

*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*



16 FEBRUARY 2025  
The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time  
*Septuagesima 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*

## WELCOME!

WE HAVE SEEN CHRIST'S STAR AT ITS RISING

COME! LET US WORSHIP HIM!

- + Everything you need to follow along in worship is included in this bulletin. You are invited to stand and sit—as you are able—as indicated herein.
- + If you have a need to **children's** bulletins, coloring pages, crayons, or other supplies they are available on the Welcome Table. You can proceed out the door next to the pulpit and find the Welcome Table near the door.
  - Children are always welcome in worship and together we make a joyful noise! However, if you have need, a staffed nursery is available down the stairs across from the Welcome Table.
- + An all-gender and accessible **restroom** is available out the door next to the pulpit, up the ramp, and to the right. Follow signs for "Handicap Bathroom." Other restrooms are available down the hallway next to Faith Chapel across from the parlor.
- + You do not need to turn off or disconnect here! However, please be mindful of those worshipping around you and turn your phones and devices to silent. Feel free to take pictures of our beautiful sanctuary or post about the sermon. However, we ask that you ask permission before taking any people pictures.
- + We welcome all to worship and to the Table trusting that it is the Holy Spirit that draws us all together. If you would like information about joining the congregation or receiving the Sacraments of the Church, be sure to talk to Pastor Jay after worship (you can usually find him next to the pulpit after the service).

**16 FEBRUARY 2025**  
**THE SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**  
**Holy Communion • *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Setting IV • 10:30**

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

PRELUDE – "Surgit in Haec Dies"

R. Proulx

*Please stand as you are able.*

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

**Invocation**

☞ In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ Amen.

**Collect for Purity**

☞ 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 Lord.

☞ Amen.

**Confession**

☞ 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.**

**Absolution**

☞ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

☞ Amen.

## Jesus Shall Reign

1 Je - sus shall reign wher - e'er the sun does its suc -  
 2 To him shall end - less prayer be made, and prais - es  
 3 Peo - ple and realms of ev - 'ry tongue dwell on his  
 4 Bless - ings a - bound wher - e'er he reigns: the pris - 'ners  
 5 Let ev - 'ry crea - ture rise and bring pe - cu - liar

ces - sive jour - neys run; his king - dom stretch from  
 thron - g to crown his head; his name like sweet per -  
 love with sweet - est song; and in - fant voic - es  
 leap to lose their chains, the wea - ry find e -  
 hon - ors to our king; an - gels de - scend with

shore to shore, till moons shall wax and wane no more.  
 fume shall rise with ev - 'ry morn - ing sac - ri - fice.  
 shall pro - claim their ear - ly bless - ings on his name.  
 ter - nal rest, and all who suf - fer want are blest.  
 songs a - gain, and earth re - peat the loud a - men.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
 Music: DUKE STREET, attr. John Hatton, d. 1793

## OPENING SENTENCE

- P** Blessed be the one, holy, † and living God.  
**C** Glory to God forever and ever. Amen.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.  
 Living God, in Christ you make all things new. Transform the poverty of our nature by the riches of your grace, and in the renewal of our lives make known your glory, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**C** Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

**WORD – “God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.”**

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 17:5-10**

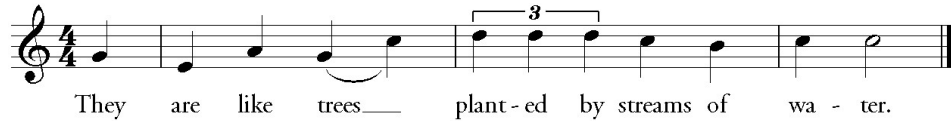
<sup>5</sup>Thus says the Lord: Cursed are those who trust in mere mortals and make mere flesh their strength, whose hearts turn away from the Lord. <sup>6</sup>They shall be like a shrub in the desert and shall not see when relief comes. They shall live in the parched places of the wilderness, in an uninhabited salt land. <sup>7</sup>Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is the Lord. <sup>8</sup>They shall be like a tree planted by water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit. <sup>9</sup>The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse—who can understand it? <sup>10</sup>The Lord test the mind and search the heart, to give to all according to their ways, according to the fruit of their doings.

The Word of the Lord.

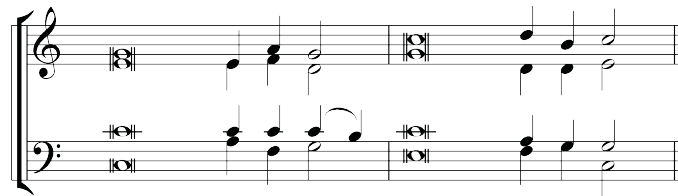
Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 1**

**Antiphon:** (Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated. The congregation joins in the verses of the Psalm printed in **bold typeface**.)



**Tone:**



<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel [of ] the wicked,  
nor lingered in the way of sinners, ... nor sat in the [seats of ] the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the [law of] the Lord,**

**and they meditate on God’s teaching [day] and night. Antiphon**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, ... bearing fruit in due season, ...  
with leaves that [do] not wither;  
everything they [do] shall prosper.

<sup>4</sup>**It is not [so with] the wicked;**

**they are like chaff which the [wind blows] away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when [judg]-ment comes,  
nor the sinner in the council [of ] the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the Lord knows the [way of] the righteous,**

**but the way of the wicked shall [be] destroyed. Antiphon**

**SECOND READING: I Corinthians 15:12-20**

<sup>12</sup>Now if Christ is proclaimed as raised from the dead, how can some of you say there is no resurrection of the dead? <sup>13</sup>If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ has not been raised, <sup>14</sup>and if Christ has not been raised, then our proclamation is in vain and your faith is in vain. <sup>15</sup>We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified of God that God raised Christ— whom God did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised. <sup>16</sup>For if the dead are not raised, then Christ has not been raised. <sup>17</sup>If Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile, and you are still in your sins. <sup>18</sup>Then those also who have died in Christ have perished. <sup>19</sup>If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. <sup>20</sup>But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 372

1 Christ is a - ris - en from the grave's dark pris - on. So let our joy rise  
full and free; Christ our com-fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

2 Were Christ not a - ris - en, then death were still our  
pris - on. Now, with him to life re - stored, we praise  
the Fa - ther of our Lord. Al - le - lu - ia!

3 Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia! So let our joy rise full and free;  
Christ our com - fort true will be. Al - le - lu - ia!

Text: German hymn, c. 1100; tr. Martin L. Seltz, 1909-1967  
Music: J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

## GOSPEL: Luke 6:17-26

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>17</sup>Jesus came down with the twelve and stood on a level place with a great crowd of his disciples and a great multitude of people from all Judea, Jerusalem, and the coast of Tyre and Sidon. <sup>18</sup>They had come to hear him and to be healed of their diseases, and those who were troubled with unclean spirits were cured. <sup>19</sup>And everyone in the crowd was trying to touch him, for power came out from him and healed all of them.

<sup>20</sup>Then Jesus looked up at his disciples and said:

“Blessed are you who are poor,  
for yours is the dominion of God.

<sup>21</sup>“Blessed are you who are hungry now,  
for you will be filled.

“Blessed are you who weep now,  
for you will laugh.

<sup>22</sup>“Blessed are you when people hate you  
and when they exclude you,  
revile you, and defame you on account of the Son-of-Man.

<sup>23</sup>Rejoice on that day and leap for joy,  
for surely your reward is great in heaven,  
for that is how their ancestors treated the prophets.

<sup>24</sup>“But woe to you who are rich,  
for you have received your consolation.

<sup>25</sup>“Woe to you who are full now,  
for you will be hungry.

“Woe to you who are laughing now,  
for you will mourn and weep.

<sup>26</sup>“Woe to you when all speak well of you, for that is how their ancestors treated the false prophets.”

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated.*

**SERMON**

Pastor Jay

*After a brief silence, you may stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ACS 1042**

### May This Church Be like a Tree *Que esta iglesia sea un árbol*



1 *Que-es-ta* i - gle - sia se - a un ár - bol en el  
1 May this church be like a tree, be - hind your  
2 May this church be like a tree there in the  
3 May this church be like a tree, O God, that



fon - do de tu ca - sa, que ha - ya fies - ta, ya - le -  
house, there in your gar - den, meet - ing - place for joy, and  
street or in the pla - za, for the birds a nest - ing -  
thrives where you have plant - ed; may it stand to show the



grí - a yo - ra - ción ba - jo sus ra - mas.  
feast, and sim - ple prayer be - neath its branch - es.  
branch, for pass - ers - by a wel - come shel - ter.  
way, your way of lov - ing and self - giv - ing,



Con ra - í - ces bien pro - fun - das y sus bra - zos  
With its roots in earth so fer - tile, and its arms raised  
May it stand as if it's watch - ing, near my house, just  
of - f'ring shade, and fruit for shar - ing, giv - ing up its



ha - cia\_el cie - lo, que\_es - ta\_i - gle - sia sea fe -  
 high to heav - en, may this church bear fruits of  
 round the cor - ner, wait - ing for this wea - ry  
 wood for burn - ing. May this liv - ing church that



cun - da dan - do fru - tos de con - sue - lo.  
 jus - tice, acts of lov - ing and com - pas - sion.  
 pil - grim with its arms wide to em - brace me.  
 names you be a tree of life e - ter - nal.

*Refrain / Estribillo*



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to\_a las a - guas  
 Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da\_e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.  
 run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.



Ár - bol plan - ta - do jun - to\_a las a - guas  
 Tree ev - er grow - ing by liv - ing wa - ter,



de vi - da\_e - ter - na de nues - tro Dios.  
 run - ning e - ter - nal, flow - ing from God.

Text: Pablo D. Sosa, 1933–2020; tr. Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951  
 Music: QUE ESTA IGLESIA SEA UN ÁRBOL, Pablo D. Sosa  
 Spanish text and music © 2011 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.  
 English text © 2013 GIA Publications, Inc., giamusic.com. All rights reserved.

## INSTALLATION OF CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

- You have been entrusted with rights and responsibilities that affect all of us and the ministry we share and hold dear. As leaders of this congregation, we ask for your commitment to the values and mission we share in Christ:
- Do you promise to be faithful to the gospel of Jesus in the governance of this congregation?  
 **We will, and we ask God to help us.**
- Will you notice and nurture the gifts, questions, and ideas of the people you represent in your role?  
 **We will, and we ask God to help us.**
- Will you communicate with proactive and faithful transparency for the sake of the whole congregation?  
 **We will, and we ask God to help us.**
- Will you acknowledge the unknown and unknowable about being Church, practicing honesty, humility, and courage in times of change?  
 **We will, and we ask God to help us.**



**P** Do you promise to discern and do what is right, even when it disrupts the status quo, and especially when it asks something difficult for us for the sake of our neighbors?

**C** **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

**P** People of God, Luther Memorial, do you promise to support our council leaders with your blessing and prayers?

**C** **We will, and we ask God to help us.**

**P** Let us pray: Equipping God, give us new eyes to see your vision and ears to hear your plan for our community of faith. When we lead and serve with confidence in your bold grace, our labor is not in vain. Bless each of these leaders with courage and kindness, patience and tenacity, good humor and great hope, so that together we are able to do immeasurably more than we could have asked for or imagined on our own.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** May God fill your hands and heart with work that is real. We bless your vocations: your home, your work, your relationships, and all the ways you serve. May God give you the strength and passion to lead well through thick and thin. We bless your successes and failures: all the ways you try, create, and explore in the name of Christ. May God root you in wisdom and faith and Sabbath rest. We bless your leadership and your self-care: May this work refresh and inspire you.

**C** **Amen.**

## **THE PRAYERS**

*You may sit, kneel, or stand as is your custom.*

**A** With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.  
*A brief silence.*

**A** Blessed is your church transformed by your Spirit. Give us courage to proclaim to all people the promises made true in the death and resurrection of Christ. God of grace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Blessed is creation. As earth experiences destruction from harmful practices and climate change, give us courage to help bring about its restoration. Encourage those who work in forestry to be a voice for the hidden places of creation and provide skills for its conservation. God of grace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Blessed are the nations. We pray for presidents, prime ministers, and leaders of nations. Grant that their courage will not run dry in the face of challenge, but that they will delight in the fountain of your righteousness. God of grace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Blessed are those in need. Give to all facing illness wise and caring doctors, nurses, and therapists. Draw close to those who feel far from you or who are suffering in any way. Provide an extra measure of your grace and love. God of grace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Blessed is this congregation. Like a tree planted by streams of water, we are nourished by faith in you. Provide courage in times that feel dry, trusting that you sustain us in many ways. God of grace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** Blessed are those saints who now rest in your peace, especially Matilda and Herman Kleiber, Judy Aquino Hokaj, Nancy Downey and Jeff Kraus. Through lives of both sorrow and joy, challenge and triumph, they provide witness of faith in all times. May their lives be a witness to the living. God of grace,

**C** **hear our prayer.**

**A** We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**C** **Amen.**

Please stand as you are able.

## THE PEACE

☐ The peace of Christ be with you.

☑ And also with you.

*We share signs and gestures of peace with one another. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. After, 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

Please stand as you are able.

## OFFERTORY

ELW 310

### Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
3 Man - i - fest in mak - ing whole weak-ened bod - y, faint-ing soul;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
man - i - fest in val - iant fight, quell-ing all the dev - il's might;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
man - i - fest in gra - cious will, ev - er bring-ing good from ill:

an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
 an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,

Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.  
 Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Let us pray.  
 Gracious Creator,
- C** we offer with joy and thanksgiving  
 what you have first given us—  
 ourselves, our time, and our possessions,  
 signs of your gracious love.  
 Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us,  
 Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>P</b> The Lord be with you.                   | <b>C</b> And also with you.                         |
| <b>P</b> Lift up your hearts.                    | <b>C</b> We lift them to the Lord.                  |
| <b>P</b> Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. | <b>C</b> It is right to give our thanks and praise. |

## PROPER PREFACE

- P** It is a good and joyful thing always and everywhere to give our thanks and praise to you, God of glory, for you form a people to trust in you, to root their life in yours, and to bear fruit without end. When they were parched by sin and thirsting for righteousness, you sent your Son and let them drink of your forgiving mercies. So you make them like trees planted by streams of water whose leaves do not wither. By the power of your Holy Spirit you raised your Son from death to life, the first fruits of those who have died. Trusting in your all-sufficient ways, your church is rooted in you and continues to bear the fruits of resurrection. And so with your people on earth and with all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join the hymn of glory:

## SANCTUS

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

- ☐ Replenishing God, you have the power to transform hunger into blessing; fill us with faith as we feast around this table. As your Son blessed the hungry, send your Spirit upon your church. As we remember his saving passion, show us the fullness of your love. Sanctify this bread and cup that they may be for us the body and blood of your Son; who:

*In the night in which he was betrayed,  
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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

- ☐ Great is the mystery of faith.

☑ **Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

- ☐ Patient God, you promise that your kingdom belongs to the poor: bless your church through the faithful company of those who know poverty. As you bestow laughter upon those who weep, comfort your children who cry and show them unfailing joy. As you extend your goodness to all who are excluded on account of your Son, give courage to those who are persecuted. And as you promise to uphold all who hunger, fill your children, body and soul, with the food that truly satisfies. Bring us to the great day of heavenly reward, that dawn of unending blessedness which we shall share with all your saints, rejoicing in your glory, ever-faithful God, Sovereign, Savior, and Spirit.

☑ **Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

- ☐ Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

☑ **Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come,  
thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;  
and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

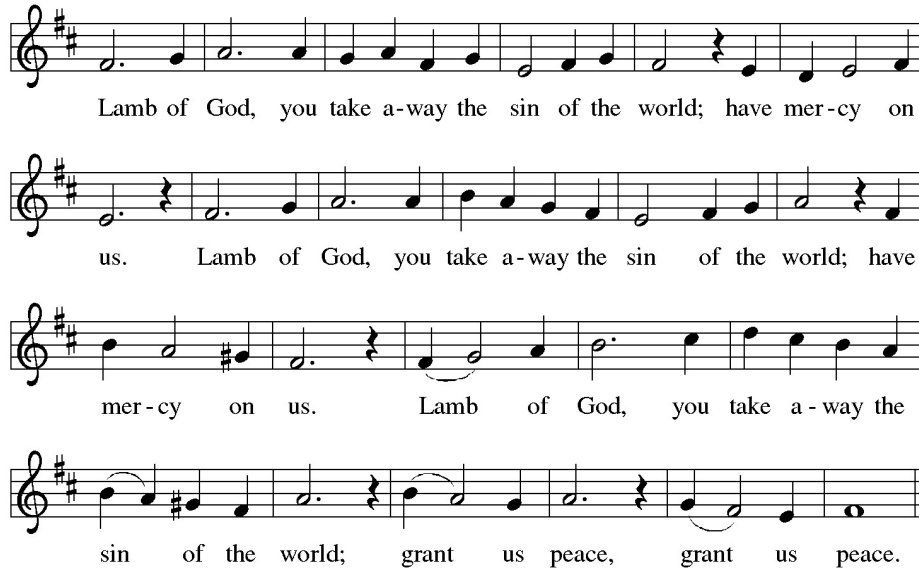
**P** The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

**C** Amen. We Come.

**P** Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the body and blood of Christ for you.

*The congregation is seated.*

## 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, grant us peace.

## 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.  
Baked bread is being used. For those who so desire, gluten-free wafers are available;  
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.*

Jesus, the Very Thought of You

1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;  
 2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call  
 3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,  
 4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;

but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.  
 a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!  
 how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!  
 grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878  
 Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

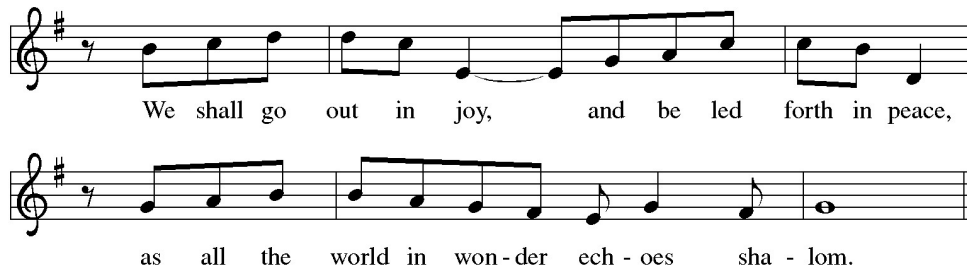
Light Dawns on a Weary World

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

*Refrain*  
 The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;  
 the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
 Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951  
 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.  
 Music © 2000 William P. Rowan, admin. GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638.  
 www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## TABLE BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ...and bring you to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

## SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION *as needed*

**P** Compassionate God, as Jesus called disciples to follow him, bless those who go forth to share your word and sacrament with those who are homebound. May these gifts be signs of our love and prayers, that through the sharing of the body and blood of Christ, all may know your grace and healing revealed in Jesus Christ our Lord.

**P** We send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that the Meal we have shared here may be extended for our siblings who are not here.

**C** We who are many are one body in Christ, sharing one bread, one cup. Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Let us pray.

**C** We give you thanks, almighty God,  
 that you have refreshed us  
 through the healing power of this gift of life.

In your mercy,  
 strengthen us through this gift  
 in faith toward you  
 and in fervent love toward one another;  
 for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
 Amen.

*SENDING – “God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.”*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

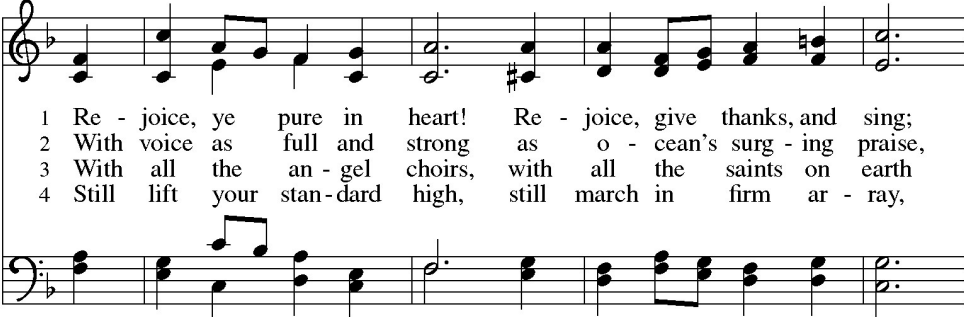
*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

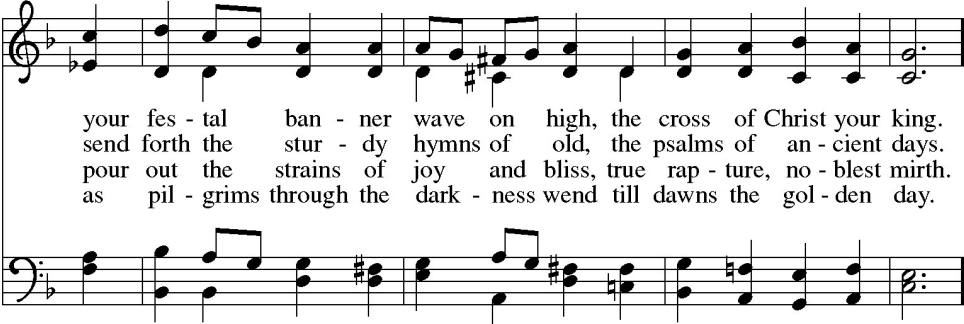
**P** ... now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart!



1 Re - joice, ye pure in heart! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing;  
 2 With voice as full and strong as o - cean's surg - ing praise,  
 3 With all the an - gel choirs, with all the saints on earth  
 4 Still lift your stan - dard high, still march in firm ar - ray,



your fes - tal ban - ner wave on high, the cross of Christ your king.  
 send forth the stur - dy hymns of old, the psalms of an - cient days.  
 pour out the strains of joy and bliss, true rap - ture, no - blest mirth.  
 as pil - grims through the dark - ness wend till dawns the gol - den day.

*Refrain*



Re - joice! Re - joice! Re - joice, give thanks, and sing!  
 Re - joice! Re - joice!

5 At last the march shall end;  
 the wearied ones shall rest;  
 the pilgrims find their home at last,  
 Jerusalem the blest. *Refrain*

6 Praise God who reigns on high,  
 the Lord whom we adore:  
 the Father, Son, and Spirit blest,  
 one God forevermore. *Refrain*

Text: Edward H. Plumptre, 1821-1891, alt.  
 Music: MARION, Arthur H. Messiter, 1834-1916

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE – "Toccatina in E Minor"

J. Pachelbel

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*

*Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #46819.*

*Scripture quotations have been prepared by Augsburg Fortress for provisional use. Citations from Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations based on Readings for the Assembly © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress; NRSV Bible © 1989 and NRSVue Bible © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Adapted and edited by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw. May be reproduced with a SundaysAndSeasons.com subscription for nonsale local use by worship leaders from September 1, 2022 through November 30, 2025.*



— SERVING TODAY —

*PRESIDING MINISTER* – Pastor Jay Mitchell

*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Chloe Meucci

*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Jeanne Gaber

*LECTOR* – Cathy Meyn

*ALTAR GUILD* – Martha & Tom Klomp

*USHERS* – Cathy Beck, Carl Moore, Mary Mumford

*VIDEO STREAMING* – John Bartlett



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory my parents, Matilda and Herman Kleiber, who were married 91 years ago on February 11, 1934, by Lois Smith.

**Front altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Judy Aquino Hokaj, who passed away on February 17, 1997, by Ed Hokaj.

**Our love and sympathy** is with the family and friends of Nancy Downey who died Friday, February 7. A private service will be held in May.

**Our love and sympathy** is with the family and friends of Jeff Kraus, Kathy Sahlmann's brother, who died Tuesday, February 11.

**Altar flowers** are available for Sunday, March 30. If you would like to place flowers at the altar in memory or in honor of a loved one, please contact the church office. Thank you.

**Today's Events**

**Please join us** for the Adult Forum held in the library at 9:15 this morning. We are discussing Mission and Ministry learning about the various ministries we are in partnership with here at Luther Memorial.

**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!**

Where's the **Creed**? In our order of worship (the *Ordo*, in Latin), the Word portion of the liturgy usually follows a particular order: God speaks to us through Scripture, God speaks to us through preaching, we proclaim the Word of God to one another through the Hymn of the Day, and then we profess our faith often through one of the ecumenical creeds (Nicene, Apostles', or Athanasian). However, there are other days when we gather that we profess our faith in different ways: with a baptism or special blessing for example. This week, we profess our faith through installing our congregational council members. Since we profess our faith in this way and through various other ways throughout the worship service, we do not need to *also* profess our faith through the recitation of the Apostles' Creed. We will continue using the Apostles' Creed next week!

Perhaps you've wondered why we use the different Creeds, when we use them. There is a formula for this: We use the Nicene Creed for Festivals of the Church (White and Red Days) when we join with the whole Church in confessing our faith. We use the Apostles' Creed on ordinary Sundays (Green). During Lent (Purple Days) we use the Apostles' Creed because this is the Creed we profess at baptisms—a tradition from the earliest Church. Because Lent has an emphasis on the baptismal journey and accompanying those who prepare for baptism, we use the Apostles' Creed on these Sundays to. So the next time we share a Creed together, consider why we're using that particular one and what we are professing by using it.

*As for the Athanasian Creed, this is one of the ecumenical creeds that the Lutherans share with other church bodies, however it is rarely if ever used in worship. Sometimes we use it on Trinity Sunday because of its emphasis on the Three Persons of the Trinity. However, it is more meant for contemplation and study than shared profession in worship.*

## Youth Night

**LIA**, Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, March 11 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.

## Faith Formation

**Brown Bag Bible** gathers on Wednesdays in the parlor at 12:00 noon for Bible Study and discussion. You are invited to bring lunch for yourself. Our topic through February is *O Word of God Incarnate*. We will share stories about the ways that God has appeared to humanity in human ways throughout the stories of God's people. Our final gathering will be February 26.

**Book Group**, Paging Through with Pastor Jay, meets the second Monday of odd months at 6:00pm in the parlor. At our next gathering on March 10 we will begin the book *Traveling Mercies* by Anne Lamott. 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.

## Experience Choir Sunday

**On March 2** we will celebrate Transfiguration and the end of the Epiphany season. With the changing of the season I would like to extend an open invitation to everyone to "Experience Choir". Regardless of background, experience, age or ability, we will be joined by community members and past choir members to learn and refine the Anthem, Psalm, and Gospel Acclamation for Transfiguration.

With emphasis on our communal song, the choir is tasked with preparing not only an anthem, but to review all liturgical music to provide the necessary leadership on more challenging pieces enhancing the familiar and forging the way for new favorite traditions.

Rehearsals will February 20 and 27 (Thursdays) at 6:30pm on the fifth floor to prepare for worship on March 2. Sunday March 2, we gather in the Sanctuary at 9:30am for warm up and final run through. Because this will be an expanded choir with guests we will NOT be wearing robes, come as you are!

I truly hope to see many of you challenge yourselves and join us for this event. For further information, contact Cantor Bryan and he will provide you with the packet of music for Transfiguration along with links to recordings of the anthem for self-review.

## Lent Preparations!

**Luther Memorial** will offer a Congregational Devotional for Lent with reflections by our members. We ask that your reflection be no more than 200 words followed by a short two (2) sentence prayer. The scripture is provided on the sign-up sheet; please see Pastor Jay for further text that will correspond to the date you select. A sign-up sheet is located at the welcome table. The completed Devotional will be available beginning on Ash Wednesday. All reflections are asked to be submitted by Monday, February 24. Thank you for your help in what will be meaningful devotionals throughout Lent.

**Tuesday, March 4** is Shrove Tuesday (some know it as Mardi Gras or "Fat Tuesday"). Please join us from 5:30 – 7:00pm as we begin our Lenten Family Journey together with dinner and a special project that can be done each week in your home. A potluck dinner will be served; please bring a dish to share.

**It's Time to plan our Lenten Luncheons.** Those interested in helping are asked to please attend the meeting on Wednesday, February 19 at 11:30am on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor. Help is needed with cooking, set up and clean up. Please contact Betty Pletz, 814-898-1053 (home), or 814-881-3706 (cell) with any questions.

**Lenten Luncheons** will be offered on Wednesdays in Lent; March 12-April 9 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall.

**Palms** from previous Palm Sundays are burned to create the ashes we use to mark ourselves at the beginning of Lent on Ash Wednesday. Over the coming weeks, you are invited to bring in your palms from home for the baskets on the Welcome Table near the ramp door. As always, there will be palms to replace them distributed on Palm Sunday. Thank you.

## A Matter of Balance

**A Matter of Balance** can help reduce a fear of falling and increase the activity levels of adults with this concern. Take advantage of a free 8-week balance class held at Luther Memorial and presented by The YMCA of Erie in partnership with UPMC. The class is completely free and will be held on Mondays, February 24-April 14 from 11:00am-1:00pm on the fifth floor of Luther Memorial. **The maximum class size is 18 so be sure to register early.** You may register by contacting Ellen Hill at 814-899-9622 or [ehill@ymcaerie.org](mailto:ehill@ymcaerie.org) or Norma in our church office. *Be strong, steady & safe – it's a Matter of Balance.*

## Opportunities for Fellowship

**BINGO!** The action is set for Sunday, March 2. Doors will open at 12:00 noon; play is from 12:30-3:30pm. All games are cash prizes of \$50. Tickets are \$25 each and are available on Sunday mornings or from the church office.

**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; February 25. 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

**February 17** – Psalm 120, II Kings 24:18-25:21; I Corinthians 15:20-34

**February 18** – **Martin Luther, renewer of the church, 1546** – Isaiah 55:6-11; Psalm 16; Revelation 14:6-7; John 15:1-11 -- *Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.*

**February 19** – Psalm 120; Jeremiah 22:11-17; Luke 11:37-52

**February 20** – Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 43:16-34; Romans 8:1-11

**February 21** – Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:1-17; I John 2:12-17

**February 22** – Psalm 37:1-11, 39-40; Genesis 44:18-34; Luke 12:57-59

**February 23** – **Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156** – Psalm 116:10-17; Revelation 2:8-11 Matthew 20:20-23 -- *Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.*

— PRAYER LIST —

<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:</b>			
<b>Our Members:</b>			
Marilyn Bohn & family	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Ron King
Ann Flick	Pat Gilbert	Lois Fobes	Bea Leemhuis
<b>Friends and Family:</b>			
Grant, Alina, Charlie Jane McGrail	Jenn	Mary Lou	Norbert Ericson
Racheal Thompson	Phil F.	Bev	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	Andrew Wachter
<b>Grief:</b>			
Bob Giannelli family	Nancy Downey family	Ray Polasky family	Jeff Kraus family
<b>Our Military Service Men &amp; Women:</b>			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Lt. Col. Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

C A L E N D A R

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17**

*President's Day*

Church Offices and LMA Closed

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18**

10:00am  
2:30pm  
3:15pm

Pericope  
LMA Play Practice  
School Board

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19**

11:30am  
12:00pm  
6:30pm

Lenten Luncheon Planning Meeting  
Brown Bag Bible  
Worship & Music

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

1:00pm  
2:30pm  
5:30pm  
6:30pm

Grief Group  
LMA Play Practice  
Handbell Rehearsal  
Choir Rehearsal

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025**

**THE SEVENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME**

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

**Adult Forum** will meet at 9:15am.

<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Julie Ditz
Communion Assistant ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	
Lector ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	C. Noelle Partusch
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Les Fobes
Video Streaming	10:30am	Nick Lang
Counters	10:30am	
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	