Morning Worship

OUR APPROACH TO GOD

WELCOME

PRELUDE What A Mighty God We Serve Jesus' Love Is Bubbling Over Blawenburg Village School arr. Lyndell Leatherman Traditional

CALL TO WORSHIP – Inspired by Psalm 32

Happy are those whose sins are forgiven.

Happy are those to whom God counts no wrong, those whose hearts are free of trouble.

When we keep silent about our wrongdoings, our lives crumble with worry and guilt.

When we try to hide from God, the heaviness in our hearts eats away our strength.

But when we seek your truth, O God, and acknowledge our sin, we receive your forgiveness.

Let all people reach out to you in prayer, O God, and know your protection and strength. Surrounded by your grace-filled presence and filled with your gracious forgiveness, we sing your praise; we shout for joy.

Δ HYMN

Jesus Loves Me!

Hymn #304

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy God, in these forty days of Lent, we reflect on our sinfulness and our need for your forgiveness. We confess that we are people of impure thoughts and unclean lips. We cling so tightly to the treasures of this world that we cannot open our hands to receive your blessings. Our feet follow the paths of sin and we wander so far astray that we become strangers to righteousness. Forgive us we pray, and set us again on the path that leads to life. Deal with us not as we deserve, but according to your mercy. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord....*Time of silent reflection*

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

People of God, receive this assurance from Psalm 103. The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. God does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is God's steadfast love toward us. As far as the east is from the west, so far has God removed our transgressions from us. People of God, receive the good news; in Jesus Christ we are forgiven, and through Jesus Christ we have been given the gift of new life.

Δ SEASONAL RESPONSE

Hymn #347, v. 4

Lord, cleanse the depths within our souls and bid resentment cease. Then, bound to all in bonds of love, our lives will spread your peace.

Δ PASSING OF THE PEACE

THE WORD OF GOD

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Rev. Jeff Knol

SONG FOR ILLUMINATION

Lord, listen to your children praying; Lord, send your spirit in this place. Lord, listen to your children praying; Send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

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SERMON

 Δ HYMN

Love Lifted Me

(see insert)

OUR RESPONSE TO THE WORD

ANNOUNCEMENTS, CELEBRATIONS, AND PRAYER REQUESTS

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *A Prayer of St. Richard of Chichester* Blawenburg Choir; Barb Antoniewicz, soloist

L. J. White

O holy Jesus, most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, And follow thee more nearly. Amen.

-- St. Richard of Chichester (c. 1197-1253)

Δ SONG OF PRAISE

Hymn #557 v. 1

O what shall I render for love so unbounded That led thee, dear Savior, for sinners to die? Receive, I beseech thee, my heart's humble off'ring: Thanksgiving and praises my glad heart upraises to thee, Lord, on high. Thanksgiving and praises my glad heart upraises to thee, Lord, on high!

Δ PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Abundant and present God, as we journey through the Lenten wilderness, towards the sorrow of the cross and the joy of the resurrection, we seek to attune our lives to you. Teach us to rely on you as nourishment for both body and soul. Bless us with the daily bread of your word. Refresh us in the living waters of your abundant grace. Bless our lives with faith, peace, and dedication to your ways. Receive and put to use our humble gifts we pray. Amen.

Δ APOSTLE'S CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried. He descended to hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PASTORAL PRAYER with the Lord's Prayer

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.

 Δ HYMN

Amazing Grace

Hymn #280

 Δ BENEDICTION

Worship Notes:

We welcome the Blawenburg Village School and their families to worship this morning.

The sanctuary flowers are given by Barb Reid and Karen Zimmerman, in memory of their mother.