



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

Second Wednesday. 7 p.m. March 8, 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 saint and sinner, where we exist as both in Christ.*

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 John 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 borning 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

Confession & Forgiveness

As you are able please stand. It 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 – *Please be seated,*

Song – Give Me Jesus ELW 770

"The origins of this spiritual appear to be a confluence of the white hymn tradition and the creativity and existential experiences of enslaved Africans. Numerous first stanzas appear over the decades with the refrain "Give me Jesus," though the most commonly used initial stanza now begins "In the morning when I rise."

1 In the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
in the morning when I rise,
give me Jesus.

Refrain:

Give me Jesus,
give me Jesus.
You may have all the rest,
give me Jesus.

2 Dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
dark midnight was my cry,
give me Jesus. [Refrain]

3 Just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
just about the break of day,
give me Jesus. [Refrain]

4 Oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
oh, when I come to die,
give me Jesus. [Refrain]

5 And when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
and when I want to sing,
give me Jesus. [Refrain]

Word

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

Isaiah 61:1-4

Hebrews 12:1-2, 12-13

Perseverance & Endurance: Perpetua & Felicity; Harriet Tubman and Sojourner Truth - *This week's commemoration— Perpetua & Felicity were early Christian martyrs who chose to die rather than forsake their faith in Jesus and their commitment to each other. Harriet Tubman was Moses to the people, leading many enslaved people to the freedom during the horror of American slavery.*

Offering Song – There Is a Balm in Gilead ELW 614

The refrain of this spiritual offers encouragement and dares to respond with hope in the face of hopelessness, showing courage in the face of despair. African American theologian Howard Thurman (1899-1981) discusses the refrain of this spiritual: “The slave caught the mood of this spiritual dilemma and with it did an amazing thing. He straightened the question mark in Jeremiah’s sentence into an exclamation point: ‘There is a balm in Gilead!’ [italics in original] Here is the note of creative triumph” (Thurman, 60).

Refrain:

There is a balm in Gilead
to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead
to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Sometimes I feel discouraged
and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit
revives my soul again. [Refrain]

2 If you cannot preach like Peter,
if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus
and say, "He died for all." [Refrain]

3 Don't ever be discouraged,
for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge,
he'll not refuse to lend. [Refrain]

Offering Prayer

As you are able, please stand.

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

People to keep in your prayers this week:

Joyce Jurgens

Marilyn Folkerts

Cora Church

Ernest Zimmerman

Brianna Podtburg

Dorothy Parde

And anyone else on your heart and in your minds!