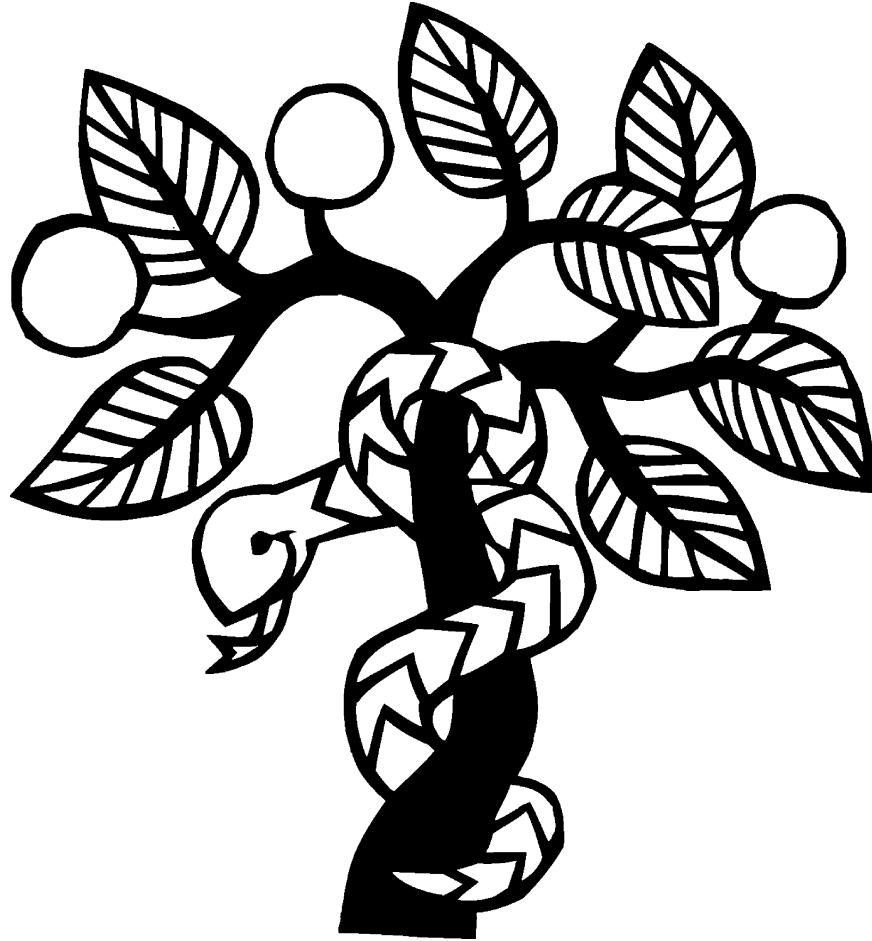




Blessed Trinity Lutheran Church

LIGHT OF CHRIST * ST. JOHN'S WINDISH * ST. PETER'S



First Sunday in Lent

Saturday, February 25, 5PM at St. Peter's

Sunday, February 26, 10AM at St. Peter's

WELCOME TO BLESSED TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH!

Thank you for joining us today! We are a brand-new congregation formed from the merger of three historic Bethlehem congregations. Blessed Trinity is being served by **Pastor Mike Button** in an interim capacity while the congregation prepares to call its own pastor.

We follow an ancient pattern of worship that we call **liturgy**. It sounds fancy, but we're just imitating the first followers of Christ who (1) **gathered** to read the (2) **word of God**, (3) **share a meal**, and encourage one another before (4) **sending** each other out into the world to share God's love.

If you need help, here are some hints:

- text in **bold** is spoken by the congregation (including you!).
- A "△" at the beginning of a section is an invitation to stand if you wish and are able. A "▽" at the beginning of a section means the congregation is seated.
- Some hymns can be found by using the **red hymnal** in your pew and going to the **hymn number** listed for the day. **If you get lost, ask a neighbor for help!**



GATHERING

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

WELCOME

PRELUDE O Mensch, Bewein dein Sunde Gross – J.S. Bach

△ **CONFESSIO AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
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, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

Hear the good news:
God so loved the world that God gave the 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.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days (CONSOLATION) (ELW 319)*

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.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,
let us pray to the Lord.
Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.
A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and

restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

▽ **FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

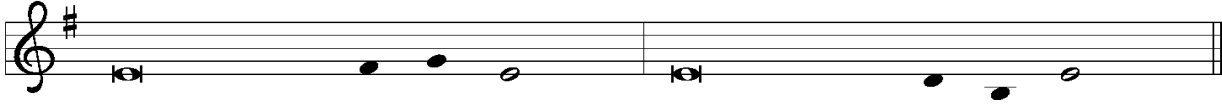
⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

The psalm is sung responsively.



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are
forgiven,

and whose sin is | put away!

²**Happy are they to whom the LORD im-
| putes no guilt,**

and in whose spirit there | is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered
away,

because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴**For your hand was heavy upon me | day
and night;**

my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did
not con- | ceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to
the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt | of
my sin.

⁶**Therefore all the faithful will make their
prayers to you in | time of trouble;**

**when the great waters overflow, they |
shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me
from trouble;

you surround me with shouts | of
deliverance.

⁸**"I will instruct you and teach you in the
way that | you should go;**

I will guide you | with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or
else they will | not stay near you."

¹⁰**Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in
the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the

LORD;

shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

A reading from Romans.

¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned—¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many.

¹⁶And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification.

¹⁷If, because of the one man's trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

△ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

▽**SERMON**

△**HYMN OF THE DAY** *A Mighty Fortress Is Our God (isometric) (ELW 504)*

CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our
Lord,**

**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.***

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the
Father,
and he will come to judge the living and
the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,**

**the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration, especially our Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod. Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love, especially those displaced by the recent earthquakes in Turkey and Syria. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially those who

serve as ushers, assisting ministers and acolytes, altar guild workers, and coffee hour hosts.

Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

PEACE

▽ **CHOIR ANTHEM** **Come, Walk With Me – Joseph Martin**

△ **OFFERTORY:** *Create in Me a Clean Heart (ELW 188)*

Create in Me a Clean Heart

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

PRAYER

Let us pray.

God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

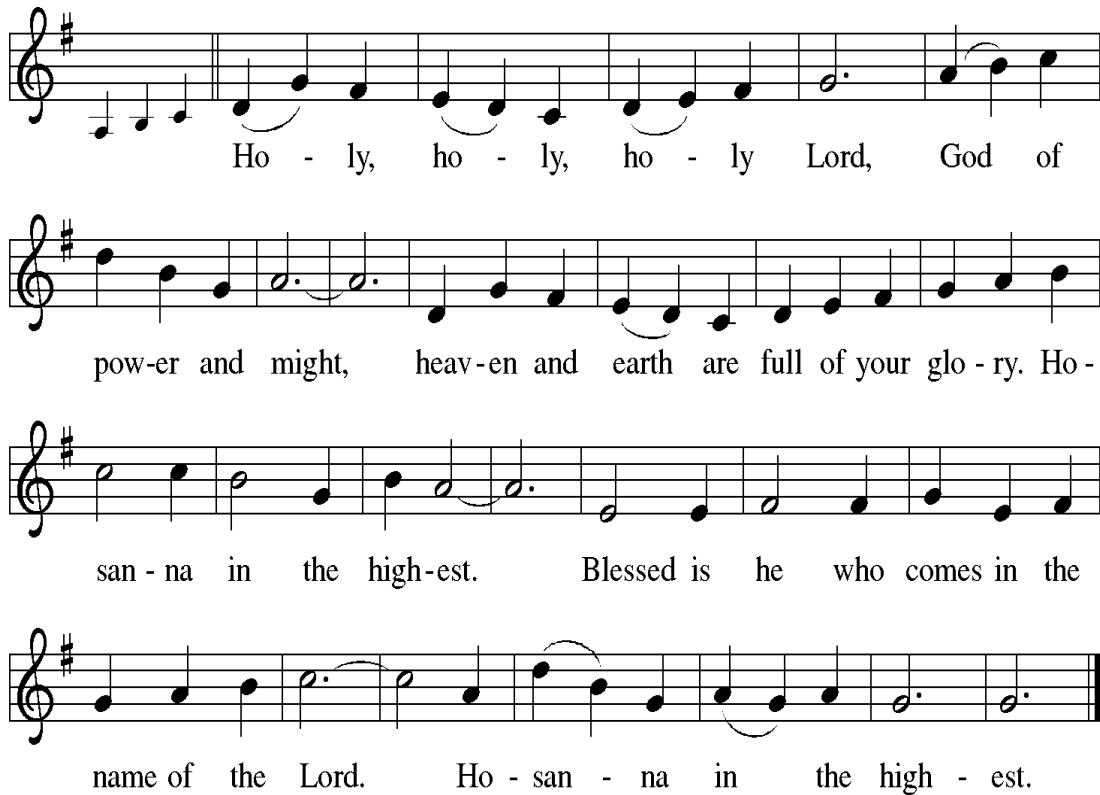
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

The presiding minister continues:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and
merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.
And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,

our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and
springs we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our
Water,

who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty
world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this
feast: wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by
the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

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

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

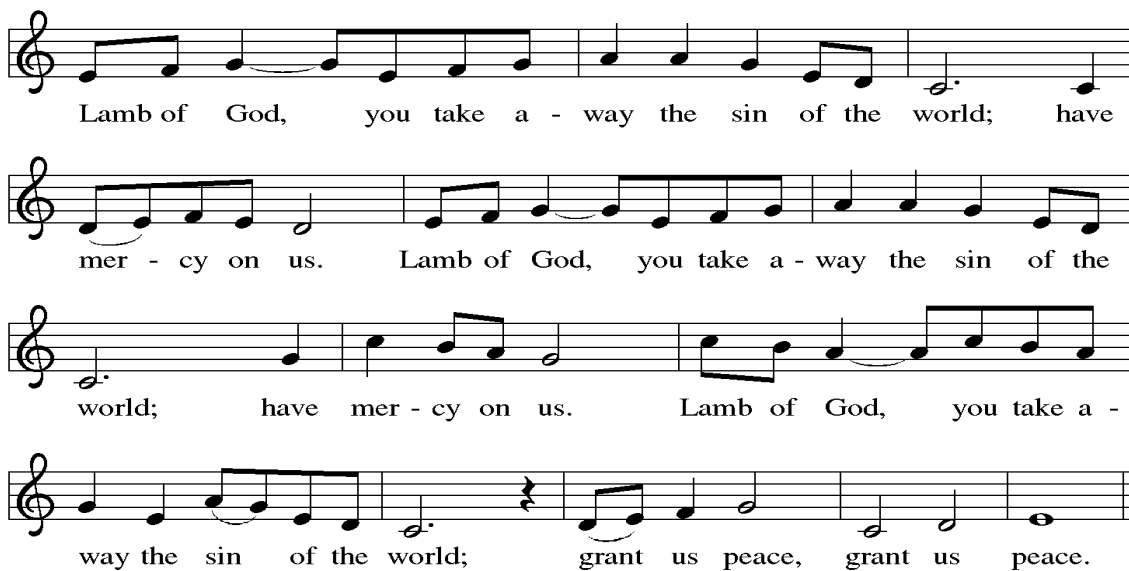
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

COMMUNION SONG



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.

Music During Communion

Come to the Table (ELW 481)

Just As I Am, without One Plea (ELW 592)

△ TABLE BLESSING

The Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen

▽ SONG AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions



and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

▽ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *The Glory of These Forty Days (ELW 320)*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Christ, the Life of All the Living – Peeters*

Flowers and Bulletins This Week Are Sponsored By: Donna Musselman, in joyful celebration of the 50th wedding anniversary of Ed and Donna Musselman.

GOSPEL MESSAGE

February 26, 2023
FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

If You . . .

In today's gospel, Jesus is led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted. This story recalls that of Job, whose righteousness God also allowed to be tested. Both Job and Jesus are urged to turn away from what they know to be true and faithful. In Job's case, it is his friends who are relentless in making this enticement.

Another commonality in these stories is the phrase "If you." Three times in today's gospel the tempter says to Jesus, "If you . . ." In Job's story, this phrase is hurled back and forth between him and his friends. These two little words are meant to test and are always conditional: If you do or do not meet the condition, some consequence or other will follow.

In a world full of conditions, it can be hard to believe that God's saving work is completely unconditional. Even we who proclaim God's free gift of grace might fall into saying it is free *if you* accept it. We cling to the work we might do to make ourselves right with God.

In his Small Catechism explanation of the sixth petition of the Lord's Prayer, Martin Luther suggests that God does not tempt anyone, but that the devil, the world, and we ourselves provide plenty in the way of opportunities to be led astray. God does not need to provide conditions and tests—we excel at this all on our own. When we pray, "Lead us not into temptation," Luther says we are praying for God's protection. This is never conditional. We pray for God's protection so we might learn to see it in the world and in ourselves.

When you pray the Lord's Prayer today, regardless of the temptations you face, know that you are a beloved child of God, fearfully and wonderfully made to be an instrument of God's unconditional grace in and for the world.