

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



26 MARCH 2023
The Fifth Sunday in Lent
10:30 am

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD

Pastor Emeritus

WALT GABER

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

Director of Care & Health Ministries

JAN MACINNES

BETH KELLER

Youth and Family Ministry

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

BECKY CAREY

Interim Academy Administrator



26 MARCH 2023

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Communion • ELW – Setting Ten • 10:30

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

Luther Memorial is Christ's church that brings its ministry to northwest Pennsylvania within the context of its Lutheran heritage.

As a church that ministers to the community, it seeks to be an inclusive congregation providing a welcoming environment for all to worship, learn, and enhance both personal spiritual growth and fellowship.

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

PRELUDE – "Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart"

J. F. Alberti, J. G. Walther, J. S. Bach

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

God of grace, you have given us minds to know you hearts to love you, and voices to sing your praise. Fill us with your Spirit, that we may celebrate your glory and worship you in spirit and truth, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Mike Hedlund

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.



P Holy God,
C we confess to you our faults and failings.
 Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;
 we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
 we spoil rather than steward your creation;
 we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
 we choose fear over compassion.
 Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
 as we seek to follow in your way of life.
 Amen.

P Hear the good news:
 God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
 so that all may receive life.
 This promise is for you!
 God embraces you with divine mercy,
 † forgives you in Christ's name,
 and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C Amen.

Although the author of this text is unknown, it has been described as "of first rank" and "an acknowledged masterpiece of Christian poetry." The tune, whose authorship is debated, was used by J.S. Bach in a cantata and several organ works.

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 621

Jesus Lives, My Sure Defense



1 Je - sus lives, my sure de - fense and my ev - er - last - ing Sav - ior!
 2 Je - sus, my re - deem - er, lives; I too un - to life shall wak - en.
 3 No, too close - ly am I bound un - to him by hope for - ev - er;
 4 I am flesh and must re - turn un - to dust, whence I am tak - en.



Know - ing this, my con - fi - dence rests in hope and will not wa - ver,
 Bright the hope this prom - ise gives; shall my cour - age, then, be shak - en?
 faith's strong hand the rock has found, grasped it, and will leave it nev - er;
 But these eyes my Lord will know when from death I shall a - wak - en,



though the night of death be fraught still with man - y an anx - ious thought.
 Shall I fear then? Can the head rise and leave his mem - bers dead?
 e - ven death now can - not part from its Lord the trust - ing heart.
 with my Sav - ior to a - bide in his glo - ry, at his side.

5 Then take comfort and rejoice,
 for his people Christ will cherish.
 Fear not, you will hear his voice;
 dying, you will never perish;
 for the very grave is stirred
 when the trumpet's blast is heard.

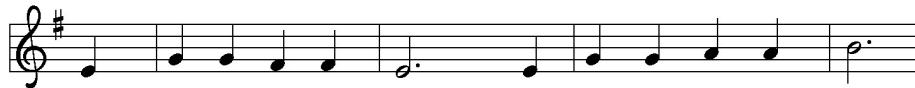
6 Here on earth, then, let your hearts
 rise from longings vain and hollow.
 Seek what Christ your Lord imparts
 while you in his footsteps follow.
 As you now still wait to rise,
 set your hearts beyond the skies!

GREETING

☐ The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

☑ And also with you.

KYRIE



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Let us pray.

☑ 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.”

Ezekiel’s vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God’s life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that “I am the LORD.”

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

¹The hand of the Lord came upon me, and brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²The Lord led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³The Lord said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord God, you know.” ⁴Then the Lord said to me, “Prophesy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. ⁵Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I 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.” ⁷So 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. ⁸I 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. ⁹Then the Lord said to me, “Prophesy 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.” ¹⁰I prophesied as the Lord commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹Then the Lord 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.’ ¹²Therefore 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the Lord when I open your graves and ►

bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I 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.”

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 130

Refrain: (*Sung once by the choir, then repeated by the congregation and sung where indicated by R.*)



¹ Out of the depths

I cry to you O Lord;

² O Lord hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch over sins,

O Lord who could stand?

⁴ Yet with you is forgiveness,

in order that you may be feared. **R**

⁵ I wait for you O Lord; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶ My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷ O Israel wait for the Lord, for with the Lord there is steadfast love;

with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.

⁸ For the Lord shall redeem Israel

from all their sins. **R**

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit.

The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷For 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, ⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹But 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 Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through this Spirit that dwells in you.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to John.

☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies.
Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.*

GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” 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.” Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Judeans were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” 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. But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to the other disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.” When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, and many of the Judeans had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” She said to Jesus, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.” 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.” And when Mary heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. The Judeans 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. 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.” When Jesus saw her weeping and the Judeans who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus began to weep. So the Judeans said, “See how he loved him!” But some of them said, “Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?” Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. 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.” Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone. And Jesus ►

looked upward and said, “Father, I thank you for having heard me. 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.” When Jesus had said this, he cried with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 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.” Many of the Judeans, 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.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

Please stand as you are able.

This hymn’s text focuses on Christian hope, based as it is on Psalms 18 and 73 and written during a time of great unrest in Protestant Germany. Its author was a favorite student of Philipp Melancthon at Wittenberg University. Although the origin of the melody is unknown, J. S. Bach used it in his St. John Passion.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 750

Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart



1 Lord, thee I love with all my heart; I pray thee, ne'er from me de-part;
 2 Yea, Lord, thine own rich boun-ty gave my bod - y, soul, and all I have
 3 Lord, let at last thine an-gels come, to A-br'ham's bos-om bear me home,



with ten-der mer-cy cheer me. Earth has no plea-sure I would share,
 in this poor life of la - bor. Lord, grant that I in ev - 'ry place
 that I may die un-fear - ing; and in its nar - row cham-ber keep



yea, heav'n it-self were void and bare if thou, Lord, were not near me.
 may glo - ri - fy thy lav - ish grace and serve and help my neigh - bor.
 my bod - y safe in peace-ful sleep un - til thy re - ap - pear - ing.



And should my heart for sor-row break, my trust in thee can noth-ing shake.
 Let no false teach-ing me be-guile, let Sa - tan not my soul de - file.
 And then from death a-wak-en me, that these mine eyes with joy may see,



Thou art the por - tion I have sought; thy pre - cious
 Give strength and pa - tience un - to me to bear my
 O Son of God, thy glo - rious face, my Sav - ior





blood my soul has bought. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and Lord,
cross and fol - low thee. Lord Je - sus Christ, my God and Lord,
and my fount of grace. Lord Je - sus Christ, my prayer at - tend,



my God and Lord, for - sake me not! I trust thy word.
my God and Lord, in death thy com - fort still af - ford.
my prayer at - tend, and I will praise thee with - out end!

Text: Martin Schalling, 1532–1608; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: HERZLICH LIEB, B. Schmid, *Orgeltabulaturbuch*, 1577

APOSTLES' CREED

A With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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

A Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A You have breathed into us the breath of life. Enliven your church. Deepen our partnerships with our companion churches around the globe, and bless the work of missionaries who accompany them. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Your spirit brings life to creation. Enliven the natural world and restore ecosystems in need of healing in particular, Lake Erie and Presque Isle. Uplift prophetic voices that turn us to the needs of the soil beneath our feet and the air all around. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A You redeem the world and its peoples. Free us from systems of oppression. Unbind nations and societies from the sins of racism, sexism, and homophobia. Raise up leaders at all levels of government who work to promote the dignity of every human life. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**



A You weep when we weep. Be present with those who grieve or who are troubled by illness in particular those whose names and needs we lift up now: *here, the assembly may raise names and causes dear to them.* You hear us when we call to you. Deliver us from the depths of our despair, and free us from the worries that bind us. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Your Spirit of life dwells in our assembly. Bless the music ministries of this congregation: our choir, our handbell choir, and Walt our cantor and all who lead us in hymns of praise and thanksgiving and in songs of lament and prayer. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A You are the resurrection and the life. Even though we die, we will live. With thanksgiving, we remember all your saints, especially Hans Hauge, John Donne, and Robert Pletz and Bette Hoffman, who now live in your eternal love. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C **Amen.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please be 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

ANTHEM – "Sing My Soul, His Wondrous Love"

Arlen Clarke

*Sing, my soul, his wondrous love, who from yon bright throne above,
ever watchful o'er our race, still to us extends his grace.*

*Heaven and earth by him were made; all is by his scepter swayed;
what are we that he should show so much love to us below?*

*God, the merciful and good, bought us with the Savior's blood,
and to make salvation sure, guides us by his Spirit pure.*

*Heaven and earth by him were made; all is by his scepter swayed;
what are we that he should show so much love to us below?*

*Sing my soul, adore his Name! Let his glory be thy theme:
praise him till he calls thee home; trust his love for all to come.*

Please stand as you are able.

Come to the Table



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



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942

Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

A God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

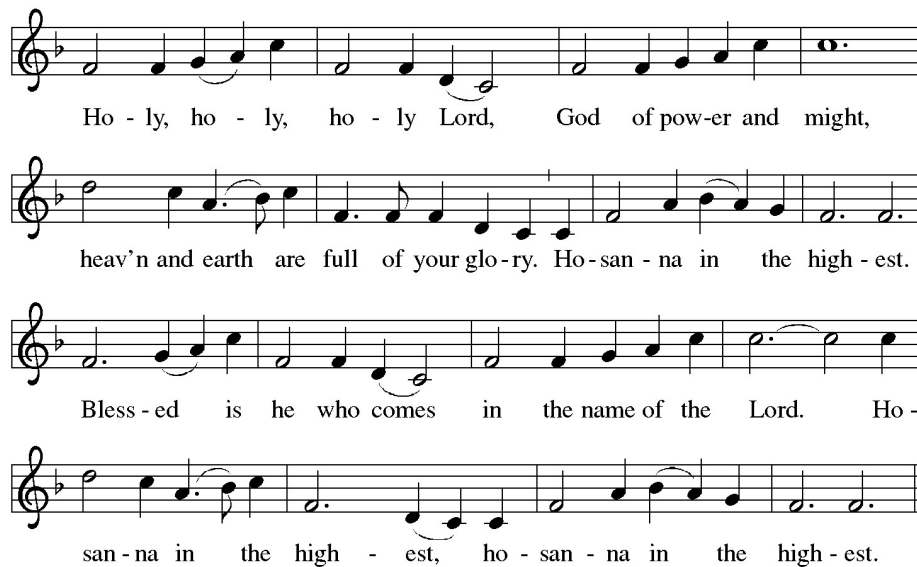
P Lift up your hearts.

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.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn: ►



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** O God, Creator of our wilderness world,
 O God, Savior of the lost,
 O God, Comforter of the sick and suffering,
 we give you thanks for your everlasting might;
 we glorify you for your covenant of mercy.

For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood.
 For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of your law.
 For forty years you fed your people with manna from heaven.
 You became truly human in Jesus our brother.
 For forty days, with fasting and prayer, he renounced the power of the devil.

*On the night before he died he took bread, and gave thanks,
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
 Do this for the remembrance of me.*

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

P We extol his life. Amen:

C Amen.

P We lament his death. Amen:

C Amen.

P We celebrate his resurrection. Amen:

C Amen.

- P** Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit.
 Make this food into manna for our journey, the body and blood of your Son.
 Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance.
 Teach us your words of wisdom and justice.
 Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace.
 At the last, lead all your pilgrim people through our deserts to your Easter garden.



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

C Amen.

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

C **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.

AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

C Amen.

P Those communing at home: take and eat, the body and blood of Christ given and shed 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

Today's service is a celebration of Holy Communion. We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the gifts of bread and wine, bringing forgiveness of sins and new life to all who receive this sacrament. All baptized Christians who come at our Lord's invitation are welcome at His table of grace.

Please come forward by the center aisle.

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

Prefilled cups with white grape juice for those who prefer it are in the center of the tray.

Gluten-free wafers are on the stand in front of the baptismal font.

Receive the bread and wine and return to your place by the side aisle.

If you are not going to receive Holy Communion, but would like to receive a blessing, please come forward with your arms crossed over your chest.

HANDBELL VOLUNTARY – "There Is a Balm in Gilead"

arr. Jeffrey Honoré

Text and tune of this much-translated hymn are the work of a Sister of Mercy who originally threw the tune away until questioned about it by a student. The author went on to a widely varied career in church music, education, and liturgical development.

HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 485

I Am the Bread of Life

Leader or All

1 "I am the Bread of life. You who
2 "The bread that . . . I will give is my
3 "Un - less you eat of the
4 "I am the res - ur - rec - tion,
5 Yes, Lord, I be - lieve that

come to me shall not hun - ger, and who be -
flesh for the life of the world, and if you
flesh of the Son of Man and
I am the life. If you be -
you are the Christ, the

lieve in me shall not thirst. No one can come to
eat of this bread, you shall . . . live for -
drink of his blood, and drink of his
lieve in . . . me, e - ven . . . though you
Son of . . . God, who have



me un - less the Fa - ther beck - ons.”
 ev - er, you shall live for - ev - er.”
 blood, you shall not have life with - in you.”
 die, you shall live for - ev - er.”
 come in - to the world.

Refrain
 All

“And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
 and I will raise you up on the last day.”

Text: Suzanne Toolan, RSM, b. 1927, based on John 6
 Music: I AM THE BREAD, Suzanne Toolan, RSM
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Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

- P** May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.
- C** Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A** Embodied God,
 at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
 With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
 empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
 and touch the world with your love.
- C** Amen.

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

BLESSING

- P** God, the giver of love,
 † Christ, the resurrection and the life,
 and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
 bless you in this Lenten journey.
- C** Amen.

This author was ordained in 1821 and was Assistant Minister at Trinity Church, NY until 1824. He was Professor at Trinity College, Hartford, CN, Rector of Trinity Church in Boston and Bishop of New Jersey. He founded St. Mary's Hall, Burlington and Burlington College. His Works, in 4 volumes, were published in 1860.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 758

You Are the Way



1 You are the way; to you a-lone from sin and death we flee;
2 You are the truth; your word a-lone true wis-dom can im-part;
3 You are the life; the rend-ing tomb pro-claims your con-qu'ring arm;
4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,



all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
you on-ly can in-form the mind and pu-ri-fy the heart.
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys e-ter-nal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
Music: DUNDEE, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1615

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

A Go in peace. Serve in love.

C Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE – Trio & Fughetta on "You Are the Way"

Austin Lovelace

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— SERVING TODAY —

PREACHING – Pastor Jay Mitchell

GREETER – Dave Griswold

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Pam Masiroff

LECTOR – Ann Flick

USHERS – Cheryl Brown, Sue Cappelletty, Mary Daniels, Gina Snider

ALTAR GUILD – Mary Daniels, Dave Griswold



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

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

Today's Events

Join us in the parlor following the 10:30 service this morning for coffee and light refreshments. Thank you to the Deborah Circle for providing this time of fellowship.

First Holy Communion classes continue each Sunday through April 2. Classes, led by Ann Flick and Beth Keller, are held from 9:30-10:15am. Children will receive First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 6, at the 7:00pm service.

Hamloaf orders will be accepted through this morning and available for pick up on Sunday, April 2. For a delicious and easy Easter dinner, a hamloaf would be perfect. The cost is \$5/1 lb. and \$8/2 lbs. Proceeds benefit our youth. Order forms are located at the hospitality tables and in the church office.

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.

Doors will open for Spring Bingo at 12:00 noon today and the fun begins at 12:30 in fellowship hall. The cost of \$25 includes 8 games of play and with cash and prizes, tip boards and raffles. Small snacks will be available for purchase. This event will benefit our youth programming.

Pastor Jay's Drop-In Hours and Locations

For the week of March 26, you can drop in on Pastor Jay either **Wednesday (3/29)** in the office from 10:00am-11:30am; or **Thursday (3/30)** at Ember+Forge (401 State St) from 9:00-11:00am. You may always meet with Pastor Jay by appointment: JMitchell@luthermemorialonline.org or by using: calendly.com/TheRevJCM.

Worship

Communion Assistants are needed for our 10:30am worship service beginning on Palm Sunday, April 2. Please contact Norma in our church office if you would like to take part in our services by helping as a communion assistant. Thank you.

The Prelude brings us together for the beginning of our worship service each Sunday morning. Our worship time together concludes when the Postlude is complete. We ask that the chancel area remain unoccupied during these times of music as live video streaming continues through the entire worship service. Thank you.

Christian Education

Children's Church classes for PreK – grade 6 will meet on the third Sunday of the month from 9:30 – 10:15am in April and May. We hope to see many smiling faces on Sunday, April 16 and Sunday, May 21. Youth in grades 7 – 12 will continue to meet the third Sunday of the month.

Lenten Opportunities

Wednesday Lenten services are held at 12:05pm through March 29. Scripture readings will be full of back-and-forth conversations with God. These conversations are filled with questions. People use questions to interrogate or to express their confusion or doubt. Questions express the longings of the heart and the puzzles of the mind. A question shows the distance between me and you. A question can also bring us closer. Let these questions—those others ask of God, and those you have carried yourself—draw you closer into conversation with God and with others this Lenten season.

March 1	Questions that Divide, Questions that Bind
March 8	Simple Questions
March 15	Questions for the Curious
March 22	Questions that Change, Questions that Change You
March 29	Questions that Kick

Lenten luncheons are offered in fellowship hall at 12:35pm, immediately following worship, each Wednesday in Lent; March 1 – March 29. All are invited to enjoy a home-cooked meal; cost for each lunch is \$8. The main dish on March 29 will be hamloaf.

Walk to Emmaus brings our families together each Wednesday evening throughout Lent. We gather at 5:30pm in fellowship hall for our meal. The main dish is provided; all are asked to bring a side dish to share. If you would like to assist by providing the main dish, please contact Norma in our church office. We gather in the main church for a Bible lesson and family activity from 6:15 – 7:00pm. Throughout the Lenten season we also encourage everyone to get on the road and do that “Walk” to Emmaus. By taking care of our bodies (His temple) we glorify God and are better equipped for what he has planned for us. So put on those comfy shoes and take a few extra steps during the week.

Supporting Luther Memorial

Offerings to Luther Memorial can be made in various ways; the use of offering envelopes, contributing online by going to our website or by setting up an automatic withdrawal by speaking with Miriam, our Parish Manager. Another option will soon be introduced; a QR code will be located in the bulletins and by scanning this with your smartphones an offering can be made. Your offerings enable Luther Memorial to continue the many ministries which bring us together; children and youth programming, music programs, fellowship gatherings, outreach ministries and more.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Easter egg hunt for children through grade 5 will be held Palm Sunday, April 2 at 12:00 noon. Following our hunt for eggs we will watch the movie “The Prince of Egypt” with Pastor Jay. We welcome your family to join us for the fun.

Magic Fingers Grace Group meets the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from 10:00-12:00pm. Join friends for a wonderful morning of knitting, crocheting and laughter on March 28. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes and let us know if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Ascension of Our Lord

A **festival service** celebrating the **Ascension of Our Lord** will be held at Luther Memorial on the evening of Thursday, May 18. All of the Erie County ELCA churches will be invited to participate and Bishop Lozano will be preaching. If you would like to sing in the massed choir for this service (*hymns, liturgy, psalm*) please contact Walt Gaber (WaltGaber@gmail.com, 814.602.2755). Information will be provided about the music and a single rehearsal to be held just prior to the worship service.

We will also present one of **J.S. Bach's Ascension cantatas** during the service. As in our previous Bach Cantata Vespers, this cantata will be sung in its original German and accompanied by a small orchestra. Much of the cantata is sung by soloists, with the chorus singing the first and last movements. If you would like to receive more information about the music and rehearsals for the cantata, please contact Walt Gaber immediately. **Rehearsal will be held today from noon to 1:15.**

Family Activities

Families will have some high-flyin’ fun at the Flying Squirrel Trampoline Park on Sunday, April 16 from 12:00 noon – 2:00pm. The cost of 1 ½ hours of jump time will be covered by Luther Memorial. Jump socks, \$4 each, are required and families are asked to cover this cost and any snacks they purchase. Please RSVP to Sarah Prylinski or the church office.

CampBlast will be held at Lutherlyn, 500 Lutherlyn Lane, Butler, PA, on Saturday, May 13 from 11:00am – 4:30pm. No registration is needed. Spend the day with family, friends, and anyone else who would like to have a fun, free day. Discover everything Lutherlyn has to offer; horseback riding, archery, zipline courses, and so much more. Rain or shine, it will be a great day!

Luther Memorial Academy

LMA's Lego League team has been invited to a **FIRST** Lego League tournament at Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Massachusetts June 9-11, 2023. This is a huge opportunity for the LMA team and they are proud to represent LMA & Erie County. To make this happen for our team, it is necessary to raise \$845 per student, which means a total of \$5,915 for the team. If you are aware of an area business that would like to sponsor our Lego League, please share the information with the school office. Every little bit helps & all donations and sponsorships can be mailed or dropped off in the school office. Be sure to make checks payable to LMA & earmark them for Lego League. Thank you.

Items to Note

Parking in the lot across from 11th Street is not permitted. Please do not park in this area as your car will be towed. Thank you.

In case of an emergency please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. During the weekend and evening you are welcome to contact Norma Buerk at 450-7162 or Linda Graffius at 440-5458. Thank you.

Holy Week and Easter Services

Palm Sunday ~ April 2

- 8:15am Worship
Main Church
- 9:30am First Holy Communion Class
- 10:30am Worship
Main Church
Children's Processional
- 11:30am Easter Egg Hunt & Movie, "Prince of Egypt"
Children through grade 5 and families



Maundy Thursday

- 7:00pm Worship ~ *Main Church*
Holy Communion Students
commune / Stripping of the Altar



Good Friday ~ April 7

- 7:00pm Worship Service
Main Church



Easter Sunday

- 8:15am Worship with Holy Communion
Main Church
- 10:30am Worship with Holy Communion
Main Church



CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 27

TUESDAY, MARCH 28 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group
 5:30pm LMA Open House

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 29 12:05pm Worship
 12:35pm Lenten Luncheon
 5:30pm Walk to Emmaus

THURSDAY, MARCH 30 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal
 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, MARCH 31

SATURDAY, APRIL 1

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023 PALM SUNDAY / SUNDAY OF THE PASSION

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

First Holy Communion class will gather at 9:30am.

Easter egg hunt and movie, "Prince of Egypt" for children through grade 5 and their families begins at 12:00 noon.

Choir rehearsal for the May 18 Ascension Service will be held at 12:00 noon.

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2023		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Michael Snider
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeters	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Pat Young
Counters	10:30am	Dave Griswold, Mike Hedlund

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Cathy & Don MacGregor	C. Noelle Partusch	Chickie Braine	Mike Daniels
Paul Meucci	Dave Birkner	Torsten Carlson	Mary Laver
Julie Sturm			
Friends and Family:			
Dennis & Lori Sander	Elayne Morphy	June Madurski	Edie Jackman
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie	Mary Correll	Judy Skoog	Branden Jones
Karen Dahlstrand	Nichole Jones	Bob Guenther	Christine Norris
Jessica & Damian Ream	Elise VanDamia	Gary Flick	Meghan Kessler
Austin Coverdale	Kevin	Tom Wilson	Dawn Weborg
Baby Archer Bardwell	Curtis Krick	Tom Braendel	Susan Brooks
Abbie (Treiber) Dixon	Debbie	Caitlyn Kessler	Michele Seifert
Megan Bruno	Barbara Dennison	Diane Henry	Kate Collins
Grief:			
Bill Youngman family	J. David Mumford family		
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			