



**Sing with All the Saints in Glory:  
2023 Lenten Midweek Series**

First Wednesday. 7 p.m. March 1, 2023

**Prelude – Bell**

*Lent is a time of renewal. We focus on the death and resurrection of Jesus—and in turn focus on our own death and resurrection found in baptism.*

*We who have been baptized into Christ have died to sin and are the righteous saints of God. At the same time, we know that we struggle daily with sin as we seek to follow Jesus. This is the wonderful Lutheran understanding of sinner and saint.*

**Greeting**

P- The love of God poured into our hearts,  
the saving grace of Jesus,  
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C- And also with you.**

## **Gathering Song – Borning Cry, ELW 732**

*The composition of “Borning Cry” began in 1985, when Mr. Ylvisaker was asked to prepare a series on baptism called “Reflections” for the ALC. His Web site states: “John began work on the song before any footage for the video had been shot.*

*1. I was there to hear your borning cry, I'll be there when you are old.*

*I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.*

*I was there when you were but a child, with a faith to suit you well;*

*In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell.*

*2. When you heard the wonder of the Word I was there to cheer you on;*

*You were raised to praise the living Lord, to whom you now belong.*

*If you find someone to share your time and you join your hearts as one,*

*I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk 'till rising sun.*

*3. In the middle ages of your life, not too old, no longer young,*

*I'll be there to guide you through the night, complete what I've begun.*

*When the evening gently closes in, and you shut your weary eyes,*

*I'll be there as I have always been with just one more surprise.*

*4. I was there to hear your borboring cry, I'll be there when you are old.*

*I rejoiced the day you were baptized, to see your life unfold.*

### **Confession & Forgiveness**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins:*

P- Blessed is the Holy Trinity, + one God,  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**C- Amen**

P- Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P- Holy God,

**C- we confess to you our faults and failings.**

**Too often we neglect and do not trust your Holy Word;  
we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;  
we spoil rather than steward your creation;  
we cause hurt though you call us to heal;  
we choose fear over compassion.**

**Forgive us, renew us, lead us,**

**as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen**

P- Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave his only Son,  
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,  
+ forgives you in Christ's name,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power.

**C- Amen**

### **Opening Prayer**

P- O God, ancient and eternal,  
in Christ you make all things new.

In baptism we have been buried with Christ  
and made citizens with the saints.

Keep us faithful all our days,  
and at length bring us into glory.

Through the same Jesus Christ,  
our life, our strength, and our hope.

**C- Amen**

**Song – Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing** (verses 1-3) ELW  
886            *The story behind **O for a Thousand Tongues to Sing** was that Charles Wesley was plagued by an experience of pleurisy in May 1738, while he and his brother were studying under the Moravian professor Peter Boehler in London. Wesley was concerned by extreme doubts about his faith during his sickness.*

1 Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing  
my great Redeemer's praise,  
the glories of my God and king,  
the triumphs of his grace!

2 My gracious Master and my God,  
assist me to proclaim,  
to spread through all the earth abroad  
the honors of your name.

3 The name of Jesus charms our fears  
and bids our sorrows cease,  
sings music in the sinner's ears,  
brings life and health and peace.

### **Word**

*The Word includes two hymns and two readings associated with the specific commemorations and theme of each week.*

**Psalm 145:1-13 - The Greatness and the Goodness of God**  
*Read responsively.*

I will extol you, my God and King,  
**and bless your name for ever and ever.**

Every day I will bless you,  
**and praise your name for ever and ever.**

Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised;  
**his greatness is unsearchable.**

One generation shall laud your works to another,  
**and shall declare your mighty acts.**

On the glorious splendor of your majesty,  
**and on your wondrous works, I will meditate.**

The might of your awesome deeds shall be proclaimed,  
**and I will declare your greatness.**

They shall celebrate the fame of your abundant goodness,  
**and shall sing aloud of your righteousness.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
**slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.**

The LORD is good to all,  
**and his compassion is over all that he has made.**

All your works shall give thanks to you, O LORD,  
**and all your faithful shall bless you.**

They shall speak of the glory of your kingdom,  
**and tell of your power,**  
to make known to all people your mighty deeds,  
**and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.**

Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,  
**and your dominion endures throughout all generations.**

The LORD is faithful in all his words,  
**and gracious in all his deeds.**

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 1:1-14**

**Inheritance of Faith: George Herbert: John Wesley and Charles Wesley** *This week's commemoration—George Herbert, an English Anglican country priest and renowned poet, and John and Charles Wesley, Anglican priests, missionaries to America, and eventually founders of the Methodist movement.*

**Offering Song – Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing** (verses 4-6) ELW 886

4 He speaks, and list'ning to his voice,  
new life the dead receive;  
the mournful, broken hearts rejoice,  
the humble poor believe.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,  
O fallen human race!  
Look and be saved through faith alone,  
be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love  
be now and ever giv'n  
by saints below and saints above,  
the church in earth and heav'n.

### **Offering Prayer**

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

### **Lord's Prayer**

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy Name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.  
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.  
For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **Concluding Prayer**

P- Into your wide embrace, O God,  
we place all our prayers spoken and unspoken,  
trusting that you will receive them into your heart of mercy,  
Jesus Christ, your Son and our Savior.

**C- Amen**

## **Sending Song – I Love to Tell the Story ELW 661**

1 I love to tell the story  
of unseen things above,  
of Jesus and his glory,  
of Jesus and his love.  
I love to tell the story,  
because I know it's true;  
it satisfies my longings  
as nothing else would do.

Refrain:

I love to tell the story;  
'twill be my theme in glory  
to tell the old, old story  
of Jesus and his love.

2 I love to tell the story:  
how pleasant to repeat  
what seems, each time I tell it,  
more wonderfully sweet!  
I love to tell the story,  
for some have never heard  
the message of salvation  
from God's own holy word. [Refrain]

3 I love to tell the story,  
for those who know it best  
seem hungering and thirsting  
to hear it like the rest.  
And when, in scenes of glory,  
I sing the new, new song,  
I'll sing the old, old story  
that I have loved so long. [Refrain]

### **Sending**

P- Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith,  
as we are being rooted and grounded in love,  
strengthened by the Spirit,  
and filled with all the fullness of God.

**C- Amen**

P- Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C- Thanks be to God.**