PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us pray for the church, those in need, an all of god's creation.

Faithful God, shower the world with your loving kindness,

that all may know your peace.

Open our eyes to the needs of our needs of our neighbors,

that all may know your love.

comfort the sick and dying,

that all may know your mercy.

guide our leaders in the way of truth,

that all may know your justice.

focus our hearts on the way of the cross,

that all may have faith in you. Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us. 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.

COMMUNION

BLESSING

God bless you and keep you, God shower you with mercy, fill your with courage, and give you peace; in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

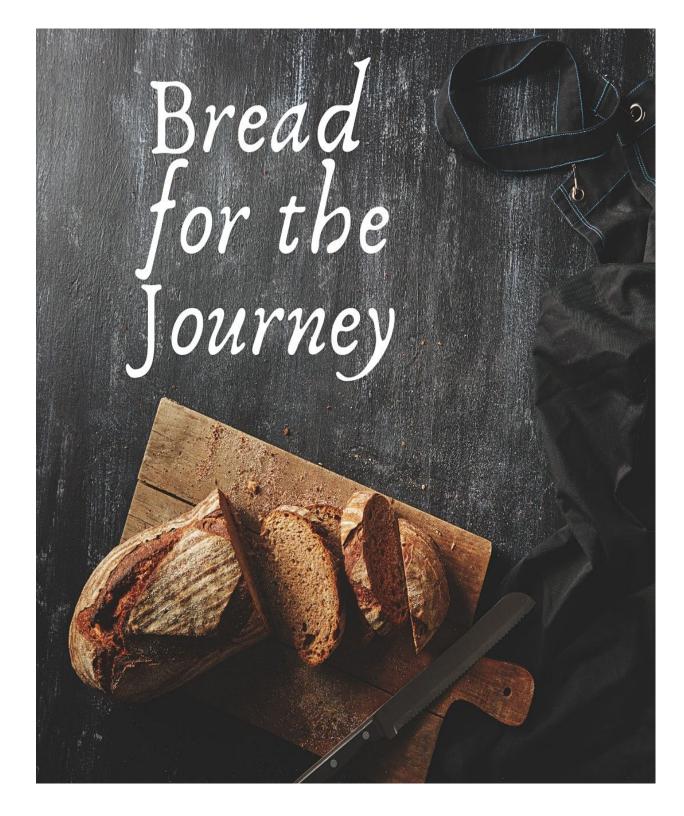
HYMN: NOW IT IS EVENING #572

- 1 Now it is evening: lights of the city, bid us remember Christ is our light. Many are lonely, who will be neighbor? Where there is caring, Christ is our light.
- 2 Now it is evening: food on the table, bids us remember Christ is our life. Many are hungry, who will be neighbor? Where there is sharing, Christ is our life.
- 3 Now it is evening: little ones sleeping, bid us remember Christ is our peace. Some are neglected, who will be neighbor? Where there is caring, Christ is our peace.
- 4 Now it is evening: here in our meeting; may we remember, Christ is our friend. Some may be strangers, who will be neighbor? Where there's a welcome, Christ is our friend.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.

Ok, we will.



FEBRUARY 21, 2024 MIDWEEK LENT 1

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We begin this evening, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Silence kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We worship the created rather than the creator. We hoard our resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts and let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins known only to you, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Beloved, here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washing away our wrongs. + In Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

During the opening hymn, you are invited to take your sin (rock) to the cross and leave it there with the assurance that your sin is forgiven. Go in peace and share the good news!

GATHERING HYMN: BREAD OF LIFE OUR HOST & MEAL #464

- 1 Bread of life, our host and meal, Jesus, feed us. Christ, by faith, to see and feel, feed us with your love.
- 2 Bread now break and wine now pour, Jesus, feed us. Make us one, our hope restore; feed us with your love.
- 3 Grant forgiveness in the feast Jesus, feed us for the greatest and the least; feed us with your love.
- 4 Thank you for this gift we share. Jesus, feed us. Save God's children everywhere; feed us with your love.

PRAYER OF THE EVENING

Let us pray. God of promise, Abraham scoffed and Sarah laughed when they were told of your plans for them and their family. Yet you remained faithful to your promise, and gave them a son, Isaac. Help us to trust in your promises for our lives, and to live according to your will. Amen.

CHILDRENS SERMON

BIBLE READING: GENESIS 18:1-16

¹The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. ²He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them, and bowed down to the ground. ³He said, "My

lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. ⁴Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree.

⁵Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on — since you have come to your servant." So they said, "Do as you have said."

⁶And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah, and said, "Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes." ⁷Abraham ran to the herd, and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. ⁸Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared, and set it before them; and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

⁹They said to him, "Where is your wife Sarah?" And he said, "There, in the tent." ¹⁰Then one said, "I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. ¹¹Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women.

¹²So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I have pleasure?" ¹³The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, and say, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?' ¹⁴Is anything too wonderful for the LORD? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son."

¹⁵But Sarah denied, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. He said, "Oh yes, you did laugh." Then the men set out from there, and they looked toward Sodom; and Abraham went with them to set them on their way.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON: WELCOME BREAD

HYMN OF THE DAY: O LIVING BREAD FROM HEAVEN #542

- 1 O living Bread from heaven, how well you feed your guest! The gifts that you have given have filled my heart with rest. O wondrous food of blessing! O cup that heals our woes! My heart, this gift possessing, in thankful song o'er flows.
- 2 My Savior, you have led me within your holiest place, and here yourself have fed me with treasures of your grace; for you have freely given what earth could never buy, the bread of life from heaven, that now I shall not die.
- 3 You gave me all I wanted; this food can death destroy. And you have freely granted, the cup of endless joy. My Lord, I do not merit the favor you have shown; and all my soul and spirit, bow down before your throne.
- 4 Oh, grant me then, well-strengthened with heav'nly food, while here; my course on earth is lengthened, to serve you free from fear; and bring me home to praise you, where none can peace destroy, where I will ever raise you, glad songs in endless joy.