





Rev. Mike Opfermann  
1023 Michigan Ave. Marysville, MI 48040  
810-364-7081

Our Mission

Journeying together in love for God and for all people.

Our Vision

A world where all people will experience love and know their value in the eyes of God.

## Introduction to the Day

Parable of the Lost Sheep - Herding sheep is a never-ending task. As soon as one is found, another may go missing. Our lives have a similar ebb and flow—in one moment we might feel like we have it all together, and in the next, we're struggling to survive. The promise of this parable is that no matter how "lost" we feel, the Good Shepherd is by our side.

## Today's Poem

### The Good Shepherd

*A poem prayer by Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org*

Jesus said, "Who among you wouldn't leave the 99?  
Who among you wouldn't look for the one?"

Someone in the crowd probably rolled their eyes.  
Someone squirmed and looked at their palms.  
Someone sighed and thought to themselves,  
"This man doesn't understand the business.  
What fool would leave 99 to look for one?"

But maybe God was not talking about us.  
Maybe God was talking about  
her own reckless love.  
Maybe God was talking about  
her own willingness  
to turn the world upside down  
for me.

ELW = red hymnal ACS = purple hymnal

# Gathering

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

## Prelude

## Silence to Prepare Our Hearts for Worship

### Prayer of Invocation

God meets us in the night—  
**before the sun rises,  
before the wound heals,  
before there are answers,  
before there is closure.**

God meets us in the light—  
**where joy is effervescent,  
where laughter is contagious,  
where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,  
where people gather around tables.**

God meets us in between—  
**at the edge of the water,  
at the beginning of the wilderness,  
at the start of something new,  
on the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,  
**then surely God meets us everywhere—  
at the water's edge, at the start of something new,  
after the baptism, and before the call.**

We are not alone. God is all around.  
**Let us worship the God of everything.**

## Welcome

## **Call to Worship** *led by Abby Martin*

Our God is a shepherding God.

**Our God knows us by name.**

Our God will never stop searching for us.

So if you feel lost,

**then know that God is seeking you.**

If you feel found,

**then know that God will never leave.**

This is the promise of scripture.

**This is the promise of God's love.**

Let us worship our with-us God.

## **Gathering Hymn**

*The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

ELW 502

## **Call to Confession**

### **Prayer of Confession**

If God is a painter,

**let us be the brush.**

If God is a musician,

**let us be the song.**

If God is an architect,

**let us be the tools.**

**Let us be the hands.**

**Let us be the builders.**

But if God is a shepherd,

who never stops seeking,

**let us be willing to be found,**

**no matter how lost we feel.**

Our God is never far away.

**Forgive us for forgetting this good news. Amen.**

### **Words of Forgiveness**

Family of faith, we are all a little bit lost and a little bit found.

We grumble. We push back. We doubt God. We doubt ourselves.

We leave the flock and lose our way.

But fortunately for us, our God is a shepherding God who is always by our side.

So hear and believe the good news of the gospel:

**No matter how far we wander,**

**we can never wander from the bounds of God's grace.**

**We are loved. We are forgiven. We are not alone.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

## **“everything [in] between” Theme Song**

*When Our Minds Are Set and Certain*

Tune: Beach Spring

**When our minds are set and certain  
grant us grace that intercedes.  
When our hearts are hard with habit  
ease us into gentle deeds.  
When our ways are planned and patterned,  
guide us out of rote routine.  
Come reform our fixed intentions;  
teach us in the in between.**

**When we wander, lost and lonesome  
lead us back to flock and fold.  
When we ache with want or labor  
draw us close to be consoled.  
When we judge the ones around us  
show us wisdom yet unseen.  
Gather all to feast together;  
join us in the in between.**

**When the cruel deceive and slander  
amplify the kind and true.  
When the weight of hate is heavy  
strengthen love to pull us through.  
Great are small, and weak are mighty  
as your powers intervene.  
Call your people to conversion:  
heal us in the in between.**

## **Prayer for Illumination**

Let us pray...

...With hope we pray,  
with hope we listen.

**Amen.**

# Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

## Children's Sermon

### Psalm 107:1-9 *read responsively*

<sup>1</sup>O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;  
for his steadfast love endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,  
those he redeemed from trouble**

<sup>3</sup>and gathered in from the lands,  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

<sup>4</sup>**Some wandered in desert wastes,  
finding no way to an inhabited town;**

<sup>5</sup>hungry and thirsty,  
their soul fainted within them.

<sup>6</sup>**Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,  
and he delivered them from their distress;**

<sup>7</sup>he led them by a straight way,  
until they reached an inhabited town.

<sup>8</sup>**Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,  
for his wonderful works to humankind.**

<sup>9</sup>**For he satisfies the thirsty,  
and the hungry he fills with good things.**

## Gospel Acclamation



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

## **Gospel: Luke 15:1-7**

*Before the reading:* The holy gospel according to Luke, the fifteenth chapter.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*After the reading:* The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**

Pastor Mike Opfermann

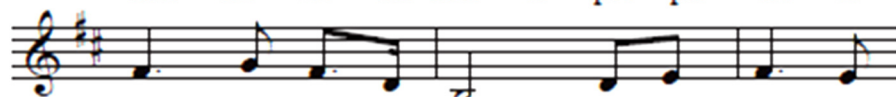


# Hymn of the Day

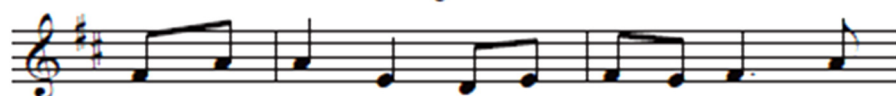
## Are You Lost?



1. Are you lost a - mong earth's peo - ples, wan - d'ring  
2. Are you bruised by hurt and hard - ship, strained by  
3. Are you hop - ing for a fu - ture that is  
4. In our wil - der - ness of peo - ple let us



cold and all a - lone? Do you won - der  
wrongs or racked by need? Do you tire of  
bet - ter than our past? Are you yearn - ing  
seek the com - mon good. In our dis - cord



if you're cher - ished? Do you won - der if you're  
end - less wait - ing for the world to free and  
for com - mun - ion where the first are wel - comed  
and di - vi - sions hearts can still be un - der -



known? Love will bind us as a fi - ber,  
feed? Love will join us as a bod - y  
last? Love de - lights in all our diff - 'rence,  
stood. Love is with us when we're work - ing,



washed and card - ed, spun and wound, knit to -  
with the strength and means to mend; ev - 'ry  
teach - ing jus - tice and re - spect, call - ing  
turn - ing stran - gers in - to kin. Love in -



geth - er as a blan - ket, warmed and  
mem - ber bears a treas - ure on which  
souls and skills and pow - ers to re -  
vites us and u - nites us to be



wel - comed, sought and found.  
all of us de - pend.  
pair and re - con - nect.  
bet - ter than we've been.



## Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a seeking God,  
a with-us and before-us God,  
a chasing-after-us God.

We believe that no matter where we wander  
or what mountains we climb, this God—  
the God who walked the streets of Jerusalem,  
shook hands with lepers,  
patted children on the head,  
and told stories of love—  
is always close at hand.

So on the good days and the hard days,  
on the mountains and in the valleys,  
we believe that we are always being found.  
Thanks be to God for a love like that.  
Amen.

## Prayers of the Church

With trust and hope, we pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*We respond to each petition:* Merciful God, **hear our prayer.**

...Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**Amen.**

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*At this time, we share God's peace with our neighbors.  
Congregation is then seated for the offering.*

## Meal

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## Offering

*The Table is prepared as offering and worship record cards are collected and brought forward.*



Online giving is available. Simply scan this QR code with your phone's camera, click on the link, and give as you feel led.

## Offering Prayer

Gracious Provider,

**you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.**

**As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

**Amen.**

## 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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...

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

## Holy, Holy, Holy



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



God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your



glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

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

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

## Thanksgiving at the Table

Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life...

...as we eat this bread and drink this cup,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

...all honor and glory are yours, Almighty God,  
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

All who have strayed and gotten lost are called back into Jesus' presence at this holy table, and welcomed with open arms. Come with joy and be nourished in love, for all is prepared.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Communion

*All are welcome to Christ's table!*

*In this meal, we meet Jesus and the expansive life He brings. An usher will invite you forward to the communion rail. You may kneel or stand as you are able. You will receive a wafer from Pastor. You may drink wine from the chalice or choose an individual cup of red wine or white grape juice. You may then drop your cup in the basket, stand, and return to your seat via the side aisle. If you would like to receive communion from Pastor, but are unable to come up front, please let an usher know and Pastor will come to you.*

## Lamb of God



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.

## Communion Hymns

*Our Father, We Have Wandered*

**ELW 606**

*You, Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd*

**ACS 954**

## Table Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## Prayer after Communion

O God,

**in this holy communion you have welcomed us into your presence,  
nourished us with words of mercy, and fed us at your table.**

**Amid the cares of this life, strengthen us to love you with all our heart,  
serve our neighbors with a willing spirit,  
and honor the earth you have made;  
through Christ our Lord.**

**Amen.**

## Sending

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## Announcements

### Sending Hymn

*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*

**ELW 779**

## Benediction and Dismissal

As you leave this place,  
may you find God in every messy middle.  
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.  
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,  
and therefore, you contain multitudes.  
So may you move through this world with an open heart,  
with a curious mind, and with the confidence that you do not go alone.  
God is with you in the mountains,  
in the valleys,  
and everywhere in between.

Believe that good news, and go in peace.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.

Invocation, Call to Worship, Confession/Forgiveness, Prayer for Illumination, Affirmation of Faith, and Benediction texts written by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org).

everything [in] between Lenten series was crafted by our friends at A Sanctified Art LLC | [sanctifiedart.org](http://sanctifiedart.org). Adapted and formatted to fit worship at Pilgrim by Rev. Michael Opfermann and Michelle Carlson.

When Our Minds Are Set and Certain – Text by Hannah C. Brown © 2025, GIA Publications, Inc. Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-702972

Are You Lost? Text by Hannah C. Brown © 2024, GIA Publications, Inc. Music by Gregg DeMey, © 2008 Re:Create Music (admin. Faith Alive Christian Resources). Reprinted under OneLicense.net #A-702972

Next Sunday's Theme:



# Lent Continues

## Sunday Worship

9:30am

## Midweek Services on Wednesdays (March 12th-April 9th)

5:30pm: Soup Supper

6:30pm: Worship



# Holy Week & Easter

Maundy Thursday Cantata & Eucharist: April 17th at 6:30pm

*The Living Last Supper*

Good Friday Worship: April 18th at Noon

Easter Sunrise Service at Riverlawn Cemetery: April 20th at 6:40am

*Join us for Easter Breakfast, to support those attending church camp, from 8am-9am*

Easter Worship at Pilgrim: April 20th at 9:30am





## The Beacon: Pilgrim's Weekly E-news



Scan for this week's news



Scan to subscribe to our emails

### **Altar Flowers**

We do not place flowers in the chancel throughout Lent. You can sign up in the hallway to purchase flowers on Sundays after Easter.  
Easter Flower Orders will be announced soon.

### **Stay Connected**

[www.pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org](http://www.pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org)  
[facebook.com/plcmarysville](https://facebook.com/plcmarysville)  
[instagram.com/plcmarysville](https://instagram.com/plcmarysville)

Pastor Mike: [plcpastor@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org](mailto:plcpastor@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org)  
Michelle, Dir. of Music: [plcmusic@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org](mailto:plcmusic@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org)  
Sheri, Office Manager: [plcoffice@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org](mailto:plcoffice@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org)

WIFI: PILGRIM Password: YouAreLoved

### **Next Week's Texts**

Psalm 32; Luke 19:1-10



## Serving in Sunday Worship

	<b>This Week March 30</b>	<b>Next Sunday April 6</b>
<b>Musician:</b>	Cindy Rogers	Cindy Rogers
<b>Worship Assistant:</b>	Madonna Lukitsch	Nadine LaGruth
<b>Worship Coordinator:</b>	Sue Winzeler	Bill Kauffman
<b>Usher:</b>	Fred Russell	Jennie Posey
<b>Acolyte:</b>	Jonah Martin	Abby Martin
<b>Reader:</b>	Bill Kauffman	Mike McCarthy
<b>Communion Assistant:</b>	Mark White	Steve Kennedy
<b>Greeter(s):</b>	Robie Clearwood	Fred & Jean Russell
<b>Coffee Bar Attendants:</b>	Rick Carlson	Jenifer Kusch
<b>Coffee With Luther Hosts:</b>	Carol G. & Linda W.	Jean & Fred Russell
<b>Altar Guild:</b>	Tammy Bakko Pam Clearwood	Jenna Jackson Judy McCarthy Barb Hart
<b>Offering Tellers:</b>	Fred Russell Nadine LaGruth	Peggi Starkey Nadine LaGruth

## Serving in Midweek Worship

	<b>This Wednesday April 2</b>	<b>Next Wednesday April 9</b>
<b>Musician:</b>	Michelle Carlson	Michelle Carlson
<b>Cantor:</b>	Noah Carlson	Trina Avedisian
<b>Worship Coordinator:</b>	Fred Russell	Robie Clearwood
<b>Usher:</b>	Jean Russell	Alex Merkau



## About Today's Artwork (on back cover)

### Lost & Found

by Lisle Gwynn Garrity

Inspired by Luke 15:1-7

*Newspaper & gold leaf collage with digital drawing*

At I began my artwork for this series by collaging torn strips of newspaper articles together, overlapping global headlines with photos of current events. Along the torn edges, I added gold leaf. Then I photographed the result, editing the photos in black and white. These photos would become the backdrop for my pieces, as I wanted my digital drawings to emerge within the noise of the world's deepest pains, divisions, and everything in between. The collage is also a reference to the theologian Karl Barth's famous quote about reading the bible and the newspaper together.<sup>7</sup> I wanted the gold leaf to represent God's presence in the spaces in between the events and forces that tear us apart.

On September 27th, 2024, I began drawing the Good Shepherd with the lost sheep tenderly wrapped around his shoulders. As I worked, rain pummeled our roof, saturating the ground with an endless deluge as the wide bands of tropical storm Helene<sup>8</sup> reached our high-elevation town of Black Mountain, NC. The next day, winds roared and threw trees to the ground like dominos. We lost power, then water, then cell service. We didn't know it yet, but every creek and river had swelled with enormous force, sweeping away everything in their path. Landslides, sinkholes, and extreme flooding ravaged the entire region of Western North Carolina, taking homes, towns, and human lives.

We were incredibly and graciously spared, having no flooding in our house or trees on our roof, so as soon as the storm relented, we headed out to find our friends and family by foot. As we walked through our small town, we found ourselves in a maze-like wasteland, changing our route every other turn due to downed trees or power lines, or washed-out roads. Progressively, we found family and friends, greeting them with great relief and urgent questions: "Do you have enough water to drink? Do you have water for flushing? Do you need any food?" It would be nearly 6 days before any emergency relief could arrive with food, water, and supplies. Meanwhile, neighbors survived by the help of their neighbors. Churches opened their doors. Firefighters and first responders persisted, despite perilous rescue missions. Helicopters air-lifted stranded people to safety.

When I began this artwork, I naively hoped to gain insight into Jesus' parable of the lost sheep. In that process, I did not wish to *become* the lost sheep and live through the greatest natural disaster to hit my hometown in over a thousand years. But as I read this parable again, now over 6 weeks after the storm, what strikes me is the pursuit of the shepherd, so singularly focused on the one who is lost, vulnerable, and at-risk. The Good Shepherd steadies the sheep on his shoulders and steps out of the frame toward us. His gaze finds mine, and I almost hear him whisper, "I will never stop searching for the lost. I will never stop rejoicing when one is found." —**Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity**

<sup>7</sup> Karl Barth, 1886-1968, was a Swiss Reformed theologian. In a 1963 *Time Magazine* article, he urges young theologians to take the Bible and the newspaper and read both.

<sup>8</sup> At the end of September 2024, Hurricane Helene hit the Southeastern US, devastating many regions, particularly Western North Carolina. Catastrophic flooding caused billions of dollars of damage, took hundreds of lives, and left many lives unaccounted for.

