

AS WE GATHER

Speaking God's Word, the prophet Isaiah wanted the Judean exiles to know the confidence of belonging to God. His words to people who were tempted to "give up" on the Lord called for God's people to trust the truth: He's chosen us in the Messiah – our Savior Jesus. We are His own! "Write it on your hand" – you are "the Lord's!"

"You Are My Own" – Hymnwriter Gerry Coleman used this title for a hymn that describes God placing His loving claim on us through the waters of Baptism, connecting us to the life and death of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins! What a blessing to be able to sing the words of this hymn: "His promise is 'I shall be always with you,' His covenant: 'You are My own!'"

WELCOME & GREETING

INVOCATION

WE SING "Lord, 'Tis Not That I Did Choose You" **LSB #573**

CHOSEN TO BELONG TO GOD

P: Jesus said to His disciples, "If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, But I have chosen you out of the world." (John 15:19)

C: Peter writes, "You are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God!..."

P: You also are among those who are called to belong to Jesus Christ . . . Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 1:6,7)

C: "...That you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His wonderful light..."

P: None of us lives to himself alone and none of us dies to himself alone. If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord. (Romans 14:7,8)

C: "...Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God." (1 Peter 2:9-10)

WE SING "He Knows My Name" *Tommy Walker*

KIDS' TIME "Good Shepherd" *DCE Liz Peters*

SCRIPTURE READING **2 Corinthians 1:18-22**
God's Word through Paul assures us of God's promises in Christ. We are His very own people!

¹⁸But as surely as God is faithful, our message to you is not "Yes" and "No." ¹⁹For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by me and Silas and Timothy, was not "Yes" and "No," but in Him it has always been Yes." ²⁰For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through Him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God. ²¹Now it is God who makes both us and you stand firm in Christ. He anointed us, ²²set His seal of ownership on us, and put His Spirit in our hearts as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.

GOSPEL READING

John 10:14-15

Using the image of a shepherd and his sheep, Jesus lays down His loving claim on His people.

⁴⁵[Jesus said,] "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and My sheep know Me – just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father – and I lay down My life for the sheep."

MEDITATION

"Marked"

Pastor Aaron Asmus

The Lord who created us places His gracious claim and His blessing upon His people.

[The Lord says] – ¹"But now listen, O Jacob, My servant, Israel whom I have chosen. ²This is what the Lord says – He who made you, who formed you in the womb, and who will help you: Do not be afraid, O Jacob, My servant, Jeshurun, whom I have chosen. ³For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out My Spirit on your offspring, and My blessing on your descendants. ⁴They will spring up like grass in a meadow, like poplar trees by flowing streams. ⁵One will say, 'I belong to the Lord'; another will call himself by the name of Jacob; still another will write on his hand, 'The Lord's,' and will take the name Israel. Isaiah 44:1-5

WE SING "You Are My Own" *Gerry Coleman*

IN GOD'S GIFT OF BAPTISM, WE ARE MARKED AS HIS OWN

P: We recall the water, remember the Word, and forever cherish this blessing spoken over us, "Receive the sign of the cross, both upon your forehead and upon your heart, to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified."

C: Amen and amen!

PRAYER FOR OUR LIVES AS BAPTIZED CHILDREN OF GOD

P: Merciful Father,

C: Through Holy Baptism You called us to be Your own possession. Grant that our lives may evidence the working of Your Holy Spirit in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, according to the image of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. We pray in His name. Amen.

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

CLOSING BLESSING

WE SING

"Church Of God, Elect and Glorious"

LSB #646

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Note – Our offerings are received in the offering boxes located near our entrances

God is with us! We live our whole life as an offering of thanks to Him.

Our Lenten Midweek Series continues on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 PM.
Fellowship meals are served from 5–6:15 pm.

"Singing With The Exiles"

Wednesday, March 26 "Breaking Down The Gates"
Wednesday, April 2 "Get Out!"
Wednesday, April 9 "One Little Word Can Fell Him"

Palm Sunday – April 13 (regular worship times)
Maundy Thursday – April 17 (6:30 PM communion service)
Good Friday – April 18 (6:30 PM worship service)
Easter Sunday – April 20 (6:30 AM, 8:00 AM, 9:30 AM, 11:00 AM)

Sunday Series During Lent

"You Are . . ."

Sunday, March 23 "Branches"
Sunday, March 30 "Salt and Light"
Sunday, April 6 "My Disciples"

