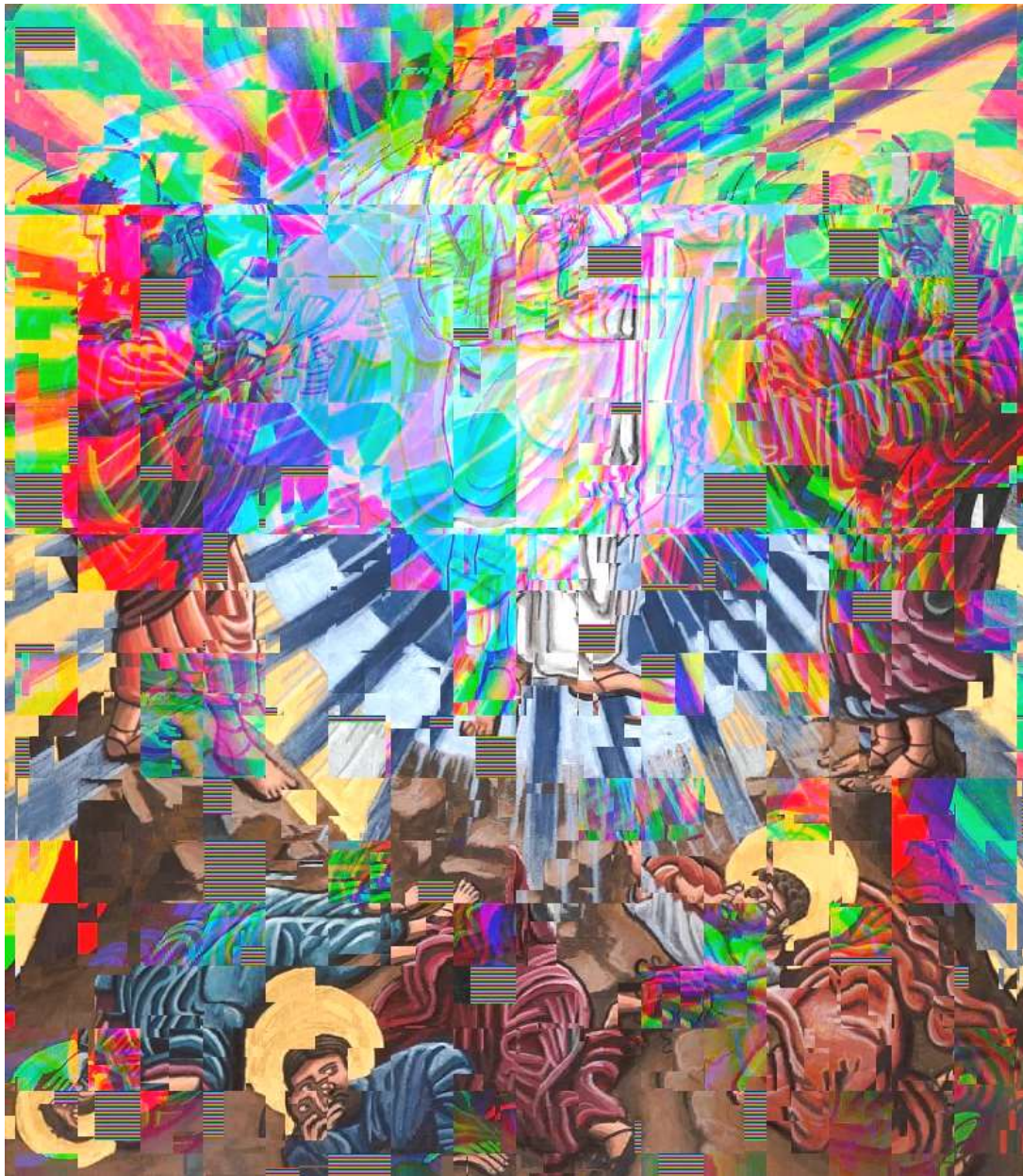


Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



2 MARCH 2025
The Transfiguration of Our Lord
Quinquagesima 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).

2 MARCH 2025
THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD
Holy Communion • ELW – Setting IV • 10:30

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

PRELUDE – “Prelude and Fugue in D Major”

D. Buxtehude

Please stand as you are able as we gather with song.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 392

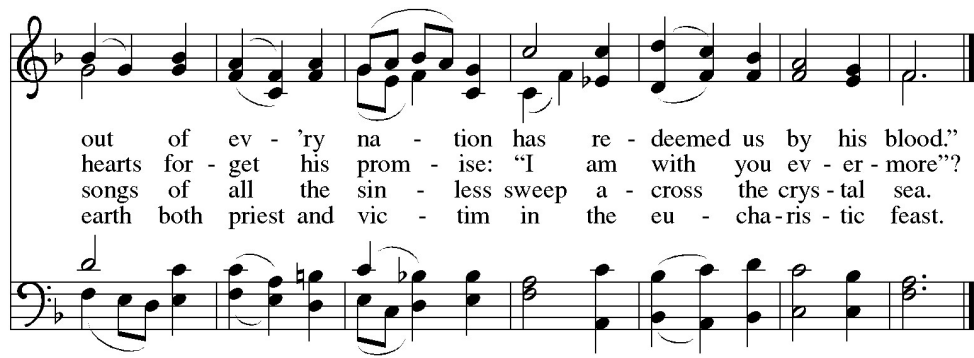
Alleluia! Sing to Jesus

1 Al - le - lu - ia! Sing to Je - sus; his the scep - ter,
2 Al - le - lu - ia! Not as or - phans are we left in
3 Al - le - lu - ia! Bread of heav - en, here on earth our
4 Al - le - lu - ia! King e - ter - nal, Lord om - nip - o -

his the throne; Al - le - lu - ia! his the tri - umph, his the
sor - row now; Al - le - lu - ia! he is near us; faith be -
food, our stay; Al - le - lu - ia! here the sin - ful flee to
tent we own; Al - le - lu - ia! born of Mar - y, earth your

vic - to - ry a - lone. Hark! The songs of peace - ful
lieves, nor ques - tions how. Though the cloud from sight re -
you from day to day. In - ter - ces - sor, friend of
foot - stool, heav'n your throne. As with - in the veil you

Zi - on thun - der like a might - y flood: “Je - sus
ceived him when the for - ty days were o'er, shall our
sin - ners, earth's re - deem - er, hear our plea where the
en - tered, robed in flesh, our great high priest, here on



out of ev - 'ry na - tion has re - deemed us by his blood."
 hearts for - get his prom - ise: "I am with you ev - er - more"?
 songs of all the sin - less sweep a - cross the crys - tal sea.
 earth both priest and vic - tim in the eu - cha - ris - tic feast.


Text: William C. Dix, 1837-1898, alt.
 Music: HYFRYDOL, Rowland H. Prichard, 1811-1887

OPENING SENTENCE

- ☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- ☑ **And also with you.**


CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Refrain
 Assisting minister




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.


All



1 Wor-thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose blood set us



free to be peo-ple of God. Pow-er and rich-es and wis-dom and



strength, and hon-or and bless-ing and glo-ry are his.


Refrain




This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le-lu-ia.



2 Sing with all the peo-ple of God and join in the



hymn of all cre-a-tion: Bless-ing and hon-or and glo-ry and



might be to God and the Lamb for-ev-er. A-men.

**⁶Moses and Aaron among your priests, ...
and Samuel among those who call upon your [name] O Lord,
they called upon you [and] you answered them,**

⁷you spoke to them out of the [pillar] of cloud;
they kept your testimonies ... and the de-[cree that] you gave them.

**⁸O Lord our God, ... you answered [them] indeed;
you were a God who forgave them, ...
yet punished them for their [e]-vil deeds.**

⁹Proclaim the greatness of the Lord ... and worship upon God's [ho]-ly hill;
for the Lord our [God is] the Holy One. **R**

SECOND READING: II Corinthians 3:12-4:2

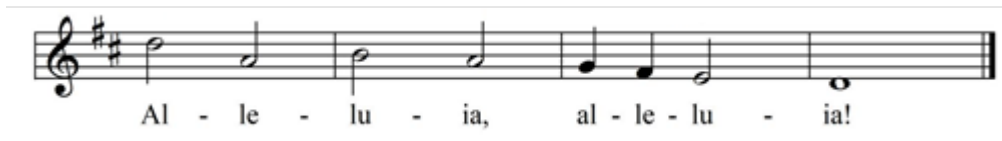
¹²Since, then, we have such a hope, we act with complete frankness, ¹³not like Moses, who put a veil over his face to keep the people of Israel from gazing at the end of the glory that was being set aside. ¹⁴But their minds were hardened. Indeed, to this very day, when they hear the reading of the old covenant, the same veil is still there; it is not unveiled since in Christ it is set aside. ¹⁵Indeed, to this very day whenever Moses is read, a veil lies over their minds, ¹⁶but when one turns to the Lord, the veil is removed. ¹⁷Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. ¹⁸And all of us, with unveiled faces, seeing the glory of the Lord as though reflected in a mirror, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another, for this comes from the Lord, the Spirit. ^{4:1}Therefore, since it is by God's mercy that we are engaged in this ministry, we do not lose heart. ²We have renounced the shameful, underhanded ways; we refuse to practice cunning or to falsify God's word, but by the open statement of the truth we commend ourselves to the conscience of everyone in the sight of God.

L The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



This is my Son, my Chosen, listen to him!

GOSPEL: Luke 9:28-43a

P The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁸Now about eight days after these sayings Jesus took with him Peter and John and James and went up on the mountain to pray. ²⁹And while he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. ³⁰Suddenly they saw two men, Moses and Elijah, talking to Jesus. ³¹They appeared in glory and were speaking about his exodus, which he was about to fulfill in Jerusalem. ³²Now Peter and his companions were weighed down with sleep, but as they awoke they saw the glory of Jesus and the two men who stood with him. ³³Just as the men were leaving him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good for us to be here; let us set up three tents: one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah," not realizing what he was saying. ³⁴While he was saying this, a cloud came and overshadowed them, and they were terrified as they entered the cloud. ³⁵Then from the cloud came a voice that said, "This is my Son, my Chosen; listen to him!" ³⁶When the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone. And they kept silent and in those days told no one any of the things they had seen. ³⁷On the next day, when they had come down from the mountain, a great crowd met Jesus. ³⁸Just then a man from the crowd shouted, "Teacher, I beg you to look at my son; he is my only child. ³⁹Suddenly a spirit seizes him, and all at once he shrieks. It convulses him until he foams at the mouth; it mauls him and will

scarcely leave him. ⁴⁰I begged your disciples to cast it out, but they could not.” ⁴¹Jesus answered, “You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you and put up with you? Bring your son here.” ⁴²While he was being brought forward, the demon dashed him to the ground in convulsions. But Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and gave him back to his father. ^{43a}And all were astounded at the greatness of God.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G 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

Dazzling Presence on the Mountain

ACS 917



1 Daz - zling pres - ence on the moun - tain: hu - man eye had
 2 From this moun - tain of mys - tic splen - dor to the cross Christ
 3 From the heights of new cre - a - tion, Christ be - holds his
 4 Let our praise ring from each moun - tain, in - to deep - est



nev - er seen such a won - der, such re - splen - dence,
 press - es on; here no Mo - ses nor E - li - jah,
 world, re - deemed; as with Pe - ter and com - pan - ions,
 val - leys pour, where, with lives of grate - ful ser - vice,



heav'n and earth in cloud con - vene.
 on - ly thieves Christ's wings a - dorn.
 brings us now to sights un - seen.
 we a - dore Christ ev - er - more.



“This is my Son, the be - lov - ed,” thun - d'rous voice from
 “Lord, have mer - cy, Christ, have mer - cy,” was one's pen - i -
 Jus - tice, mer - cy, and com - pas - sion: these the booths he
 To the Son, God's own be - lov - ed, and the Spir - it



cloud ex - claimed. Word made flesh to heal cre - a - tion,
 ten - tial sigh. With trans - fig - ur - ing as - sur - ance,
 bids us build, that the earth he loves may flour - ish
 end - less - ly, may the church's praise be lift - ed



to dis - ci - ples God pro - claimed.
 Christ re - joins his fer - vent cry.
 as each life with grace is filled.
 to the bless - ed Trin - i - ty.

APOSTLE'S CREED

A Let us confess the faith into which we are baptized:

C **I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. 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 Transfiguring God, through the glory of your presence, you transform us. Move the church from complacency to boldness in sharing the good news with others. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for your creation. As seasons change, give patience and skill to all who tend to animals giving birth. Grant nourishing weather for the growing of crops. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A We pray for all in leadership, especially for those who lead states, counties, and town councils. Give them wisdom to protect local resources so that all will flourish both now and in the years to come. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Bring your healing grace to those who feel distant from you. Speak comfort to those who need your words of mercy. We pray for those close to our communities and in our hearts. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Teaching God, thank you for our schools and early learning centers throughout the ELCA. We are especially grateful for the students, faculty, staff, family, and alumni of Luther Memorial Academy. Guide them with your wisdom. Bless all the children who share in their classes as they learn about you. God of grace,

C **hear our prayer.**

A Renewing God, the saints who have gone before us witnessed to the ways you transform your church and people, especially John & Charles Wesley, and Richard Braendel. We give thanks for their example and pray we carry it forward. 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 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 – “Behold a Star”

F. Mendelssohn

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;
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,

an - thens be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.
and may praise thee, ev - er blest,

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

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

- P** 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, 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

- ☐ Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace. From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.
- ☐ We praise your Son, our Morning Star. Christ is our diamond bright, our treasure dear. He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love. He keeps us yours and fails us never—today, tomorrow, and every day.

*On the night before his great salvation, 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.*

- ☐ With joy we tell our story:
- ☑ **Alleluia!**
- ☐ We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame.
- ☐ We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit. Transport us in our yearning, and be for us the end and the beginning, our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love. And so we pray and praise:
- ☑ **Amen! Alleluia!**

THE 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

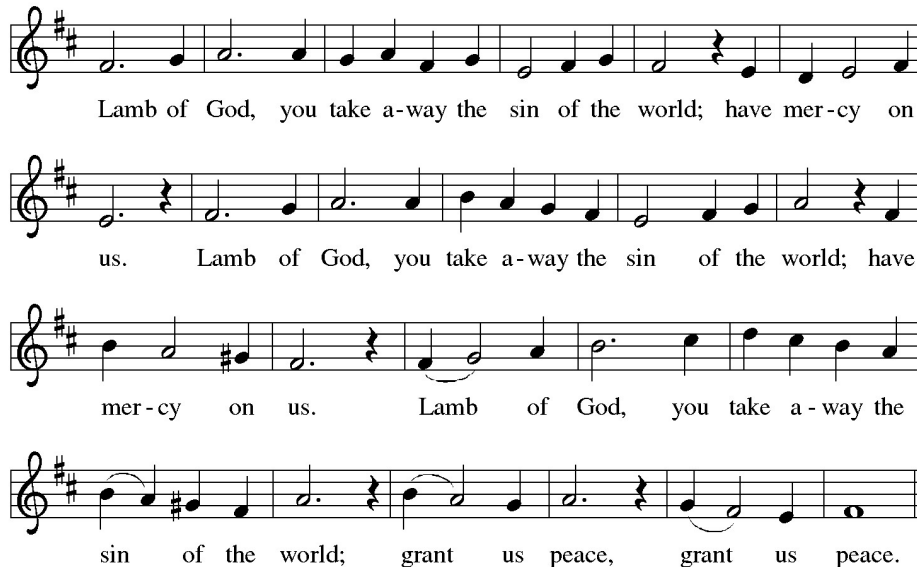
P The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

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.

COMMUNION

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

Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.

Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle.

White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.

Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know.

Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.

As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.

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

HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

Oh, for a Thousand Tongues to Sing

ELW 886



- 1 Oh, for a thou-sand tongues to sing my great Re-deem-er's praise,
- 2 My gra-cious Mas-ter and my God, as-sist me to pro-claim,
- 3 The name of Je-sus charms our fears and bids our sor-rows cease,
- 4 He speaks, and lis-t'ning to his voice, new life the dead re-ceive;



the glo - ries of my God and king, the tri - umphs of his grace!
 to spread through all the earth a - broad the hon - ors of your name.
 sings mu - sic in the sin - ner's ears, brings life and health and peace.
 the mourn - ful, bro - ken hearts re - joice, the hum - ble poor be - lieve.

5 Look unto him, your Savior own,
 O fallen human race!
 Look and be saved through faith alone,
 be justified by grace!

6 To God all glory, praise, and love
 be now and ever giv'n
 by saints below and saints above,
 the church in earth and heav'n.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, alt.
 Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829; arr. Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

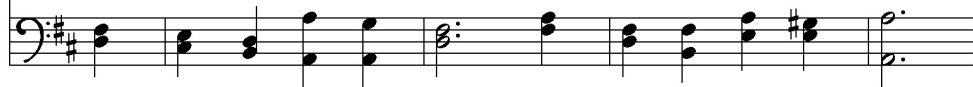
Today, March 2, the Church remembers and celebrates the Wesley brothers. Charles is one of the most prolific hymnwriters in the English language. Together John and Charles founded Methodism as a movement within the Anglican Church. It is said that John's heart was "strangely warmed" while he read Luther's preface to the book of Romans (notice verse 5 about "be justified by grace!"). This is one of Charles' hymns and always the first hymn in Methodist hymnals.

ELW 315

How Good, Lord, to Be Here!



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;
 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;
 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;



your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.
 where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.
 we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.
 we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.
 but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.



Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.
 Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

TABLE BLESSING

- P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ...everlasting life.
- C** Amen.

SENDING OF HOLY COMMUNION *as needed*

- ☐ 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.
- ☐ 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.
- ☑ **We who are many are one body in Christ, sharing one bread, one cup. Amen.**

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- ☐ Let us pray. Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,
- ☑ **Amen.**

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

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

Farewell to the Alleluia

BLESSING

- ☐ ...remain with you always.
- ☑ **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW 318

Choral Introduction to the hymn

Alleluia, alleluia!
Enclose and seal up the word, alleluia, alleluia.
Let it remain in the secret of your heart, alleluia, alleluia,
until the appointed time.
You shall say it with great joy when that day comes,
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, Song of Gladness

1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;
2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;
3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;
4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,

al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;
 al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;

in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.
 here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A Go in peace. Live in hope! Alleluia! Alleluia!
- B Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

POSTLUDE – “Alleluia, Songs of Gladness”

R. Farlee

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— SERVING TODAY —

GREETER – Liz Stroup

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Pat Bellingham

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Stan Rose

LECTOR – Bill Lasher

ALTAR GUILD – Sharon Burke

USHERS – Cathy Beck, Mary Daniels, Carl Moore, Betty Pletz

VIDEO STREAMING – Gina Snider



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of cherished loved ones by the Hubbard family.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of our brother, Richard Braendel who passed away on March 5, 2024, by the Braendel family.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Kate Martin’s birthday by her family.

Special thanks to all musicians who have participated in Experience Choir Sunday.

Today's Events

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.

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.

BINGO is all set for today! 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 may be purchased at the door.

Worship Matters!

Today is a liminal, transitional moment in the Church Year. We transition in the gospel story attributed to Luke. Up through chapter 9, Jesus has been healing and teaching. Just after the story we read this morning, Jesus will “turn his face toward Jerusalem” and the rest of the Gospel is Jesus’ journey to, through, and past the cross. So, too, in the Church Year we are transitioning from the season after the Epiphany where we have been seeing revelations of God’s glory in Jesus, in his power, in his miracles, and in his teachings and have heard him call a band of followers; we are transitioning to Lent, the season of repentance, of returning to the Lord our God, of fasting and prayer and penitence, of almsgiving and sacrificial works of love. As Jesus turns his face toward Jerusalem, so we turn our faces back to the waters of baptism and remember there the promises God has bound to us there.

ABOUT THE COVER ART: *Glitch Transfiguration* by Kelly Latimore. About it, the iconographer writes: Like Peter in Matthew 17, we are often tempted to try and create our own transfigurations. Create our booths. Although we often mean well using grand displays of music, liturgy, and art to bring “The divine down to earth.” the thing is, what we are trying to contain is always right in front of us. It is divine that Jesus doubled down being human-wounds and all. Peter fails to see that Jesus cannot be confined to one location. He can’t tie down and domesticate the wild spirit of God’s Kingdom. We are being called to follow Jesus to Jerusalem, into the unknown. The light we think we hold has already been reflecting and scattering in all directions...

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

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.

Lent Preparations!

Ash Wednesday worship services will be held in our main church on March 5 at 12:00 noon and 7:00pm. Worship services will be held each Wednesday in Lent, March 12 – April 9 at 12:05pm in the main church.

A Congregational Devotional with shared reflections from our Luther Memorial Church friends will be available at the welcome tables beginning on Ash Wednesday. As we journey through this Lenten season together we hope you find this devotional meaningful.

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; all are asked to bring a dish to share.

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. Our first luncheon on March 12 will feature delicious stuffed shells and meatballs. 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. Set aside this special time during the Lenten season.

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

Lutheran Schools Week

March 2-9 is LUTHERAN SCHOOLS WEEK! We will be celebrating throughout the week with spirit days, an essay contest, the annual 8th grade etiquette luncheon, and the “SouPPPPPer” contest for the coveted Golden Ladle (Pastor Jay is the reigning champ). Please be sure to add our service of Holy Communion on Monday, March 3 at 12:30pm to your calendar and plan to join in the celebration (Pastor Kristen Papson, a LMA alum, will be preaching)!

LMA News

Our Luther Lions will once again be in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade on Saturday, March 15. We are looking for donations of candy for us to distribute during the parade! If you are able to donate, please drop off your candy in the designated locations near the Welcome Table or in the School Office! Thank you and we’ll see you at the parade!

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.

Daylight Savings Time begins Sunday, March 9. Be sure to turn your clocks ahead one hour before going to bed Saturday night.

– 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	
Grief:			
Bob Giannelli family	Nancy Downey family	Ray Polasky family	Jeff Kraus family
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Lt. Col. Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

READINGS AND COMMEMORATIONS

March 2 – John and Charles Wesley, renewers of the church – Isaiah 49:5-6; Psalm 98:1-10; Luke 9:2-6 -- *These brothers led a revival originally intended to remain within the Church of England, one that involved frequent communion and advocacy for the poor. Except for a brief time in America, they worked in England. Charles was also a prolific hymn writer. After their deaths, their work led to the formation of the Methodist Church.*

March 3 – Psalm 35:11-28; Exodus 35:1-29; Acts 10:9-23a

March 4 – Psalm 35:11-28; Ezekiel 1:1-2:1; Acts 10:23b-33

March 5 – Ash Wednesday – John 2:1-2, 12-17; Isaiah 58:1-12; Psalm 51; Psalm 103:8-14; II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 -- *On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.*

March 6 – Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Exodus 5:10-23; Acts 7:30-34

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

March 8 – Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16; Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; John 12:27-36

CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 3	11:00am	Balance Class
	12:30pm	Lutheran Schools Week Service
TUESDAY, MARCH 4	12:00pm	Deborah Circle
	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
	3:00pm	W/ELCA
	5:30pm	Potluck Supper & Lenten Family Gathering
	6:00pm	Select Specialty Meeting
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5 <i>Ash Wednesday</i>	12:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
	7:00pm	Ash Wednesday Service
THURSDAY, MARCH 6	11:45am	Grade 8 Etiquette Luncheon
	1:00pm	Grief Group
	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
	5:30pm	Handbell Rehearsal
	6:30pm	Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, MARCH 7		LMA Closed
SATURDAY, MARCH 8	10:00am	Julia Hospice Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025 THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Adult Forum will meet at 9:15am.

Second Sunday Soirée will gather in the parlor at 9:15am.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 9, 2025		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Kate Martin
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham, Les Fobes
Video Streaming	10:30am	
Counters	10:30am	Ely & Rob Cooney
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Linda Graffius