

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



19 MARCH 2023
The Fourth Sunday in Lent
10:30 am

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

THE REV. J. DAVID MUMFORD

Pastor Emeritus

WALT GABER

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

Director of Care & Health Ministries

JAN MACINNES

BETH KELLER

Youth and Family Ministry

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

BECKY CAREY

Interim Academy Administrator

19 MARCH 2023

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Communion • ELW – Setting Ten • 10:30



LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT

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

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

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

PRELUDE – "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"

Charles Callahan, John Eggert

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship you with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

TEMPLE TALK

Les Fobes

INTROIT – "O Salutaris Hostia"

Thomas Pavlechko

*O salutaris Hostia, quae caeli pandis ostium:
Bella premunt hostilia, da robur, fer auxilium.*

*O saving Victim, who opens the door of heaven,
Our foes abound; give us strength, grant us aid.*

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

☩ **Amen.**

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



Silence is kept for reflection.

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

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

C Amen.

*Text for this hymn is the work of a Lutheran pastor who is also a composer and hymn-writer
and whose hymns appear in 67 hymnals used by 36 denominations in eight countries.
The tune, a shape-note hymn with a repeated rhythm, has been successful since its publication.*

ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 843

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren with a strong yet gen - tle word;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;



praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
praise the One who drove out de - mons with a pierc - ing, two - edged sword.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.



Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Praise the One who brings cool wa - ter to the des - ert's burn - ing sand;
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

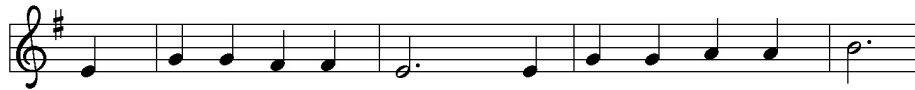


calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
from this well comes liv - ing wa - ter quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

GREETING

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

KYRIE



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



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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- ☐ Let us pray.
☑ **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.”

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD’s chosen successor to Saul.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ 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.” ²Samuel 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.’” ³Invite 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.” ⁴Samuel 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?” ⁵He 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. ⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷But 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.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel 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.” ¹²Jesse 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." ¹³Then 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.

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23

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



You have a - nointed my head with oil.

¹ The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

² He makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

³ He revives my soul
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake. **R**

⁴ Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.

⁵ You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me;
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. **R**

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

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

☐ The word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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



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

📖 The Holy Gospel according to John.

👏 **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards
as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “*Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of the one who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.*” 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, saying to him, “*Go, wash in the pool of Siloam*” (which means Sent). Then the man went and washed and came back able to see. 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?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “*I am he.*” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 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.*” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “*I do not know.*” They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask the man how he had received his sight. He said to them, “*He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.*” 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. 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.*” 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 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, 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.” 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. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” 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.” He answered, “*I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.*” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 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?*” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this person, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “*Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but does listen to anyone who is devout and obeys God’s will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.*” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him Jesus said, “*Do you believe in the Son-of-Man?*” He answered, “*And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.*” Jesus said to him, “*You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.*” He said, “*Lord, I believe.*” And he worshiped Jesus. 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.*” Some of the Pharisees who were with Jesus heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” 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.

Please stand as you are able.

This hymn text was written by a distinguished lawyer who practiced in Naumburg in Saxony. It was one of nearly 150 hymns he wrote to strengthen his own faith at a time of domestic troubles. The tune, originally paired with another text, gradually became associated with the present text.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 339

Christ, the Life of All the Living



1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
 2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
 3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,



Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
 e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
 for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;



through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
 for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
 thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,



Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
 for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.

Text: Ernst Christoph Homburg, 1605–1681; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
 Music: JESU, MEINES LEBENS LEBEN, *Das grosse Cantional*, Darmstadt, 1687

APOSTLES' CREED

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

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
 who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
 born of the virgin Mary,
 suffered under Pontius Pilate,
 was crucified, died, and was buried;
 he descended to the dead.
 On the third day he rose again;
 he ascended into heaven,
 he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
 and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**



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

THE PRAYERS

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

A brief silence.

A Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve in particular those whose names and needs we lift up now: *here the assembly may name people and causes dear to them either silently or aloud.* Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

A God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people, especially Joseph, Thomas Cranmer, Jonathan Edwards, Oscar Romero, Elizabeth, and Martin Halttunen. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God,

C **receive our prayer.**

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

C **Amen.**

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

MEAL – “God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.”

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

An Individual Silent Prayer as We Prepare to Make our Offering:

“Jesus said, truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; for all of them have contributed out of their abundance, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.”

Luke 21: 3-4

*Lord, for thy tender mercy's sake, lay not our sins to our charge,
But forgive that is past, and give us grace to amend our sinful lives:
To decline from sin and incline to virtue,
That we may walk in a perfect heart before thee now and evermore. Amen*

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

ELW 481

Come to the Table



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



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



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



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

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942
Music: COME TO THE TABLE, Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956
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OFFERTORY PRAYER

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

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

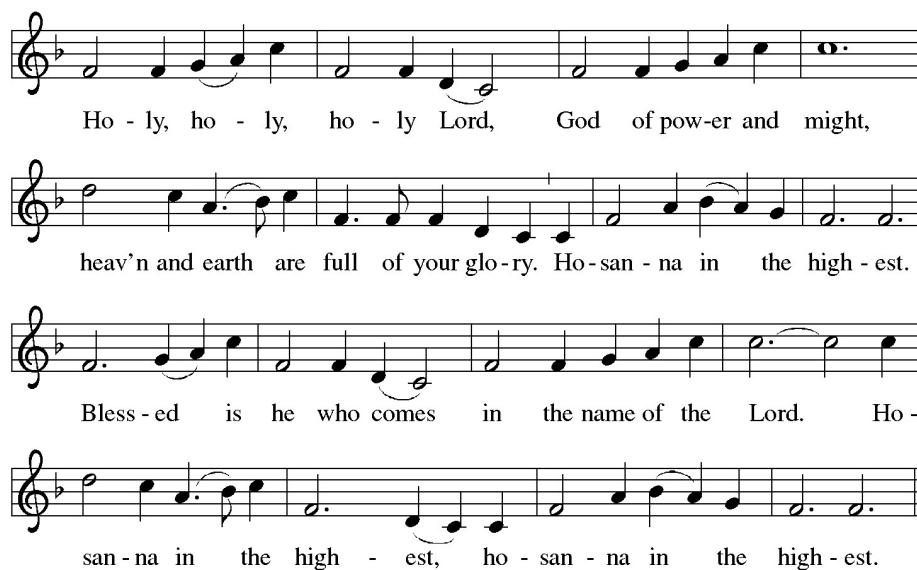
P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give our thanks and praise. ►

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



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

EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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

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

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

- ☐ We extol his life. Amen:
 ☑ Amen.
 ☐ We lament his death. Amen:
 ☑ Amen.



P We celebrate his resurrection. Amen:

C Amen.

P Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit.

Make this food into manna for our journey, the body and blood of your Son.

Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance.

Teach us your words of wisdom and justice.

Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace.

At the last, lead all your pilgrim people through our deserts to your Easter garden.

P To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter,

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,

be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving,

now and forever.

C Amen.

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

C Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done,

on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,

and the power,

and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

AGNUS DEI



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

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

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



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.

you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.

e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

C Amen.

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

The congregation is seated.

SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

O Jesus, our great high priest, be present with us as you were present with your disciples and make yourself known to us in the breaking of the bread. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

COMMUNION

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

Please come forward by the center aisle.

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

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

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

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

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

This hymn-text is the work of a Thuringian scholar who served as a chaplain during the Thirty Years' War, including preaching at the accession of Queen Christina to the Swedish throne. The tune is the work of a 17th century Lutheran cantor who was among those instrumental in bringing to the church a new style reflecting Italian opera. The melody was used several times in organ works by J. S. Bach.

HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 520

Dearest Jesus, at Your Word



1 Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a -
2 All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est
3 Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from
4 Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and



gain to hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
dark - ness shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
God pro - ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
ad - o - ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:



and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on



es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Clausnitzer, 1619–1684, sts. 1–3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, adapt.
 Music: LIEBSER JESU, WIR SIND HIER, Johann R. Ahle, 1625–1673

Please stand as you are able.

TABLE BLESSING

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

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

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

BLESSING

- ☐ God, the giver of love,
 ☩ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
 and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
 bless you in this Lenten journey.
- ☑ **Amen.**

The son of a bishop and brother of a Presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church, this author was ordained deacon in 1918 and priest in 1920, after having served as a private in an Evacuation Hospital during WWI. He was a rector of Grammer Parish in southern VA, St. John’s Church in Georgetown, WA, and John Wesley’s parish in Georgia. Several of the hymns which he wrote for “The Hymnal 1940” have been adopted by hymnals of other denominations.

SENDING HYMN

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



1 A - wake, O sleep-er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
 3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
 5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.





so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
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DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

A Go in peace. Serve in love.

G Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE – "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death"

Charles Callahan, Alice Jordan

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— SERVING TODAY —

PREACHING – Pastor Jay Mitchell

GREETERS – Linda Graffius, Stan Rose

ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer

ASSISTING MINISTER – Julie Ditz

LECTOR – Pat Gilbert

USHERS – Katherine & Jonathan Ulrich, Linda & Jeff Swanson

ALTAR GUILD – Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels



Altar flowers are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my father, Martin Halttunen, by Janet Kent.

Today's Events

First Holy Communion classes continue each Sunday through April 2. Classes, led by Ann Flick and Beth Keller, are held from 9:30-10:15am. All children in grades 3 and up are invited to take part in these classes. If your son and/or daughter have not had the opportunity to attend First Communion class, we invite them to attend. Children will receive First Holy Communion on Maundy Thursday, April 6, at the 7:00pm service.

Youth in grades 7 – 12 will meet this morning at 9:30.

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.

Pastor Jay's Drop-In Hours and Locations

For the week of March 19, you can drop in on Pastor Jay either **Wednesday (3/22)** in the office from 11:00am-12:00pm or 2:00-3:00pm; or **Thursday (3/23)** at Ember+Forge (401 State St) from 9:00-11:00am. You may always meet with Pastor Jay by appointment: JMitchell@luthermemorialonline.org or by using: calendly.com/TheRevJCM.

Worship

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

Christian Education

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

Teachers and helpers are needed for our Children's Church classes. This will only be the second Sunday of each month. If you are able to help monthly or on a rotating basis it would be greatly appreciated. Please contact the church office with any questions. Thank you.

Lenten Opportunities

Wednesday Lenten services will be held at 12:05pm March 1 – March 29. Scripture readings will be full of back-and-forth conversations with God. These conversations are filled with questions. People use questions to interrogate or to express their confusion or doubt. Questions express the longings of the heart and the puzzles of the mind. A question shows the distance between me and you. A question can also bring us closer. Let these questions—those others ask of God, and those you have carried yourself—draw you closer into conversation with God and with others this Lenten season.

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

Lenten luncheons are offered in fellowship hall at 12:35pm, immediately following worship, each Wednesday in Lent; March 1 – March 29. All are invited to enjoy a home-cooked meal; cost for each lunch is \$8. The main dish on March 22 will be stuffed shells and meatballs.

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

Supporting Luther Memorial

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

Ascension of Our Lord

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

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

Opportunities for Fellowship

Spring Bingo will be held Sunday, March 26 in our fellowship hall. Doors will open at 12:00 noon and the fun begins at 12:30pm. The cost of \$25 includes 8 games of play and with cash and prizes, tip boards and raffles. Small snacks will be available for purchase. This event will benefit our youth programming.

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

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

Youth Event

Calling youth in grades 6 and up! Bring a friend and join us for Pizza & Movie Night on Friday, March 24 from 5:30 – 8:30pm. Let’s munch on pizza while watching “Jesus Christ Superstar Live” with John Legend. Please RSVP to Sarah at 814-882-1695 or the church office.

Easter Orders

Hamloaf orders will be accepted through Sunday, March 26 and available for pick up on Sunday, April 2. For a delicious and easy Easter dinner, a hamloaf would be perfect. The cost is \$5/1 lb. and \$8/2 lbs. Proceeds benefit our youth. Order forms are located at the hospitality tables and in the church office.

Luther Memorial Academy

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

Items to Note

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

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

CALENDAR

MONDAY, MARCH 20

TUESDAY, MARCH 21 8:30am LMA / Kids on the Block Presentation

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22 12:05pm Worship
 12:35pm Lenten Luncheon
 5:30pm Walk to Emmaus

THURSDAY, MARCH 23 3:00pm School Bard
 5:30pm Handbell Rehearsal
 6:30pm Choir Rehearsal

FRIDAY, MARCH 24 5:30pm Youth Pizza & Movie Night

SATURDAY, MARCH 25 10:00am Quilt Meeting
 10:00am Julia Hospice House Meeting

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023 **THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

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

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

Bingo begins at 12:30pm.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 26, 2023		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Roberta Lobaugh
	10:30am	Pam Masiroff
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Dave Griswold
Greeters	8:15am	Mike Hedlund
	10:30am	Dave Griswold
Counters	10:30am	Pat Bellingham, Emma Chaffee

— PRAYER LIST —

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Our Members:

Cathy & Don MacGregor
Paul Meucci
Julie Sturm

C. Noelle Partusch
Dave Birkner

Chickie Braine
Torsten Carlson

Mike Daniels
Mary Laver

Friends and Family:

Dennis & Lori Sander
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie
Karen Dahlstrand
Jessica & Damian Ream
Austin Coverdale
Baby Archer Bardwell
Abbie (Treiber) Dixon
Megan Bruno

Elayne Morphy
Mary Correll
Nichole Jones
Elise VanDamia
Kevin
Curtis Krick
Debbie
Barbara Dennison

June Madurski
Judy Skoog
Bob Guenther
Gary Flick
Tom Wilson
Tom Braendel
Caitlyn Kessler
Diane Henry

Edie Jackman
Branden Jones
Christine Norris
Meghan Kessler
Dawn Weborg
Susan Brooks
Michele Seifert
Kate Collins

Grief:

Bill Youngman family

J. David Mumford family

Our Military Service Men & Women:

Lt. Col. Matt Anderson
Ben Dixon

Michael Stickner

Andrew Watson

Alli Brown