

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church



30 MARCH 2025
The Fourth Sunday *in* Lent
Laetare Sunday
10:30 am

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

30 MARCH 2025

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Communion • ELW Setting Five • 10:30

GATHERING – “The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.”

PRELUDE – “Slane”

F. Ashdown

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly rises in body or spirit with the ministers.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 606

Our Father, We Have Wandered

1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,

in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment line in the bass clef. The key signature has one sharp (F#), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are printed below the vocal line.

But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,
 In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,
 grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.

as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.
 in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.
 Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006
 Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750
 Text from *Resource Collection of Hymns and Service Music for the Liturgy*, © 1981 International Committee on English in the Liturgy, Inc.

GREETING

- ☐ The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**

COLLECT FOR PURITY

- ☐ Let us pray. Almighty God to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.
- ☑ **Amen.**

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



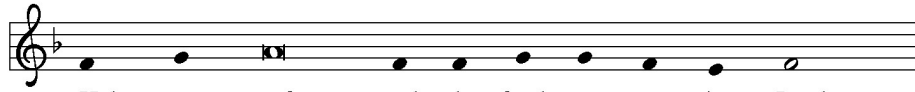
For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal, they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and roasted grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

☐ May God add a blessing to the reading of the Word.

PSALM: 32 (*Read responsively.*)

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**²Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.”

Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

**⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**⁸“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”

**¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

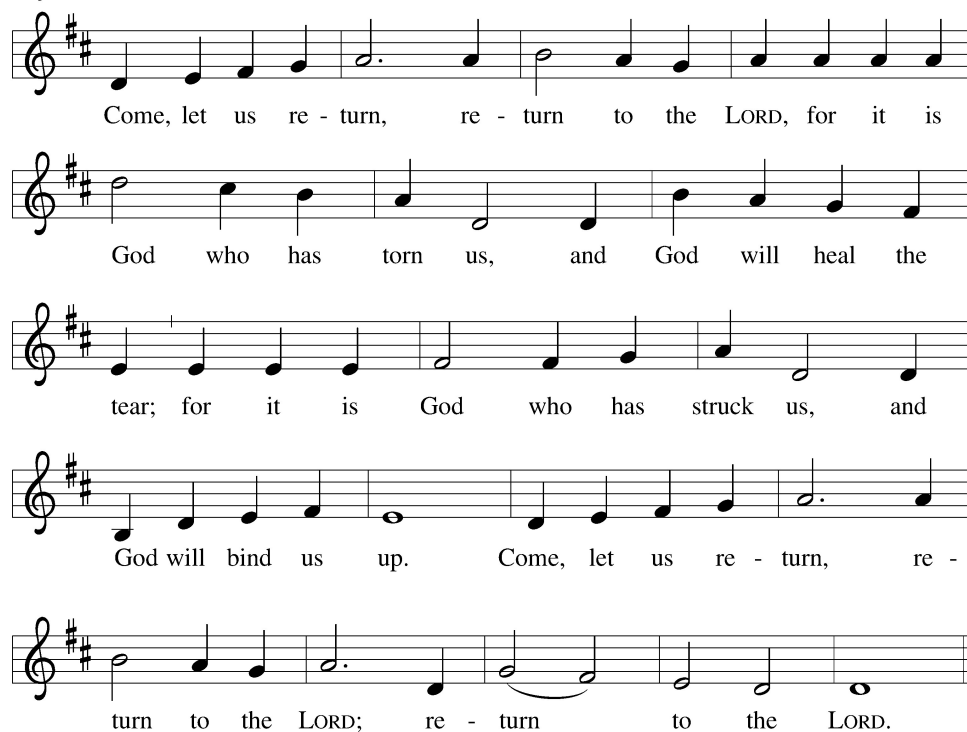
SECOND READING: II Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we no longer know him in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; look, new things have come into being! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us through Christ to God, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to God’s very self, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is appealing through us; 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.

☐ May God add a blessing to the reading of the Word.

Please rise in body or spirit to greet the Gospel

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Come, let us re - turn, re - turn to the LORD, for it is
God who has torn us, and God will heal the
tear; for it is God who has struck us, and
God will bind us up. Come, let us re - turn, re -
turn to the LORD; re - turn to the LORD.

Text: Mark Mummert, based on Hosea 6:1-3

Music: Mark Mummert

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GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³So Jesus told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the wealth that will belong to me.’ So the father divided his assets between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant region, and there he squandered his wealth in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that region, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that region, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled his stomach with the pods that the pigs were eating, and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to his senses he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate, ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field, and as he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷The slave replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then the elder brother became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command, yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back,

who has devoured your assets with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’³¹ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.’³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’ ”

📖 The Gospel of the Lord.

🎵 Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

Please stand to proclaim the Word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 340

You may remain seated until verse 4.

A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth



1 A lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth to save a world of sin - ners.
2 This lamb is Christ, our great - est friend, the Lamb of God, our Sav - ior,
3 Our Sav - ior an - swered from his heart that he would take the bur - den:
4 Of death I am no more a - fraid; your dy - ing is my liv - ing.



He bears the bur - den all a - lone, dies shorn of all his hon - ors.
whom God in mer - cy chose to send to win us reb - els o - ver.
“My Fa - ther’s will is my com - mand; I’ll do as I am bid - den.”
You clothe me in your roy - al robes that you are al - ways giv - ing.

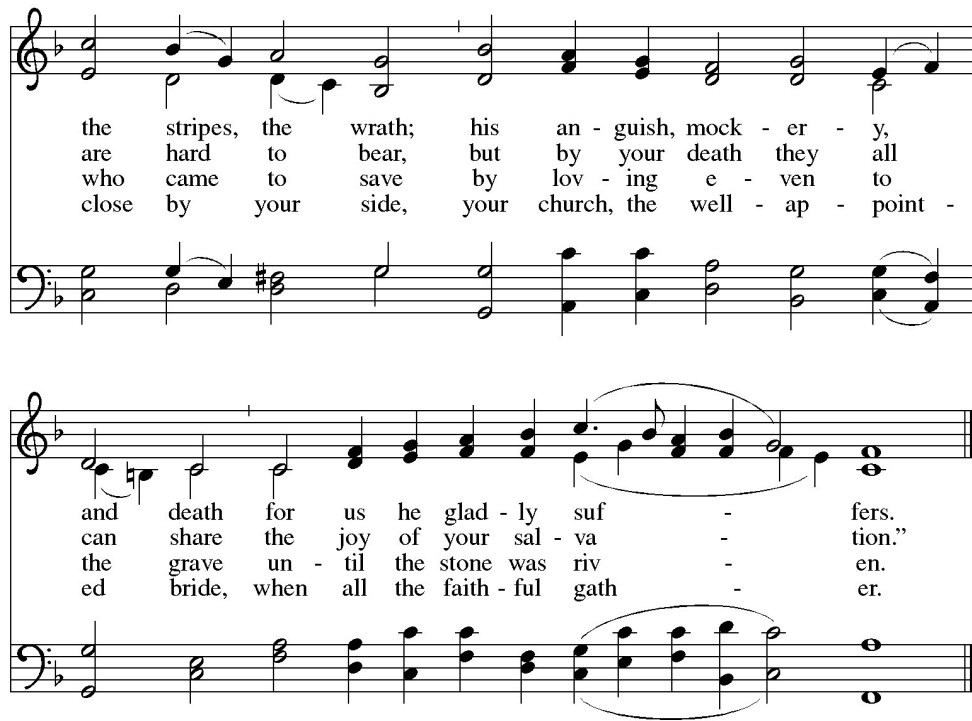


He goes to slaugh - ter, weak and faint, is led to die with -
“Go down, my child,” the Fa - ther said, “and free my chil - dren
Oh, won - drous love! Oh, lov - ing might! To right what mor - tals
Your love is dress e - nough for me to wear through all e -



out com - plaint; his spot - less life he of - fers. He bears the shame,
from their dread of death and con - dem - na - tion. The pain - ful stripes
can - not right the Son was sent from heav - en. What love, O Love,
ter - ni - ty be - fore the throne of heav - en, where we shall stand





the stripes, the wrath; his anguish, mock - er - y,
are hard to bear, but by your death they all
who came to save by lov - ing e - ven to
close by your side, your church, the well - ap - point -

and death for us he glad - ly suf - fers.
can share the joy of your sal - va - tion."
the grave un - til the stone was riv - en.
ed bride, when all the faith - ful gath - er.

Text: Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
Music: AN WASSERFLÜSSEN BABYLON, Wolfgang Dachstein, c. 1487–1553
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Please kneel or sit—as is comfortable.

CONFESSION

- P** If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves...
Let us then, confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Please kneel or sit—as is comfortable. Silence is kept for self-examination and reflection.

- P** Most merciful God,
C **we confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you
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;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name.
Amen.**

- P** Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, and by the power of the Holy Spirit bring us to everlasting life.

C **Amen.**

Please remain kneeling or sitting—as is comfortable—for the Prayers.

THE 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.
- A** 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; all who run for public office; and all places that know war and strife.
Here you may pray silently or aloud for the nations of the world.
- A** 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, especially Evelyn; 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.

Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED



An offering is received for the ministry of the church. Our offering at Luther Memorial supports our ministry locally, as well as that of the Northwestern Pennsylvania Synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. You may make your checks payable to Luther Memorial Church. Additionally, you may visit <https://bit.ly/LMCDonate> or scan the QR Code and scroll to the bottom of the page to give electronically.

ANTHEM – “Voluntary”


Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY

ELW 481

Come to the Table


Musical notation for the offertory "Come to the Table". It consists of two staves: a treble clef staff on top and a bass clef staff on the bottom. The treble staff has a melody line with notes and rests. The bass staff has a harmonic accompaniment with chords and single notes. Below the treble staff, the lyrics "Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread." are written in a simple font.



All who are hun-gry and thirst-y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re-ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

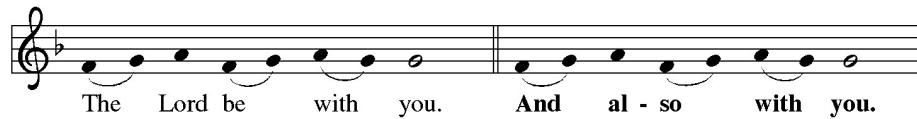
Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942
 Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956
 Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695;
 and Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music (ASCAP). Used by permission.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

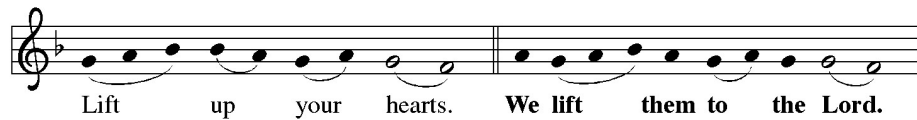
A Let us pray. Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C Amen.

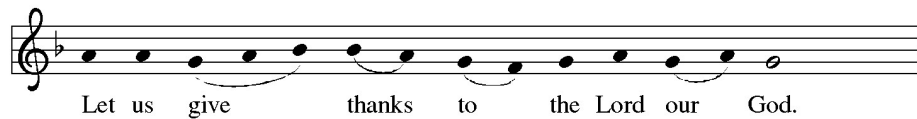
GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

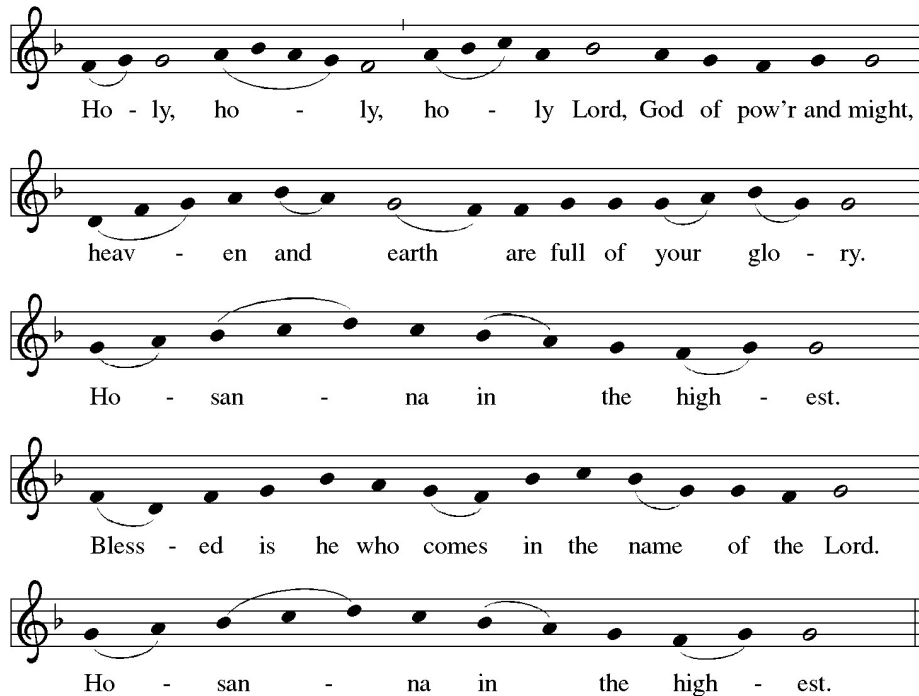


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

☐ It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ O God, Creator of our wilderness world, Savior of the lost, and Comforter of the sick and suffering, we give you thanks for your everlasting might; we glorify you for your covenant of mercy.
- ☐ For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood. For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of your law. For forty years you fed your people with manna from heaven.
- ☐ You became truly human in Jesus our brother. For forty days, with fasting and prayer, he renounced the power of the devil.

*On the night before he died he took bread, and gave thanks,
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, 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.*

☐ We extol his life:

☑ Amen.

☐ We lament his death:

☑ Amen.

☐ We celebrate his resurrection:

☑ Amen.

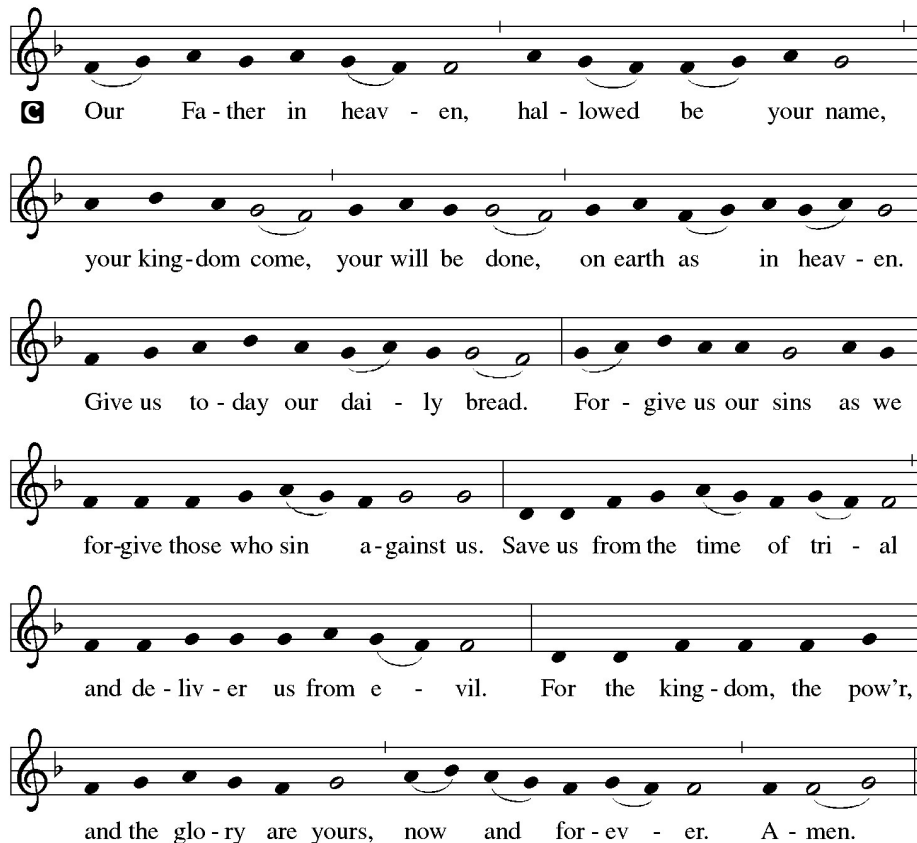
☐ Transform us, O God, + with your lively Spirit. Make this food into manna for our journey, the body and blood of your Son. Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance. Teach us your words of wisdom and justice. Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace. At the last, lead all your pilgrim people through our deserts to your Easter garden.

☐ To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving, now and forever.

☑ Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

☐ *Lord, remember us in your sovereignty and teach us to pray.*



☑ Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

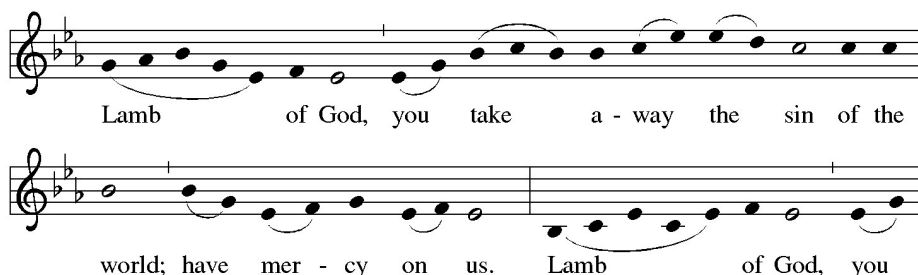
THE PEACE

The presiding minister and assembly exchange a greeting of reconciliation and peace.

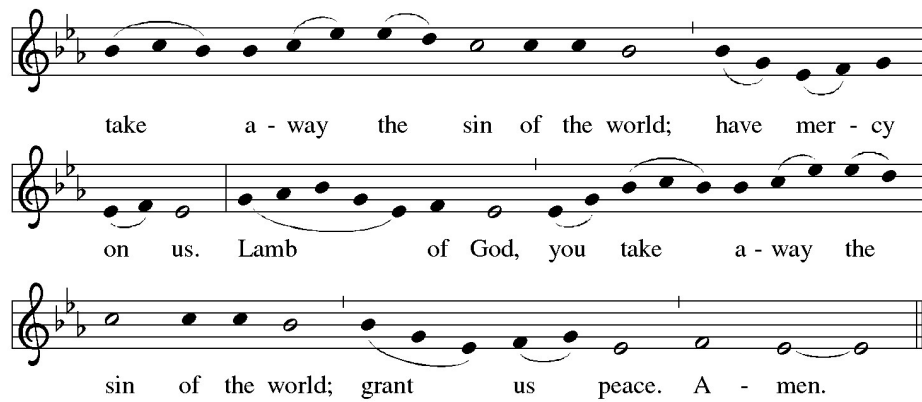
☐ My siblings, in this meal, we are reconciled with God, let us first be reconciled with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

☑ And also with you.

AGNUS DEI



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. A - men.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

Please be seated and remain seated until the blessing.

THE 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.*

SONGS DURING THE COMMUNION

ACS 927

Christ Is the Life



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive
2 Christ is the death of all that is; a broad and beck - 'ning
3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing
4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the
Word, whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the
tomb, who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to
fire, whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as
End; cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans -



worlds to Be - ing stirred. Christ is the life be - yond all
 dark - ness of the womb. Christ is the death, the sink - ing
 kin - dling for the pyre. Christ is the death of dust - y
 form - ing burn - ing brand. Christ is the life, in whose wise



time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath, whose la - bor
 down past all de - sire and fear, whose prom - ise
 days of un - cre - a - tive strife, for out from
 love cre - a - tion lives and dies and thus for -



brings all things to be and brings all things to death.
 in the gen - tle dark bids new - ness to ap - pear.
 fire we tread up - on the thresh - old of new life.
 ev - er - more shall bless the Source, the liv - ing Christ.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953
 Music: COE FEN, Kenneth Naylor, 1931-1991
 Text © 1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress
 Music © Oxford University Press. All rights reserved.

ELW 763

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion,
 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
 3 What though my joys and com - forts die? The Lord my Sav - ior liv - eth.
 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
 It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?
 What though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
 All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing - ing?



Refrain



No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling - ing.





Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899
Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

Please rise in body or spirit.

SENDING

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

TABLE BLESSING

☐ Elijah got up and ate and drank; then he went in the strength of that food forty days and forty nights. Having been strengthened by this food and drink—our Savior Jesus Christ—let us continue on our Lenten journey.

☑ **Amen. We go.**

POSTLUDE – "Herzlich tut mich Verlangen"

J. S. Bach

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Linda Swanson

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Stan Rose

LECTOR – Eric Hedlund

ALTAR GUILD – Martha & Tom Klomp

USHERS – Eric Hedlund, Carl Moore, Betty Pletz

VIDEO STREAMING – Beth Keller



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Rob's mom, Evelyn L. Benacci, by Rob and Nancy Benacci.

Today's Events

Adult Forum will gather in the library at 9:30am.

Greeting cards can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

Lent Opportunities

Lent with Dietrich is our series for our midweek gatherings this year. There are two opportunities to gather together:

- We will continue our afternoon gathering: 12:05 Worship followed by 12:30 Luncheon *and this year* followed by 1:00pm Learning.
- We have added an evening opportunity to gather. These gatherings will be the same material used in the afternoon: 6:00pm Worship followed by 6:30pm Learning. You are welcome to bring your own supper for the evening.

Additionally, **Lent with Dietrich Devotional Books** are available on all Welcome Tables. These daily devotions (except for Sundays) can serve as a great way to begin or end your day in prayer, Scripture, and reflection. And remember: we crafted this resource together!

Lenten Luncheons will be offered on Wednesdays in Lent; March 12 – April 9 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. Enjoy a home-cooked meal for only \$10. The main dish on April 2 will be hamloaf. If you would like to help in any way please contact Betty Pletz at 898-1053 or the church office.

Thirty Minutes with God will be offered on Thursdays, March 13 – April 10, at 12:00pm in the Luther Chapel. These spoken services will be a brief rite of Holy Communion with a reading, reflection, and the Sacrament.

Worship Matters

Rejoice! This Sunday is, by tradition, known as *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is a word that means “Rejoice!” It’s a command. You, rejoice! Taken from the introit for this day (a practice we rarely share in worship anymore) which reads “Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her, all you who love her; rejoice with her in joy, all you who mourn over her...” (Isaiah 66:10). On this Fourth Sunday *in* Lent, we acknowledge that we are more than half-way through this season of repentance and fasting and are called to find joy as we look to the remainder of this season and the coming celebrations of the Resurrection.

There are various ways this Sunday is celebrated throughout the world. Known as “Mothering Sunday” in many places, this is the Sunday when the faithful are encouraged to return to and worship in the congregation in which they were baptized. It is also known as “Rose Sunday” for one of two reasons: the first being that the liturgical color of Rose (pink) is permitted on this Sunday to ease the somberness of purple; the other is that on this day golden roses (a gift from the pope to rulers around the world) were blessed. This is also the Sunday when we turn our faces even more fervently to Jerusalem and the saving deeds that will be accomplished there. Indeed, the blessing of the golden roses took place at the Basilica of Santa Croce in Gerusalemme in Rome.

While the keeping of this day as anything other than the Fourth Sunday *in* Lent has largely fallen away, it is nevertheless a good thing as we pass the half-way point of this season to consider not just the season but the approach to the solemnity and festivity of The Great Three Days in just a few weeks.

Christian Education

First Holy Communion will be offered on Sunday, May 4 during the 10:30am service. In preparation for First Communion two Saturday morning sessions will be held on April 26 and May 3 from 9:00am – 12:00 noon, including snack time. These 2 All-Family Workshops will be our preparation for the big celebration! Any family interested in First Communion should plan to attend both sessions. First Communion is open to all the baptized so any child and family are welcome if you're ready. However, families with children in grades 3-5 are strongly encouraged to participate if your child has not received First Communion yet. Please contact Pastor Jay or the church office if your family will be attending these sessions. Thank you.

Youth

LIA, Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, April 8 from 5:30-7:00pm and our service project. Our service projects will vary each month. All youth in grades 5-12 are encouraged to join in.

Lutherlyn summer camp registration began February 1. Various camps are available throughout the summer for all ages. Information is located at the welcome table.

Faith Formation

Book Group, Paging Through with Pastor Jay, meets the second Monday of odd months at 6:00pm in the parlor. Our next gathering will be Monday, May 12 as we will begin the book *Hidden Inheritance: Family Secrets, Memory and Faith* by Heidi Neumark. Pastor Neumark will be joining us via Zoom for our gathering. The book may be purchased at local bookstores and on Amazon.

B.A.D. (*Bible After Dark*) will gather again on May 7 at Calamari's at 6:30pm and continue to meet the first Wednesday of each month. Join together with Lutherans from around Erie as we discuss the book Context by Josh Scott. Copies of the book may be purchased from the church office for \$12. Feel free to purchase an adult beverage as we chat.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Come and join us for an escape from reality. Your cares will be left behind after a morning of laughter and conversation with the Magic Fingers Grace Group. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month from 10:00am– 12:00 noon; April 8 and April 22. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Items to Note

In case of a pastoral emergency, please contact Pastor Jay either at the church (814-454-0106 x. 227) or, if not, on his personal phone (267-549-9858). If you are unable to reach him and need a response quickly, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. Thank you.

Readings and Commemorations This Week

March 31 – John Donne, poet, 1631 – Wisdom 7:24-8:1; Psalm 16:5-11; John 5:19-24 -- *After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.*

April 1 – Psalm 53; Leviticus 25:1-19; Revelation 19:9-10

April 2 – Psalm 53; II Kings 4:1-7; Luke 9:10-17

April 3 – Psalm 126; Isaiah 43:1-7; Philippians 2:19-24

April 4 – Benedict the African, confessor, 1589 – Exodus 3:7-12; Psalm 77:11-20; Romans 12:9-21; Luke 6:27-36 -- *Born into slavery on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community.*

April 5 – Psalm 126; Exodus 12:21-27; John 11:45-57

– PRAYER LIST –

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Marilyn Bohn & family	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Ron King
Ann Flick	Pat Gilbert	Lois Fobes	Bea Leemhuis
Friends and Family:			
Grant, Alina, Charlie Jane McGrail	Jenn	Mary Lou	Norbert Ericson
Steve Sensor	Phil F.	Andrew Wachter	Dale Dannhaus
Carol Steffey & Marissa	Janine Frank	Casey Smith	Cheryl Atkinson
Curtis Krick	Teddy & Rebecca	Jessica Reams	Amy S.
Karen Chilcote	Joey & family		
Grief:			
Lucille Kraut family	Dave Cooney family	Paul Berger family	Ron Henry family
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Lt. Col. Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion ~ April 13

Festal Eucharist

with Palm Procession and Passion



8:15am *Worship – Main Church*
10:30am *Worship – Processional with Palms – Main Church*
12:00pm *Family Scavenger Hunt at Luther Memorial*



Maundy Thursday ~ April 17

Solemn Eucharist of the Lord's Supper

with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar

7:00pm *Worship – Main Church*

Good Friday ~ April 18

Stations of the Cross

with Organ Reflections



Beginning at 12:00 noon – *Main Church*

Good Friday ~ April 18

Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion

with Adoration of the Cross

7:00pm – *Main Church*



Holy Saturday ~ April 19

The Great Vigil of Easter

*with Recitation of Salvation History
and First Eucharist of the Resurrection*

7:00pm – *gathering in the Courtyard*

Easter Sunday ~ April 20

Festival Eucharist of the Resurrection

8:15am *Main Church*
10:30am *Main Church*



CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 31	11:00am	Balance Class
	3:00pm	Book Club
TUESDAY, APRIL 1	10:00am	Pericope
	12:00pm	Deborah Circle
	2:30pm	LMA Play Rehearsal
	3:00pm	W/ELCA
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 2	12:05pm	Lenten Worship
	12:35pm	Luncheon
	1:00pm	Learning Session
	6:00pm	Lenten Worship
THURSDAY, APRIL 3	6:30pm	Learning Session
	12:30pm	30 Minutes with God
	1:00pm	Grief Support Group
	2:30pm	LMA Play Rehearsal
	5:30pm	Handbells
FRIDAY, APRIL 4	6:30pm	Choir
	7:00pm	LMA Play / Wizard of Oz
SATURDAY, APRIL 5	10:00am	Quilting
	2:00pm	LMA Matinee / Wizard of Oz
	6:00pm	Family Gathering

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025 THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Worship with us at 8:15am in Faith Chapel or 10:30am in the main church.

Adult Forum will gather at 9:15am.

SUNDAY, APRIL 6, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	Linda Graffius
Lector	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	John Bartlett
Counters	10:30am	Rob & Ely Cooney
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Carl Moore