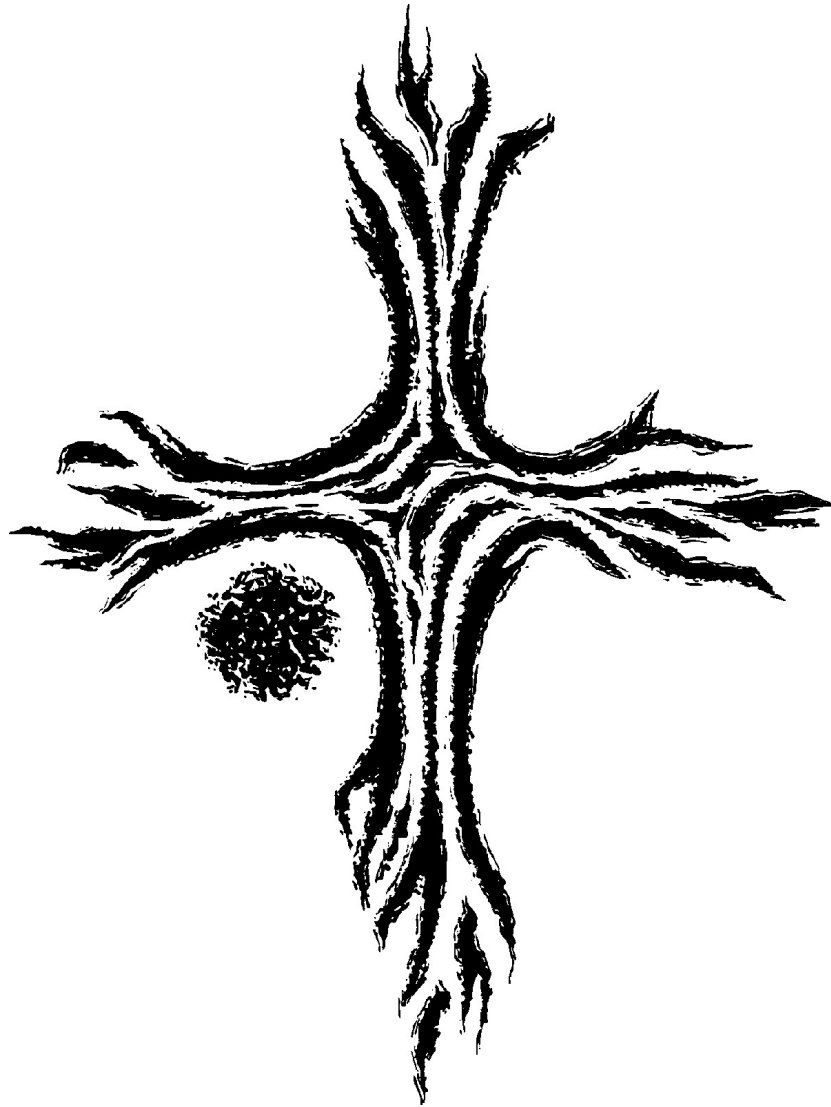


Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



14 FEBRUARY 2024
Ash Wednesday
10:00am & 7:00pm

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

WALT GABER

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

Director of Care & Health Ministries

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

Youth and Family Ministry

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Academy Administrator

MICHELLE THOM

14 FEBRUARY 2024

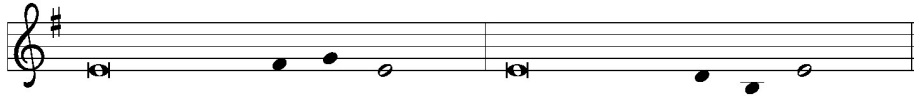
ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion • ELW Setting V • 10:00am & 7:00pm

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

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

PSALM 51



- ¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your ¹steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out ¹my offenses.
- ²Wash me through and through ¹from my wickedness,
and cleanse me ¹from my sin.
- ³For I know ¹my offenses,
and my sin is ev- ¹er before me.
- ⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil ¹in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right ¹in your judgment.
- ⁵Indeed, I was born ¹steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my ¹mother's womb.
- ⁶Indeed, you delight in truth ¹deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom ¹deep within.
- ⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I ¹shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be pur- ¹er than snow.
- ⁸Let me hear ¹joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken ¹may rejoice.
- ⁹Hide your face ¹from my sins,
and blot out ¹all my wickedness.
- ¹⁰Create in me a clean ¹heart, O God,
and renew a right spir- ¹it within me.
- ¹¹Cast me not away ¹from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir- ¹it from me.
- ¹²Restore to me the joy of ¹your salvation
and sustain me with your boun- ¹tiful Spirit.
- ¹³Let me teach your ways ¹to offenders,
and sinners shall be re- ¹stored to you.

- ¹⁴Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of ¹ my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing ¹ of your righteousness.
- ¹⁵O Lord, o- ¹ pen my lips,
and my mouth shall pro- ¹ claim your praise.
- ¹⁶For you take no delight in sacrifice, or ¹ I would give it.
You are not pleased ¹ with burnt offering.
- ¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a ¹ troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will ¹ not despise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ The Lord be with you.

☞ **And also with you.**

☞ Let us pray. Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☞ **Amen.**

Please be seated.

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

FIRST READING: Isaiah 58:1-12

¹Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. ²Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. ³“Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. ⁴You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. ⁵Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush, and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord? ⁶Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ⁷Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? ⁸Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. ⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and God will say, “Here I am.” If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, ¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. ¹¹The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

☞ The Word of the Lord.

☞ **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 103:8-14

Lord, you are mer - ci - ful, both kind and slow to wrath.
 You have not dealt with us ac - cord - ing to our sin,
 For as the heav'ns are high a - bove the earth and sea,
 Our sins are all re - moved as far as east from west;

You will not still ac - cuse your own, nor will your an - ger last.
 nor in ac - cord with our mis - deeds has your re - pay - ment been.
 up - on all those who fear your Name, so shall your mer - cy be.
 for as the par - ent loves the child, so is your care ex - pressed.

Text: Psalm 103:8-14
 Tune: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalmes of David*, 1579, alt.

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

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

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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

Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

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

☐ The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

☐ The Gospel of the Lord.

☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

HOMILY

Pastor Jay

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

HYMN OF THE DAY

ACS 920

All Things of Dust to Dust Return

1 All things of dust to dust re - turn on earth and in the sky.
2 Lord, mark with dust and ash my brow so I may com-pre-hend
3 Lord, mark up - on my brow this sign: a stark and bar-ren cross

The hot - test, bright - est suns that burn in time grow dim and die.
that ev - 'ry mo - ment here and now links me to that same end
re - mind - ing me that though di - vine you know my pain and loss,

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "All Things of Dust to Dust Return". It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The first system includes three verses of lyrics. The second system includes the final two lines of the hymn's text. The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a 4/4 time signature.

The fish that leap, the birds that soar, the new-born young that play,
I share with all that breathe and burn, that flare and fade and tire
and at the touch of dust and ash a - wake my heart to view

the leaves that fill the for - est floor re - vert to dust and clay.
yet by their wan - ing light dis - cern your own un - dy - ing fire.
how death it - self is but a flash that dies a - way in you.

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

INVITATION TO LENT

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

CONFESSION OF SIN

The presiding minister leads the following confession.

- P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

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

- P** Most holy and merciful God,

- C** **we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone.**

- P** We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

- C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

- P** We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

- C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**

- P** Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

- C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**



- P** Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.
- C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P** Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.
- C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P** Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.
- C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P** Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.
- C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P** Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.
- C** **Have mercy on us, O God.**
- P** Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
- C** **Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.**

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

When ashes are used in the service, the presiding minister may pray over them.

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

Those who desire to receive ashes may come forward by the center aisle to receive them, returning by the side aisles. The Presiding Minister marks the forehead of each person with a cross of ash, saying:

- P** Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

SONG DURING THE IMPOSITION

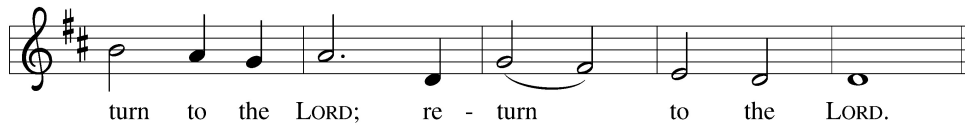
MSB1 435

10:00am: The refrain is sung as needed throughout the imposition.

7:00pm: The cantor introduces the refrain and the congregation then echoes. The congregation joins on the refrains following the verses; and then as needed the refrain is repeated.

Refrain

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 -



Text: Mark Mummert, based on Hosea 6:1-3
 Music: Mark Mummert
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7:00pm choir verses:

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

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

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

- P** Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
- C** **that we may show forth your glory in the world.**
- P** By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
- C** **bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.**

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

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

Please remain kneeling or sitting for the Prayers of Intercession.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

Please remain seated.

MEAL – “God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.”

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

An Individual Silent Prayer as We Prepare to Make our Offering:

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

VOLUNTARY (10:00am) – "Abide with Me"

arr. Dale Wood

ANTHEM (7:00pm) – "Now Is the Time of Grace"

Marty Haugen

Refrain: *Now is the time of grace, now is the day of salvation.*

Turn now, and seek God's face, now behold God's invitation.

This is the fast that God would choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to let the captives go free, and to break the yoke of oppression. Refrain

Sharing your bread with the hungry and welcoming homeless in, offering hope and offering help, this is what God requires. Refrain

Then shall your light break forth as dawn, and healing shall come to you quickly; then you shall call and God shall answer, God's love shall go before you. Refrain

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

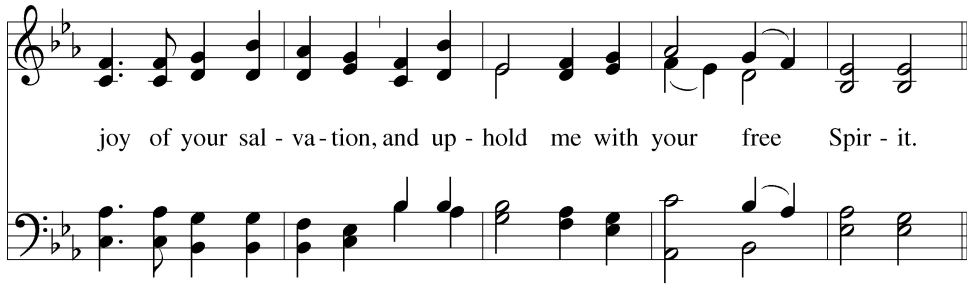
WOV 732

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir-it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres-ence, and

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store un-to me the



Text: Psalm 51:10-12
Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739, arr. Harold W. Gilbert

OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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

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

P Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

P Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; + fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

C Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER



P Lord, remember us in your king - dom, and teach us to pray.



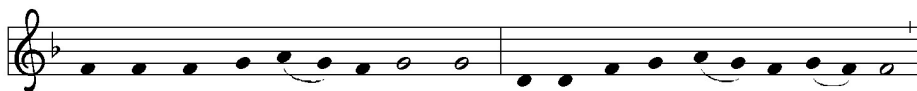
C Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



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.

AGNUS DEI



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



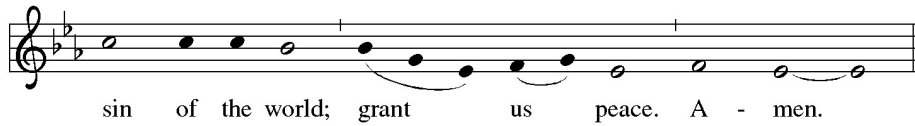
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy



on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

The congregation is seated.

SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

COMMUNION

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

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

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

HYMNS FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

Just As I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea, but that thy blood was
 2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not to rid my soul of
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout with man - y a con - flict,
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; sight, rich - es, heal - ing

shed for me, and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 one dark blot, to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 man - y a doubt, fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 of the mind, yea, all I need in thee to find,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
 wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
 because thy promise I believe,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
 has broken ev'ry barrier down;
 now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871
 Music: WOODWORTH, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

ELW 608

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain
 watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home!

You who are wea-ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,
Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

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

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C Amen.

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

BLESSING

P ...now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Abide with Me

ELW 629

1 A - bid e with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 I need thy pres - ence ev - 'ry pass - ing hour;
4 I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless;
5 Hold thou thy cross be - fore my clos - ing eyes,
The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
what but thy grace can foil the tempt - er's pow'r?
ills have no weight, and tears no bit - ter - ness.
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;

When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
 change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
 Who like thy - self my guide and stay can be?
 Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy vic - to - ry?
 heav'n's morn - ing breaks, and earth's vain shad - ows flee;

help of the help - less, oh, a - bide with me.
 O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
 Through cloud and sun - shine, oh, a - bide with me.
 I tri - umph still, if thou a - bide with me!
 in life, in death, O Lord, a - bide with me.

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

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A** Let us go forth in peace.
- C** Amen.

POSTLUDE – "Out of the Depths I Cry to You"

Paul Kickstat

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— SERVING TODAY —

10:00 AM SERVICE

PRESIDING MINISTER AND PREACHER – The Rev. Jay C. Mitchell

ASSISTING MINISTER – Cathie Dugan

FIRST READING – Ava Vidakovic, Zen Titus

SECOND READING – Justin Stovall, Jr., Taleeya Watkins

GIFT BEARERS – Rilan Wieczorek, Liam Wickles

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Linda Graffius

CANTOR – Walt Gaber

ALTAR GUILD – Pastor Jay

USHERS – Talia King, Louisa McCormick, Elliana Sands, Maliya Solano

LIVESTREAMING – John Bartlett

7:00 PM SERVICE

PRESIDING MINISTER AND PREACHER – The Rev. Jay C. Mitchell

ASSISTING MINISTER – Liz Stroup

LECTOR – Cathy Meyn

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Jeanne Gaber

CANTOR – Walt Gaber

ALTAR GUILD – Pastor Jay

USHERS – Bill Lasher, Betty Pletz, Gina Snider

LIVESTREAMING – Sarah Prylinski



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

The Seed of Joy, a Daily Devotional Guide, is available at the welcome table. Please feel free to take a copy.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Pastor Jay Mitchell will preach at the 8:15am service in Faith Chapel and the 10:30am service in the main church.

Adult Forum: “Was Ist Das? The Small Catechism for the 21st Century” is at 9:15am.

Wednesdays Lenten Worship ~ The Seed of Joy

Lenten services will be held each Wednesday in Lent at 12:05pm in the main church. Come join us in the observance of a holy Lent and be changed by the grace of God.

February 21

February 28

March 6

March 13

March 20



ENDURING JOY:

Lent can be a somber season of the church year. It begins with an ashen sign of mortality and sin. Bright colors turn to deep purples, alleluias fall silent, and worshipers ponder what to give up this year. Though the word Lent derives from an Old English word for springtime, spring still seems far off in much of the Northern Hemisphere.

Easter, on the other hand, is obviously joyful. Bells ring, alleluias echo, white and gold shine brightly, and every single candle is lit. Jesus is risen, and so are the daffodils, hyacinths, and lilies. Joy clearly belongs to Easter.

Why reflect on joy during the quiet introspection of Lent instead of waiting for Easter?

Because when we move beyond surface assumptions, something beautiful emerges, richer and more nuanced than sheer happiness.

A joyful Lent is not a contradiction in terms.

As it turns out, joy is right at home during a minor-key season like Lent – and if joy is there, perhaps there are other seasons of life that joy calls home, too. Joy is a beacon that points us toward God’s unfailing presence, even in the heart of fear and pain.

This midweek series will flow in tandem with the daily devotional *Tending Joy*, that is available at the welcome tables, and with our midweek evening gatherings for families.

Lenten luncheons will be offered for each of the five (5) Wednesdays in Lent; February 21 – March 20. The luncheons will be served at 12:35pm in fellowship hall; cost \$8. The main dish on February 21 is stuffed manicotti.

Step with us in our Journey through Lent. Lent is a season filled with hope. Hope that it is not the end; it is a beginning of a whole new journey. Join us for Steps in Faith each Wednesday evening as we gather together for dinner followed by a Bible story and craft or activity. Dinner is at 5:30pm in fellowship hall. The main dish will be provided; please bring a dish to share.

Wednesdays: February 21

February 28

March 6

March 13

March 20