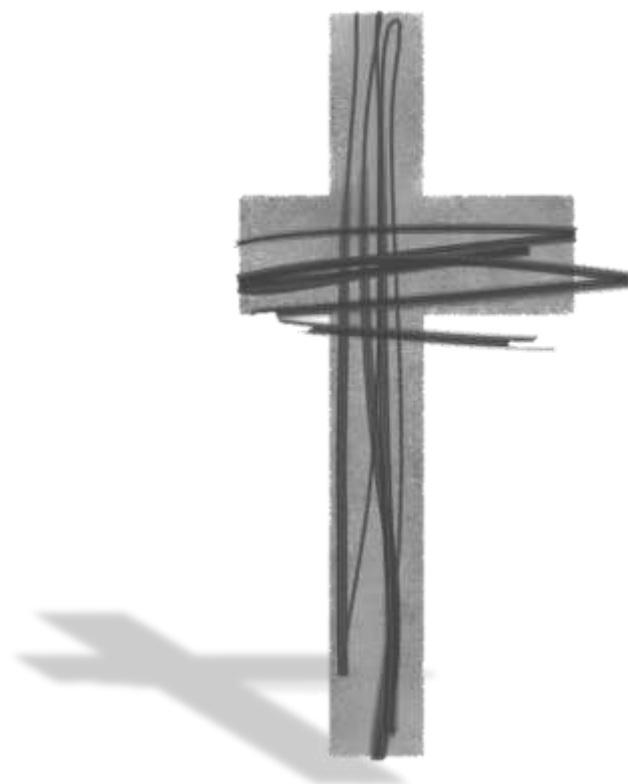


Second Sunday in Lent

March 5th, 2023

9:30 a.m. In-person and Livestream Worship



Atonement Lutheran Church

Invite • Prepare • Go into the World

1900 Westfall Road, Rochester, NY 14618

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Crashing Waters at Creation

-C.F. Witt

***WELCOME**

***CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father, † Son and Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Confident in God's love for us, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection

Gracious God;

We come before you in need of forgiveness and grace. You call us to trust in you completely, but we do not. We justify our actions and words even though they hurt and harm others. We resist the new life Christ offers, preferring the darkness. Forgive us, we pray, and help us to be born again each day into the life of Christ. Amen.

God is for us and not against us! For that very reason, God sent the Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Believe the good news: in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. **Amen.**

***PEACE**

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

***GATHERING HYMN**

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

448

**Please Stand As You Are Able*

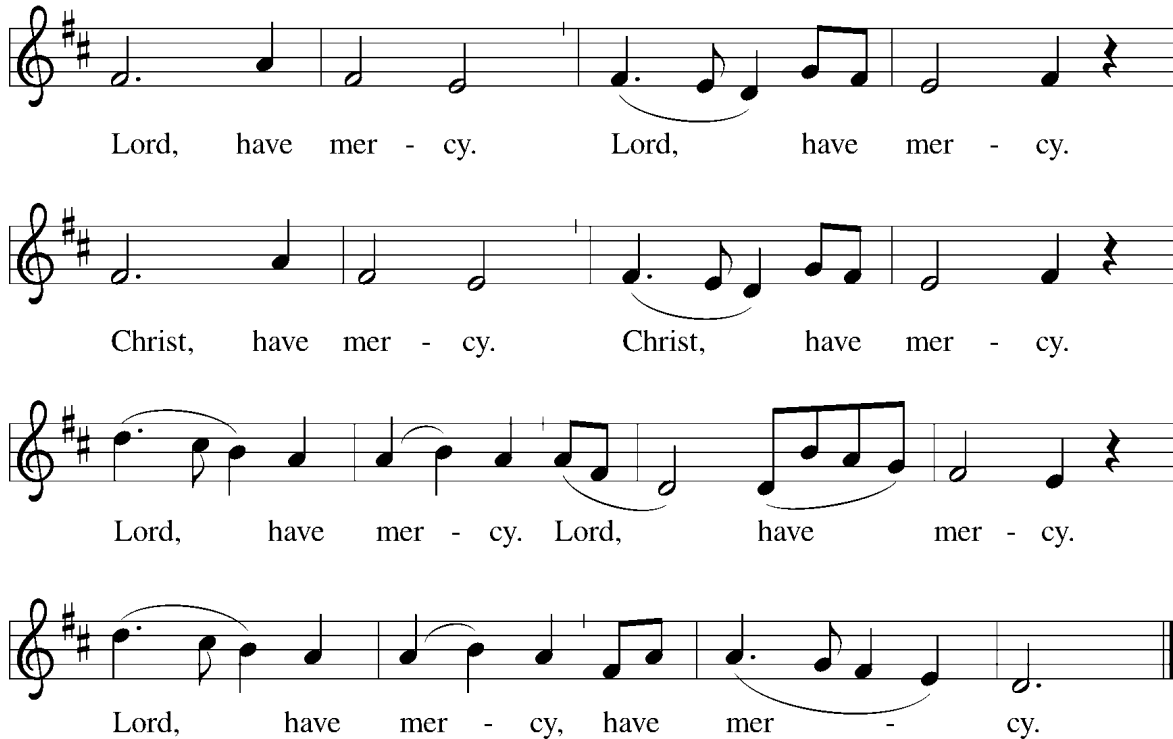
*APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

And also with you.

*KYRIE

152



Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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.**

CHILDREN'S MOMENT

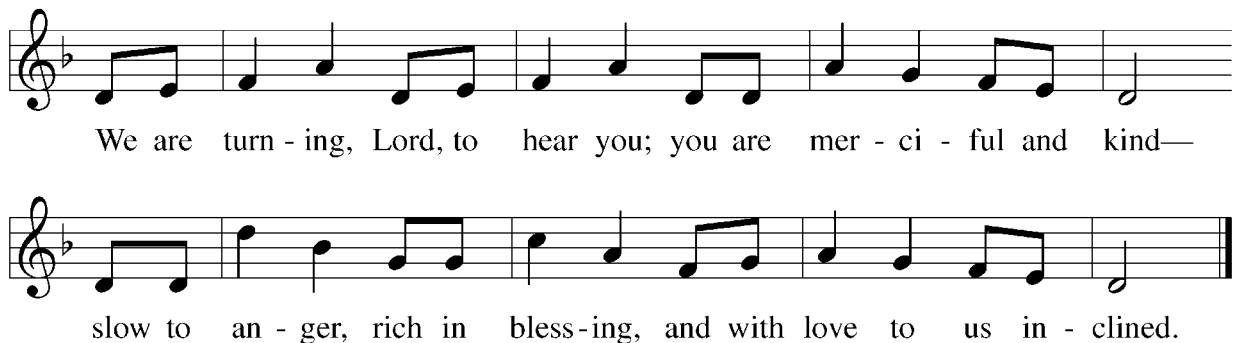
WORD

PSALM 121

*Read responsively. Congregation reads **bold** type.*

- ¹I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
- ²**My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven and earth.**
- ³The LORD will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
- ⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**
- ⁵the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶**the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**
- ⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
- ⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

*LENTEN VERSE *We Are Turning, Lord, to Hear You*



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind—

slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

***HOLY GOSPEL**

John 3:1-17

The Holy Gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY**

Christ Be Our Light

715

PRAYERS

In this season of repentance, let us turn our hearts to God, who is gracious and merciful.

Lord, in your mercy; **Hear our prayer.**

Receive the prayers we offer, O God, in the name of the One who endured the cross, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Come, Ye Sinners

-D.A. White

*Offering gifts are gratefully received
in the plates located near the sanctuary doors as you exit.*

***OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Let us pray.

All that we have is a gift from God. In faith and gratitude, we give a portion of what we have so abundantly received, as grateful children of the promises of God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

MEAL

***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.

***PROPER PREFACE**

.... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

193



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

*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.

LAMB OF GOD

199



Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.



Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,



grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

All are invited to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, Christ's body and blood truly present in the bread and the wine.

~Come forward by the center aisle.

~Please allow space between yourself and others.

~Children are invited to come forward for a blessing.

~White grape juice and gluten-free wafers are also available.

~Dispose of the cup in the basket provided.

~Please tell an usher if you would like the communion elements brought to you in the pew.

SENDING

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

We give you thanks and praise, O God, for the abundant gifts of grace and mercy you have given us in Jesus Christ. Let the gift of our lives be a sign of our unending gratitude for your undying love; through Jesus our Lord. **Amen.**

***BENEDICTION**

May the steadfast love of God the Father, † Son and Holy Spirit surround you throughout these forty days and into everlasting life. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

God Loved the World

323

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace; led by the cross of Christ. **Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Lift High the Cross

-E. Miller

*The congregation is invited to remain for the postlude;
and following it, to respond with "Amen!"*

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS

Assisting Minister	Matt McGill
Livestream Recorder.....	Dave Irish
Counters	Bryan Howe, Adam Darder
Ushers	Skip Waterstreet, Bob Heinig
Altar Care	Judy Lazenby

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*** TODAY * 45/45 BLANKET PROJECT**

Join us TODAY following worship for a 45 minute service project to benefit foster children in our community. Caseworkers must often remove children from unsafe situations leaving them little time to collect their belongings. We'll be making blankets for caseworkers to keep in their vehicles and distribute to children as needed to make these transitions a little less 'cold'. *No sewing skills are required to participate.*

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS IN LENT

Wednesdays, March 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

6:30 p.m. Cake, Coffee, and Conversation

7:00-7:30 p.m. Service of Holy Evening Prayer and Candle Lighting

Gather with us during the season of Lent for a midweek opportunity to share a simple dessert and fellowship... and to lift up prayers, hymns, and scripture on our Lenten journey. (Cake bakers are invited to sign up in the narthex if you would like to provide a cake.)

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

Thursdays, March 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

11:00-12:00 Noon in the Church Library

This year, the Gospel texts for Lent offer us many stories of Jesus encountering people who are seeking: Nicodemus comes in the veil of night; a Samaritan woman comes searching at a well; a man born blind in want of healing. In these stories, each person is seeking a new beginning, a different life, a deeper faith, a wider grace. What are you seeking? Bring your Bible and a beverage and join us as we explore the big questions of our lives and our faith.

ADULT FORUM AND COFFEE HOUR MARCH 12

Sunday, March 12th at 10:45 a.m.

Join us next Sunday as Andrew Spillane shares stories and talks about his experiences working with incarcerated individuals.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LENTEN OUTREACH PROJECT: Birthday Cake Bags

Help us provide a special treat for families receiving food assistance at Messiah Lutheran Church Food Pantry in Rochester with a donation of a **'Birthday Cake Bag'**. Each bag provides supplies for a birthday cake celebration for families in need. *We will be collecting these bags in the church narthex during Lent (Sunday February 26th through Palm Sunday, April 2nd).* They will be delivered to Messiah Lutheran Church for distribution, along with a carton of eggs for cake baking.

To create a *Birthday Cake Bag*, gather:

- ◆ One cake mix (any flavor)
- ◆ One can of frosting (any flavor)
- ◆ One package of birthday candles
- ◆ One package of small *Happy Birthday* plates (8 plates per pkg)
- ◆ One package of small *Happy Birthday* napkins (8 napkins per pkg)

Place all items into a paper bag/tote bag with handles (gift bags work well, and they can also be used to give a gift).

FAITH-FILLED FUN DAY ON SUNDAY

Sunday, March 19th, 4:00-5:00 p.m.

"Jesus Calms the Storm"

All children ages 2 through 6th grade are invited to participate in these afternoons of faith and fun. Join us for a new twist on faith formation for our Atonement children: a Vacation Bible School-type gathering once a month on Sunday afternoons! Each session will include story time, crafts, games, and snacks related to the Bible story of the day. We look forward to seeing you!

GREEN TIP

Move your deposits and investments away from fossil fuels.

ColorBrightonGreen hosts Michael Richardson from the Rivers and Mountains GreenFaith Circle. Thursday, March 16th, 6:30 p.m. at Brighton Memorial Library or register for the Zoom link at 748-5300 or bmlcurbsidepickup@gmail.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

AN ADVENTURE AHEAD

There are times when a voice calls, and, like Samuel, our response is: *"Here I am, for you called me."*

I have been asked to serve as the Interim Executive Director at Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center ...and after discernment, have agreed to accept.

This is a short term (6 - 9 months) commitment beginning March 1st which will provide oversight and leadership for the campers, staff and overall operations of LCLC. There is a Search Committee actively meeting to interview, select and bring on board a new Executive Director for a permanent position beginning later this Fall.

Over the next two to three months, my responsibilities will involve extra hours of work per week, which can be done here in Rochester.

During the months of June, July and early August, (when church responsibilities are a little lighter) I will need to spend a few days each week at LCLC...and the rest of the week and Sunday mornings here at Atonement. In case of pastoral emergencies in my absence, Pastor John Macholz has graciously agreed to step in as needed.

Please know that the LCLC Board and others involved are fully aware that I already have a great (and fulfilling) job as pastor of Atonement Lutheran Church! But with my long history, staff experience and relationship with LCLC ...I believe this is a calling rather than a job.

Lake Chautauqua Lutheran Center includes both a summer church camp and a year around Retreat Center on 140 acres near Jamestown, NY. It is an outdoor ministry of the Upstate New York Synod of the ELCA with woods, fields, streams and 1/2 mile of waterfront overlooking beautiful Lake Chautauqua. As an outdoor ministry, LCLC is dedicated to providing opportunities for spiritual growth, renewal and Christ-centered community for children, youth and adults in the wonder of God's creation.

I would be grateful for your prayers and support on this new adventure!

-Pastor Gail Swanson

This Is the Spirit's Entry Now

1 This is the Spir - it's en - try now: the wa - ter and the word,
2 This mir - a - cle of life re - born comes from the Lord of breath;
3 Let wa - ter be the sa - cred sign that we must die each day
4 Re - new - ing Spir - it, hear our praise for your bap - tis - mal pow'r

the cross of Je - sus on your brow, the seal both felt and heard.
the sin - less one from life was torn; our life comes through his death.
to rise a - gain by his de - sign as fol - l'wers of his way.
that wash - es us through all our days. Come, cleanse a - gain this hour.

Christ, Be Our Light



1 Long - ing for light, we wait in dark - ness. Long - ing for
 2 Long - ing for peace, our world is trou - bled. Long - ing for
 3 Long - ing for food, man - y are hun - gry. Long - ing for
 4 Long - ing for shel - ter, man - y are home - less. Long - ing for
 5 Man - y the gifts, man - y the peo - ple, man - y the



truth, we turn to you. Make us your own,
 hope, man - y de - spair. Your word a - lone
 wa - ter, man - y still thirst. Make us your bread,
 warmth, man - y are cold. Make us your build - ing,
 hearts that yearn to be - long. Let us be ser - vants



your ho - ly peo - ple, light for the world to see.
 has pow'r to save us. Make us your liv - ing voice.
 bro - ken for oth - ers, shared un - til all are fed.
 shel - ter - ing oth - ers, walls made of liv - ing stone.
 to one an - oth - er, signs of your king - dom come.



Refrain
 Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the



dark - ness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your



church gath - ered to - day.

God Loved the World

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in
flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

ATONEMENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Gail Swanson, Pastor

Email: pastorgails@aol.com

Office: (585) 442-1018

Cell : (614) 477-7863

David McCarthy, Director of Music Ministry

Becky R. Wiesmore, Administrative Assistant

Welcome to worship,

and a special welcome to those who are visiting with us today.

If you are interested in becoming a member of our congregation

or learning more about our ministries,

please speak to our Pastor.



MISSION STATEMENT

Atonement Lutheran Church is a gathering of God's people in Christ called to:

***Invite** all people into the presence of the living God,*

***Prepare** for ministry in daily life and*

***Go** into the world as disciples*

Our Church Nursery is available
for parents to use with their children.

Thank you for joining us in worship today!

*"The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in
from this day forth and forever more."*

Psalm 121:9



Visit our web site at: **www.atonementrochester.org**
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Contact us via Email: **office@atonementrochester.org**
Call us via phone at: **(585) 442-1018**
Office hours: **9:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Tues~Wed~Thurs**