

*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).

15 MARCH 2026  
**The Fourth Sunday *in* Lent**  
*Laetare Sunday*  
10:30 am

**PRELUDE – "O Man, Bewail Thy Greivous Fall"**

J. S. Bach

**CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE**

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

**Amen.**

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

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdainning the living water Christ offers:

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

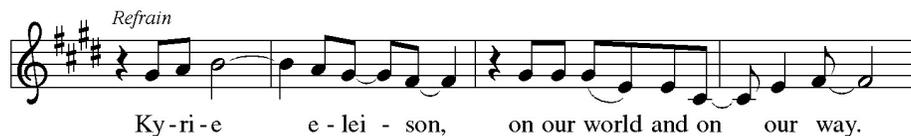
For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

**Amen.**

**KYRIE**



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the

u - ni - ty of all; for  
 hun - gry and the poor; that  
 friends and fam - i - ly; for  
 wa - ter and the word; that you

this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,  
 we may live out . . . . truth and jus - tice and grace,  
 life and for love, . . . . for our work and our play,  
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

*Refrain*

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

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

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father 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 Bill reads to us the scriptures. Let not our hearts be hardened, but open to us your Word of Life.

**Amen.**

**FIRST READING: I Samuel 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup>The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’” <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” <sup>5</sup>He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And Samuel sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. <sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” <sup>7</sup>But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.” <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.”

<sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And Jesse said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” <sup>12</sup>Jesse sent and brought David in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

PSALM 23

ELW 782

My Shepherd, You Supply My Need

1 My Shep-herd, you sup-ply my need; most ho-ly is your name.  
 2 When I walk through the shades of death, your pres-ence is my stay;  
 3 The sure pro-vi-sions of my God at-tend me all my days;

In pas-tures fresh you make me feed, be-side the liv-ing stream.  
 one word of your sup-port-ing breath drives all my fears a-way.  
 oh, may your house be my a-bode and all my work be praise.

You bring my wan-d'ring spir-it back when I for-sake your ways,  
 Your hand, in sight of all my foes, does still my ta-ble spread;  
 Here would I find a set-tled rest, while oth-ers go and come;

and lead me, for your mer-cy's sake, in paths of truth and grace.  
 my cup with bless-ings o-ver-flows, your oil a-noints my head.  
 no more a strang-er or a guest, but like a child at home.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt., based on Psalm 23  
 Music: RESIGNATION, North American traditional

## SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light, <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Give us eyes to see you clear-ly; make us child-ren of your light.

Give us hearts to live more near - ly as your gos - pel shin - ing

bright, as your gos - pel shin - ing bright.

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

## GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of the one who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When Jesus had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." <sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." <sup>18</sup>The Judeans did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Judeans, who had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." <sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.

<sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this person, we do not know where he comes from.” <sup>30</sup>The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but does listen to anyone who is devout and obeys God’s will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” <sup>34</sup>They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him Jesus said, “Do you believe in the Son-of-Man?” <sup>36</sup>He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” <sup>38</sup>He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped Jesus. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees who were with Jesus heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

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

## **RITE OF HEALING**

### **INTRODUCTION**

*The presiding minister may address the congregation with these or similar words.*

Our Lord Jesus healed many as a sign of the reign of God come near and sent the disciples to continue this work of healing—with prayer, the laying on of hands, and anointing. In the name of Christ, the great healer and reconciler of the world, we now entrust to God all who are in need of healing.

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and especially for all who are suffering or are in any affliction.

Merciful God, you sent your Son to be our peace. Help all those who suffer any pain or grief, hopelessness or anxiety. In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Mighty God, mercifully grant strength to the weak and comfort to those who suffer, that their sickness and pain may be turned into health. In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

God of peace and reconciliation, bring an end to the sickness of the world, especially violence, terrorism, war, and their causes. In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Holy God, Holy One, your Son prayed that your people may be one. May the gift of baptism be a power for healing the church’s brokenness, and bless all efforts for renewal and Christian unity. In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Loving God, mend broken relationships and bring peace to our families, our congregation, this community, and the world. In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

Eternal God, we thank you for all the faithful departed including Patrick, Joseph, Thomas, Sam, Paul, and those whom we remember before you: \_\_\_\_\_. Heal the pain of all who grieve. In your great mercy,

**hear us, O God.**

O God, we bring these intercessions before you, knowing that you will hear us as you have promised, and will answer according to the mercy shown in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## LAYING ON OF HANDS

*The presiding minister may address the congregation in these or similar words.*

Sisters and brothers, I invite you to come and receive a sign of healing and wholeness in the name of the triune God.

*Those who so wish may come forward to either station to receive the laying on of hands with prayer. Please let the person praying for you know your name or the name of the person or cause you wish prayer. After receiving prayer, you may proceed to the station to be anointed with unscented olive oil. You are invited to partake of one or both laying on of hands with prayer and/or anointing.*

## CONGREGATION SONG

ACS 1014

### When We Must Bear Persistent Pain

1 When we must bear per - sis - tent pain and suf - fer  
2 Sup - port us as we learn new ways to care for  
3 We thank you for the bet - ter days when we may  
4 In ease or pain, in life and death, to you our

with no cure in sight, come, Ho - ly Pres - ence,  
bod - ies new - ly frail. Help us en - dure, and  
smile to greet the sun, to do your work with  
frag - ile lives be - long, and so we trust you

breathe your peace with gifts of warmth and heal - ing light.  
live and love. Hear our com - plaint when pa - tience fails.  
clear - ing mind, and bless your name when day is done.  
in all things. You are our hope, our health, our song.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: PROSPECT, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. David N. Johnson, 1922–1987

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Arr. © 1968 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress

# Only You, O God

*Refrain*

On - ly you, O God, and you a - lone, the  
bro - ken heart con - sole. On - ly you, O God, and  
you a - lone, the wound - ed world make whole.

1 O God, our rock and ha - ven, our  
2 You guard us, faith - ful fa - ther, with -  
3 We pray, do not a - ban - don the

strong - hold, safe and sure, though earth be torn and  
in your shelt - 'ring palm; you nurse us, lov - ing  
ones you call your own; our com - fort and com -

*Refrain*

sha - ken, in you we stand se - cure.  
moth - er, with milk and heal - ing balm.  
pan - ion, we trust in you a - lone.

Text: Susan Briehl  
Music: African American spiritual

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The congregation and the choir join in the refrain at the beginning and after each verse.

## Shepherd Me, O God

Refrain  
All

Shep- herd me, O God, be - yond my wants, be - yond my fears, from  
death in - to life. life.

1. *God is my shepherd, so nothing I shall want,  
I rest in the meadows of faithfulness and love,  
I walk by the quiet waters of peace. Refrain*
2. *Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul,  
you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth,  
my spirit shall sing the music of your name. Refrain*
3. *Though I should wander the valley of death,  
I fear no evil, for you are at my side,  
your rod and your staff, my comfort and my hope. Refrain*
4. *You have set me a banquet of love  
in the face of hatred,  
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold. Refrain*
5. *Surely your kindness and mercy follow me all the days of my life;  
I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore. Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on Psalm 23  
Music: SHEPHERD ME, Marty Haugen  
Text and music © 1986 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
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After all have returned to their places, the congregation stands, and the presiding minister continues.

Let us pray.

Living God, through the laying on of hands and anointing, grant comfort in suffering to all who are in need of healing. When they are afraid, give them courage; when afflicted, give them patience; when dejected, give them hope; and when alone, assure them of the support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

BLESSING

The presiding minister concludes the order for healing.

Almighty God, who is a strong tower to all, to whom all things in heaven and on earth bow and obey, be now and evermore your sure defense, and help you to know that the name given to us for health and salvation is the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

**Amen.**

## PEACE

*The presiding minister and the congregation greet each other in the peace of the risen Christ.*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words. Please be mindful of others' comfort with touch. Please be seated.*

## 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 – "The Lord is My Shepherd"

H. Goodall

## OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW 334

### Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery



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



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



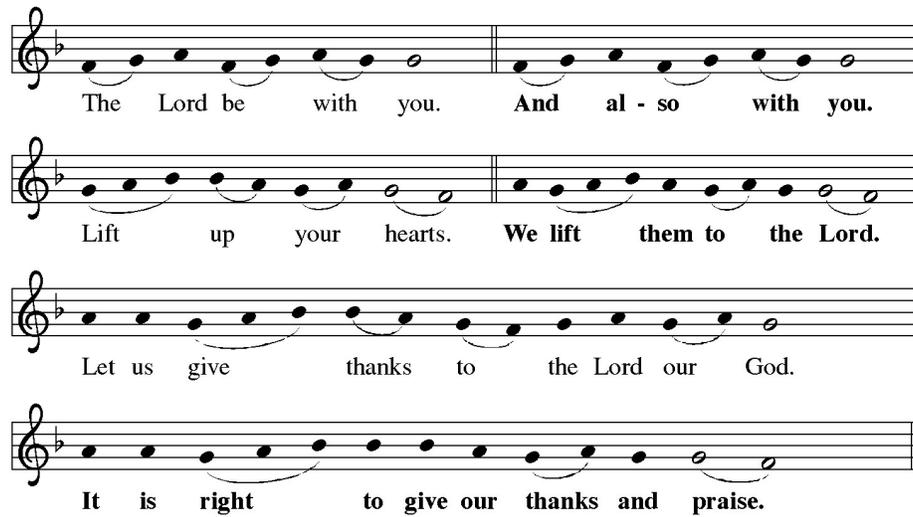
his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the

## 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**

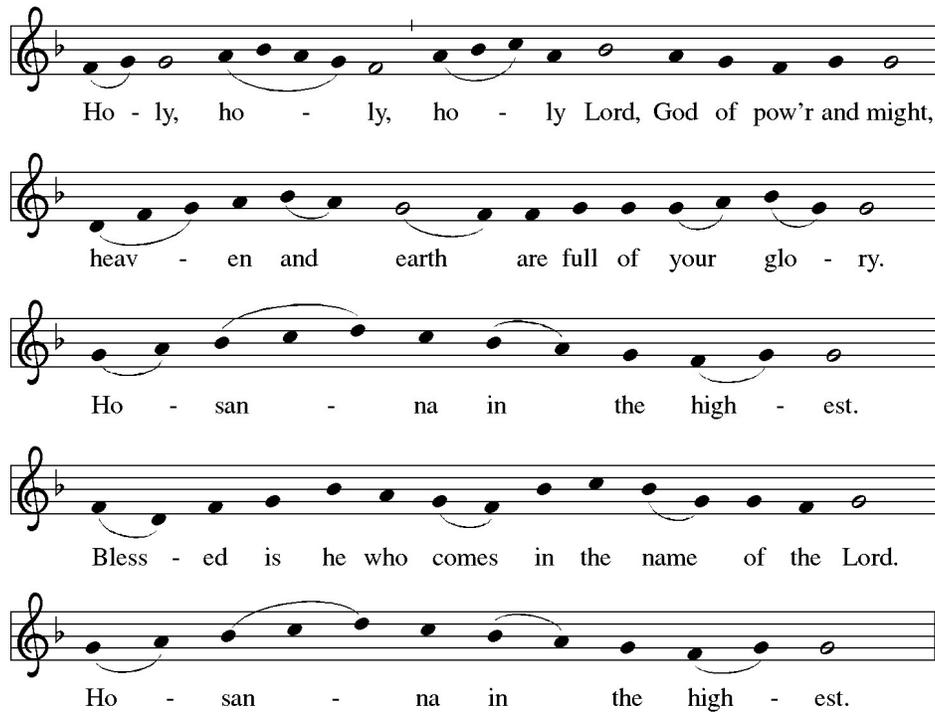


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

**THE PROPER PREFACE**

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

**SANCTUS**

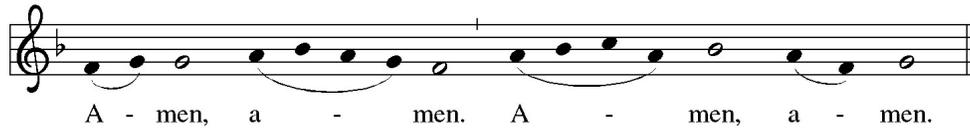


Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

**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:



**INVITATION TO THE TABLE**

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

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

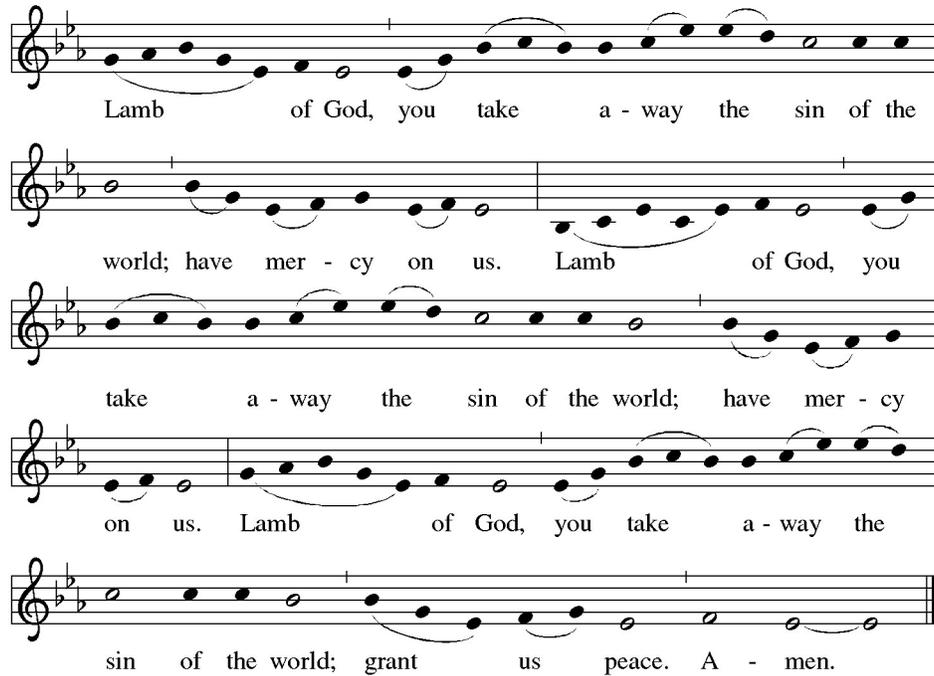
For those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the Body and Blood of Christ for you.

*Please be seated.*

## THE COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and Christ is, himself, present whenever we feast together. **You** are welcome to the feast! Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle. Take a small empty cup from the trays at the head of the center aisle. White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine. Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know. Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill. As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray. All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine, please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

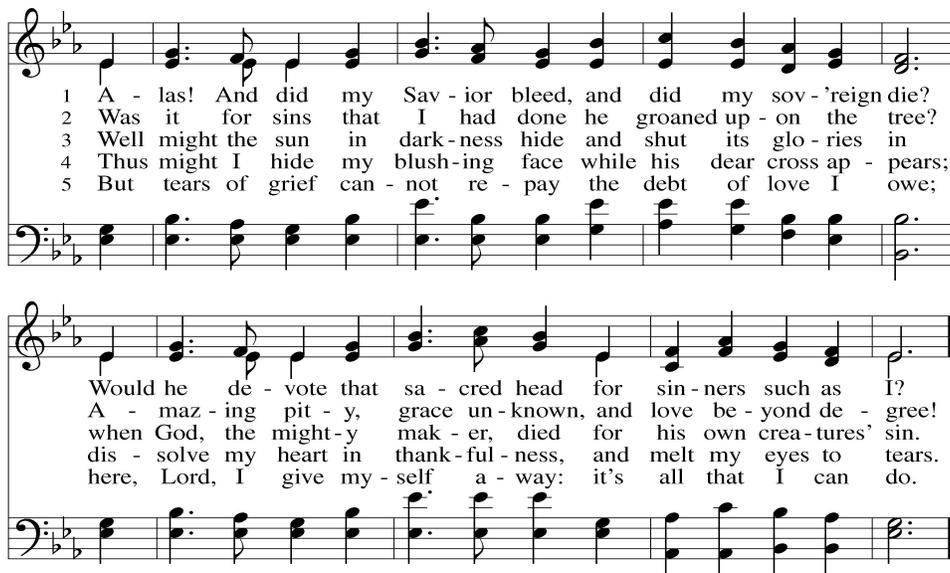
## HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION



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

TFF 71

## Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed *At the Cross*



1 A-las! And did my Sav-ior bleed, and did my sov-'reign die?  
2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up-on the tree?  
3 Well might the sun in dark-ness hide and shut its glo-ries in  
4 Thus might I hide my blush-ing face while his dear cross ap-pears;  
5 But tears of grief can-not re-pay the debt of love I owe;  
Would he de-vote that sa-cred head for sin-ners such as I?  
A-maz-ing pit-y, grace un-known, and love be-yond de-gree!  
when God, the might-y mak-er, died for his own crea-tures' sin.  
dis-solve my heart in thank-ful-ness, and melt my eyes to tears.  
here, Lord, I give my-self a-way; it's all that I can do.

*Refrain*

At the cross, at the cross, where I first saw the light, and the  
bur-den of my heart rolled a - way: it was there by faith I re -  
ceived my sight, and now I am hap - py all the day.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748; Ralph E. Hudson, refrain  
Music: HUDSON, Ralph E. Hudson, 1843-1901

ACS 1084

## God, Be the Love to Search and Keep Me *O Christ, Surround Me*

1 God, be the love to search and keep me; God, be the prayer to  
2 Bind to my-self the name of Ho - ly, great cloud of wit - ness -  
3 Bright-ness of sun and glow of moon-light, flash - ing of light - ning,  
4 Walk - ing be-hind to hem my jour - ney, go - ing a - head to  
5 Christ in the eyes of all who see me, Christ in the ears that

move my voice; God, be the strength to now up - hold me:  
es en - fold; proph - ets, a - pos - tles, an - gels wit - ness:  
strength of wind, depth of the sea to soil of plan - et:  
light my way, and from be - neath, a - bove, and all ways:  
hear my voice, Christ in the hearts of all who know me:

*Refrain*

O Christ, sur - round me; O Christ, sur - round me.

Text: Richard Bruxvoort Colligan, b. 1967  
Music: GREEN TYLER, Richard Bruxvoort Colligan  
Text and music © 2004 This Here Music, admin. Augsburg Fortress

## 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

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### TABLE BLESSING

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

**Amen.**

### SENDING

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

### BLESSING

The God of all consolation bless you in every way, grant you hope all the days of your life, restore you to health and grant you salvation, fill your heart with peace, and lead you to eternal life. And the blessing of God Almighty the Father, the ☩ Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you now and forever.

**Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

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

**Amen.**

### POSTLUDE – "Voluntary"

P. Fey

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



— **SERVING TODAY** —

*PRESIDING MINISTER* – Pastor Jay Mitchell

*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Pat Bellingham

*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Elaine Kern

*LECTOR* – Bill Lasher

*USHERS* – Cathy Beck, Sue Cappelletty, Carl Moore, Betty Pletz

*ALTAR GUILD* – Sharon Burke

*VIDEO STREAMING* – Patrick Cimino

**LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH**

**LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY**

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

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

*Cantor*

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL,

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH,

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

MICHELLE THOM

*LMA Principal*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of departed members of the Women of the ELCA by the Women of the ELCA of Luther Memorial.

**Our love and sympathy** is with the family and friends of Paul Thom, father-in-law of Mrs. Michelle Thom, LMA principal, who died Saturday, March 7.

**Thank you** to Bill Lasher for sharing his gift of music in assisting with our worship service this morning.

**Today's Events**

**Visit our Prayer Room** this morning and March 22 for a time of prayer and brief meditation during the Lenten season. The Prayer Room is located in the youth room on the fifth floor and is self-guided with activities available for anyone wishing to take part. We invite you stop in from 9:00-10:15am and 11:30am-12:00 noon. Please see Beth Keller or Sarah Prylinski with any questions.

**Hamloaf** orders are due no later than today. Specialty sausage flavors and Philly cheesesteak bratwurst are also delicious choices. Orders will be delivered fresh from Gahr's Hamloaf in Franklin, PA and available for pick on Palm Sunday, March 29. Order forms are at the welcome table and the church and school offices.

## Worship Matters!

**With text clearly inspired** by St. Patrick's Breastplate, *God be the Love to Search and Keep Me* is a relatively new hymn. It is found in the newest worship resource in the ELCA *All Creation Sings*. About it, we hear: "Richard Bruxvoort Colligan wrote this hymn as a modern *lorica*—a Celtic hymn/prayer for protection sung while putting on armor or clothing. "Be thou my vision" (ELW 793) is the best known example of the form. The stanzas ask for Christ to be known in what animates life and faith, in the saints, in the elements, in physical space (as in another *lorica*, "I bind unto myself today," ELW 450), and in the people around the singer."

St. Patrick's Breastplate:

*I arise today through a mighty strength, the invocation of the Trinity, through belief in the Threeness, through confession of the Oneness of the Creator of creation.*

*I arise today through the strength of Christ's birth with his baptism, through the strength of his crucifixion with his burial, through the strength of his resurrection with his ascension, through the strength of his descent for the judgment of doom.*

*I arise today through the strength of the love of cherubim, in the obedience of angels, in the service of archangels, in the hope of resurrection to meet with reward, in the prayers of patriarchs, in the predictions of prophets, in the preaching of apostles, in the faith of confessors, in the innocence of holy virgins, in the deeds of righteous ones.*

*I arise today, through the strength of heaven, the light of the sun, the radiance of the moon, the splendor of fire, the speed of lightning, the swiftness of wind, the depth of the sea, the stability of the earth, the firmness of rock.*

*I arise today, through God's strength to pilot me, God's might to uphold me, God's wisdom to guide me, God's eye to look before me, God's ear to hear me, God's word to speak for me, God's hand to guard me, God's shield to protect me, God's host to save me from snares of devils, from temptation of vices, from everyone who shall wish me ill, afar and near.*

*I summon today all these powers between me and those evils, against every cruel and merciless power that may oppose my body and soul, against incantations of false prophets, against black laws of pagandom, against false laws of heretics, against craft of idolatry, against spells of witches and smiths and wizards, against every knowledge that corrupts our body and soul; Christ to shield me today against poison, against burning, against drowning, against wounding, so that there may come to me an abundance of reward.*

*Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ when I lie down, Christ when I sit down, Christ when I arise, Christ in the heart of every man who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks of me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.*

## Faith Formation for All Ages

**First Holy Communion** will be offered on Sunday, April 19 during the 10:30am service. In preparation for First Communion two Saturday morning sessions will be held on April 11 and April 18 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.

**The "Conversations" meeting** originally scheduled for March 8 has been rescheduled for March 22 after the second service, roughly at 11:30am in the library. We are learning/talking about systemic racism, and ready to listen to Seeing White Part 5 - The Little War on the Prairie, a very good podcast series. If this stuff makes you "antsy" - come on along and join the rest of us. Everyone is welcome!

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

**Brown Bag Bible (B<sup>3</sup>)** gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. B<sup>3</sup> is on hiatus through the season of Lent.

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

### Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series

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

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

### Opportunities for Fellowship

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

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

**LIA**, Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, April 14 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.

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

### Lenten Season

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

**Lenten Luncheons** are offered following the noon worship service on Wednesdays in Lent; February 25-March 25 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. Enjoy a home-cooked meal for only \$10. Fish will be served at the Lenten luncheon on March 18. If you would like to help in any way please contact Betty Pletz at 898-1053 or the church office.

### Luther Memorial Academy Open House

**Spread the word** to family and friends that LMA's Open House will be held Sunday, March 22 from 1:00-3:00pm. This is the perfect opportunity to visit the classrooms, meet teachers and enroll children for the upcoming school year. Please contact Amanda Fried in the school office with any questions, 814-454-0106, ext. 222.

## Community Support

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

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

## Camp Lutherlyn

**Early Bird Deadline is March 3.** Several programs have already filled, and just a handful of spaces remain for programs like Adventurers, Night Owls, and Rocketry! You can learn more about this summer's awesome lineup by visiting [www.lutherlyn.com/summer](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summer). Lutherlyn's staff

is happy to answer any questions you may have about programs, the registration process, pricing, financial assistance, or any other questions you may have. You can contact Lutherlyn at 724-865-2161 or email [registrar@lutherlyn.com](mailto:registrar@lutherlyn.com).

## Items to Note

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

**In case of a pastoral emergency,** please contact Pastor Jay either at the church (814-454-0106 x. 227) or, if not, on his personal phone (267-549-9858). If you are unable to reach him and need a response quickly, please contact our church office at 454-0106, ext. 221 during weekday business hours of 8:00am – 4:00pm to speak with Norma. Thank you.

## — PRAYER LIST —

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

## Readings and Commemorations This Week

**March 16** – Psalm 146; Isaiah 59:9-19; Acts 9:1-20

**March 17 – Patrick, bishop** – Psalm 146; Isaiah 42:14-21; Colossians 1:9-14 -- *A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.*

**March 18** – Psalm 146; Isaiah 60:17-22; Matthew 9:27-34

**March 19 – JOSEPH, GUARDIAN OF JESUS AND CHASTE SPOUSE OF THE VIRGIN MARY** – II Samuel 7:4, 8-16; Psalm 89:1-29; Romans 4:13-18; Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a -- *Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.*

**March 20** – Psalm 130; Ezekiel 33:10-16; Revelation 11:15-19

**March 21 – Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, 1556** – Psalm 130; Ezekiel 36:8-15; Luke 24:44-53 -- *Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.*



## CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY, MARCH 16</b>	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
	4:30pm	School Board
<b>TUESDAY, MARCH 17</b>	10:00am	Pericope
<b>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18</b>	12:00pm	Lenten Worship
	12:30pm	Lenten Luncheon
	1:00pm	Study Series
	2:30pm	LMA Cheer Practice
	6:00pm	Lenten Worship
<b>THURSDAY, MARCH 19</b>	1:00pm	Grief Group
	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
	5:30pm	Handbells Rehearsal
	6:45pm	Choir Rehearsal
<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 20</b>		
<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 21</b>	10:00am	Quilting
	10:00am	Craft Show

### SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026 THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

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

**Prayer Room** will be open from 9:15-10:15am and 11:30am-12:00 noon.

**LMA Open House** will be held from 1:00-3:00pm.

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2026		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Julie Ditz
Communion Assistant ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	
Lector ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	Linda Melaragno
Altar Guild	8:15am	Pastor Jay
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Nick Lang
Counters	10:30am	Patrick Cimino, Jonathan Gaber
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SERVICES

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

Festal Eucharist  
*with Palm Procession and Passion*



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



**Maundy Thursday ~ April 2**  
Solemn Eucharist of the Lord's Supper  
*with Footwashing and Stripping of the Altar*

7:00pm      Worship – *Main Church*

**Good Friday ~ April 3**

Stations of the Cross  
*with Organ Reflections*



Beginning at 12:00 noon – *Main Church*

**Good Friday ~ April 3**

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

7:00pm – *Main Church*



**Holy Saturday ~ April 4**  
The Resurrection of Our Lord,  
Easter Vigil  
*with Recitation of Salvation History  
and First Eucharist of the Resurrection*

7:00pm – *gathering in the Courtyard*

**Easter Day ~ April 5**

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

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

