

# South Canyon Lutheran Church

700 44<sup>th</sup> Street Rapid City, SD 57702

Phone: 605.343.4887 [www.sclc-rc.org](http://www.sclc-rc.org)

*"Home of Friend-Ship Preschool"*

**March 8 & 9, 2025**

*1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent*

**5:30 pm & 9:00 am**



# everything [in] between

stranger & neighbor

## *Welcome to Worship*

### **(9 am) PRELUDE**

*Please take a moment to sign the friendship pads at the end of the pew by the aisle. Pass them down the aisle and send them back again. Thank you.*

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Note: Pastor Deb will end announcements with something like *"Let us take a moment to breath in and breath out as we center our hearts and minds for worship."*

### **\*INVOCATION**

*We gather for worship in the name of the Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.*

### **\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

*Here in this place, we can ask big questions.*

**Who is my neighbor? How can I help? What do I have to learn? Where is God in it all?**

*Here in this place, we can ask big questions.*

**So may we listen. May we learn. May we stay curious, and may we look for God.**

*This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.*

### **\*GATHERING SONG**

**Be Still**

**CCLI 120824**

- 1. Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here  
Come bow before Him now, with reverence and fear  
In Him no sin is found, we stand on holy ground  
Be still for the presence of the Lord, the Holy One is here**
- 2. Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around  
He burns with holy fire with splendor He is crowned  
How awesome is the sight our radiant King of light  
Be still for the glory of the Lord is shining all around**
- 3. Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place  
He comes to cleanse and heal to minister His grace  
No work too hard for Him in faith receive from Him  
Be still for the power of the Lord is moving in this place**

## **\*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.**

*Let us pray*

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*Holy God,*

**Your invitation is simple. You lean in close. You say our name. With joy in your voice, you invite us to follow. But the noise of this world is distracting, and we are afraid, so we get stuck somewhere between our head and our heart. We get stuck somewhere between our intent and our action. So today we pray, speak to us again. Tell us the story. Invite us to follow. Speak once more, of good news that will not leave us alone. Speak to us again, for we are listening. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Romans 8:31-35, 37-39 (Pew Bible pg 863 )**

*Our first reading is from Romans, the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter beginning with the thirty-first verse.*

What shall we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us? Since he did not spare even his own Son but gave him up for us all, won't he also give us everything else? Who dares accuse us whom God has chosen for his own? No one—for God himself has given us right standing with himself. Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honor at God's right hand, pleading for us.

Can anything ever separate us from Christ's love? Does it mean he no longer loves us if we have trouble or calamity, or are persecuted, or hungry, or destitute, or in danger, or threatened with death?

No, despite all these things, overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loved us.

And I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from God's love. Neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither our fears for today nor our worries about tomorrow—not even the powers of hell can separate us from God's love. No power in the sky above or in the earth below—indeed, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

## **SCRIPTURE READING**

**Luke 10:25-37 (Pew Bible pg 792)**

*Our Gospel reading is from Luke, the 10<sup>th</sup> chapter beginning with the twenty-fifth verse.*

One day an expert in religious law stood up to test Jesus by asking him this question: "Teacher, what should I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus replied, "What does the law of Moses say? How do you read it?"

The man answered, "'You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, all your strength, and all your mind.' And, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'"

"Right!" Jesus told him. "Do this and you will live!" The man wanted to justify his actions, so he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" Jesus replied with a story: "A Jewish man was traveling from Jerusalem down to Jericho, and he was attacked by bandits. They stripped him of his clothes, beat him up, and left him half dead beside the road. "By chance a priest came along. But when he saw the man lying there, he crossed to the other side of the road and passed him by. A Temple assistant<sup>[b]</sup> walked over and looked at him lying there, but he also passed by on the other side. "Then a despised Samaritan came along, and when he saw the man, he felt compassion for him. Going over to him, the Samaritan soothed his wounds with olive oil and wine and bandaged them. Then he put the man on his own donkey and took him to an inn, where he took care of him. The next day he handed the innkeeper two silver coins, telling him, 'Take care of this man. If his bill runs higher than this, I'll pay you the next time I'm here.' "Now which of these three would you say was a neighbor to the man who was attacked by bandits?" Jesus asked.

The man replied, "The one who showed him mercy."

*The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.*

**(9am) GIZZY TIME WITH MISS MONA AND FRIENDS**

**SERMON**

*“Stranger & Neighbor”*

**Pastor Deb Grismer**

**SONG OF THE DAY**

**Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love**

**ELW 708 1,2,3**

*Refrain*

**Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love, show us how to serve the neighbors we have from you.**

- 1 Kneels at the feet of his friends, silently washes their feet, master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain***
- 2 Neighbors are wealthy and poor, varied in color and race, neighbors are nearby and far away. *Refrain***
- 3 These are the ones we will serve, these are the ones we will love; all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain***

**(9am) INSTALLATION OF THE CALL COMMITTEE**

**AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

*Journeying together with trust and hope, we affirm our faith.*

**We believe in Jesus Christ, who said to ordinary people, “Follow me,” and with his love, changed the world. We believe in the Holy Spirit who tethers us to all of creation, nudging us toward deeper and more intentional faith. And we believe in the Creator who brings the sun over the horizon each morning, allowing every day to be a new beginning. So with this new day, with Jesus’ invitation ringing in our ears, and the Holy Spirit’s tethering love, we realign our hopes with our words, our dreams with our prayers, our intentions with our actions. Jesus, we believe. Guide our feet. Amen.**

**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.

*Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.***

*Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations.*

*God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.***

*Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one.*

*God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.***

*Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share.*

*God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.***

*Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill (especially).*

*God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.*

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

*Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life (especially). Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example.*

*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.*

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you.*

*Let us stand and share a sign of God's peace with one another.*

### **(9 am) OFFERING      Assisting Minister hands out offering plates**

*Let us gather together our offering. Thank you for the generous way you support the mission and ministry of this congregation with your time, talents and resources, including our Ministry of the Month – Church Response*

### **(9 am) OFFERTORY**

**(9 am) OFFERING RESPONSE** *Assisting Minister receives offering plates and places them on the communion table Please rise*

**Where True Charity and Love Abide**

**ELW 642**

**Where true charity and love abide, God is dwelling there; God is dwelling there.**

### **OFFERING PRAYER**

*Let us pray God of grace,*

**your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

**Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.**

**Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Prepare us now to feast on the bread of life. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence. Amen.**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*Our faith tells us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, but you and I know that is often easier said than done. Fortunately for us, prayer can be a tool for transformation. When we are honest before God and each other, we open the door to growth and change. So join me in the prayer of confession.*

*Join me now, so that tomorrow, we will be even better at loving our neighbors as ourselves.*

*Let us pray:*

**Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics.**

**We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have**

**compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love.**

**Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray, amen.**

*Family of faith, When we set limits on love,*

**God loves extravagantly.**

*When we forget that we are neighbors,*

**God claims us as God's own.**

*When we judge, hold back, or harm,*

**God surrounds us with grace.**

*There is nothing we can do or leave undone that could separate us from the love of God. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

**This is the good news of the gospel. Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**ELW pg 108**

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

## **LORDS 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.**

## **COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION**

**Holy, Holy, Holy**

**ELW pg108**

**Holy, holy, holy lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Lamb of God**

**ELW pg 112**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

**Will You Let Me Be Your Servant**

**ELW 659**

- 1 Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**
- 2 We are pilgrims on a journey, we are trav'lers on the road;  
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**
- 3 I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;  
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**
- 4 I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.  
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**
- 5 Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?  
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

**Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue**

**ELW 644**

- 1 Although I speak with angel's tongue, my faith, my knowledge all surpass,  
but have no love, my gifts are vain as clanging gong or blaring brass.**
- 2 For love is patient, love is kind, and never vain with boasting pride;  
love bears all things, all things endures. All things must end; love will abide.**
- 3 For now we peer at darkened glass; our visions end; our tongues all cease.  
In part we know, in part now see: then we will see love face to face.**
- 4 The gifts are many, the Body one, and into one are all baptized.  
Beloved, share one heart, one mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.**

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING AND PRAYER

ELW pg 114

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

*Let us pray...*

*God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

*Please rise.*

### \*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.*

### \*SENDING SONG

Let It Be Said of Us

CCLI 1855882

- 1 Let it be said of us, that the Lord was our passion, that with gladness we bore  
Ev'ry cross we were given, that we fought the good fight, that we finished the course  
Knowing within us, the pow'r of the risen Lord.

*Chorus*

Let the cross be our glory, and the Lord be our song,  
by mercy made holy, by the Spirit made strong.

Let the cross be our glory, and the Lord be our song,  
'til the likeness of Jesus be through us made known.

Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song.

- 2 Let it be said of us we were marked by forgiveness, we were known by our love  
And delighted in meekness we were ruled by His peace, heeding unity's call, joined as one  
body  
That Christ would be seen by all.

### \*DISMISSAL

*Believe the good news, and go in peace.*

**Thanks be to God.**

### (9 am) POSTLUDE

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***Thank you to our worship servers for your ministry.***

### **Saturday & Sunday, March 8 & 9**

Musicians: Justin Matters, Marsha Mertes

Assisting Minister: Desyl Peterson

Reader: Carol Davies

Slides: Owen Mertes (Sat), Butch Bowman (Sun)

Streaming: Jennifer Haar

Ushers/Greeters: Phil & Nancy Busching, Ken & Jo Walker, John & Carol Davies

Communion Assistants: Robin Cox, Wendi Johnson, Karla Lipp, Tammy Richards, Holly Thorson

Altar Care: Myra Duba, Karla Lipp, Tammy Richards