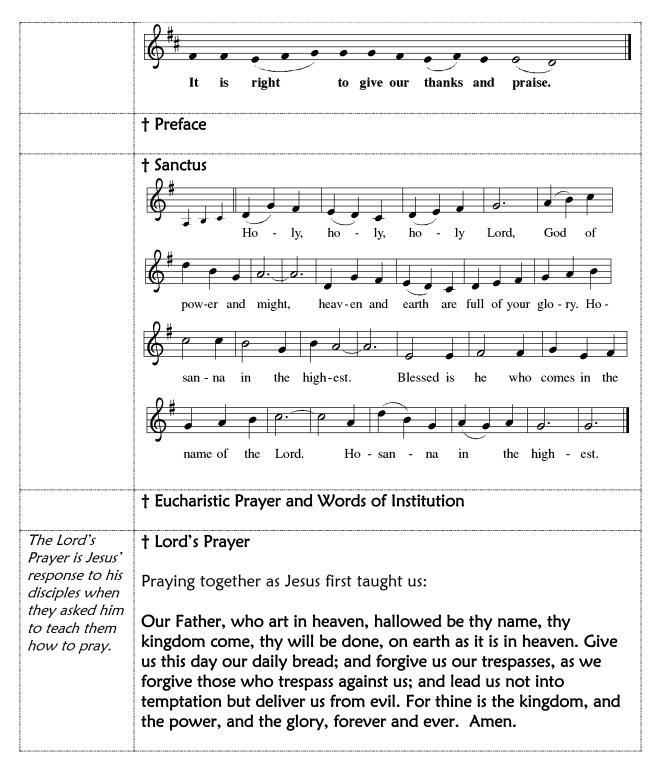
God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel.

Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

Amen.







† Invitation to the Table

We are all seeking something...

...Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. Amen.

† Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with "Amen" or "Thanks be to God."

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine is red; grape juice is white. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: My Song is Love Unknown ELW 343

- 1 My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. Oh, who am I that for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from his blest throne salvation to bestow; the world that was his own would not its Savior know. But, oh, my friend, my friend indeed, who at my need his life did spend!

- 3 Sometimes we strew his way and his sweet praises sing; resounding all the day hosannas to our king.
 Then "Crucify!" is all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.
- 4 We cry out; we will have our dear Lord made away, a murderer to save, the prince of life to slay. Yet cheerful he to suff'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.
- 5 In life no house, no home my Lord on earth might have; in death no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave. What may I say? Heav'n was his home but mine the tomb wherein he lay.
- 6 Here might I stay and sing—
 no story so divine!
 Never was love, dear King,
 never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
 I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624-1683, alt.

† Post-Communion Table Blessing

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.	† Blessing God, the giver of love, → Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. Amen.
Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.	† Sending Hymn: Christ, the Life of All the Living 1 Christ, the life of all the living, Christ, the death of death, our foe, Christ, yourself for me once giving to the darkest depths of woe: through your suffring, death, and merit life eternal I inherit. Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you. 2 You have suffered great affliction and have borne it patiently, even death by crucifixion, fully to atone for me; for you chose to be tormented that my doom should be prevented. Thousand, thousand thanks are due, dearest Jesus, unto you.
	3 Then, for all that bought my pardon, for the sorrows deep and sore, for the anguish in the garden, I will thank you evermore; thank you for the groaning, sighing, for the bleeding and the dying,

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605-1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, alt.

for that last triumphant cry, praise you evermore on high.

The dismissal	† Dismissal
sends us out as Christ's Body—fed, nourished,	Go in peace. Serve in love.
and ready to serve. Worship	Thanks be to God.
has ended, and our service	
begins!	
	Postlude

You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for coffee hour immediately following worship.

Coffee hour discussion question:

Nicodemus has an encounter with Jesus at night. Describe a night-time experience where you've encountered Jesus, perhaps through gazing at stars, or around a campfire at camp, or while exploring a cave, etc.

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Confession and Forgiveness and Eucharistic Prayer adapted from "Seeking: Words for Worship" by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art, LLC sanctifiedart.org

Today's Worship Servants:

Presiding: The Rev. Deborah Michaels	Reader: Michael Wancata		
Ushers: Barbara Demko-Werner	Counters: Michael Wancata		
JoAnne Wancata	Joan Zeager		
Online Usher: Dave Blocksom	Acolyte: Jack Johnson		
Livestream: Joe Lanter	Sunday School Teachers:		
	Louise Debell (Early Learners)		
	TBD (Primary)		
	JoAnne Wancata (Middle Schoolers)		



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, March 5, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Helen Andrews, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew Evatt, Martha Lanter, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schluep, Marie Sternad, Andrew Sykaluk, Patricia Wancata, Jeanette Weidlich, Archer

For those celebrating their birthday:

Scarlett Smith (Mar 8), Michael Wancata (Mar 10)

For those celebrating their baptismal anniversary:

Sarah Sburlea (Mar 8), Luca Sburlea (Mar 10), Kim Wyle (Mar 10)

Tune up your vocal pipes! Julia Alexander is forming a choir for an anthem to be sung later in Lent, probably on Palm/Passion, Sunday, April 2. Practice will be after worship on Sundays. Please email Julia at <u>Julia.alexander@oberlin.edu</u> if you are interested in participating.

Spring forward! Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead an hour next Saturday before going to bed.



Hungry for deeper connection with God and your faith community? So are we! All members and friends of Good Soil are invited to participate in small groups for the duration of the Lenten season.

Each group will meet once a week for the next 4 weeks to check in with one another, deepen relationships, and grow in faith together. Each group will be led by a lay leader and meet at a different time of the week, so sign up using this QR code for the day of the week and time that works best for you!

Seeds is a weekly e-newsletter with updates and highlights about God's action among us! Use this QR code to sign up. You can also call the church office at 440-331-1773 for help signing up. It's a great way to stay in touch with all the exciting happenings at Good Soil!



Calendar of Events				
Date	Event	Time		
Sun, Mar 5	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 a.m.		
	Sunday School	10:30 a.m.		
	Coffee Hour	10:30 a.m.		
	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.		
Wed, Mar 8	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.		
Thurs, Mar 9	Lenten Small Group In-Person	10:00 a.m.		
Sat, Mar 11	ELCA Anti-Racist Zoom Mtg	10:30 a.m.		
	TURN YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD AN HOUR BEFORE			
	GOING TO BED			
Sun, Mar 12	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 a.m.		
	Sunday School	10:30 a.m.		
	Coffee Hour	10:30 a.m.		
	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.		
Tues, Mar 14	GS Executive Team Mtg	7:30 p.m.		
Wed, Mar 15	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.		
Thurs, Mar 16	Lenten Small Group In-Person	10:00 a.m.		
Sun, Mar 19	In-Person and Livestream Worship	9:30 a.m.		
	Sunday School	10:30 a.m.		
	Coffee Hour	10:30 a.m.		
	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.		
Tues, Mar 21	GS Council Mtg	7:30 p.m.		
Wed, Mar 22	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.		
Thurs, Mar 23	Lenten Small Group In-Person	10:00 a.m.		

