Welcome to Luther Memorial Church of the Erie Lutheran Parish



5 MARCH 2025 ASH WEDNESDAY 7:00 pm

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

225 West Tenth Street • Erie, PA 16501 • 814-454-0106

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, Pastor

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O. *Cantor* RON KING *Pastoral Asst.* ~ *Holy Trinity* THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL, THE REV. BRIAN MORAN THE REV. KAREN PARSH, THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON *Pastors in Residence* MICHELLE THOM Academy Administrator BETH KELLER SARAH PRYLINSKI Youth and Family Ministry JAN MACINNES Care Ministry

5 MARCH 2025 ASH WEDNESDAY Holy Communion • ELW Setting V • 7:00pm

GATHERING

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

We gather in silence. Please stand as you are able as the ministers enter.

PSALM 51 Antiphon:



Tone:

¹Have mercy on me O God, ... according to your [stead]-fast love;

in your great compassion ... blot out [my] offenses.

² Wash me through and [through from] my wickedness,

and cleanse me [from] my sin.

³ For I [know my] offenses,

and my sin is [ever] before me.

⁴ Against you only have I sinned ... and done what is evil [in] your sight; so you are justified when you speak ... and [right in] your judgment.

⁵ Indeed I was born [steeped] in wickedness,

a sinner from my [moth]-er's womb.

⁶ Indeed you delight in truth [deep] within me, and would have me know wisdom [deep] within. *Antiphon*

⁷ Remove my sins with hyssop, ... and [I shall] be clean; wash me and I shall be [purer] than snow.

⁸ Let me hear [joy] and gladness; that the body you have broken [may] rejoice. ⁹ Hide your [face from] my sins, and blot out [all] my wickedness.

¹⁰ Create in me a clean [heart] O God,

and renew a right [spirit] within me.

¹¹ Cast me not a-[way from] your presence, and take not your Holy [Spir]-it from me.

¹² Restore to me the joy of [your] salvation and sustain me with your [bounti]-ful Spirit. *Antiphon*

¹³ Let me teach your [ways to] offenders, and sinners shall be re-[stored] to you.

¹⁴ Rescue me from bloodshed, ... O God of [my] salvation,

and my tongue shall [sing of] your righteousness.

¹⁵ O Lord [open] my lips,

and my mouth shall pro-[claim] your praise.

¹⁶ For you take no delight in sacrifice, ... or [I] would give it.

You are not [pleased with] burnt off 'ring.

¹⁷ The sacrifice of God is a [troub]-led spirit; a troubled and broken heart O God, ... you will [not] despise. *Antiphon*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

G And also with you.

- Let us pray. Almighty and ever-living God, you hate nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and honest hearts, so that, truly repenting of our sins, we may receive from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **G** Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING: Joel 2:1-2, 12-17

¹Blow the trumpet in Zion; sound the alarm on my holy mountain! Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble, for the day of the Lord is coming, it is near—²a day of darkness and gloom, a day of clouds and thick fog! Like darkness spread upon the mountains, a great and powerful army comes; their like has never been from of old, nor will be again after them in ages to come. ¹²Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; ¹³rend your hearts and not your clothing. Return to the Lord your God, for the Lord is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, abounding in steadfast love, and relenting from punishment. ¹⁴Who knows whether the Lord will not turn and relent and leave behind a blessing, a grain offering and a drink offering for the Lord your God? ¹⁵Blow the trumpet in Zion; consecrate a fast; call a solemn assembly; ¹⁶gather the people. Consecrate the congregation; assemble the aged; gather the children, even infants at the breast. Let the bridegroom leave his room, and the bride her canopy. ¹⁷Between the vestibule and the altar, let the priests, the ministers of the Lord, weep. Let them say, "Spare your people, O Lord, and do not make your heritage a mockery, a byword among the nations. Why should it be said among the peoples, 'Where is their God?'"

L The Word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.



Tune: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, The Psalmes of David, 1579, alt

SECOND READING: II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

^{20b}We entreat you on behalf of Christ: be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake God made the one who knew no sin to be sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. ^{6:1}As we work together with God, we entreat you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For God says, "At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you." Look, now is the acceptable time; look, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: in great endurance, afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶in purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors and yet are true, ⁹as unknown and yet are well known, as dying and look—we are alive, as punished and yet not killed, ¹⁰as sorrowful yet always rejoicing, as poor yet making many rich, as having nothing and yet possessing everything.

L The Word of the Lord. **G** Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly sings the acclamation. A cantor or the choir sings the verse after which all repeat the acclamation.



Return to the Lord, your God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

P The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the disciples: ¹"Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven. ²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who is in secret, and your Father who is in secret, and your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you. ¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

P The Gospel of the Lord.

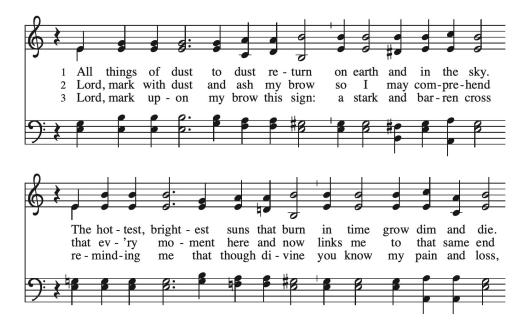
Please be seated.

HOMILY

Please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

All Things of Dust to Dust Return

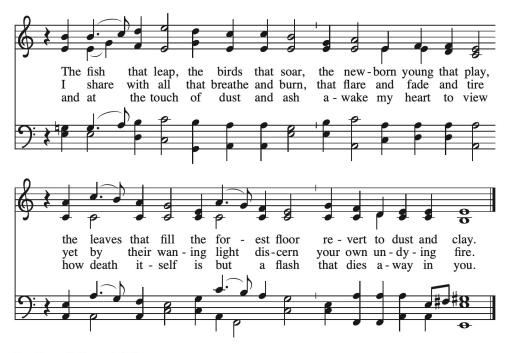


ACS 920

Pastor Jay

Glory to you, O Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.



Text: Thomas H. Troeger, b. 1945 Music: THIRD MODE MELODY, Thomas Tallis, 1505–1585 Text © 2009 Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

INVITATION TO LENT

▶ Friends in Christ,....Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

The presiding minister leads the Great Confession.

▶ Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or sits. Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

- **P** Most holy and merciful God,
- we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
- ▶ We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
- G Have mercy on us, O God.
- We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
- G Have mercy on us, O God.
- ▶ Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.
- G Have mercy on us, O God.

- ▶ Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
- G Have mercy on us, O God.
- ▶ Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.
- G Have mercy on us, O God.
- ▶ Our neglect of human need and suffering, our active and passive participation in racism, nationalism, classism, sexism, heterosexism, ableism, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

G Have mercy on us, O God.

- ▶ Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.
- G Have mercy on us, O God.
- Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.
- G Have mercy on us, O God.
- P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
- **G** Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

- ▶ Almighty God,...through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
- **G** Amen.

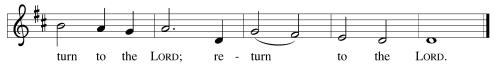
Those who desire to receive ashes may come forward by the center aisle to receive them, returning by the side aisles. The Presiding Minister marks the forehead of each person with a cross of ash, saying: Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return. After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues.

SONG DURING THE IMPOSITION

MSB1 435

The cantor introduces the refrain and the congregation then echoes. The congregation joins on the refrains following the verses; and then as needed the refrain is repeated.







After two days God revives us, on the third will raise us up, that we may stand before the Lord and live in God's sight. *Refrain*

Let us come to know the Lord, whose appearing is sure as the dawn; who will come to us like showers as the spring rains that water the earth. *Refrain*.

After those who desire ashes have received them, all may kneel or sit, and the minister continues.

P Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,

G that we may show forth your glory in the world.

▶ By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,

G bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

G Amen.

Please remain kneeling or sitting for the Prayers of Intercession.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- A Trusting in the promises of baptism, the mercy and grace of God, let us pray for the Church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.
- A Let us pray for the Church; for deacons, pastors, and bishops; for all the faithful. *Here you may pray silently or aloud for the Church of Jesus Christ in every place.*
- ▲ Let us pray for God's good creation; for the changing of the seasons; for the promises of spring; for shelter from harsh weather; and for all who work for clean water and fresh air for all. *Here you may pray silently or aloud for the needs of creation.*
- A Let us pray for the nations; for those who rule, govern, and lead; and all places that know war and strife. *Here you may pray silently or aloud for the nations of the world.*
- ▲ Let us pray for those in need; the underhoused and underemployed; the sick; those who bear another's burdens; those who will die today. *Here you may pray silently or aloud for the sick, suffering, and those in need.*
- A Let us pray for those preparing for baptism; for those who seek after the mysteries of God; those who prepare for ministry in the Church. Here you may pray silently or aloud for those in their catechetical journeys.
- A Let us pray in thanksgiving for those who have gone before in the way of the cross; those whose faith inspires our own; those whose faith was known only to God. *Here you may give thanks silently or aloud for our beloved dead.*
- A Keep us, O God, in the promises of baptism until we come to the Feast around the Lamb in whose mercy and grace we trust.
- **C** Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY



Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739, arr. Harold W. Gilbert

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

G Amen.

WOV 732

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

- **P** The Lord be with you.
- **P** Lift up your hearts.
- **P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
- **EUCHARISTIC PRAYER**

- **G** And also with you.
- **G** We lift them to the Lord.
- **G** It is right to give our thanks and praise.
- ▶ We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.
- ▶ He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight. He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb. He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary. He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people; he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you.
- P He is the one who, handed over to a death he freely accepted, in order to destroy death, to break the bonds of the evil one, to crush hell underfoot, to give light to the righteous, to establish his covenant, and to show forth the resurrection,

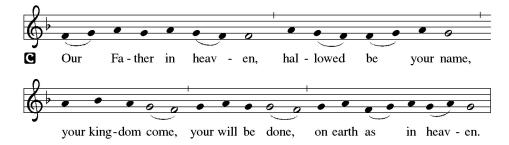
taking bread and giving thanks to you, said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

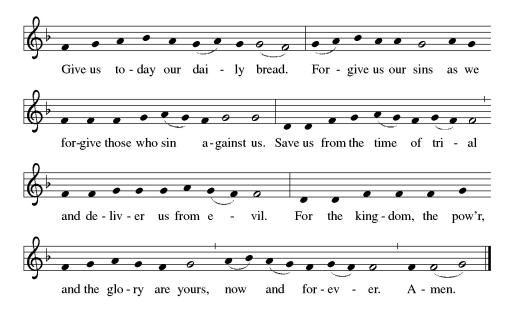
In the same way he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

- P Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.
- Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; + fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.
- **G** Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Lord, remember us in your sovereignty and teach us to pray:



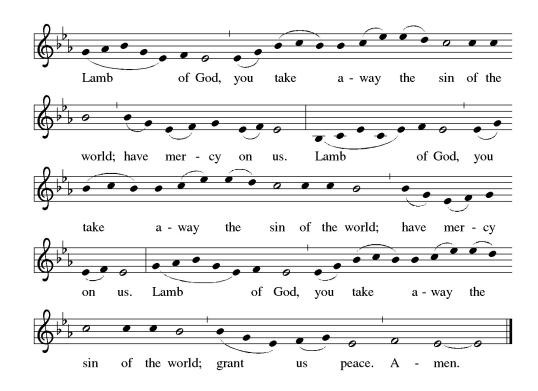


INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ▶ Here is the Lamb of God. Here is the one who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are we who are called to Christ's supper.
- Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.
- P Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the body and blood of Christ for you.

The congregation is seated.

AGNUS DEI



COMMUNION

This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast! We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.

Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle. Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle. White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know. Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill. As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.

All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine, please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.

HYMNS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

LBW 296



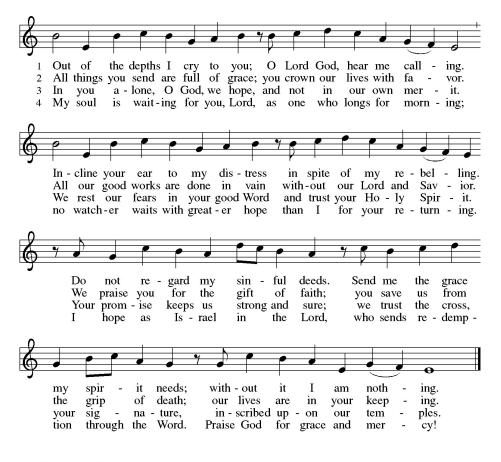
- 5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive, wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve; because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
- 6 Just as I am; thy love unknown has broken ev'ry barrier down; now to be thine, yea, thine alone, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Out of the Depths I Cry to You



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite Music: AUS TIEFER NOT, attr. Martin Luther Text © 1978, 2006 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- ▲ Let us pray. Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the lift of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- **C** Amen.

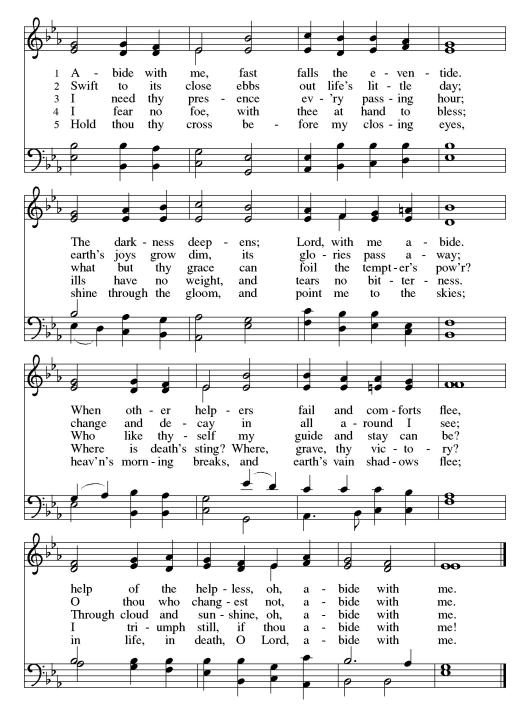
SENDING

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

BLESSING

- \mathbf{P} ... now and forever.
- **C** Amen.

Abide with Me



Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847 Music: EVENTIDE, William H. Monk, 1823–1889

DISMISSAL

▲ Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

G Amen.

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Thank You for gathering here in worship today. We hope you will experience personal enrichment and spiritual growth through your participation in our weekly Lenten series.

READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

March 6 - Psalm 91:1-2, 6-16; Exodus 5:10-23; Acts 7:30-34

March 7 – Perpetua, Felicitas, and companions, martyrs at Carthage, 202 – Psalm 124; Hebrews 10:32-39; Matthew 24:9-14 -- Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.

March 8 – Psalm 91:1-13, 9-16; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; John 12:27-36

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025 THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship services will be held at 8:15am in Faith Chapel and 10:30am in the main church.

Second Sunday Soirée will gather for fellowship and conversation at 9:15am in the parlor.

Adult Forum will meet at 9:15am in the library.

Sunday School for PreK – grade 5 will meet at 9:30am.