

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church



16 MARCH 2025
The Second Sunday *in* Lent
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

16 MARCH 2025

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Communion • ELW Setting Five • 10:30

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

PRELUDE – “Vater Unser Im Himmelreich”

J. S. Bach

*Our Father in heaven, who calls us all to be brothers and to call on you;
and who desires prayer from us: grant that we do not pray just with our
mouths; help our prayer to come from the bottom of our hearts.*

Martin Luther

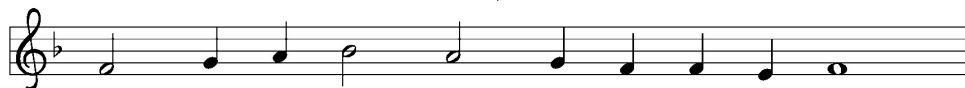
ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please rise in body or spirit.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 321

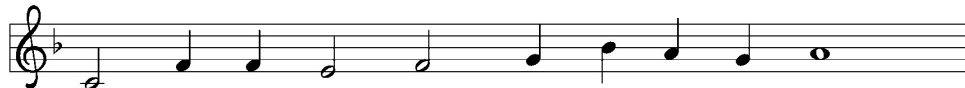
Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church



1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003
 Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre pseumes de David*, Geneva, 1551
 Text © Thomas H. Cain. Used by permission of estate.

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 from 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 perfect 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 the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in 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.

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: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?” ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵The Lord brought Abram outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then the Lord said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And Abram believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness. ⁷Then the Lord said to Abram, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” ⁸But Abram said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹The Lord said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰Abram brought the Lord all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away. ¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him. ¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming

torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates.”

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

PSALM: 27 (*Read responsively.*)

¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

²**When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴**One thing I ask of the Lord; one thing I seek;
that I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life;
to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and to seek God in the temple.**

⁵For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

⁶**Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;
I will sing and make music to the Lord.**

⁷Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call;
have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸**My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”
Your face, O Lord, I will seek.**

⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

¹⁰**Though my father and my mother forsake me,
the Lord will take me in.**

¹¹Teach me your way, O Lord;
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

¹²**Subject me not to the will of my foes,
for they rise up against me, false witnesses^l breathing violence.**

¹³This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living!

¹⁴**Wait for the Lord and be strong.
Take heart and wait for the Lord!**

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17—4:1

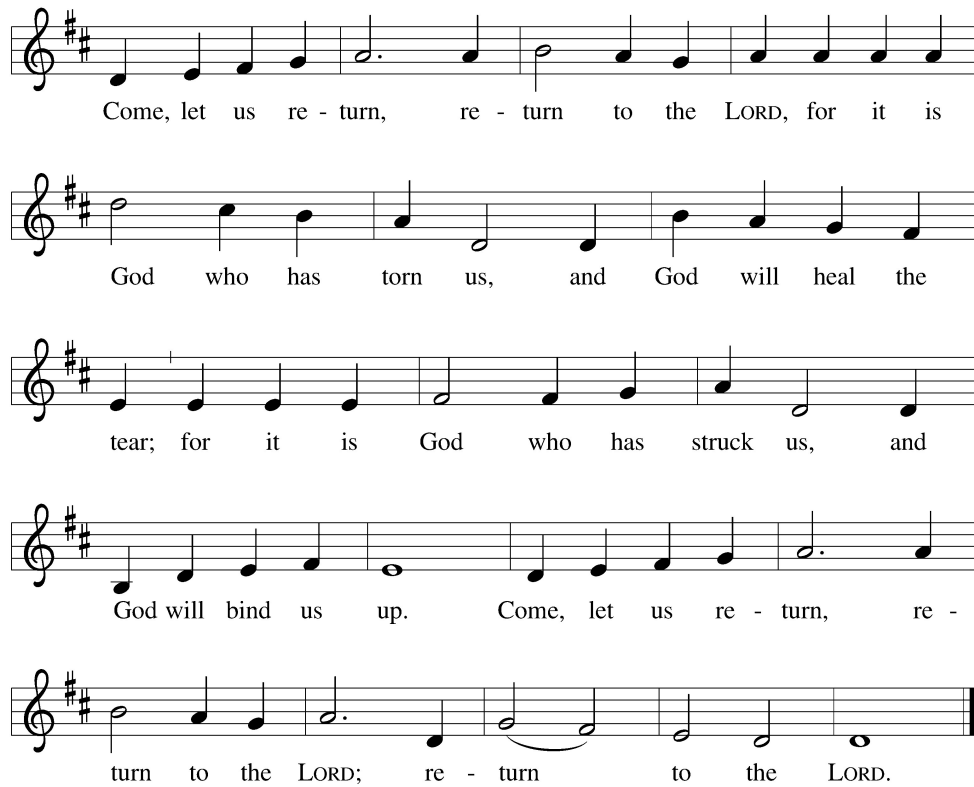
¹⁷My dear family, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us.

¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹The Lord will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my dear family, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

☐ 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 13:31-35

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to Jesus, “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.”
³²Jesus said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’ ”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

A brief silence for reflection. As the organ sounds, please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.

Thy Holy Wings



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent-ly o - ver me,
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down-y breast
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No-ah's cleans-ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
 where I will find sweet com-fort and peace with - in thy nest.
 Give me a will-ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
 Oh, take in - to thy keep-ing thy chil-dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with-in thy grace.
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten-der care.
 and while we sweet-ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
 Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune
 Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc., agent.

CONFESSION

☞ Siblings in Christ, in our Lenten journey...

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.

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

☞ Most merciful God,

☑ **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.

☐ 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.

☑ Amen.

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

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

☐ 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.

☐ Let us pray for the Church; for deacons, pastors, and bishops; for our siblings in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land; 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 astronauts on the International Space Station who explore the vastness of the cosmos; for the changing of the seasons; for the promises of spring; for those who live in the shadow of Mt. Adams; 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.

☐ Let us pray for the nations; for those who rule, govern, and lead; all who run for public office; and for those who work to bring a just and lasting peace to those places that know strife and warfare, in particular: Ukraine and Russia, Palestine and Israel, Hati, the Sudan.

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; children of the developing world at risk of polio, malaria, severe malnutrition, and other preventable illness; and those who will die today.

Here you may pray silently or aloud for the sick, suffering, and those in need.

☐ 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.

☐ Let us pray in thanksgiving for those who have gone before in the way of the cross; for Patrick, Joseph, Thomas, Jonathan; those whose faith inspires our own; and those whose faith was known only to God.

Here you may give thanks silently or aloud for our beloved dead.

☐ Keep us, O God, in the promises of Baptism until you gather us around the feast of the Lamb.

☑ Amen.

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.

Please stand in body or spirit.

OFFERTORY

ELW 481

Come to the Table

Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.

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.

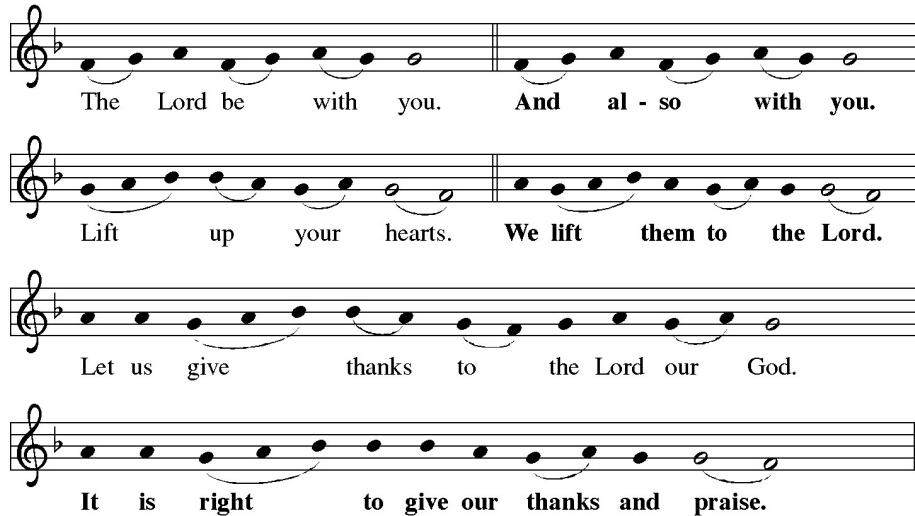
Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942
Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956
Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music (ASCAP), c/o Integrity Media, Inc., 1000 Cody Road, Mobile, AL 36695;
and Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music; and Word Music (ASCAP). Used by permission.

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.

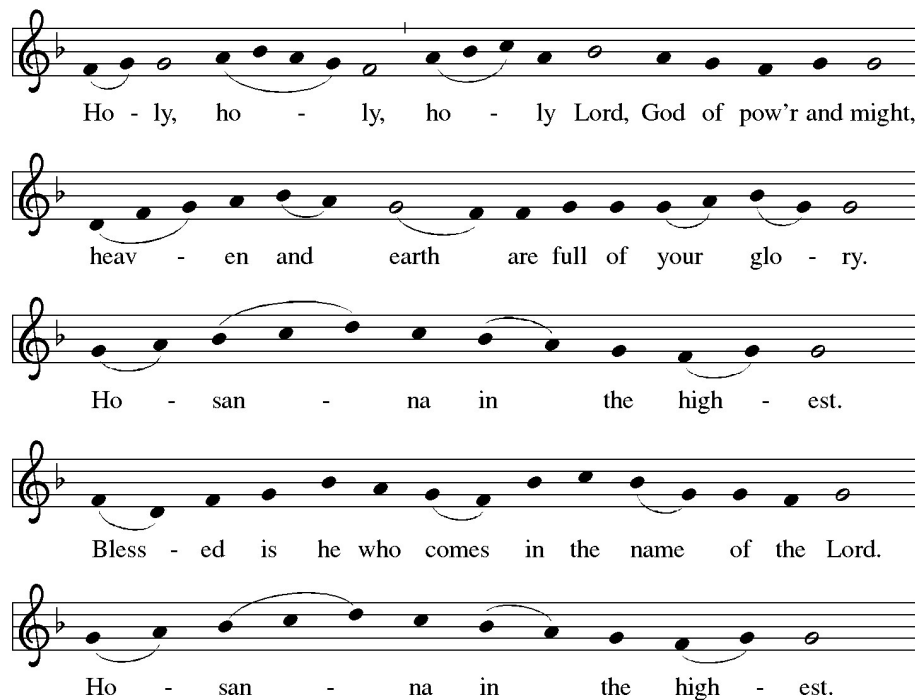
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.*

P We extol his life:

C Amen.

P We lament his death:

C Amen.

P We celebrate his resurrection:

C Amen.

P 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.

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

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

C 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.

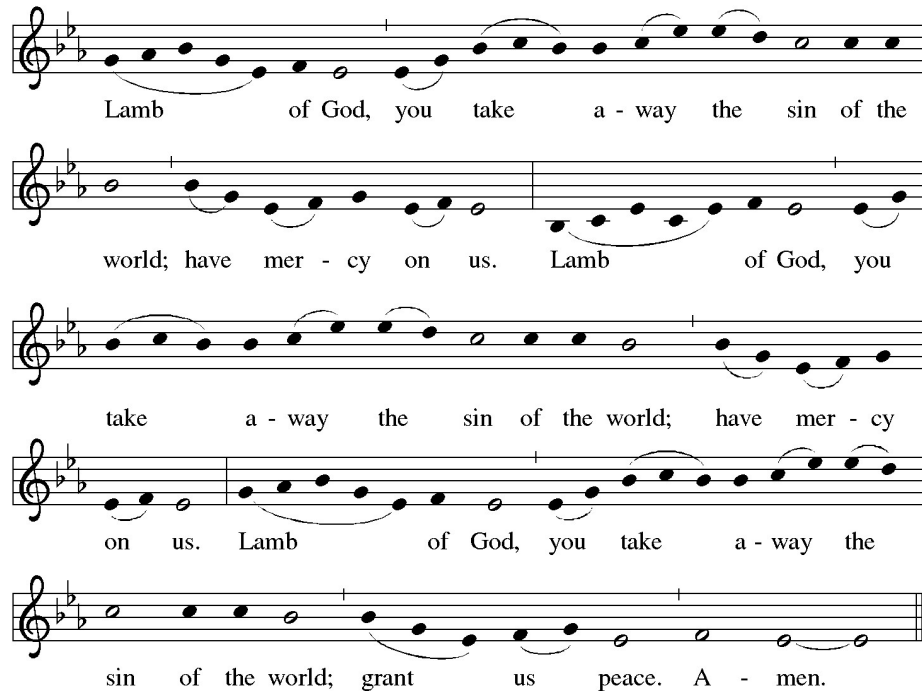
THE PEACE

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

☐ Jesus taught them: When you are offering your gift at the altar, if you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go; first be reconciled to your brother or sister, and then come and offer your gift. 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. Here is the one who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are we who are 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

ELW 781

Children of the Heavenly Father

Truggare kan ingen vara



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kån - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

5. Children of the heavenly Mother,
In her holy wings find cover.
Womb of life, she bore creation
And will bless all generations.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903; tr. Ernst W. Olson, 1870–1958
Music: TRYGGARE KAN INGEN VARA. Swedish folk tune
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress
Verse 5 text: Sally Messinger © 2024



This hymn, new to our use through the hymnal supplement All Creation Sings, is based on St. Patrick's Breastplate. A more familiar use of the Breastplate is I Bind unto Myself This Day found in Evangelical Lutheran Worship. In its language it reminds us, also, of the Luther Memorial Academy Prayer which calls on God to be above, in front of, next to, and behind us as well as in our mind, our hands, our feet, and our heart.

God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me *O Christ, Surround Me*



1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that



move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:



O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967
Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan
Text and music © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Please rise in body or spirit.

SENDING

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

TABLE BLESSING

- P** 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.
- C** Amen. We go.

POSTLUDE – "Olivet"

K. Osterland

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— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

GREETERS – Mike Hedlund, Liz Stroup

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Pat Bellingham

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Jeanne Gaber

LECTOR – Lynnette Gustafson

USHERS – Sue Cappelletty, Linda Graffius, Bill Lasher, Carl Moore

ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels

VIDEO STREAMING – Nick Lang



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of departed members of the Women of the ELCA by the Women of the ELCA of Luther Memorial.

Today's Events

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

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.

Worship Matters

“Come, let us return to the Lord.” This is a common theme in Lent—it is the season of *repentance* after all. But this year we are focusing specifically on the call to return as it is found in the book of Hosea. We do not often receive the Word from Hosea in worship, but we shared this passage on Ash Wednesday as we received our ashes and we will share it again on Maundy Thursday when we receive the Great Absolution. During this season, though, we will share it as our Gospel Acclamation to remind us of this season’s purpose: “Come, let us return to the Lord, for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us; he has struck down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him. Let us know, let us press on to know the Lord; his appearing is as sure as the dawn; he will come to us like the showers, like the spring rains that water the earth.”

In these verses (Hosea 6:1-3), we remember that it is not just God who desires our return but God who tears us and strikes us...in turn it is God who heals and binds up. This may seem counter to much of how we see God: we want God to do the healing and the binding but it is uncomfortable to think of God as the one who tears and strikes. However, for anyone who has or knows someone who has sewn, you know that when a seam goes wonky, it must first be torn to a place where it is straight. Then the seam can be repaired. If you’re one of our knitters, you know sometimes you just have to pull out the stitches until you get back on track. When a fence, or wall, or heck even roof is damaged, sometimes it is necessary to tear it down so it can be started anew.

This renewing tearing and striking is the work of God in our lives in this season. We participate in the fast of Lent specifically to allow all the distractions and the temptations to fall away while we focus on the way we should go, returning to God, following Jesus, and walking with the Spirit.

As part of our focusing on this tearing and striking and healing and binding, you will notice new altar paraments for Lent. These pieces of unbleached linen and purple (colors of Lent) are all torn at the seams...if you see jagged edges, threads, fraying, that’s the point! We remember we are torn and in time it is God who will heal the tear. Come, let us in this fast of Lord return to the Lord!

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. Hot chicken salad will be served at our luncheon on March 19. 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.

Youth

LIA, Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, April 8 from 5:30-7:00pm for dinner and planning of our upcoming service projects. 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 begin the book *Hidden Inheritance: Family Secrets, Memory and Faith* by Heidi Neumark. 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.

Prayers

Our Prayer Group will be meeting this week. Please contact Linda Graffius at 814-440-5458 with any updates to family or friends you may have on the prayer lists. Thank you.

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; March 25. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Bethany Outreach Center will host a Bingo fundraiser at the Polish Falcons, 431 East 3rd Street, this afternoon. Doors open at 12:00 noon; play begins at 1:00pm. There will also be basket raffles, tips and 50/50 tickets. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at Polish Falcons today.

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 17 – Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, 461 – Isaiah 52:7-10; Psalm 96:1-7; I Thessalonians 2:2b-12; Matthew 28:16-20 -- *A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.*

March 18 – Psalm 105:1-42; Numbers 14:10b-24; I Corinthians 10:1-13

March 19 – JOSEPH, CHASTE SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AND GUARDIAN OF JESUS – II Samuel 7:4, 8-16; Psalm 89:1-29; Romans 4:13-18; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a -- *Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.*

March 20 – Psalm 63:1-8; Daniel 3:19-30; Revelation 2:8-11

March 21 – Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, 1556 – Psalm 96:1-9; I Corinthians 3:9-14; John 5:20-16:1 -- *Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.*

March 22 – Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, 1758 – Isaiah 6:1-8; Psalm 119:89-104; I Corinthians 2:6-10, 13-16; John 17:6-10 -- *A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.*

– 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
Racheal Thompson	Phil F.	Andrew Wachter	Dale Dannhaus
Carol Steffey & Marissa	Janine Frank	Casey Smith	Cheryl Atkinson
Branden Jones	Teddy & Rebecca	Jessica Reams	Amy S.
Karen Chilcote	Joey & family	Steve Sensor	Curtis Krick
Grief:			
Bob Giannelli family	Jeff Kraus family	Dave Cooney family	Paul Berger family
Lucille Kraut family	Gier family		
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Lt. Col. Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 17	11:00am	Balance Class LMA Closed
TUESDAY, MARCH 18	2:30pm 3:15pm	LMA Play Rehearsal School Board
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19	12:05pm 12:35pm 1:00pm 6:00pm 6:30pm	Lenten Worship Luncheon Learning Session Lenten Worship Learning Session
THURSDAY, MARCH 20	12:30pm 1:00pm 2:30pm 5:30pm 6:30pm	30 Minutes with God Grief Support Group LMA Play Rehearsal Handbells Choir
FRIDAY, MARCH 21	7:00pm	Brushes & Beverages (PTL Fundraiser)
SATURDAY, MARCH 22		

**SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025
THE THIRD 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.

LMA Open House from 1:00 – 3:00pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 23, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Mark Howell
	10:30am	Chloe Meucci
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	Linda Graffius
Lector	10:30am	Karen Braendel
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Gina Snider
Counters	10:30am	Liz Stroup, Pat Young
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	