

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 FEBRUARY 2026
The First Sunday *in* Lent
10:30 am

GATHERING

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

We gather in silence. The congregation is invited to rise when the ministers enter. All join in the Great Litany as the ministers circumambulate the congregation.

GREETING

Let us go forth in peace; **in the name of Christ. Amen.**

THE GREAT LITANY

ELW 238

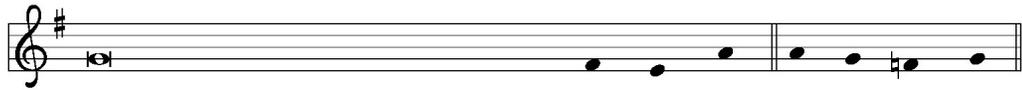
Great Litany

<p>Leader</p> <p>Lord, have mer - cy.</p> <p>Christ, have mer - cy.</p> <p>Lord, have mer - cy.</p> <p>O Christ, hear us.</p> <p>God, the Father in heaven, have mer - cy on us. God, the Son, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy on us. God, the Holy Spirit, have mer - cy on us. Holy Trinity, one God, have mer - cy on us.</p> <p>Be grac - ious to us.</p> <p>Be grac - ious to us.</p> <p>From all sin, from all error, from all evil; from the cunning assaults of the devil; from an unprepared and</p>	<p>Assembly</p> <p>Lord, have mer - cy.</p> <p>Christ, have mer - cy.</p> <p>Lord, have mer - cy.</p> <p>In mer - cy hear us.</p> <p>Spare us, good Lord.</p> <p>Spare us, good Lord.</p> <p>e - vil death: Good Lord, de - liv - er us.</p>
---	---



From war, bloodshed, and violence;
from corrupt and unjust government;
from sedi - tion and treason: **Good Lord, de - liv - er us.**

From epidemic, drought, and famine;
from fire and flood, earthquake,
lightning, and storm,
and from ever - last - ing death: **Good Lord, de - liv - er us.**



By the mystery of your incarnation; by your ho - ly birth: **Help us, good Lord.**

By your baptism, fasting, and temptation;
by your agony and bloody sweat;
by your cross and suffering; by your death and burial: **Help us, good Lord.**

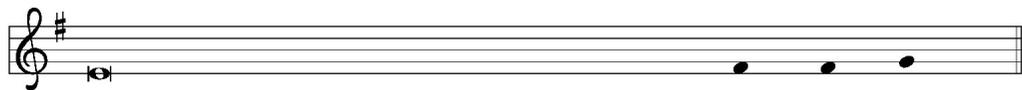
By your resurrection and ascension;
by the gift of the Ho - ly Spirit: **Help us, good Lord.**



In all time of our tribulation;
in all time of our prosperity;
in the hour of death; and in the day of judg - ment: **Save us, good Lord.**



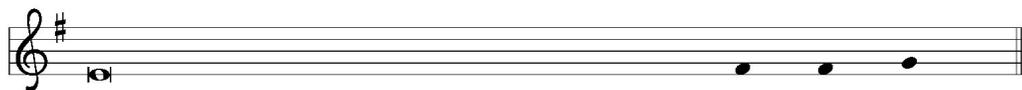
Though unworthy, we im - plore you to hear us, Lord our God.



To rule and govern your holy catholic church;
to guide all servants of your church
in the love of your word and in holiness of life;
to put an end to all schisms
and causes of offense to those who would believe;
and to bring into the way of truth all who have gone a - stray:



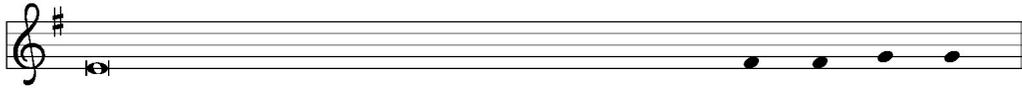
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



To beat down Satan under our feet;
to send faithful workers into your harvest;
to accompany your word with your Spirit and power;
to raise up those who fall
and to strengthen those who stand;
and to comfort and help the fainthearted and the dis - tressed:



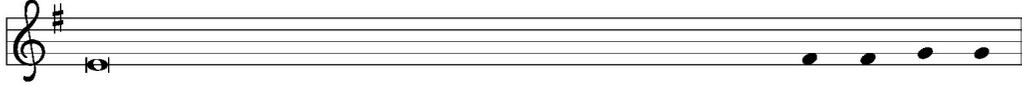
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



To give to all nations justice and peace;
 to preserve our country from discord and strife;
 to direct and guard those who have civil authority;
 and to bless and guide all our peo - ple:



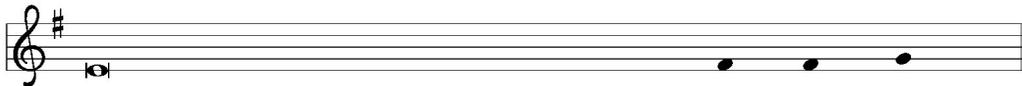
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



To behold and help all who are in danger, need, or tribulation;
 to protect and guide all who travel;
 to preserve and provide for all women in childbirth;
 to watch over children and to guide the young;
 to heal the sick and to strengthen their families and friends;
 to bring reconciliation to families in discord;
 to provide for the unemployed and for all in need;
 to be merciful to all who are imprisoned;
 to support, comfort, and guide
 all orphans, widowers, and widows;
 and to have mercy on all your peo - ple:



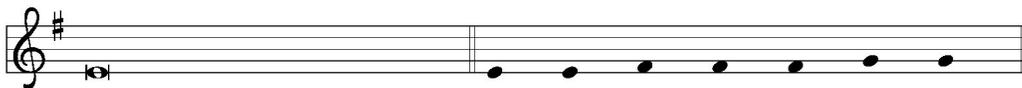
We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



To forgive our enemies, persecutors, and slanderers,
 and to reconcile us to them;
 to help us use wisely the fruits and treasures
 of the earth, the sea, and the air;
 and graciously to hear our prayers:



We im - plore you to hear us, good Lord.



Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, we im - plore you to hear us.



Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; give us peace. A - men.

O Christ, hear us. In mer - cy hear us.
 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.
 Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Text and music: *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
 Music © 1978, 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

silence is kept while all join their silent prayers.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Please be seated.

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching and song.

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

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

Amen.

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

^{2:15}The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die." ^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. The serpent said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

PSALM: Psalm 32

The psalm is sung responsively according to the tone.



¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

**² Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

**⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

**⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

**⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."

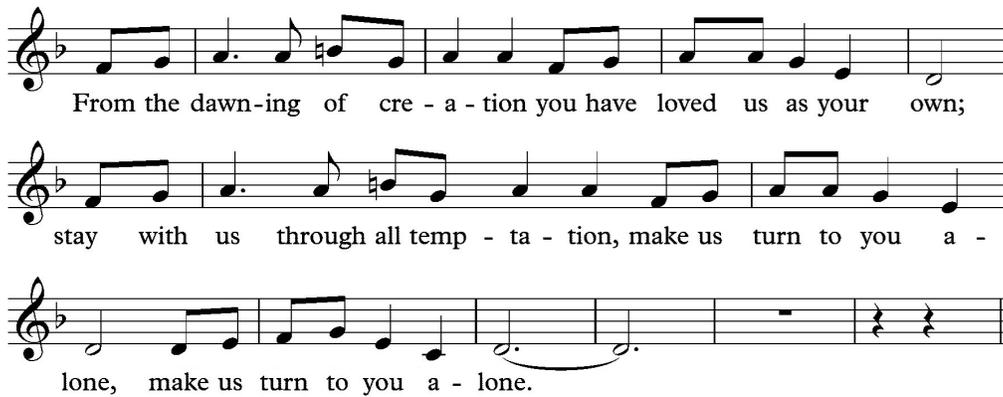
**¹⁰ Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

^{5:12} Just as sin came into the world through one human, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the trespass of one, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the sin of one human. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the trespass of one, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one, Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore just as the trespass of one person led to condemnation for all, so the act of righteousness of one person leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the disobedience of one the many were made sinners, so through the obedience of one the many will be made righteous.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



From the dawn-ing of cre - a - tion you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temp - ta - tion, make us turn to you a -
lone, make us turn to you a - lone.

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

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

^{4:1}Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But Jesus answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” ⁵Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, ‘God will command the angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ⁷Jesus said to the devil, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ⁸Again, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹and said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Then Jesus said to the devil, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve God alone.’” ¹¹Then the devil left Jesus, and suddenly angels came and waited on 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

ACS 922

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.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Siblings in Christ, let us confess the faith into which we are baptized:

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.

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION

Let us pray.

Let us pray, siblings, pray 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 God's good creation, for our stewardship of God's gifts to us, for those who need shelter from the weather.

silence for personal prayer for creation.

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 for all those things that weigh on our hearts.
silence for personal prayer.

Let us give thanks for the promises of baptism, for those who have claimed their baptismal promises, especially Robert and William, and to be held together with them 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. We gather around the Table. Please leave seats for those who may need them. Please be seated for the:

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

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 – Voluntary

OFFERTORY HYMN

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

ELW 334

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.

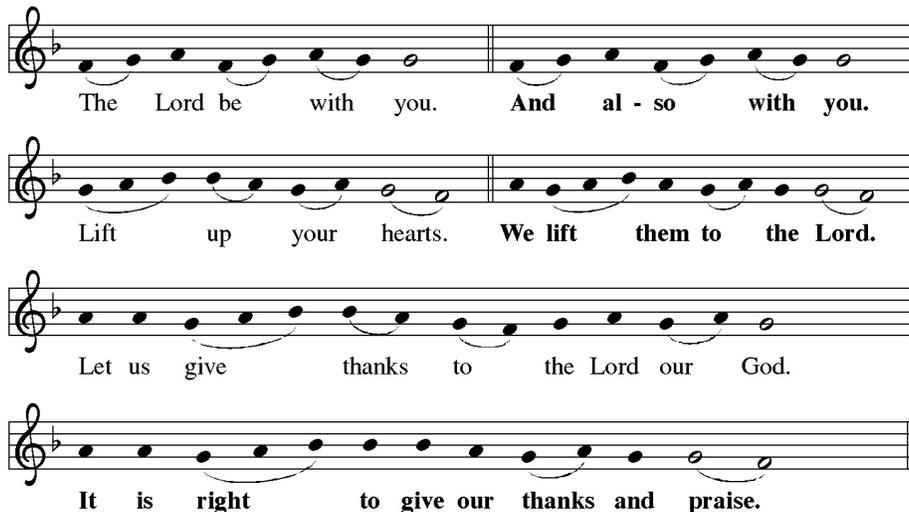
OFFERTORY PRAYER

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.

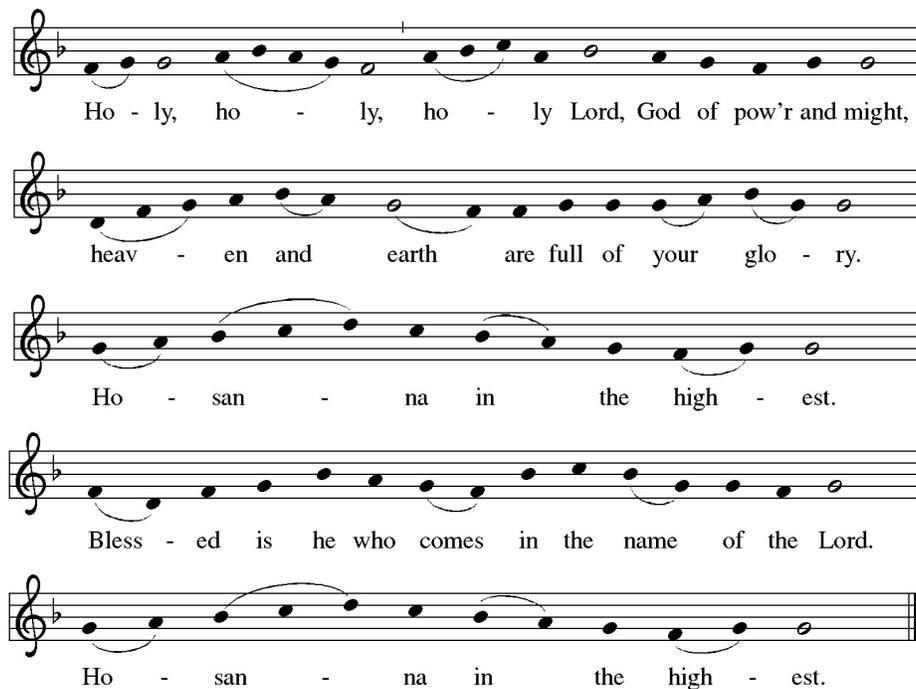
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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.

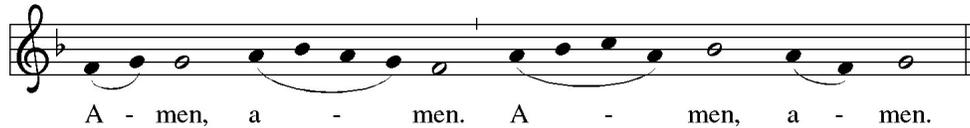
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

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.*



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 - 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.

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 world 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. Red 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 bowls provided. 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.

TFF 72

Down at the Cross

- 1 Down at the cross where my Sav - ior died, down where for cleans - ing from
- 2 I am so won - drous - ly saved from sin, Je - sus so sweet - ly a -
- 3 Oh, pre - cious foun - tain that saves from sin, I am so glad I have
- 4 Come to this foun - tain so rich and sweet; cast your poor soul at the

sin I cried; there to my heart was the blood ap - plied:
 bides with - in; there at the cross where he took me in:
 en - tered in; there Je - sus saves me and keeps me clean:
 Sav - ior's feet; plunge in to - day, and be made com - plete:

Refrain

glo - ry to his name.
 glo - ry to his name. Glo - ry to his name, glo - ry to his name!
 glo - ry to his name.
 glo - ry to his name.



There to my heart was the blood ap - plied: Glo - ry to his name.

Text: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1839–1929
Music: GLORY TO HIS NAME, John H. Stockton, 1813–1877

ELW 319

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. Davison, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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: Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

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

...now and forever.

Amen.**DISMISSAL**

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

Amen.**POSTLUDE – "Aberystwyth"**

G. Near

*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.

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

— SERVING TODAY —

PRESIDING MINISTER – Pastor Jay Mitchell

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Linda Swanson

COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Linda Graffius

LECTOR – Stan Rose

USHERS – Lynnette Gustafson, Carl Moore, Amy Scott

ALTAR GUILD – Sharon Burke

VIDEO STREAMING – Nick Lang



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Robert C. Chaffee by his loving family.

Front altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my husband, William Youngman, by Dorothy.

Worship Matters!

We begin the season of Lent following an ancient custom with the Great Litany. In this prayer—which this Sunday is inserted in lieu of the penitential gathering of worship—is a reminder of our profound need for God’s mercy and all the ways we and all humanity have strayed from God. The Great Litany is a gift to the Church of Luther’s liturgical reforms. Taking ancient prayers, adding some, reworking others, Luther composed this singular prayer which contains “all for which our Lord’s would have us ask.” Indeed, as Jesus’ does with the Lord’s Prayer (and answer to his disciples’ plea to teach them to pray), the Great Litany of all our prayers truly makes us that much more aware of our relationship with God. What an appropriate way to begin this season of penitence and returning to God.

You will also notice the entirety of the liturgy in this season has been parred back. We are not sharing in Gather nor Sending hymns. The readings and prayers are offered without congregational response. Even the Eucharistic Prayer is simplified to be solely the *Verba* (Words of Institution). In so doing, we are drawn to focus not on our actions in worship but on God in Christ’s actions for us in worship. This gathering—the worshiping assembly—is the singular time in our lives that God is the primary actor, not us. By parring away these parts of the liturgy we cannot help but receive what God in Christ is doing, particularly in this season of returning to our relationship with God who loves us to life in Christ whom we receive in the Gathering in Word and Sacrament.

Faith Formation for All Ages

Brown Bag Bible (B³) 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. Our next gathering is February 26.

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, March 3 for our discussion on The Wedding Party.

Four workshops for confirmation students, 7th grade through 9th grade, will be offered throughout the year on the 2nd Sunday (in odd months: **March 8, May 10**) 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 7th and beginning of 10th grade. Confirmation will still be held in the autumn of 10th grade to each confirmand.

Opportunities for Fellowship

LIA, Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, March 10 from 5:30-7:00pm for dinner and planning of our upcoming service projects and some very creative ideas. All youth in grades 5-12 and their families meet the second Tuesday of each month; join us.

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 10, from 10:00am– 12:00 noon. We will be visiting a special friend for our Tuesday, February 24 gathering. Please see Jan MacInnes for details. Contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

Lutherlyn summer camp registration began February 1. Various camps are available throughout the summer for families and youth of all ages.

Lenten Season

Our study series for our midweek gatherings during Lent will be *understanding Faith and Civic Life: Seeking the Well-being of All*. During our series we will look at the process of Social Statements in the ELCA, how they come to be and how they are ratified, and what authority they carry within our church.

- Afternoon gathering: 12:00 noon – Worship, 12:30pm – Luncheon, followed by 1:00pm Study Series

Wednesday evenings at 6:00pm in Lent we will 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.

Lenten Luncheons will be offered on Wednesdays in Lent; February 25-March 25 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. Enjoy a home-cooked meal for only \$10. Macaroni & Cheese will be served at the first Lenten luncheon on February 25. If you would like to help in any way please contact Betty Pletz at 898-1053 or the church office.

Lenten Kick-off will be held Wednesday, February 25 at 5:30pm. Bring your family and join us for dinner, a short Bible lesson and a surprise craft. The main dish will be provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share.

LMA News

Lutheran Schools Week is March 1-7 and we are getting reading to celebrate being BRAVE this year! We will gather on Monday, March 2 at 1:00pm for our Lutheran Schools Week Eucharist. We hope our whole community here at Luther can join together to celebrate this great ministry in Erie. We will be welcoming Pastor Ryan Fitch, Associate Director and Pastor of Lutherlyn for worship.

There will also be an opportunity to vote in the annual souPPPPPer Bowl to see who earns the Golden Ladle.

Save the Date! The 50th Anniversary Celebration of Luther Memorial Academy will be held Saturday, May 2, 2026. Please join us for all the festivities at LMA from 5:00 – 7:30pm. The evening will include a greeting, a self-guided tour of the school, a cocktail reception (one complimentary beverage provided with admission purchase), hors d'oeuvres, and a basket raffle (tickets sold separately at event). Admission is \$20/person and may be made at the church or school office or online at www.luthermemorialacademy.org.

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 —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Dorothy Youngman	Ed Hokaj	Rose-Marie Rose	Pat Gilbert
Diane Parsons	Judy Karney	Jeanne Gaber	Loretta Deeds
Donna Sedelmyer			
Friends and Family:			
Mary Beth & Nancy, Kelly	Justin	Linda F.	Jeff Monroe
Gail Lesuer	Gwen Smith	Andrew Wachter	Sullivan
Henderson family	Sandy M.	Shirley	Judy
Kevin Soles & family	Jenny	Carol Johnson	Valerie
Adam & Connie Ogle	Katja & family	Peter Maker	Carol McFalls
Archer Bardwell; age 3	Carl Larese	Richard Come	Sharon Swick
Brooks Davis	Kris	Peggy S.	
Grief:			
Judith Steff famil			
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon	Mark Collins	Christopher Rose	

Readings and Commemorations This Week

February 23 – Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, martyr, 156 – Psalm 32; I Kings 19:1-8; Hebrews 2:10-18 -- *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 32; Genesis 4:1-16; Hebrews 4:14-5:10

February 25 – Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, 1921 – Psalm 32; Exodus 34:1-9-27-28; Matthew 18:10-14 -- *Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.*

February 26 – Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:1-3; II Timothy 1:3-7

February 27 – Psalm 121; Micah 7:18-20; Romans 3:21-31

February 28 – Psalm 121; Isaiah 51:4-8; Luke 7:1-10



CALENDAR

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 23	2:30pm 6:00pm	LMA Play Practice Book Group
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24	10:00am	Magic Fingers Grace Group outing
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25	12:00pm 12:30pm 1:00pm 5:30pm 6:00pm	Lenten Worship Lenten Luncheon Study Series Lenten Kick-off Lenten Worship Newsletter Mailing
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 26	12:00pm 1:00pm 2:30pm 5:30pm 6:45pm	Brown Bag Bible Grief Group LMA Play Practice Handbells Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27		
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 28		

**SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026
THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 1, 2026		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Chloe Meucci
Communion Assistant (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	
Lector (<i>1 needed</i>)	10:30am	Karen Braendel
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Gina Snider
Counters	10:30am	
Ushers (<i>4 needed</i>)	10:30am	Linda Graffius, Carl Moore