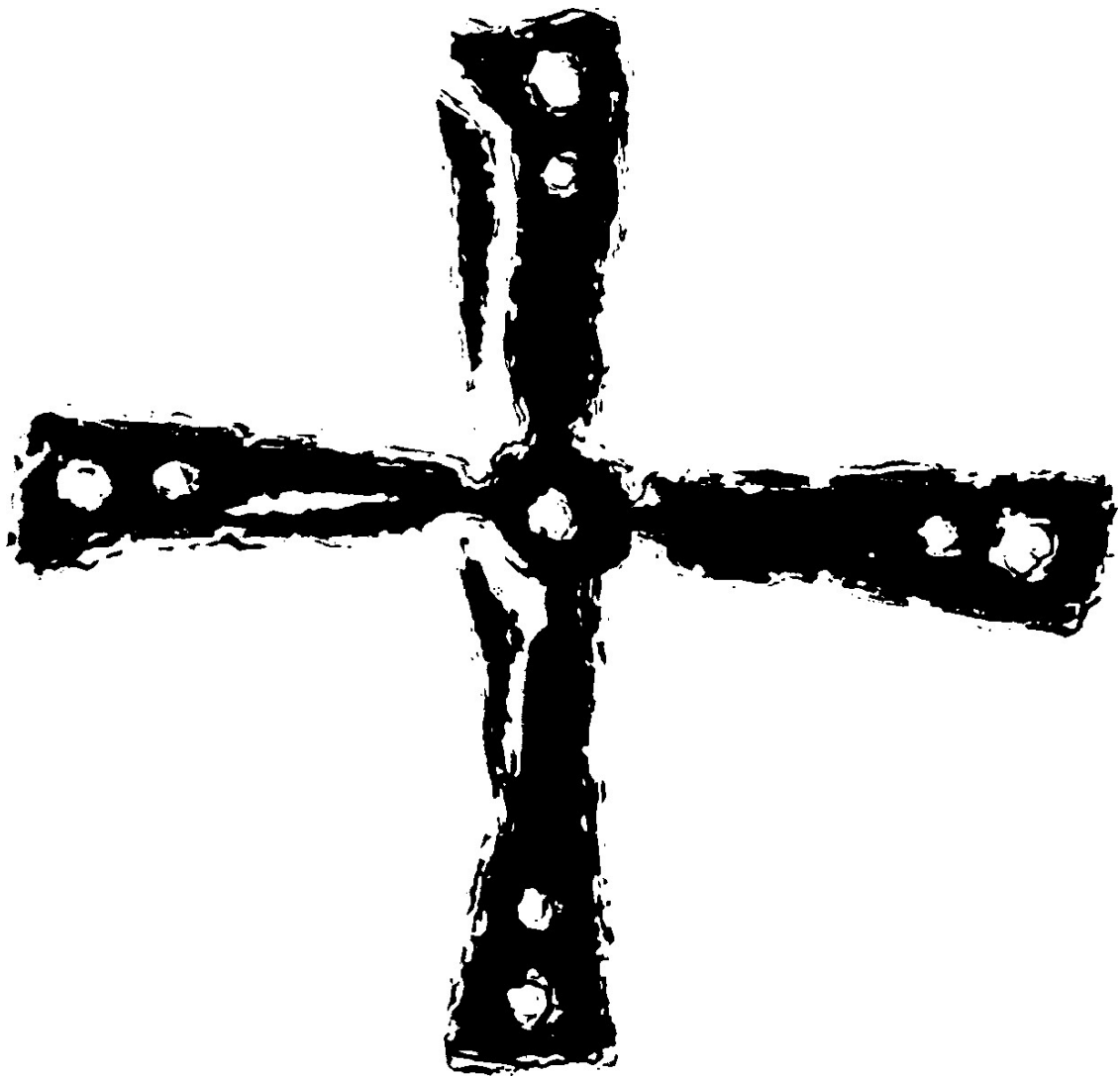


Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



18 FEBRUARY 2024
The First Sunday *in* Lent
10:30 am

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

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

MICHELLE THOM

Academy Administrator

18 FEBRUARY 2024

THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Communion • ELW Setting Five • 10:30

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

PRELUDE – "Three Preludes"

Emanuel Adler (1845 - 1926)

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

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

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

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

C Amen.

P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Please kneel or sit. Silence is kept for reflection.

P Holy God,

C we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.

We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord.

Amen.

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

☑ Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 320

The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.
Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543
Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

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.

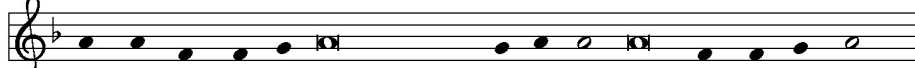
KYRIE



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



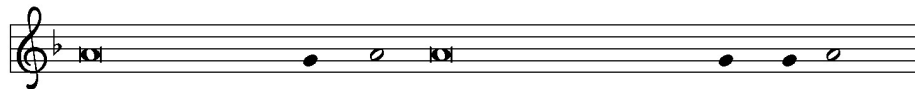
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



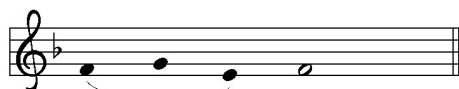
let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



C A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation you protected your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 9:8-17

⁸God said to Noah and to his sons with him, ⁹“As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you ¹⁰and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. ¹¹I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth.” ¹²God said, “This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: ¹³I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. ¹⁴When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, ¹⁵I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh, and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. ¹⁶When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth.” ¹⁷God said to Noah, “This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 25:1-10

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



Your paths, O LORD, are stead-fast love and faith - ful - ness.

¹ To you, O Lord,

I lift up my soul.

² My God, I put my trust in you; let me not be put to shame,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

³ Let none who look to you be put to shame;

rather let those be put to shame who are treacherous.

⁴ Show me your ways, O Lord,

and teach me your paths. **R**

⁵ Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.

⁶ Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love,

for they are from everlasting.

⁷ Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions;

remember me according to your steadfast love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

⁸ You are gracious and upright, O Lord;

therefore you teach sinners in your way. **R**

⁹ You lead the lowly in justice
and teach the lowly your way.
¹⁰ All your paths, O Lord, are steadfast love and faithfulness
to those who keep your covenant and your testimonies. **R**

SECOND READING: I Peter 3:18-22

¹⁸Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. Christ was put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, ¹⁹in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, ²⁰who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight lives, were saved through water. ²¹And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you— not as a removal of dirt from the body but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, ²²who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

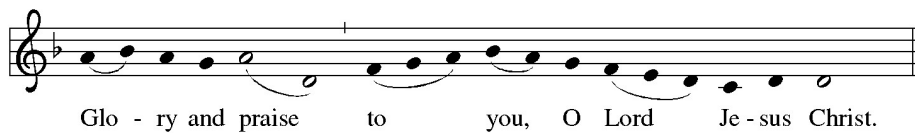
L The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



*One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.
(Matthew 4:4)*

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:9-15

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove upon him. ¹¹And a voice came from the heavens, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.” ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tested by Satan, and he was with the wild beasts, and the angels waited on him. ¹⁴Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the good news of God ¹⁵and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the dominion of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

G Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Jay

Please stand as you are able.

When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
 Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

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

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

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
 the holy catholic church,
 the communion of saints,
 the forgiveness of sins,
 the resurrection of the body,
 and the life everlasting. Amen.

INSTALLATION OF THE CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL

Please kneel or sit for the Prayers of Intercession

THE 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 whose 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 stand as you are able.

THE PEACE

- P** The peace of Christ be with you.
- 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 – "Jesus, the Very Thought of Thee"

arr. Arlen Clarke

*Jesus, the very thought of thee, with sweetness fills my breast.
But sweeter far thy face to see, and in thy presence rest.*

*Nor voice can sing, nor heart can frame, nor can the memory find,
A sweeter sound than the blest name, O Savior of mankind.*

*O hope of every contrite heart! O joy of all the meek,
To those who fall, how kind thou art! How good to those who seek!*

*Jesus, our only joy be thou, as thou our prize will be:
Jesus be thou our glory now, and through eternity.
Amen.*

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart

WOV 732

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

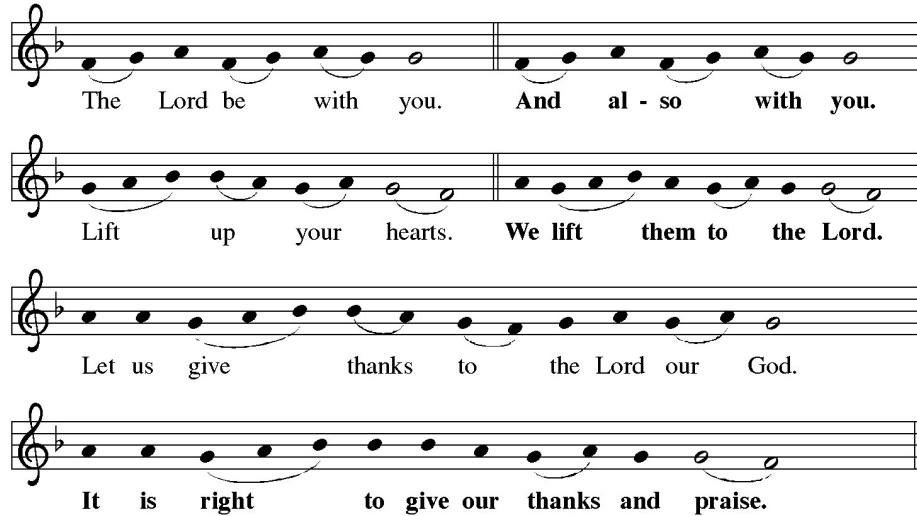
joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

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



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

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

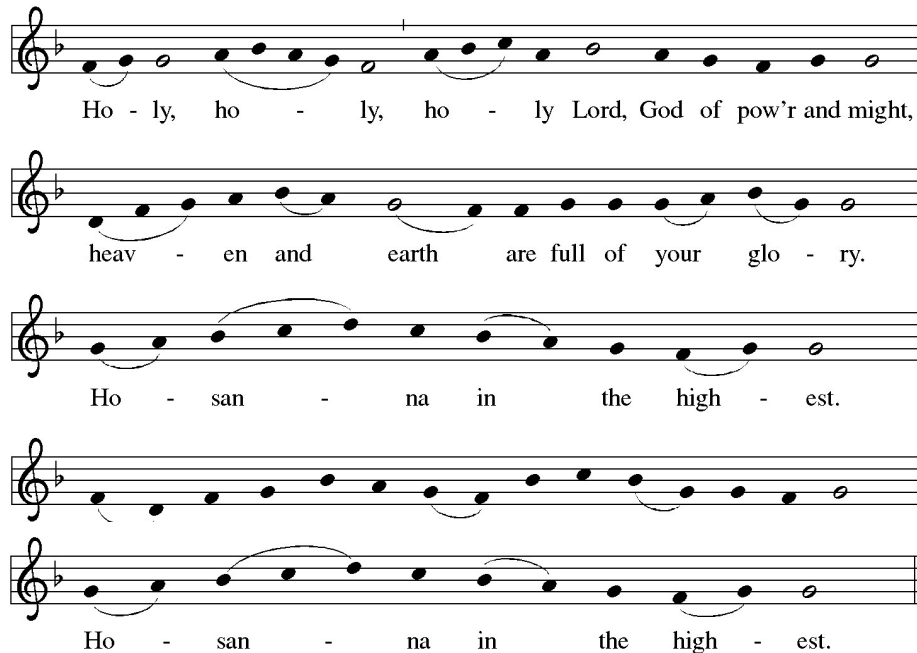
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

C Amen.

P We lament his death:

C Amen.

P We celebrate his resurrection:

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.

THE LORD'S PRAYER



P Lord, remember us in your king - dom, 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- 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
 sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

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 the 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

ACS 1049

Before the Waters Nourished Earth

1 Be - fore the wa - ters nour - ished earth or night im -
2 This Love re - mained as time re - vealed the loss of
3 De - spair, so deep it bears no name, or sor - rows
4 The Love that called cre - a - tion good all good - ness

ag - ined morn - ing, a Love con - ceived the
E - den's glo - ry and, griev - ing, holds in
par - a - lyz - ing can - not re - voke Love's
still is bring - ing. This Love turns death a -

u - ni - verse and rev - eled in its form - ing.
mem - o - ry each trag - ic hu - man sto - ry.
faith - ful claim to dwell with - in our dy - ing.
gain to life and si - lence in - to sing - ing.

Text: Jeannette M. Lindholm, b. 1961
Music: ST. COLUMBA, Irish melody
Text © 1996 Jeannette M. Lindholm, admin. Augsburg Fortress

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and

prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal

for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
 Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929–2003
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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.

Please be seated.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

☞ ...until we meet again.

☞ Amen.

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

☞ Go in peace. Share your bread.

☞ Amen.

POSTLUDE – "What God Ordains Is Good Indeed"

Wilhelm Rudnick

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— SERVING TODAY —

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Julie Ditz

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Jonathan Gaber

LECTOR – Lincoln McCall

USHERS – Cathy Beck, Jeanne Gaber, Pat Gilbert, Carl Moore

VIDEO STREAMING – Gina Snider

ALTAR GUILD – Pam Masiroff



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my parents, Matilda and Herman Kleiber who were married 90 years ago on February 11, 1934, by Lois Smith.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my mother, Betty Halttunen, by Janet Kent.

Today's Events

Greeting cards can be found in the information rack located near the parlor area. A large variety of cards that will fit every occasion are available. Youth are offering these cards for \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Proceeds will benefit our youth.

Our 2024 Church Council will be installed this morning. We give thanks for our congregational leaders. Please keep our Luther Memorial Church Council in your prayers so they may lead with us with wisdom and faithfulness.

Pat Bellingham

Emma Chaffee (*Secretary*)

Rob Cooney

Les Fobes (*President*)

Jonathan Gaber

David Griswold

Tom Klomp (*Vice-President*)

Mike Hedlund

Nick Lang

Greg Kern (*Treasurer*)

Jean McMillin

Pastor Jay Mitchell

Gina Snider (*Assist. Treas.*)

Liz Stroup

Jeff Swanson

Pat Young

Worship

Our prelude begins at 10:25 each week and flows into the 10:30am worship time. We hope that this will draw us together and into our time of worship. Please remember to be mindful of those around you and those worshipping at home by keeping conversations and visiting to the lobbies once the prelude has begun. Thank you.

A reminder that our livestream runs from the beginning of the prelude through the end of the postlude. To maintain a worshipful space for those joining from home, please remember to leave the chancel area (the area around the altar) clear until after the postlude.

Lutheran Schools Week is an annual week of activities and celebration hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association. This year it runs from March 3 through March 9. A worship service will be held Monday, March 4 at 1:00pm in our main church with Bishop Michael Lozano preaching. All are welcome to attend.

Worship Matters

Notice something different? Yes, our worship spaces are more bare in this season. The Fast of Lent is not just for one sense, but for all of our senses. This is the time to part away everything that distracts us from our relationship with God. This is the season of repentance. As such, we have simplified the physical worship spaces to focus more clearly on the cross—the sign of God’s ultimate power in ultimate weakness for our salvation. We also are using a setting of the liturgy that is simpler (even if newer to some of our ears) than others. Based on *Service Book and Hymnal* Setting II and *Lutheran Book of Worship* Setting III, *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* Setting V is in plainsong chant. It also sets several of our central worship texts to music. You will hear Pastor Jay chant the *Verba* or the Words of Institution—those words that make Communion Communion. We will also share in chanting the Lord’s Prayer together. Again, by setting these texts to music, our focus is drawn to these life saving words that draw us deeper into our relationship with God and one another. We will again sing out with the fullness of heart and voice at the Resurrection Feast of the Lamb!

Where Is Pastor Jay?

Pastor Jay would love to meet with you! You don’t just need to have an emergency to have a great chat. If you want to get together, because Pastor Jay is often away from his desk doing other pastorly things, you should probably call the church office or e-mail Pastor Jay directly at JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org. The week of February 18 Pastor Jay will be available Monday, February 19 from 7:30-8:30am at the Brew Ha Ha in the Colony Plaza and Wednesday, February 21 from 3:00-4:00pm in the office.

Christian Education

First Holy Communion will be offered on Sunday, April 14, 2024 during the 10:30am service. In preparation for First Communion two Saturday morning sessions will be held on April 6 and April 13 from 9:00am – 12:00 noon, including snack time. These 2 All-Family Workshops will be our preparation for the big celebration! Any family interested in First Communion should plan to attend both sessions. First Communion is open to all the baptized so any child and family are welcome if you're ready. However, families with children in grades 3-5 are strongly encouraged to participate if your child has not received First Communion yet. Please contact Pastor Jay or the church office if your family will be attending these sessions. Thank you.

Lent Opportunities

Worship services will be held each Wednesday in Lent, February 21 – March 20 at 12:05pm in the main church. Pastor Jay will be preaching on the “The Seed of Joy”. This midweek series will flow in tandem with the daily devotional *Tending Joy* that is available at the hospitality tables.

Lenten Luncheons will be offered on Wednesdays in Lent; February 21 – March 20 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. A home-cooked meal will fill you up for the day; cost \$8. The main dish for Wednesday, February 21 will be stuffed manicotti. Help is always appreciated and anyone interested in lending a hand with cooking, serving and/or clean-up may contact Betty Pletz at 898-1053 or the church office.

Steps in Faith, our evening Lenten gatherings, will be held each Wednesday in Lent; February 21 – March 20. At 5:30 we gather for dinner; the main dish is provided, please bring a dish to share. A Bible lesson and a craft or activity will be held following our meal.

Walking is a simple form of exercise for many, but a Lenten walking practice can be a time for spiritual development. The main church will be open each weekday from **Thursday, February 15 – Wednesday, March 27 from 9:00am – 2:00pm**. We invite you take advantage of a comfortable place to walk and take those extra steps as a time for prayer or fellowship with a companion walker.

Opportunities for Fellowship

Magic Fingers Grace Group continues to spend wonderful mornings together knitting, crocheting, and being creative with needlepoint, cross-stitch and more. Join them the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month; February 27 from 10:00am – 12:00 noon. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Spring Craft Show will be held Saturday, March 9 from 10:00am – 3:00pm in our fellowship hall. Everything from handwoven items to gourmet treats to home décor will have you leaving with a bag full of goodies. Professional crafters will have a large selection of items from which to choose. Bring your friends and stop down.

Donations Needed

Saturday mornings have been creative for many of our quilters who have been making quilts for Bethesda Women's Center and local shelters. Quilts made are for children and adults. To assist them they are in need of some items such as portable table-top ironing boards and irons. Donations may be dropped off in the church office or with Jan MacInnes. Thank you.

Bethany Outreach Center is in need of canned fruit for the food pantry. Pull tab lids are preferred as many do not have access to can openers. Donations may be placed in our Bethany cupboard outside the parlor. Thank you.

Lenten Preparations

Lenten Luncheons will be offered on Wednesdays in Lent; February 21 – March 20 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. A home-cooked meal will fill you up for the day; cost \$8. Help is always appreciated and anyone interested in lending a hand with cooking, serving and/or clean-up may contact Betty Pletz at 898-1053 or the church office.

Caring Community

Resources are available for those who are interested in foster care for children and/or mentoring youth. Erie offers programs that can answer questions and help you through the process of becoming involved to care for children in need. North Star Mentoring, Family Services, The Blair Foundation, Bethesda Lutheran Services, and others provide assistance and support. Needs in our community are being met and the Gateway Connection is online portal that connects people to the needs of vulnerable children and families. You can learn more about the Gateway Connection by going to <https://keyfam.org/gateway>.

Items to Note

In case of an emergency and unable to reach Pastor Jay, 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.

Readings and Commemorations This Week

February 18 – Martin Luther, renewer of the church, 1546 – Isaiah 55:6-11; Psalm 46; Galatians 2:16-21; John 15:1-11 -- *Though he began his adult church life as a simple Augustinian monk, Luther challenged the abuses he saw in the church, and his work eventually led to the Protestant Reformation. Luther's accomplishments included liturgical reform, translation of the Bible, and creation of the Small and Large Catechisms.*

February 19 – Psalm 77; Job 4:1-21; Ephesians 2:1-10

February 20 – Psalm 77; Job 5:8-27; I Peter 3:8-18a

February 21 – Psalm 77; Proverbs 30:1-9; Matthew 4:1-11

February 22 – Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18; Romans 3:21-31

February 23 – Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156 – Psalm 34:1-8; Revelation 2:8-11; Matthew 20:20-23 -- *Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.*

February 24 – Psalm 22:23-31; Genesis 16:7-15; Mark 8:27-30

CALENDAR

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19
Presidents' Day

LMA & Church Offices Closed

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 20

2:30pm
3:00pm

LMA Play Rehearsal
School Board

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21

12:05pm
12:35pm
2:30pm
5:30pm

Lenten Worship Service
Luncheon
Girl Scouts
Steps in Faith

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22

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

Grief Support Group
LMA Play Rehearsal
Handbells
Choir

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 24

3:15pm

LMA Ice Skating Party/JMC Arena

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Adult Forum will gather at 9:15am.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2024		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Linda Swanson
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector	10:30am	Christy Adams
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Loretta Deeds
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	John Bartlett
Counters	10:30am	
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Carl Moore

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Lois Fobes	Dave Parsh	Rose-Marie Rose	Phil McAfee
Friends and Family:			
Cindy B.	Lorraine Melms	Jeannette Bowers	Doug Blum
Jeff Granger & family	Janice Carpenter	Carol E.	Melanie Benn
Nikki & Ayden Moyer & family	Louise Seth	Marky Stein	Jonah Allgeier
Pam (Battersby) Latronca	Tony B.	Paul Gustafson	Russ Wiest
Heather Keaster			
Grief:			
Jessica & Matt Kinzig & family	Family of baby Mitchell	Cynthia Hessinger family	
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown