



# WHO IS CREATION? WEDNESDAYS IN LENT 2023

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29, 2023

**How Creation Mourns**

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**Prelude**     Denise Zenko

**Welcome and Announcements**

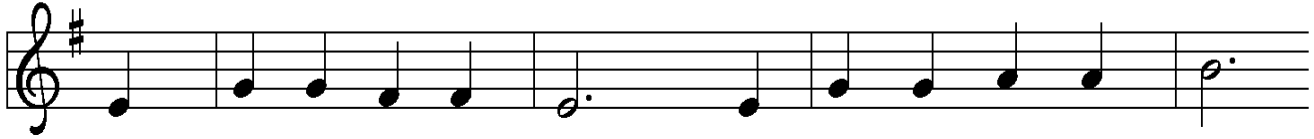


**Gathering:**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

*The assembly gathers in silence.*

## Kyrie



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

### Greeting

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

### Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Let us pray,

Sovereign of the universe, your first covenant was with every living creature.

When your Beloved Son came among us, the waters of the river Jordan welcomed him, the heavens opened to greet his arrival, the animals of the wilderness drew near as his companions. With all the world's people, may we who are washed into new life through baptism seek the way of your new creation, the way of justice and love, mercy and peace, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

All: **Amen.**



### The Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

Readings:

## **Numbers 16:23 – 34**

<sup>23</sup>The Lord spoke to Moses, saying: <sup>24</sup>“Say to the congregation: ‘Get away from the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.’” <sup>25</sup>So Moses got up and went to Dathan and Abiram; the elders of Israel followed him.

<sup>26</sup>Moses said to the congregation, “Turn away from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, or you will be swept away for all their sins.”

<sup>27</sup>So the people got away from the dwellings of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram; and Dathan and Abiram came out and stood at the entrance of their tents, together with their wives, their children, and their little ones.

<sup>28</sup>And Moses said, “This is how you shall know that the Lord has sent me to do all these works about which you protest; it has not been of my own accord: <sup>29</sup> If Korah, Dathan, and Abiram and their families live long lives and die a natural death, or if a natural fate comes on them, then the Lord has not sent me. <sup>30</sup>But if the Lord creates something new, and the ground opens its mouth and swallows them up, with all that belongs to them, and they go down alive into Sheol, then you shall know that these men have despised the Lord.”

<sup>31</sup>As soon as Moses finished speaking all these words, the ground under them was split apart. <sup>32</sup>The earth opened its mouth and swallowed them up, along with their households—everyone who belonged to Korah and all their goods. <sup>33</sup>So they with all that belonged to them went down alive into Sheol; the earth closed over them, and they perished from the midst of the assembly.

<sup>34</sup>All Israel around them fled at their outcry, for they said, “The earth will swallow us too!”

## **Leviticus 25:1 - 5**

The Lord spoke to Moses on Mount Sinai, saying: <sup>2</sup>“Speak to the people of Israel and say to them: ‘When you enter the place on earth that I am giving you, the earth (e artz) shall observe a sabbath for the Lord. <sup>3</sup>Six years you shall sow your field, and six years you shall prune your vineyard, and gather in their yield; <sup>4</sup>but in the seventh year there shall be a sabbath of complete rest for the earth, a sabbath for the Lord: you shall not sow your field or prune your vineyard. <sup>5</sup>You shall not reap the aftergrowth of your harvest or gather the grapes of your unpruned vine: it shall be a year of complete rest for the earth.

## **Hosea 4:1 – 3**

Hear the word of the LORD, O people of Israel; for the LORD has an indictment against the inhabitants of the land. There is no faithfulness or loyalty, and no knowledge of God in the land. <sup>2</sup>Swearing, lying, and murder, and stealing and adultery break out; bloodshed follows bloodshed. <sup>3</sup>Therefore the land mourns, and all who live in it languish; together with the wild animals and the birds of the air, even the fish of the sea are perishing.

Reader: Word of God, word of life.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Sermon

**\*Hymn of the Day** "Once We Sang and Danced"



- 1 Once we sang and danced with glad-ness, once de-light filled ev-'ry breath;
- 2 All the wil-lows bow in weep-ing, all the riv-ers rage and moan,
- 3 God, who came to dwell a-mong us, God, who suf-fered our dis-grace,
- 4 Come, O Christ, a-mong the ash-es, come to wipe our tears a-way,



now we sit a-mong the ash-es, all our dreams de-stroyed by death.  
as cre-a-tion joins our plead-ing: "God, do not leave us a-lone."  
from your own heart, grieved and wound-ed, come the rich-es of your grace.  
death de-stroy and sor-row ban-ish; now and al-ways, come and stay.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952, based on Psalm 137

Music: KAS DZIEDĀJA, Latvian folk tune

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**\*Prayer**

Pastor: Let us pray: O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love is supporting us; through Jesus Christ, our Savior, who taught us to pray:

**\*Lord's Prayer**

All: 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.



## Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

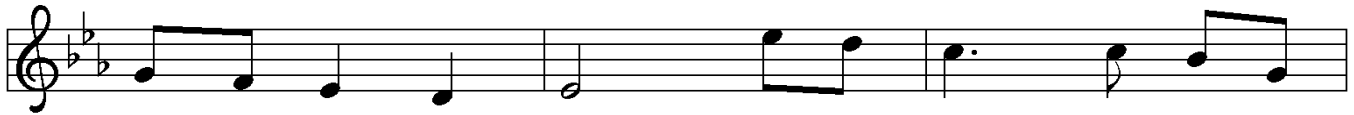
### \*Sending Hymn ELW #561 "Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory"



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own  
 2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of  
 3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on  
 dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can  
 night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -  
 hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with  
 each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,  
 won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all  
 a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.  
 chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.  
 of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen

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**\*Blessing**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.

All: Amen.

**\*Dismissal**

Pastor: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude Denise Zenko



**WHO IS CREATION?  
WEDNESDAYS IN LENT 2023**

**Wednesdays in Lent:**

**March 15, 22, 29 at 6:00 p.m.**

February 22<sup>nd</sup>: How Dust is Alive

March 1<sup>st</sup>: How We are Royal Rulers over Creation

March 8<sup>th</sup>: How Biodiversity is God's Plan

March 15<sup>th</sup>: How Creatures Have Souls

March 22<sup>nd</sup>: How All Creation Worships God

March 29<sup>th</sup>: How Creation Mourns

Our Wednesday services are live streamed and can be found on You Tube and our Web Site [www.gracegb.org](http://www.gracegb.org).

**WEDNESDAY OFFERING:**

Offerings received at our Lenten midweek services are designated for the Crossways Camping Ministries and the ELCA World Hunger Appeal. Thank you.

## WORSHIP MINISTERS TODAY:

Preacher: Pastor Larry Lange  
Liturgist: Pastor Julie Wrubbel-Lange  
AV Technician: Josh Moyer  
Ushers: Jerry & Christine Brockway  
Accompanist: Denise Zenko



## GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Grace Lutheran Church Green Bay



ELCA

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**Maintenance Supervisor: Dean Ahrens - grounds@gracegb.org**  
**Organist: Denise Zenko      Choir Director: John Kopp**

**Rev. Larry Lange and Rev. Julie Wrubbel-Lange**  
pastorlarry@gracegb.org      pastorjulie@gracegb.org  
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**Sunday Service broadcast at 8:00 a.m. on Radio 1400 AM**