



# Halfway Creek

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Welcome to Worship*



***March 23, 2025 10:00 a.m.***

## Order of Worship

(ELW—Evangelical Lutheran Worship—**red** hymnal; WOV –With One Voice—**blue** hymnal)

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Gathering

*Let us confess our sins to God and one another:*

*God of abundance, you have promised to provide us with more than mere survival; in seeking to satisfy our deepest hungers, we shall find an even more profound sustenance than human imagination could envision.*

**In your holy love, you have given us so much: talents and treasure in unlimited supply. But often, we spend these on superficial needs. We throw away our plenty on little hungers and petty desires. We seek the fleeting delight of novelty, of prettiness, and**

**outward appearance. We follow the urges to momentary importance; to the notice of a fickle society more interested in noise and sparkle than in mundane sturdiness. We chase after happiness while neglecting joy; we chase after romance while neglecting love; we skim the surface while fearing the depths.**

*God of grace, we are hungry. God of mercy, quench our thirst.*

**Forgive us, we pray, for our fearfulness, as we rely more upon our own human illusions of control and satisfaction, even though we know that these illusions separate us from you. Forgive us for not trusting in your grace, in your abundance, in the covenant promises that you have renewed with every generation. In Christ, may we learn to love you more than we love ourselves. Amen.**

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

*Come, all you who are thirsty. If you take the first step, if you are willing to plunge once again into the waters and to emerge into new life, you will receive a love beyond all you can envision.*

**We turn our hearts to God, and by grace our hunger and thirst are satisfied; through Christ we are made whole; by the Spirit we are led forth as God's people. Amen.**

Gathering Song *"All Who Are Thirsty"* see insert

Greeting **c: And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

**Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

First Reading Isaiah 55:1-9

Gospel Acclamation *"Let Your Steadfast Love Come to Us O Lord"* setting 8

Gospel Luke 13:1-9

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *"When We Are Tested"* see insert

Apostles' Creed

Prayers of Intercession God, in your mercy, **c: receive our prayer.**

Peace

Offertory Song *"Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"* ELW 188

Offering Prayer

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer ELW pg. 191

Invitation to Communion

Communion *"Beautiful Things"* see insert

Post Communion Blessing **c: Amen**

Prayer after Communion	<b>c: Amen</b>	
Blessing	<b>c: Amen</b>	
Sending Song	<i>"I've Just Come from the Fountain"</i>	see insert
Dismissal & Postlude		

## Announcements

Birthdays this week: Kathy Christensen, Jeremy Cook, Connor Lee, Linda Pralle, Katrina Bringe, Ivy Severson, Nollan Gander, Nic Hill, Ruth Scholze, John Daily, Stella Pederson

Noisy Offering: Our noisy offering for the month of March is for the Coulee Region Immigration Task Force. The mission of the Coulee Region Immigration Task Force is to welcome, advocate, and educate in the service of new, recent, and established immigrants. Last weekend you gave you gave \$51.65 for a total of \$170.06 so far. Let's keep making some noise!

Confirmation: We will meet Wednesday, **March 26 at 6:30 p.m.**

### Upcoming Worship & Events—MARCH

**26** —5:45 p.m. Wednesday Lenten Meal (Chili and sandwiches);

6:30 p.m. Service followed by reflection and conversation

**30**—10:00 a.m. worship with Pastor Wayne

**Easter flower orders due; drop off cookies for LuMin—Cookies on Campus.**

Mid-week Lenten meals and service: We'll gather on Wednesdays during lent through April 9 at 5:45 p.m. for our meal and 6:30 p.m. for service followed by a short time of reflection and conversation. Topics will come from the book *"The Great Spiritual Migration"* by Brian D McLaren. It is not necessary to read the book to participate in these conversations. If you would like us to order a copy, contact Shari or you may purchase a copy on your own.

*Sign up sheets for the Lenten meals may be found in the gathering space.*

### Planning ahead for Holy Week and Easter:

Maundy Thursday, April 17 at 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday, April 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday, April 20 at 8 a.m. and 10 a.m.

Outreach Opportunity: Life Planning Seminar in collaboration with Fredrickson Funeral Homes. All are welcome to attend this short seminar to learn about the benefits of funeral pre-planning and enjoy a catered meal on Tuesday, May 6 from 5:00—6:30 p.m. at HCLC. Please RSVP to Margaret at 608-397-8672. Invite your friends and family, too.

## Welcome to Worship!

Thank you for being here today. We want you to feel at home when you are here at HCLC, so please remember:

### As you participate

Bolded words on the screen are for you to speak.

Even though the pastor indicates when to stand up or sit down, that is not mandatory. We do not judge when it's done differently. Move around as you need to and please worship as *your* body demands it.

### Offering

The offering is our way of showing that when we come to the table we bring ourselves as well as all we have been given by God to be blessed for service in God's world.

The offering plate is passed around during the offering song.

The cake pan is for our Noisy Offering. Each month we choose a cause to support.

Offerings can also be made through our website or by using this QR code. Thank you for the many ways you support HCLC and our mission.



## Holy Communion

**All are welcome** to the table today when communion is offered. It is not our table, but Jesus is the host. So, in this place **all** are welcome to Jesus' table.

**Pre-packaged communion kits**, regular and **gluten-free**, are available for communing in your seats or bringing them with you as you come forward.

**Communion in the front aisle** will be baked bread and both wine and juice (the wine is red, juice is clear).

### Kids

We welcome kids to participate fully in any part of the service! You may pass the offering plate or noisy offering, and we have activity bags as you enter church.

An **AED is available** in case of an emergency. It is located just outside the sanctuary doors.

***Please join us for coffee and fellowship each week after service. Guests and members please take a moment to fill out the Welcome Card in the pew. We want to know how we can best minister to you.***

**Halfway Creek Lutheran Church ELCA**  
**W6016 County Rd W, Holmen, WI 54636**  
**Phone: 608-526-3701**  
**Website: [halfwaycreek.org](http://halfwaycreek.org)**  
**Office Hours: Tues, Wed, Thu: 9 a.m.–3 p.m.**  
**Worship: Sundays at 10 a.m.**

**Synod Authorized Minister:** Patti Happel  
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**HCLC Vision Board Members:**  
*President: Bette Pedretti*  
*Vice President: Nicole Stumlin*  
*Secretary: Amy Noel; Treasurer: Carrie Payne*  
Members: Nancy Holley, Michelle Olson,  
Wayne Atchley, Ema Nedoba, Oliva Nedoba

# Lyrics for Worship Songs

## GATHERING SONG—“All Who Are Thirsty”

*[A leader sings the words in parentheses]  
(All who are thirsty,) come to the waters.  
(All who are hungry,) come here and eat.  
(All who are thirsty,) come to the waters.  
There's enough for all.*

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## HYMN OF THE DAY—“When We Are Tested”

*When we are tested and wrestle alone,  
famished for bread when the world offers  
stone,  
nourish us, God, by your word and your  
way,  
food that sustains us by night and by day.*

*When in the desert we cry for relief,  
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,  
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,  
trusting your presence, our only true rest.*

*When we are tempted to barter our souls,  
trading the truth for the pow'r to control,  
teach us to worship and praise only you,  
seeking your will in the work that we do.*

*When we have struggled  
and searched through the night,  
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,  
Savior, surround us with circles of care,  
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.*

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## COMMUNION -“Beautiful Things”

*All this pain  
I wonder if I'll ever find my way  
I wonder if my life could really change at all*

*All this earth  
Could all that is lost ever be found  
Could a garden come up from this ground  
at all*

*You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of us*

*All around  
Hope is springing up from this old ground  
Out of chaos life is being found in You*

*You make beautiful things,  
You make beautiful things out of the dust  
You make beautiful things,  
You make beautiful things out of us*

*Instrumental Interlude*

*Bridge  
You make me new,  
You are making me new  
You make me new,  
You are making me new*

*You make beautiful things,  
You make beautiful things out of the dust*

**Repeat x2**

*Instrumental Interlude*

*You make beautiful things  
You make beautiful things out of the dust*

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SENDING SONG—"I've Just Come from the Fountain"

**Refrain**

*I've just come from the fountain,  
I've just come from the fountain, Lord,  
I've just come from the fountain,  
his name's so sweet.  
O Lord, I've just come from the fountain,  
I've just come from the fountain, Lord,  
I've just come from the fountain,  
his name's so sweet.*

*1 O brother, do you love Jesus?  
Yes, yes, I do love my Jesus.  
Brother, do you love Jesus?  
His name's so sweet. O Lord, **Refrain***

*2 O sister, do you love Jesus?  
Yes, yes, I do love my Jesus.  
Sister, do you love Jesus?  
His name's so sweet. O Lord, **Refrain***

*3 O sinner, do you love Jesus?  
Yes, yes, I do love my Jesus.  
Sinner, do you love Jesus?  
His name's so sweet. O Lord, **Refrain***

*Text: African American spiritual*



**In Our Prayers:**

**We pray for** friends and family of those we have lost: Ray Cook, Charles Severson, Madilyn Vang, Jeff Rose, Ron Hanson, Rod Sutherland, Curt Nedoba, Judy Campbell, Mike Nedoba, Raymond Lee, Marie Jezova

**We pray for** Laurie Noelke, Brooklynn Cook, Megan Sacia Ulrich, Perry Voshage, Owen Gilbertson, Adisyn Rhyme, Kannon Happel, Marjorie Lee, Jean Latham, Bob Loper, Joan Vaughn, Bridget Ferk, Thelma Severson, Lisa Herrera Evans, Katie Wier, Phoebe Kitzke, Gayle Kuespert, Beulah Sanders, Cary Heyer, Eric Erdman, Dawson Reed, Jenny Lee, Mary Dokkebakken, Karla Johnson, Alice Fonfara, the Coats family.