

*WELCOME TO*  
**LUTHER MEMORIAL  
CHURCH & ACADEMY**

**WELCOME!**

+ 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).

22 MARCH 2026  
**The Fifth Sunday *in* Lent**  
10:30 am

**PRELUDE – “Southwell”**

J. B. Carlson

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection. The assembly kneels or sits.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers:  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ’s call to come forth to life:  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

**Amen.**

**KYRIE**

**ELW 602**

**Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved**

*Vieme to, Pane Bože náš*

Leader

Otče nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - luj sa nad na - mi.  
 1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.  
 2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.  
 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

All

Vi - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na  
 Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry  
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of  
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren

nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'  
 e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -  
 death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the  
 that your word has made. Now make us grow and

ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.  
 sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.  
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.  
 help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

Text: Jiří Tranovský, 1591–1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919  
 Music: *Tranoscius*, 1636; arr. Michal Kutzky, 1828–1899  
 Tr. © 1970 Concordia Publishing House

ZNÁME TO, PANE BOŽE NÁŠ  
 Irregular

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

*Silence is kept while all join their silent prayers. The Presiding Minister prays on behalf of all:*

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through 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.*

## BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray. Oh, that today we would hear God's voice. May we hear your voice today, Lord, as Linda reads to us the scriptures. Let not our hearts be hardened, but open to us your Word of Life.

**Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

<sup>1</sup> The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. <sup>2</sup> He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. <sup>3</sup> He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." <sup>4</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. <sup>5</sup> Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. <sup>6</sup> I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. <sup>8</sup> I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. <sup>9</sup> Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath,

and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.”<sup>10</sup> I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

<sup>11</sup> Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’<sup>12</sup> Therefore prophesy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel.<sup>13</sup> And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.<sup>14</sup> I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

PSALM 600

ELW 600

Out of the Depths I Cry to You



1 Out of the depths I cry to you; O Lord God, hear me call - ing.  
2 All things you send are full of grace; you crown our lives with fa - vor.  
3 In you a - lone, O God, we hope, and not in our own mer - it.  
4 My soul is wait - ing for you, Lord, as one who longs for morn - ing;



In - cline your ear to my dis - tress in spite of my re - bel - ling.  
All our good works are done in vain with - out our Lord and Sav - ior.  
We rest our fears in your good Word and trust your Ho - ly Spir - it.  
no watch - er waits with great - er hope than I for your re - turn - ing.



Do not re - gard my sin - ful deeds. Send me the grace  
We praise you for the gift of faith; you save us from  
Your prom - ise keeps us strong and sure; we trust the cross,  
I hope as Is - rael in the Lord, who sends re - demp -



my spir - it needs; with - out it I am noth - ing.  
the grip of death; our lives are in your keep - ing.  
your sig - na - ture, in - scribed up - on our tem - ples.  
tion through the Word. Praise God for grace and mer - cy!

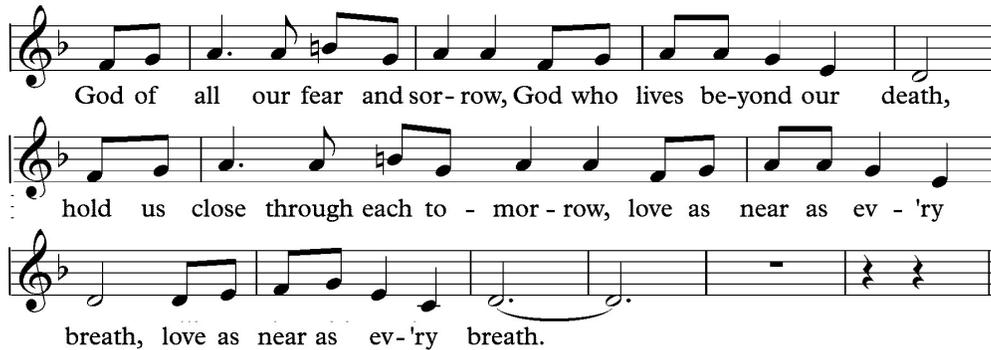
Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. composite  
Music: AUS TIEFER NOT, attr. Martin Luther  
Text © 1978, 2006 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11**

<sup>6</sup>To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God’s law—indeed, it cannot, <sup>8</sup>and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. <sup>11</sup>If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



God of all our fear and sor-row, God who lives be-yond our death,  
hold us close through each to - mor - row, love as near as ev - 'ry  
breath, love as near as ev - 'ry breath.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: THOMAS, Marty Haugen  
Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
Music: THOMAS, Marty Haugen

## GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup> Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. <sup>2</sup> Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. <sup>3</sup> So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." <sup>4</sup> But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." <sup>5</sup> Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, <sup>6</sup> after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

<sup>7</sup> Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." <sup>8</sup> The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" <sup>9</sup> Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. <sup>10</sup> But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." <sup>11</sup> After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." <sup>12</sup> The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." <sup>13</sup> Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. <sup>14</sup> Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. <sup>15</sup> For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." <sup>16</sup> Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

<sup>17</sup> When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. <sup>18</sup> Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, <sup>19</sup> and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. <sup>20</sup> When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. <sup>21</sup> Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. <sup>22</sup> But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." <sup>23</sup> Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." <sup>24</sup> Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." <sup>25</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, <sup>26</sup> and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" <sup>27</sup> She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

<sup>28</sup> When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." <sup>29</sup> And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. <sup>30</sup> Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. <sup>31</sup> The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. <sup>32</sup> When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." <sup>33</sup> When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. <sup>34</sup> He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." <sup>35</sup> Jesus began to weep. <sup>36</sup> So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" <sup>37</sup> But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

<sup>38</sup> Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." <sup>40</sup> Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" <sup>41</sup> So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. <sup>42</sup> I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." <sup>43</sup> When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" <sup>44</sup> The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

<sup>45</sup> Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

*Please be seated at the invitation of the pastor.*

SERMON

Pastor Jay

*After a brief silence for reflection, as the music sounds, please stand to proclaim the Word of God in song.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

OBS 52

### Christ Is the Life



1 Christ is the life of all that is, God's pure cre - a - tive Word,  
 2 Christ is the death of all that is, a broad and beck - 'ning tomb,  
 3 Christ is the death of all that is, a bright, con - sum - ing fire,  
 4 Christ is the life of all that is, Be - gin - ning and the End;



whose pow'r be - yond and through all space the worlds to Be - ing stirred.  
 who wel - comes us from well - worn ways to dark-ness of the womb.  
 whose flames re - quire our pri - or self as kin-dling for the pyre.  
 cre - a - tive force, most peace - ful death, trans - form - ing burn - ing brand.



Christ is the life be - yond all time, cre - a - tion's birth and breath,  
 Christ is the death, the sink - ing down past all de - sire and fear,  
 Christ is the death of dust - y days of un - cre - a - tive strife,  
 Christ is the life, in whose wise love cre - a - tion lives and dies



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

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien  
 Music: KINGSFOLD, English melody

Text © 1989 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray, siblings, for the Church of Jesus Christ in this and every place. For Yehiel and Kristen, our bishops; Jean, our dean; Jay, our pastor; and all who serve the Church.

*silence for personal prayer for the Church*

Let us pray for the nations of the world, for their leaders, for peace and those who seek it.

*silence for personal prayer for the nations*

Let us pray for those who are sick and suffering, for those who share God's gifts of science and medicine, for those who will die today.

*silence for personal prayer for the sick and suffering*

Let us pray in thanksgiving for the promises of baptism, for those who have claimed their baptismal promises, especially Oscar, Robert, Bette, and Shirley and to be held together with your mother Mary and all your saints until we are joined into Christ.

*silence for personal prayer in thanksgiving for the saints and the gifts of baptism.*

Into your wounded hands of love, O God, we place all our prayers trusting in the mercy and grace of the Crucified-Risen One, Jesus.

**Amen.**

## THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.      **And also with you.**  
*Please share greetings and gestures of peace with those around you.*  
*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING



*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.*

## MUSICAL OFFERING – “Jesus is a Rock in a Weary Land”

African American Spiritual

*Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a weary land, a weary land;  
my Jesus is a rock in a weary land, a shelter in the time of storm.*

*No one can do like Jesus, not a mumbling word he said;  
he went walking down to Lazarus' grave, and he raised him from the dead.*

*When Jesus was on earth the flesh was very weak;  
he took a towel and girded himself and he washed the disciples' feet.*

*Yonder comes my Savior, him whom I love so well;  
he has the palm of victory and the keys of death and hell.*

## Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed

death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and

his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the

rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
 bod - y of our Lord.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: Marty Haugen  
 Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING  
SURSUM CORDA

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

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

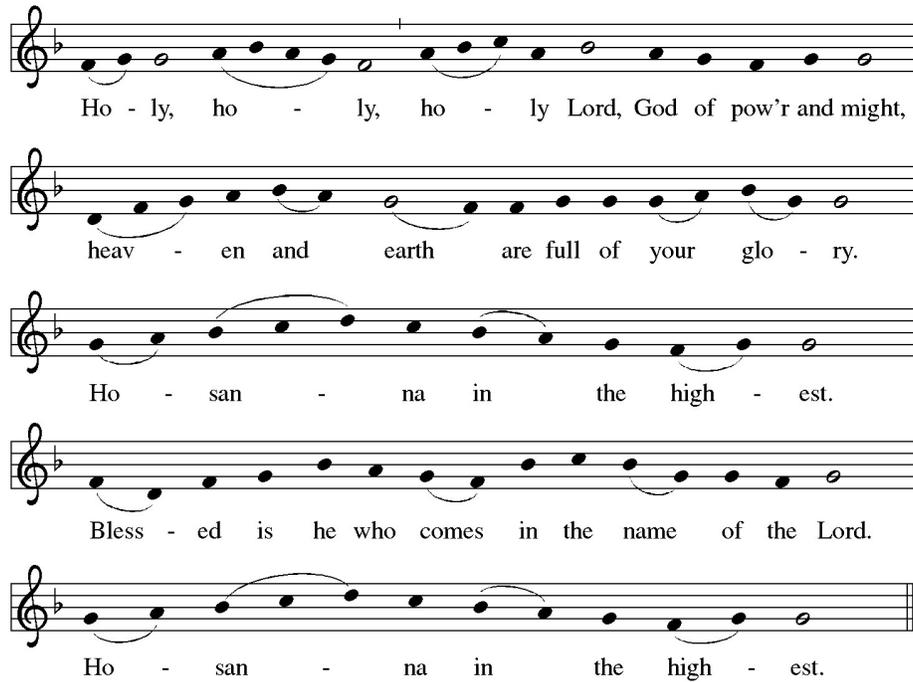
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THE PROPER PREFACE

*♩ It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...join their unending hymn:*

## SANCTUS

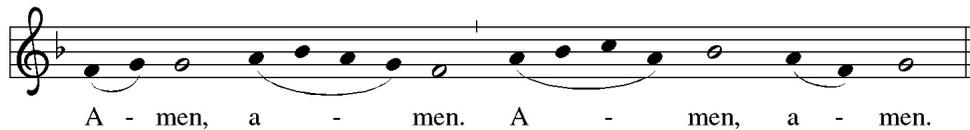


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## VERBA

*♩ In the night in which he was betrayed,  
our Lord Jesus 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.*

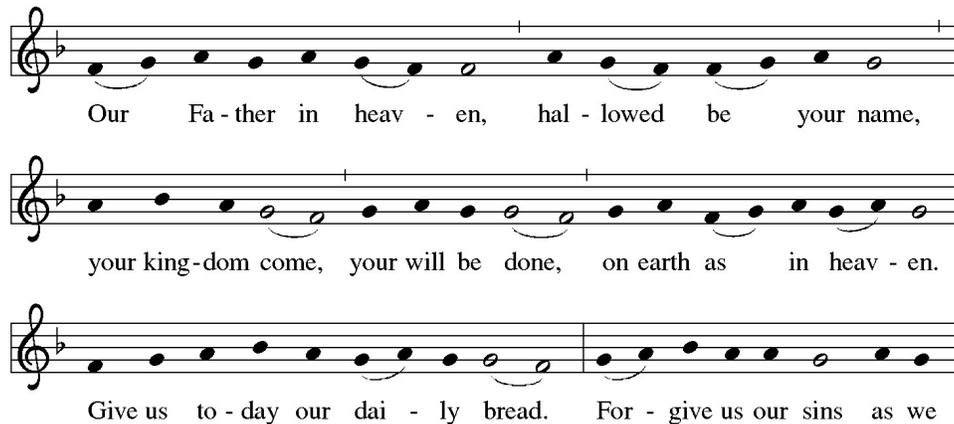
*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,  
and gave it for all to drink, saying:  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,  
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*



A - men, a - men. A - men, a - men.

## PATER NOSTER

*♩ Lord, remember us in your sovereignty and teach us to pray:*



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.  
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a-against 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.

**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

Behold the Lamb of God. Behold the One who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.

**Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.**

For those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the Body and Blood of Christ for you.

*Please be seated.*

**THE COMMUNION**

*This is Christ's Table and Christ is, himself, present whenever we feast together. **You** are welcome to the feast! 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 THE COMMUNION**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
 take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
 on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

## On a Hill Far Away

### *The Old Rugged Cross*

1 On a hill far a - way stood an old rug - ged cross,  
 2 Oh, that old rug - ged cross so de - spised by the world,  
 3 In the old rug - ged cross, stained with blood so di - vine,  
 4 To the old rug - ged cross I will ev - er be true,

the em - blem of suf - f'ring and shame;  
 has a won - drous at - trac - tion for me;  
 a won - drous beau - ty I see;  
 its shame and re - proach glad - ly bear;

and I love that old cross where the dear - est and best  
 for the dear Lamb of God left his glo - ry a - bove,  
 for 'twas on that old cross Je - sus suf - fered and died,  
 Christ will call me some day to my home far a - way,

for a world of lost sin - ners was slain.  
 to . . . . bear it to dark Cal - va - ry.  
 to . . . . par - don and sanc - ti - fy me.  
 where his glo - ry for - ev - er I'll share.

*Refrain*

So I'll cher - ish the old rug - ged cross,  
 cross, the old rug - ged cross,

till my tro - phies at last I lay down;

I will cling to the old rug - ged cross,  
cross, the old rug - ged cross,

and ex - change it some day for a crown.

Text: George Bennard, 1873–1958  
 Music: THE OLD RUGGED CROSS, George Bennard, 1873–1958

LBW 324

### O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

1 O Love that will not let me go, I rest my wea - ry soul in  
 2 O Light that fol - lowest all my way, I yield my flick - ring torch to  
 3 O Joy that seek - est me through pain, I can - not close my heart to  
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not ask to fly from

thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that  
 thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that  
 thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain and  
 thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and

in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.  
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.  
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.  
 from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

Text: George Matheson, 1842–1906, alt.  
 Music: ST. MARGARET, Albert L. Peace, 1844–1912

ELW 334

### Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling  
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and  
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the  
 riv - er, you the sea.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: Marty Haugen  
 Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

#### TABLE BLESSING

#### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray: God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

#### SENDING

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

#### BLESSING

...give you peace.

**Amen.**

## DISMISSAL

Let us go in peace. Return to the Lord. Believe the Good News.  
**Amen.**

## POSTLUDE – “Seelenbrautig”

P. Manz

*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.*

*Luther Memorial Church and Academy are located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people. These lands were ceded by the people of the Six Nations on October 22, 1784 in a treaty ratified by the United States Government in 1785 and never ratified by the people of the Six Nations. We gather in this place indebted to these peoples for their forced generosity. While some peoples were successful in resisting assimilation and genocide, and still live on dwindled homelands now, many were absorbed into other peoples, exiled, or annihilated by the United States government for their land. For those who remain and for the land on which we gather, we give thanks to the Creator and to those who have been custodians of this part of Turtle Island since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*



### — SERVING TODAY —

*PRESIDING MINISTER* – Pastor Jay Mitchell

*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Julie Ditz

*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Tom Klomp

*LECTOR* – Linda Melaragno

*USHERS* – Sharon Burke, Carl Moore, Michael Patterson, Stan Rose

*ALTAR GUILD* – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels

*VIDEO STREAMING* – Nick Lang

## LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

### LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

*Cantor*

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL,

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH,

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

MICHELLE THOM

*LMA Principal*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Robert Pletz, loving father and grandfather, by Julie, Jim, Jordan and Jimmy Sturm.

**Front altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Bette Hoffman by the Spaulding family.

**Our love and sympathy** is with the family and friends of Shirley Messenger, mother of Darlene Downey, who died Saturday, March 14, 2026. Pastor Moran officiated at her service on Wednesday, March 18.

## Today's Events

**Thank you** to our Tuesday W/ELCA Circle for providing refreshments following the 10:30 service this morning. Stop in the parlor for some goodies and fellowship.

**Visit our Prayer Room** this morning for a time of prayer and brief meditation during the Lenten season. The Prayer Room is located in the youth room on the fifth floor and is self-guided with activities available for anyone wishing to take part. We invite you stop in from 9:00-10:15am and 11:30am-12:00 noon. Please see Beth Keller or Sarah Prylinski with any questions.

**LMA's Open House** will be held this afternoon from 1:00-3:00. This is the perfect opportunity to visit the classrooms, meet teachers and enroll children for the upcoming school year. For information about LMA please contact Amanda Fried in the school office during the week, 814-454-0106, ext. 222.

## Worship Matters!

**This Sunday we are in Bethany.** Bethany was throughout the gospels a safe haven for Jesus. The home of the Martha, Mary, and Lazarus was a place he could relax among friends. While we do not have many details about these three siblings, much has been speculated because of various readings of the few details we have. They were probably wealthier, Martha may have been a widow (if, as some read the text, she was the one whose home it was), Mary is both the one who sits at Jesus' feet and who will anoint them just before the Passion. There is increasing scholarship about whether Mary of Bethany and Mary the Tower (Magdalene) are the same person; and yet other scholarship that wonders if Martha and Mary of Bethany are the same person only delineated as two different ones for the purposes of the story to show the two ways of believing and being in the Reign of God. We know little about Lazarus except that Lazarus is "he whom [Jesus] loves," and that in chapter 12 of John (which we never read in the Lectionary at least) he is the first to recline near Jesus at table—which the Beloved Disciple will do at the Last Supper, there reclining on Jesus' chest.

Whoever these siblings were, they were obviously close with Jesus. And Jesus very obviously loves them. We leave off the story with Lazarus alive and the family restored and Jesus and the disciple back among friends. Interestingly, next Sunday we will pick up right here. It will be *from* Bethany that Jesus begins his procession into the Holy City. He will mount the donkey and her foal and ride amid palms and praise and trample over garments laid out to bless his way. Jesus leaves having just wept over the death of his friend but also raising him to new life to now be the one over whom friends and family weep and will himself be raised.

## Faith Formation for All Ages

**Four workshops** for confirmation students, 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 9<sup>th</sup> grade, will be offered throughout the year on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday (in odd months: **November 9, January 11, 2025 and March 8, May 10, 2026**) after the 10:30am worship service. In order to successfully complete confirmation classes, each confirmand must attend all four. However, the *same four* will be offered every year in slightly different orders to allow for flexibility in attending all four. There will also be a worship leadership and a biblical literacy component that will need to be completed along with the usual service hours. Finally, ConfirCamp is strongly recommended for *at least* one year between the end of 7<sup>th</sup> and beginning of 10<sup>th</sup> grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10<sup>th</sup> grade to each confirmand.

**Brown Bag Bible (B<sup>3</sup>)** gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. This year we are using *Crossroads: Reading the Bible in Divisive Times* by Josh Scott. B<sup>3</sup> is on hiatus through the season of Lent.

**Bible After Dark (BAD)** meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month at 6:30pm at Calamari's Squid Row (1317 State St.) for a time of conversation and fellowship. We are using Josh Scott's book *Parables: Putting Jesus' Stories in Their Place*. If you would like to order your book from the church office, the cost is \$14. You may also order your own. YOU are invited to join us on Tuesday, April 7 for our discussion on *The Workers in the Vineyard*.

## Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series

**"Collections"**, the Music of Michael Dobrich, a promising young composer, will be offered Saturday, March 28 at 7:00pm. Founded in 2016, the Contemporary Integrational Orchestra Project provides the enriching experience of playing to people of all ages, skill levels and backgrounds. Enjoy this 30 piece orchestra and this special presentation. A reception will follow. There is no admission; a free will offering will be taken.

**Between the Motion and the Music**, a documentary that will be offered Sunday, March 29 at 4:00pm by Fred Rueckert, a Rochester Institute of Technology student. The presentation shows the Massey Memorial Organ's 1992-1993 reconstruction. Begun in late 1992 and completed in June 1993 the organ was reconstructed by the Fischer Pipe Organ Company of Erie. In 2003 a 32" Bombarde stop was added to the instrument by the Fischer Pipe Organ Company. This specialized organ stop was donated to Chautauqua Institution by Mr. Rueckert in memory of his grandparents and his college project.

### Opportunities for Fellowship

**Come and join** us for an escape from reality. Enjoy a relaxing morning with friends at the Magic Fingers Grace Group as you knit your cares away sprinkled with some laughter. Join us for knitting and crocheting the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, March 24, from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. Contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

**Pastor Karen Parsh**, Abiding Hope Lutheran Church (2402 W. Grandview Blvd.), invites you to Easter Flock on Saturday, March 28. The entire family will have an afternoon of fun with face painting, inside petting zoo, crafts, magician, puppet show, raffle baskets, and more. Food trucks will also be on site. The event is free so stop up from 1:00-3:00pm for a wonderful time.

**L.I.A.**, Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, April 14 from 5:30-7:00pm for planning of our upcoming service projects and some very creative ideas. All youth in grades 5-12 and their families are invited to join us the second Tuesday of each month.

**All are invited** to join with the OWLS on Wednesday, April 22 for a walking tour of Organ Supply Industries, 2320 West 50<sup>th</sup> Street. Bryan Timm, vice-president of Organ Supply, will take us on a 30-40 minute tour of the one floor facility beginning at 11:00am. Following the tour we will enjoy a stop at a restaurant for lunch. Please contact Jan MacInnes, 814-833-0476, or Norma in the church office if you plan to attend.

### Lenten Season

**Our final Lenten luncheon** will be served following the noon worship service on Wednesday, March 25 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. Enjoy a home-cooked meal for only \$10. Stuffed shells will be our main dish.

**Wednesday evenings** at 6:00pm in Lent we gather on the fifth floor for Prayer Around the Cross under the theme of "For God So Loved the World". This brief service (about 30 minutes) is an opportunity for scripture, song, and silence; for prayer and the lighting of candles; and for contemplation of the saving deed of Jesus on the cross "for God so loved the world." The format and much of the music for this service comes from Holden Village—the same source as our popular Holden Evening Prayer.

### Community Support

**Bethany BINGO Fundraiser at Polish Falcons, on Saturday, April 18:** Join us for an evening of fun at this event to benefit the Bethany Outreach Center. **Doors will open at 5:00pm** and the **games begin at 6:00pm**. Admission is \$30 per person. Take part in the ALL-CASH BINGO Games, and optional Basket raffle, Tips, and Instants. To purchase admission tickets in advance, please see Pat Bellingham, Eric Hedlund, or Casey Hedlund after church on Sundays, or Norma in the church office on weekdays. On the day of this event the kitchen will be open, so food and drink will be available for purchase. We encourage you to RSVP to Mabel at **814-456-6254** so you can reserve a table for your family and friends. Polish Falcons Club is located at 431 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> St. **Hope to see you there!**

**Please help** VASA-Svea Lodge #296. Funds are needed to continue sponsoring the St. Lucia Festival. Visit Primanti Bros., 5800 Peach Street, on Monday, March 23 from 11:00am – 11:00pm for a one-of-a-kind meal. A flyer or picture of the flyer is required when orders are placed. VASA will receive 20% of proceeds. Flyers are located at the welcome tables.

## Camp Lutherlyn

**Early Bird Deadline was March 3.** Several programs have already filled, and just a handful of spaces remain for programs like Adventurers, Night Owls, and Rocketry! You can learn more about this summer's awesome lineup by visiting [www.lutherlyn.com/summer](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summer). Lutherlyn's staff is happy to answer any questions you may have about programs, the registration process, pricing, financial assistance, or any other questions you may have. You can contact Lutherlyn at 724-865-2161 or email [registrar@lutherlyn.com](mailto:registrar@lutherlyn.com).

### Items to Note

**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.

**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.

### — PRAYER LIST —

<b>PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:</b>			
<b>Our Members:</b>			
Betsy Brumagin	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Gilbert
Diane Parsons	Judy Karney	Karen Zamperini	Loretta Deeds
Donna Sedelmyer	Kate Martin	Sutton Rowland	
<b>Friends and Family:</b>			
Mary Beth & Nancy, Kelly	Gail Lesuer	Linda F.	Kris
Archer Bardwell; age 3	Brooks Davis	Sharon Swick	Peggy S.
Henderson family	Carl Larese	Shirley	Diane Come
Kevin Soles & family	Jenny	Carol McFalls	Valerie
Adam & Connie Ogle	Katja & family	Peter Maker	
<b>Grief:</b>			
Shirley Messenger family	Paul Thom family	Sam Seggi, Jr. family	Richard Come family
<b>Our Military Service Men &amp; Women:</b>			
Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

### Readings and Commemorations This Week

**March 23** – Psalm 143; I Kings 17:17-24; Acts 20:7-12

**March 24** – **Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, 1980** – Psalm 143; II Kings 4:18-37; Ephesians 2:1-10 -- *Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.*

**March 25** – **THE ANNUNCIATION TO MARY** – Isaiah 7:10-14; Psalm 45; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 -- *Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.*

**March 26** – Psalm 31:9-16; I Samuel 16:11-13; Philippians 1:1-11

**March 27** – Psalm 31:9-16; Job 13:13-19; Philippians 1:21-30

**March 28** – Psalm 31:9-16; Lamentations 3:55-66; Mark 10:32-34

## CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY, MARCH 23</b>	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
<b>TUESDAY, MARCH 24</b>	10:00am	Pericope
	10:00am	Magic Fingers Grace Group
	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
	6:00pm	LMA Basketball Banquet
<b>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25</b>	12:00pm	Lenten Worship
	12:30pm	Lenten Luncheon
	1:00pm	Study Series
	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
	4:45pm	LMA Pasta Dinner Planning
	6:00pm	Lenten Worship
<b>THURSDAY, MARCH 26</b>	1:00pm	Grief Group
	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
	5:30pm	Handbells Rehearsal
	6:45pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 27</b>	1:30pm	LMA Play Performance for Students
	7:00pm	LMA Play Performance
<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 28</b>	1:30pm	Music Rehearsal
	2:00pm	LMA Play Performance

### SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026 PALM SUNDAY OF OUR LORD'S PASSION

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

**LMA Book Fair** will be open following services.

**Luther Memorial** Concert and Cultural Series will present "Between the Motion and the Music", a documentary showing the Massey Memorial Organ's 1992-1998 reconstruction.

SUNDAY, MARCH 29, 2026		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Linda Swanson
Communion Assistant	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	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Gina Snider
Counters	10:30am	Emma Chaffee, Nick Lang
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	Jessica Copfer



**HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES**

**Palm Sunday of Our Lord's Passion ~ March 29**

Festal Eucharist

*with Palm Procession and Passion*



- 8:15am      Worship – *Main Church*  
10:30am     Worship – Palm Procession – *Main Church*  
4:00pm      Concert & Cultural Series Event – “Between the Motion and the Music”



**Maundy Thursday ~ April 2**

Solemn Eucharist of the Lord's Supper  
*with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar*

7:00pm      Worship – *Main Church*

**Good Friday ~ April 3**

Stations of the Cross  
*with Organ Reflections*

Beginning at 12:00 noon – *Main Church*



**Good Friday ~ April 3**

Liturgy of Our Lord's Passion  
*with Adoration of the Cross*

7:00pm – *Main Church*



**Holy Saturday ~ April 4**

The Resurrection of Our Lord,  
Easter Vigil  
*with Recitation of Salvation History  
and First Eucharist of the Resurrection*

7:00pm – *gathering in the Courtyard*

**Easter Day ~ April 5**

The Resurrection of Our Lord,  
Easter Day  
*Festival Eucharist of the Resurrection*

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

