

**Weisenberg Lutheran Church
7645 Weisenberg Church Road
New Tripoli, PA 18066
Phone: 610-298-2437**

***END OF THE AGE
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
Worship Service 9:00 AM
March 17, 2024***

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**Welcome to worship at Weisenberg!**

*Please stand as you are able for all parts labeled (\*). Worship leaders [Pastor (P:) and Assistant (A:)] speak the plain text. The congregation (C:) responds with the words in **bold**.*

## **RINGING OF THE BELL**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PRAYER CONCERNS**

**PRELUDE** “*Sun on My Soul, Thou Savior Dear*” ~ Whitworth

## **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Let us be alert,

**C: For we do not know when the time will come.**

P: Let us stay awake,

**C: For we do not know when Christ will return.**

P: Let him not find us asleep when he comes.

**C: We will stay awake.**

P: We confess our sins before God and one another.

*Pause for silence and reflection.*

P: God of love,

**C: When we look inward and are honest with ourselves, we see where we have lived as though you are not our God. We have sought after our own gain rather than the good of all. We have not loved you or our neighbors as ourselves. We have betrayed and denied you in what we have done and not done. Create in us clean hearts, O God, that we might become what you have called us to be.**

P: God whose unfathomable love went to the cross for our sake now forgives us all our sins and welcomes us all over again into the promise of eternal life in Christ's name.

C: Amen.

**\*PEACE(ELW p. 241)**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

**\*GATHERING HYMN** *"The Church's One Foundation"* No. 654

The musical score is written for a four-part choir (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass) and piano accompaniment. It features a key signature of one flat (B-flat) and a common time signature. The melody is primarily in the Soprano and Alto parts, with the piano providing harmonic support. The lyrics are printed below the vocal staves.

1 The church's one foun - da - tion is Je - sus Christ, her Lord;  
2 E - lect from ev - 'ry na - tion, yet one o'er all the earth,  
3 Though with a scorn - ful won - der this world sees her op - pressed,  
4 Through toil and trib - u - la - tion and tu - mult of her war,  
5 Yet she on earth has u - nion with God, the Three in One,

she is his new cre - a - tion by wa - ter and the word.  
her char - ter of sal - va - tion one Lord, one faith, one birth:  
by schisms . . rent a - sund - er, by her - e - sies dis - tressed,  
she waits the con - sum - ma - tion of peace for - ev - er - more;  
and mys - tic sweet com - mu - nion with those whose rest is won.

From heav'n he came and sought her to be his ho - ly bride;  
one ho - ly name she bless - es, par - takes one ho - ly food,  
yet saints their watch are keep - ing; their cry goes up: "How long?"  
till with the vi - sion glo - rious her long - ing eyes are blest,  
Oh, bless - ed heav'n - ly cho - rus! Lord, save us by your grace,

with his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.  
and to one hope she press - es, with ev - 'ry grace en - dued.  
and soon the night of weep - ing shall be the morn of song.  
and the great church vic - to - rious shall be the church at rest.  
that we, like saints be - fore us, may see you face to face.

**\*GREETING**

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

**C: And also with you.**

**\*KYRIE** (*ELW p. 147*)

**\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE** "*Glory to God*" (*ELW p. 148*)

**\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

A: Let us pray. God of the beginning and of the end,

**C: You ask us to put our trust not in worldly things, but in heavenly things. As we navigate the challenges of daily life and the much larger challenges faced by our communities and all creation, give us confidence in your power and grace, that we might live into our faith each day. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.**

**PSALM 102:12-17**

<sup>12</sup> But you, O Lord, are enthroned forever;

**your name endures to all generations.**

<sup>13</sup> You will rise up and have compassion on Zion,

**for it is time to favor it; the appointed time has come.**

<sup>14</sup> For your servants hold its stones dear,

**and have pity on its dust.**

<sup>15</sup> The nations will fear the name of the Lord,

**and all the kings of the earth your glory.**

<sup>16</sup> For the Lord will build up Zion;

**he will appear in his glory.**

<sup>17</sup> He will regard the prayer of the destitute,

**and will not despise their prayer.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** "*Return to the Lord*" (*ELW p. 151*)

**\*GOSPEL READING MARK 13:1-8, 24-37**

R: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the 13th Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>13</sup>As he came out of the temple, one of his disciples said to him, "Look, Teacher, what large stones and what large buildings!" <sup>2</sup> Then Jesus

asked him, “Do you see these great buildings? Not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.” <sup>3</sup> When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew asked him privately, <sup>4</sup> “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign that all these things are about to be accomplished?” <sup>5</sup> Then Jesus began to say to them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. <sup>6</sup> Many will come in my name and say, ‘I am he!’ and they will lead many astray. <sup>7</sup> When you hear of wars and rumors of wars, do not be alarmed; this must take place, but the end is still to come. <sup>8</sup> For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom; there will be earthquakes in various places; there will be famines. This is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

<sup>24</sup> “But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, <sup>25</sup> and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken.

<sup>26</sup> Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in clouds’ with great power and glory. <sup>27</sup> Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven.

<sup>28</sup> “From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. <sup>29</sup> So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. <sup>30</sup> Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. <sup>31</sup> Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away.

<sup>32</sup> “But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. <sup>33</sup> Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. <sup>34</sup> It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. <sup>35</sup>

Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, <sup>36</sup> or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. <sup>37</sup> And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.”

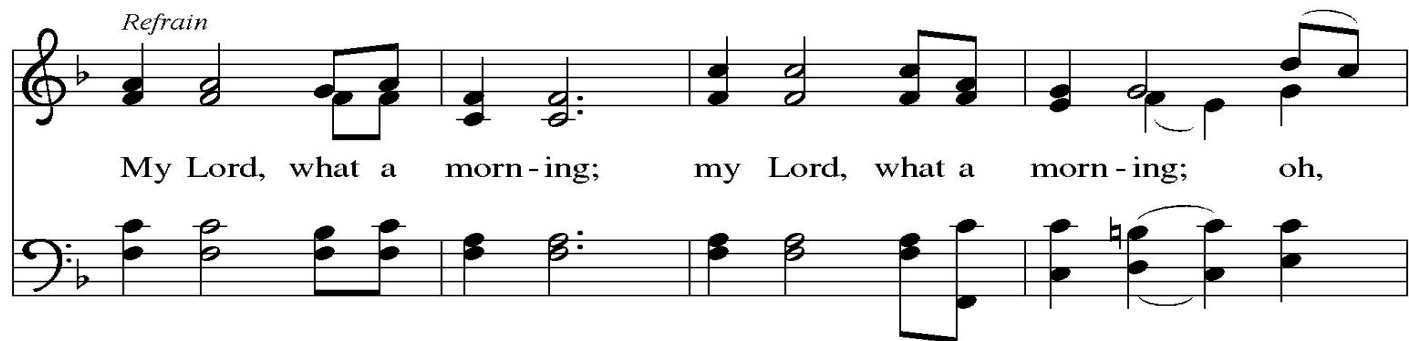
R: The Gospel of our Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

## **SERMON**

### **HYMN OF THE DAY** “My Lord, What a Morning” No. 438

*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn-ing; oh,

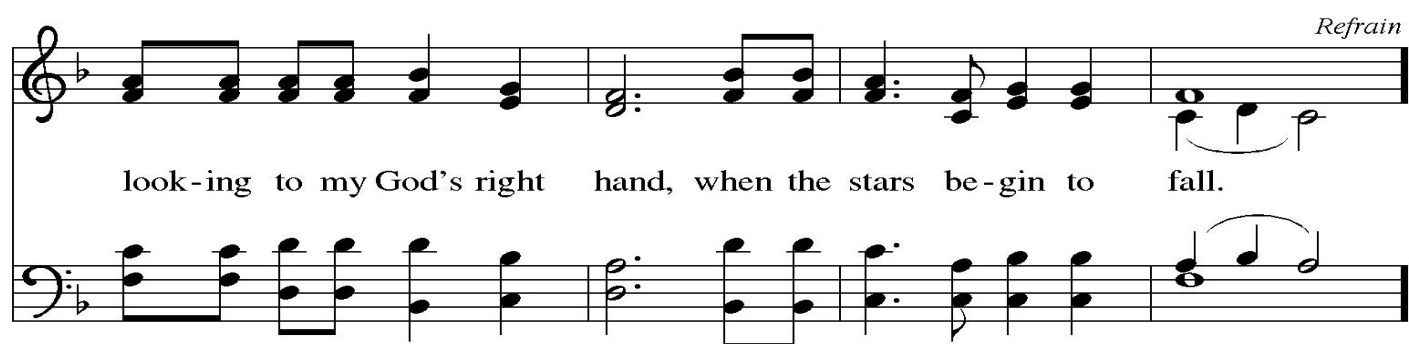


my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be-gin to fall.



1 You will hear the trum-pet sound,  
2 You will hear the sin-ner cry, to wake the na-tions un-der - ground,  
3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,

*Refrain*



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be-gin to fall.

## **\*APOSTLES 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.**

## **OFFERING/OFFERTORY**

*"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" ~ Prestwood*

## **WORSHIP CHOIR ANTHEM**

*"Glorious Day (Living He Loved Me)" ~ Hall/Bleecker*

## **\*OFFERTORY HYMN "Create in Me" No.184**

*Please stand and sing as our gifts are brought forward and offered to God for their blessing and use in Christ's ministry through the church.*

## **\*OFFERING PRAYER**

**A: Let us pray. Holy God ,**

**C: Source of all good things, we offer thanks and praise for your generosity to us. Accept now these gifts returned to you from what you have given us, that they might be used for your good purposes in our community and beyond. Amen.**

## **\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

A: As we walk together through this season of contemplation and preparation, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

A: Merciful God, Jesus' words about the end of time are provocative and frightening. We ask that you would stir up in us a profound trust in your promises, that we might live knowing that all will be well. God of the journey,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

A: All of creation bears witness to your presence. Open our eyes to see you in everything from a delicate blossom to a colossal mountain, that we might love creation as you do. God of the journey,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

A: Earthly powers will pass away, but you will reign forever. Remind all who lead that their power and authority is only borrowed, that they might dedicate what time they have to the selfless service of all your beloved children. God of the journey,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

A: Comfort those who are facing the end of their lives, and all who love them, that they might trust in the promise of eternal life with you. Give strength to all in our community and beyond who struggle with the pains and trials of life, (*especially...*) God of the journey,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

A: Wars, natural disasters, and famine are happening throughout our world. Help us not to see these things as a sign of the end and throw up our hands, but challenge us to address them head on in the here and now, (*especially...*) God of the journey,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

A: With gratitude we remember the saints who came in your name and guided us in your truth. May we, in turn, help others to not be led astray by the enticements of the world. God of the journey,

**C: In mercy, hear our prayer.**

A: Confident that you walk alongside us in our need, we lift to you all our prayers, spoken and unspoken, through Jesus Christ our savior.

**C: Amen.**

## **\*LORD'S PRAYER**

A: Lord Jesus, 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.**

## **\*BLESSING**

P: Look at these enormous buildings!

**C: One day, they will all be gone.**

P: The world and all things will pass away.

**C: But God's word will not pass away.**

P: The Word was there at the beginning,

**C: And will be there at the end.**

P: And we, who live in the time between,

**C: The time of "already and not yet,"**

P: We will live in the certainty of Jesus' presence with us right now.

**C: We will continue to work to bring the reign of God into the world.**

P: Everything we do in the here and now matters.

**C: We will leave the things to come in God's hands.**

P: God who names you, Christ who claims you, and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you, ✠ bless you and remain with you always.

**C: Amen.**



# **\*SENDING HYMN**

## *"Here I Am, Lord" No. 574*



1 "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my peo - ple cry.  
2 "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my peo - ple's pain.  
3 "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame.



All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save.  
I have wept for love of them. They turn a - way.  
I will set a feast for them. My hand will save.



I, who made the stars of night, I will make their dark-ness bright.  
I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love a - lone.  
Fin-est bread I will pro-vide till their hearts be sat - is - fied.



Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"  
I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?"  
I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?"



Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you



call-ing in the night. I will go, Lord, if you



lead me. I will hold your peo - ple in my heart.

Text: Daniel L. Schutte, b. 1946

Music: HERE I AM, LORD, Daniel L. Schutte

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**\*DISMISSAL VERSE** “God Be with You Til We Meet Again” No. 536  
***Till we meet, till we meet, Till we meet at Jesus’ feet;  
Till we meet, till we meet, God be with you till we meet again.***

**\*DISMISSAL**

***P: Go in peace. Follow Jesus along the Way!  
C: Thanks be to God!***

**\*POSTLUDE** “Spring Praise”~ Nordman

***It was a joy worshipping God with you today!***

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## **This Week**

|            |                                                      |              |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Sunday:    | Congregational Meeting Immediately Following Worship |              |
|            | Sunday School                                        | 10:30AM      |
|            | Holy Land Presentation                               | 1-3PM        |
| Monday:    | Jubilant Ringers                                     | 7PM          |
| Tuesday:   | 275th Anniversary Planning Meeting                   | 7PM          |
| Wednesday: | Monthly Newsletter Due                               |              |
|            | Lowhill Food Pantry Serving                          | 10AM-12 Noon |
|            | Secretary office hours                               | 4:15-6:15PM  |
|            | Midweek Bible Study                                  | 6:30PM       |
| Thursday:  | Lowhill Food Pantry Serving                          | 4-6PM        |
|            | Line Dancing                                         | 6:15–7:15PM  |
|            | Worship Choir                                        | 7:30PM       |
| Saturday:  | Family Promise Annual Homecoming                     | 5:30PM       |
| Sunday:    | Palm Sunday Worship/Communion/<br>Children's Message | 9AM          |
|            | Wear Your Favorite Baseball Jersey                   |              |
|            | Sunday School                                        | 10:30AM      |
|            | Book Discussion Group                                | 10:30AM      |

## **Weisenberg Church Trivia: In what year was the Service of Dedication of our new building addition held?**

**Holy Week in the Holy Land:** The Anniversary Committee invites you to prepare for Holy Week by joining us for a special journey through the Holy Land. Come out today from 1-3 pm as Pastor Brandon takes us through parts of Bethlehem, Galilee, and Jerusalem from his 2017 pilgrimage. Please invite friends and family to join us in the Sanctuary for this first-hand account of this journey. Light refreshments will be provided. Help us celebrate our 275th anniversary by marking this year's Holy Week with a special walk through the Holy Land.

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**Trivia Answer: 1996**

## **Main Idea: Our life of faith is about the journey *and* the destination.**

Are you familiar with the term “mandala?” It’s a Sanskrit word that translates roughly to “circle,” and it usually refers to a round frame full of colorful and very intricate combination of shapes and patterns used to guide meditation. In some traditions, monks will create mandalas using colored sand. It is a painstaking venture whether you do it on your own or with a group, but the finished product is stunning.

A short time after he or she puts the finishing touches on the mandala, a monk will shake the sand loose and wipe the entire design away. When you first think about it, this doesn’t make sense! Why put all that time and energy into creating something so beautiful when your plan from the beginning was to destroy it? But this, too, lends itself to meditation: the disappearing of the mandala reminds us that impermanence plays a role in our lives. Just because the mandala isn’t here anymore doesn’t mean it wasn’t beautiful. The attention the monks paid to every curve, every line and every grain of sand made a difference not only for them, but for their community. And now that the mandala is gone, they can craft a new, different one with everything they have practiced and everything they have learned.

This is a helpful visual in framing the opening lines of our text this morning. As they disciples admire the grandeur of the buildings around them, Jesus begins prophesying about the end of the world as they know it—the eventual crumbling of those very same buildings, the onslaught of natural disasters, the inevitability of war, the shaking and passing of earth and the heavens and the Son of Man coming with power and glory and a host of celestial beings who will help him bring God’s word to life. Jesus is talking about the end of one thing and the beginning of something completely new. If you were one of the disciples hearing all of this for the first time, you might be tempted to ask yourself, “Then what are we doing here? If the kingdom of God on earth is going to be destroyed, why are we working so hard to establish it and to build it up?” In fact, you might be tempted to ask that question as a modern-day believer, here and now. If we believe that Jesus is coming back to judge the living and the dead, then why are we trying to figure out how to live faithfully in this season—in this moment?

It’s because the attention we pay to every curve, every line and every grain of sand in our mandalas makes a difference. The love we show our neighbors and the justices we fight for, big and small, grow into beautiful patterns that help us focus on what is most important—that help us learn and practice for the time of judgment we know is coming. In Jesus, the attention we pay to our present doesn’t have to be different from the attention we pay to our future.

**Scripture Summary: Jesus foretells of the end of the world as hi disciples know it and calls them to stay vigilant in anticipation.**