



Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025



**DIAMOND
LAKE
LUTHERAN
CHURCH**

Welcome to Diamond Lake Lutheran Church!

We are so glad you are here! If you'd like more information about this community of faith, please fill out a Welcome card (found in the pew pockets near the hymnals) and place it in the offering plate or hand it to Pastor Andrea or an usher following worship. Take the Grow card with you if you wish! We invite you to enjoy coffee and Bogart's Doughnuts in the Commons before and after worship. Please leave your nametag on during the fellowship time.

Children in Worship

Children are encouraged to be present for worship—build-your-own activity bags are located in the narthex, along with children's bulletins. Children are invited to use the Pray-Ground at the front of the sanctuary. A nursery is located on the lower level if you need it. Please ask an usher for directions. If you are a nursing parent, you are welcome to nurse anywhere. If you would like privacy, there is a nursing room in the nursery downstairs.

Special Assistance

Hearing devices and large print bulletins are available. Please see the ushers for assistance.

Guest Preacher

Rev. Margaret Kelly, MSW, LICSW

Pastor Margaret is a clinical social worker with particular expertise working with folks on the margins of our communities. She has worked in mental health crisis stabilization, adult and children's mental health case management, and housing support for people with mental illness. Pastor Margaret was a mission developer (church planter) in the ELCA. She received significant recognition for developing Shobi's Table into a community run food truck that brought worship to the streets of St Paul, MN. Pastor Margaret thrives at the intersection of social services implementation and faith based communities. She currently resides in South Minneapolis with her 2 kids and a calico cat learning to tolerate two, no longer little, kittens.

Participating in Today's Service

Guest Preacher: Rev. Margaret Kelly

Assisting Minister: Gene Zemske

Pianist/Organist: Dr. Kevin Hobbs

Choir Director: Dr. Bruce Gleason

Acolyte: Lyle Dean

Greeters: Harley and Lana Hanson

Reader: Joe Plummer

Communion Servers: Kirk Gallup, Carol Anderson,
Kristine Spanier

Usher: Julie Schmidt

A/V Tech: Frank Anderson, John Nelson

Nursery: Mary Teurman

Pray-Ground Cleanup:

Coffee Host: Kathi Gallup

Pursers: Anne Groskreutz, Gene Zemske



everything [in] between

rest & growth

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

The journey of Lent begins with a clear destination. Jesus sets his face toward Jerusalem and, in doing so, sets his course toward his own suffering and death. He pauses only to remind his followers to set their faces in the right direction—to repent, serve others, and follow him, even to death. As we journey toward Holy Week, we are reminded again and again to turn around and face Jerusalem.

We invite you to stand in body or in spirit each time the † symbol appears.

PRELUDE

12 Canciones y Danzas, No. 6, Mompou

WELCOME

TRINITY CHIMES

CALL TO WORSHIP

Return to the Lord, Erickson

† CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Friends, we carve out time for confession in worship because it is not enough to hear about God's grace once. We need that reminder again, and again, and again.

So join me in speaking the truth of our lives, and join me in receiving God's grace again.

Silence is kept for reflection

Let us pray:

Holy God,

There are days when we fail to rest.

We stretch ourselves too thin. We say “yes” to every invitation.

We run a million miles a minute. We ignore your command to rest.

There are also days when we fail to act.

We wait for someone else. We take the easy road.

We find excuses and justify our inaction.

God, forgive our imbalance.

Remind us that birds rest, and they also fly.

Show us how to do the same. Amen.

Family of faith, I have good news!

Our God does not keep score.

Our God does not hold grudges.

Our God does not assume the worst about us.

No, our God offers grace, and endless second chances, and boundless love.

God’s grace is deeper than the ocean. God’s love is wider than the sky.

We are seen. We are claimed. We are forgiven.

May this realization change and inspire us.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

‡ **GATHERING HYMN**

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing807 ELW, vs. 1–3

‡ **GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

‡ PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of Rest and Growth,

Help us remember that even the Creator of the Universe pauses. Remind us that we can rest, but not give in to apathy. Give us the courage to know that rest and growth work in harmony. Amen

SERMON ON THE STEPS

‡ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

‡ GOSPEL: LUKE 13: 6-9

The holy gospel according to St. Luke, the 13th Chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the man working the vineyard, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.’ ”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Beneath the Soil

WINCHESTER OLD 8.6.8.6

Words by Anna Strickland, 2024

Music by George Kirbye, 1592

Be - neath the so - il in the dark there's
 Re - mem - ber when the world de - mands more
 The rest and nur - ture we re - ceive will
 In ev - ery sea - son of our lives the

3
 growth too slow to see A trans - for - ma - tion
 than you can pro - duce We each grow at a
 turn to fruit in time For God made us to
 Spi - rit is at work To nur - ture us to

5
 not dis - played in bran - ches, fruit, and leaves
 diff - erent pace and growth starts at the roots
 grow and change as toward the sky we climb
 bear good fruit while root - ed in the earth

‡ PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence is kept before the prayers.

God, in your mercy,

Receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

‡ SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

You may share the peace with those around you.

DIAMOND LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH MATTERS TO ME

Gene Zemske

OFFERING

Adoramus Te, trad. Latin/Victor Johnson

General Fund

We give thanks for all the ways members and friends of Diamond Lake Lutheran Church contribute to the mission and vision of this congregation - gifts of time, gifts of participation and expertise, as well as finances. Financial gifts to the general fund help to make possible both in-house and outreach ministries, as well as sharing of our resources with the wider community.

March Mission of the Month: Global Refuge

(formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service)

Global Refuge has been a lifeline for immigrants and refugees for over 85 years, helping them find stability and a sense of home. Services support children and families through refugee resettlement, foster care, economic empowerment, mental healthcare, and crisis response.

In January, a stop work order halted all refugee reception and placement services under the U.S. Refugee Admissions Program, immediately impacting thousands of refugees. Many arrive with little more than what they can carry, relying on Global Refuge to guide them through their first months in a new country.

With federal funding suddenly cut, Global Refuge must now depend on community support to continue this vital work. Your generosity will help provide housing, essential resources, education, and job assistance to refugees, ensuring they have the foundation to rebuild their lives.

Give to the Mission of the Month

To make a gift to Global Refuge, you may write a check payable to Diamond Lake Lutheran Church with “Mission of the Month” in the memo line and drop in an offering plate. Alternately, you may visit “Give Back” page at www.dllc.org or scan the QR Code and choose “Mission of the Month” from the drop-down menu.

To contribute to either the general fund and/or the Mission of the Month, please visit <https://dllc.breezechms.com/give/online> or scan the QR code.



‡ OFFERTORY

Musical notation for the Offertory, consisting of four staves of music in G major (one flat) and 4/4 time. The lyrics are: "Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it." The music is written in a single treble clef line.

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

‡ OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

‡ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

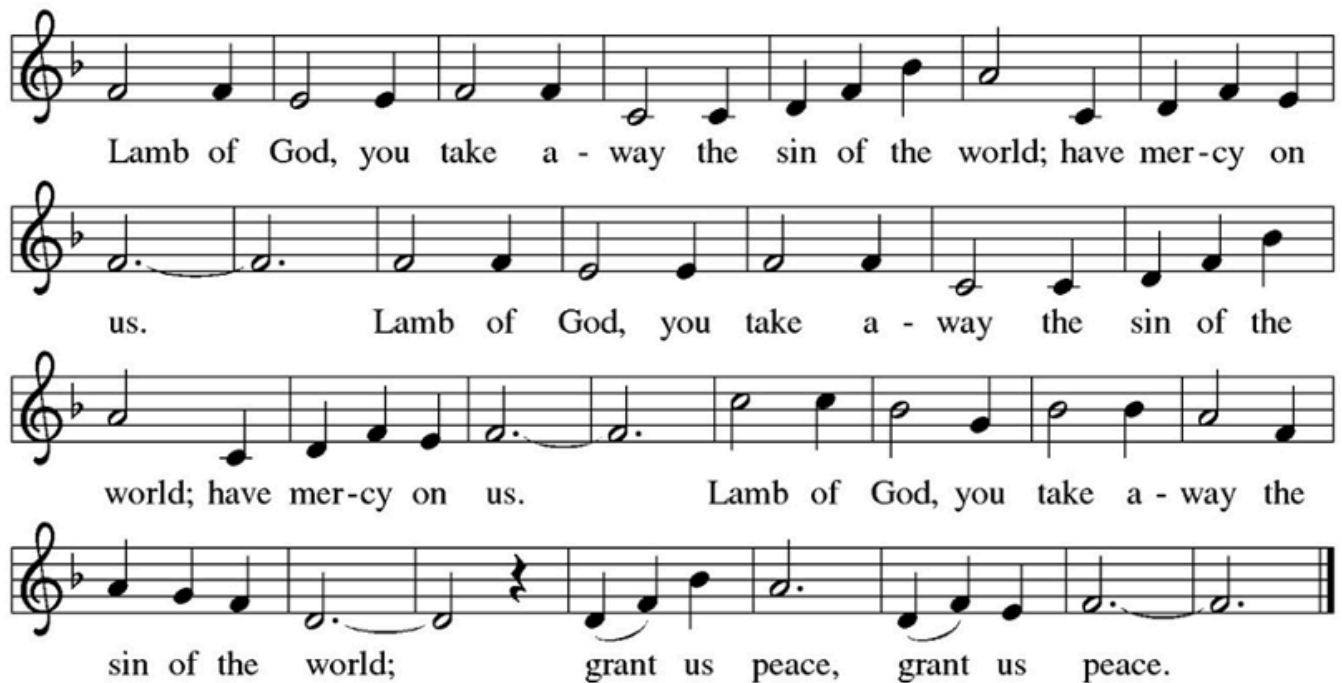
‡ LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

As Christ offered himself without restriction to those gathered at the last supper, so too he invites all gathered here to partake in this meal. If you wish to receive the sacrament, come forward with your hands outstretched to receive the bread, and dip it either in the red wine or the white grape juice (both offered in each chalice).

If you wish to receive a blessing, come forward with your hands over your heart.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request, and a chalice of grape juice is provided for gluten-free intinction. If it is difficult for you to come forward, please inform an usher, and the pastor will bring the sacrament to you in your seat.

COMMUNION HYMN

Let Us Break Bread Together.....471 ELW

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

‡ BLESSING

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains,
in the valleys,
and everywhere in between.

Amen.

‡ SENDING SONG

The Spirit Sends Us Forth to Serve.....551 ELW, vs. 1–4

DISMISSAL

Go now in peace, into the [in]between.

Thanks be to God!

CHORAL AMEN (*Please remain in place until the choir is finished.*)

POSTLUDE 12

12 Danzas Españolas, No. 8, Granados

We acknowledge that we gather as Diamond Lake Lutheran Church on the traditional land of the Wahpekute band of the Santee division of the Dakota people past and present.

Our mission: Stirred by the Spirit of Christ to learn, follow, and serve.

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Artist's Statement:



Fig Leafing

by Hannah Garrity

Inspired by Luke 13:6-9

Paper lace and watercolor

At our church retreat a few months ago, we offered a session on eco-spirituality. Our instructor led an exercise that focused our attention on a single, natural object. I selected a wilted flower. We were to draw it, then tell its narrative. We were to refer to it as a "one." This one. We were to affirm the one and be affirmed by the one.

That exercise resonates with me here as I revisit the parable of the fig tree. In this circular image, two figures lean in over the tree; their

heads are full of ideas for fruiting, their bodies are full of dead fig leaf patterns.⁵ Their ideas and dreams have not born fruit. They converse about how to cultivate growth. Then one pushes back against the other and creates tension, discord. From that tension comes an opening, letting the fig tree have its time and space to thrive.

In this paper lace piece, the fig tree is full of life, representing its potential when given the time and space to grow. As I wonder about God's presence here in the parable, I see that the God figure could be the fig tree. "Let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it,"⁶ the vineyard keeper replies. As I breathe into the gift of another day, where do I see potential in need of my honor, my care, and the space and time to grow?

Or perhaps the God figure here is in the space between them all, between the three. The fig tree, this one, begins its leafing in the in-between. —Hannah Garrity