

*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*



4 FEBRUARY 2024  
The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple  
10:30 am

## LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

### LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

WALT GABER

*Cantor*

RON KING

*Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity*

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

*Director of Care & Health Ministries*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

MICHELLE THOM

*Academy Administrator*

**4 FEBRUARY 2024**

### THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

**Holy Communion • ELW – Setting IV • 10:30**

*Luther Memorial Church and Academy is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Haudenosaunee, Mississauga, and Erie people, people of the Six Nations Treaty, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

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

**PRELUDE** – Prelude and Fugue in A Minor

J. S. Bach

### PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

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

*Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

*Please stand as you are able.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

☞ Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,  
who opens the heavens and draws near to us with salvation.

☞ **Amen.**

☞ Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

☞ If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*



☐ Most Merciful God,  
 ☑ we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.  
 We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,  
 by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
 We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
 we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
 For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.  
 Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
 so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
 to the glory of your holy name.  
 Amen.

☐ In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.  
 ☑ Amen.

**ENTRANCE HYMN**

**ACS 914**

**Jesus, the Light of the World**



1 Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je - sus, the Light of the world;  
 2 Joy - ful, all you na - tions, rise; Je - sus, the Light of the world;  
 3 Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Je - sus, the Light of the world;  
 4 Hail the heav'n-born Prince of peace! Je - sus, the Light of the world;



"Glo - ry to the new-born king," Je - sus, the Light of the world.  
 join the tri - umph of the skies; Je - sus, the Light of the world.  
 Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord! Je - sus, the Light of the world.  
 Hail the Sun of righ-teous-ness! Je - sus, the Light of the world.

*Refrain*



We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew-drops of mer-cy are bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je - sus, the Light of the world.

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707–1788, stanzas; George D. Elderkin, 1845–1928, refrain  
 Music: WE'LL WALK IN THE LIGHT, Traditional; arr. George D. Elderkin

**GREETING**

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

## GLORIA

Assisting minister



Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav-en-ly King, al-might-y God and Fa-ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a-way the sin of the world: have mer-cy on us;



you are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther: re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

☞ Let us pray.

Everlasting God, you give strength to the weak and power to the faint. Make us agents of your healing and wholeness, that your good news may be made known to the ends of your creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

☞ Amen.

*Please be seated.*

## A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

## SCOUT SUNDAY

*All scouts are invited to come forward for a blessing and recitation of the Scout Oath and Scout Law.*

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

### FIRST READING: Leviticus 12:6-8

On completing the day of purification for a daughter or for a son she shall bring a yearling lamb for a burnt offering—and a pigeon or a turtledove for a sin offering—to the priest at the entrance of the tent of meeting. Then he shall offer it before the FIRE OF SINAI and make atonement on her behalf and she shall be restored. This is the teaching for the woman who gives birth to a female or male. If she cannot afford a sheep, she shall take two turtledoves and two pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the second for a sin offering; and the priest shall make atonement on her behalf, and she shall be restored.

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

### PSALM: Psalm 84 (*Spoken responsively.*)

<sup>1</sup>How dear to me is your dwelling,  
O Lord of hosts!

<sup>2</sup>**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

<sup>3</sup>Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,  
by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king and my God.

<sup>4</sup>**Happy are they who dwell in your house!  
They will always be praising you.**

<sup>5</sup>Happy are the people whose strength is in you,  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

<sup>6</sup>**Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs,  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

<sup>7</sup>They will climb from height to height,  
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

<sup>8</sup>**Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;  
give ear, O God of Jacob.**

<sup>9</sup>Behold our defender, O God;  
and look upon the face of your anointed.

<sup>10</sup>**For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.  
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than dwell in the tents of the wicked.**

<sup>11</sup>For the Lord God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory;  
no good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity.

<sup>12</sup>**O Lord of hosts,  
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

### SECOND READING: 1 John 5:1-5

Everyone who believes that Jesus is the Messiah is born of God, and everyone who loves the parent loves the child of the parent. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and undertake God's commandments. For the love of God is this, that we keep God's commandments. And God's commands are not difficult, for anything born of God conquers the world. And this is the victory that conquers the world, our faith. Who is it that conquers the world but the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?

☒ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-38

- ☐ The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
- ☑ **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when the days of their purification were fulfilled according to the teaching of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Holy One: As it is written in the teaching of the Sovereign God, “Every male who opens the womb [as firstborn] shall be called holy to the Sovereign God.” So they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the teaching of the Holy One, “A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, waiting to welcome the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit, she rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Most High God. Led by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple. When the parents brought in the children Jesus, to do for him what was customary under that which was taught, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God saying, “*You release now your slave in peace, Master, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.*” And the child’s mother and father were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is set for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign provoking contention; also, your own soul a sword will pierce so that the true hearts of many will be revealed.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God, and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.”

- ☐ The Gospel of the Lord.
- ☑ **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Jay

*Please stand as you are able to proclaim the Word of God in song.*

## In His Temple Now Behold Him

1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -  
 2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -  
 3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,  
 4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less

pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,  
 hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,  
 weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,  
 love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en

God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,  
 ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,  
 by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther

his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!  
 in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.  
 and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825–1903, alt.  
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

## APOSTLE'S CREED

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

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

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

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

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

## THE PRAYERS

**A** As we celebrate Christ embodied in human form, we pray for God's blessing on the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

**A** Everlasting God, you bring your healing power to the church. Give your church a spirit of unity and prayer, that we discern your way for us in the world. God of grace,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** Creator of the ends of the earth, you make the grass grow and send rain for the soil. Bring your creation into harmony and balance. Give animals their food and provide healthy shelter for your people. Inspire us to honor the miraculous beauty of all you have made. God of grace,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** God without equal, your steadfast love endures forever. Bring the leaders, elected officials, and peacekeepers of our towns and countries into understanding and unity. Guide them to serve with compassion and understanding. God of grace,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** God who strengthens, you lift up with your hand any who are suffering. Heal those who are brokenhearted and strengthen the weak and all in need. God of grace,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** God who gives power to the faint, challenge us to share the faith stories of what God has done in our lives. Open us to receive the unique ways God is at work in your people, especially those whose perspectives challenge our own. God of grace,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** God who calls each star by name, we remember all who have died. Shelter all who mourn with your mercy and care, and give us hope in your promised salvation. God of grace,

**C** **receive our prayer.**

**A** Knowing the Holy Spirit intercedes for us, we offer these prayers and the silent prayers of our hearts in the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C** **Amen.**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you.

**C** **And also with you.**

*We greet one another with a sign of peace.*



Please be seated.

**MEAL – “God feeds us with Jesus Christ.”**

**THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED**

**ANTHEM – “When Memory Fades” (ACS 1081)**

Mary Louise Bringle / Jean Sibelius

*(Reflecting on the sentiment of the **Nunc dimittis**: “Lord, now you let your servant go in peace...” as heard in today’s gospel reading and post-communion hymn.)*

*When memory fades, and recognition falters, when eyes we love grow dim, and minds confused,  
Speak to our souls of love that never alters; speak to our hearts, by pain and fear abused.  
O God of life and healing peace, empower us with patient courage, by your grace infused.*

*As frailness grows, and youthful strengths diminish, in weary arms which worked their earnest fill,  
Your aging servants labor now to finish their earthly tasks, as fits your mercy’s will.  
We grieve their waning, yet rejoice, believing, your arms, unwearied, shall uphold us still.*

*Within your Spirit, goodness lives unfading. The past and future mingle into one.  
All joys remain, unshadowed light pervading. No valued deed will ever be undone.  
Your mind enfolds all finite acts and offerings. Held in your heart, our deathless life is won.*

Please stand as you are able.

**OFFERTORY**

**ELW 310**

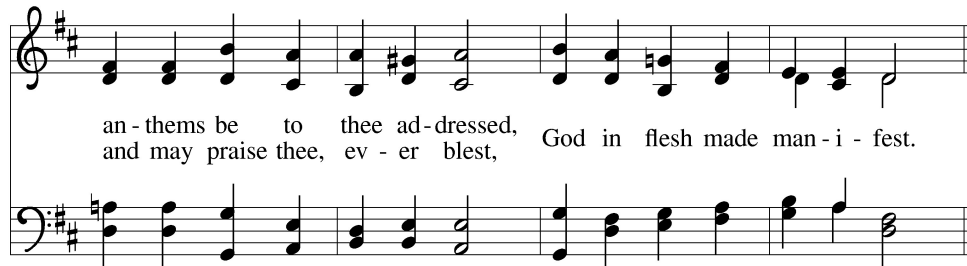
**Songs of Thankfulness and Praise**

1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
4 Grant us grace to see thee, Lord, pres - ent in thy ho - ly word;

man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
grace to im - i - tate thee now and be pure, as pure art thou;

branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem:  
that we might be - come like thee at thy great e - piph - a - ny,





an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,  
and may praise thee, ev - er blest, God in flesh made man - i - fest.

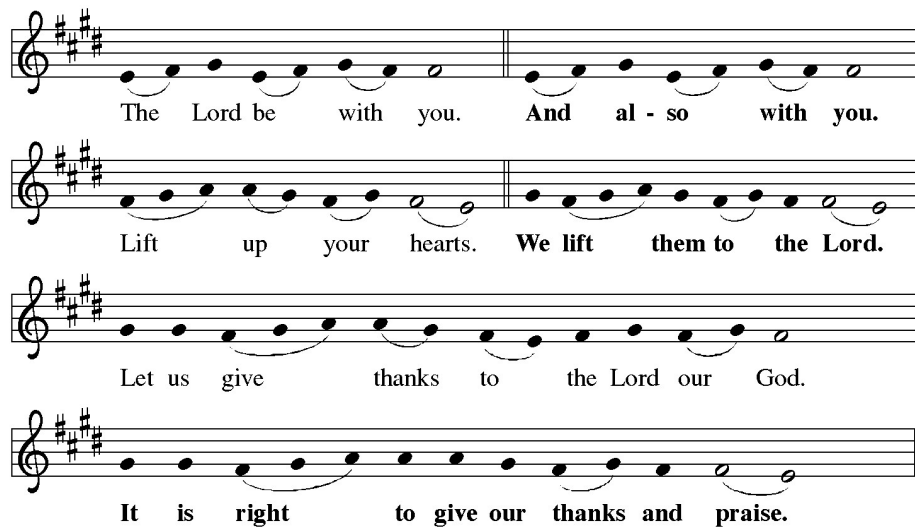
Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.  
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**A** Blessed are you, Holy One, for all good things come from you. In bread and cup you open heaven to us. Meet us at this table that we receive what we seek and follow your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray.

**C** Amen.

## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

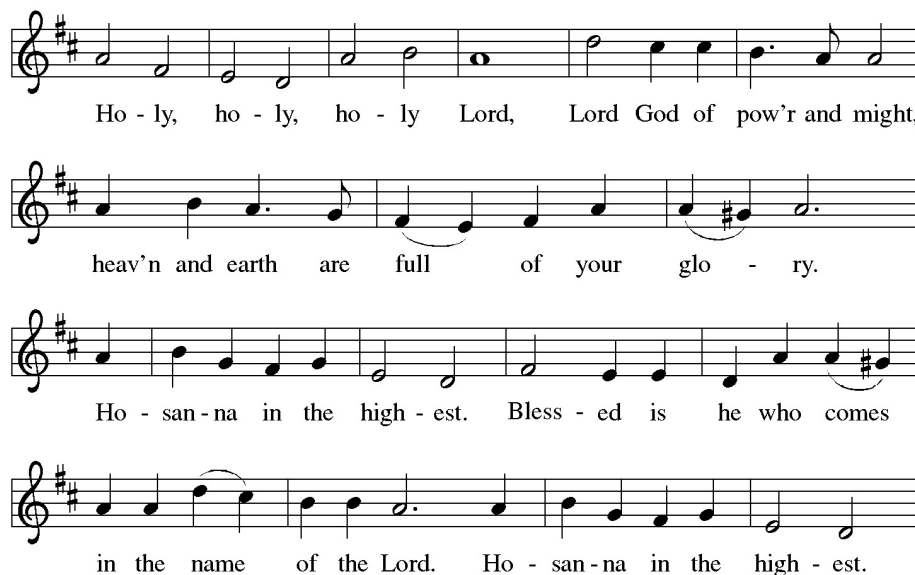


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

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

## SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

*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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.  
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

- ☐ Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.
- ☐ By your Spirit bless us and this meal that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son. Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever.
- ☑ **Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

- ☑ **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



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, grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** At Jesus' table, heaven and earth are joined as one. Come and see.

**C** Amen.

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

*The congregation is seated.*

## SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

Merciful God, we do not presume to come to your table trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant mercy. Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat and drink the body and blood of your dear Son, Jesus Christ, that we may live in him and he in us, now and forever. Amen. *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*

## COMMUNION

*This is Christ's Table and all Christians are welcome to the feast!  
We believe that this is the Body and Blood of Christ for you.*

*Please come forward from both sides by the center aisle.*

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

*White grape juice is in pre-filled cups for those who cannot have alcoholized wine.*

*Gluten-free wafers are available for those who need them; please let the pastor know.*

*Receive the bread in your open palm, then hold your cup steady for the assisting minister to fill.*

*As you return by the side aisles, please place your empty cup in the tray.*

*All are invited to the meal. If you would like to participate but not to receive the bread and wine,  
please cross your arms in front of you for a blessing from the pastor.*

## HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

ELW 303

### Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning

1 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
2 Cold on his cra - dle the dew - drops are shin - ing;  
3 What shall we give him, in cost - ly de - vo - tion?  
4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,  
5 Bright-est and best of the stars of the morn - ing,  
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.  
low lies his head with the beasts of the stall;  
Shall we bring in - cense and of - f' rings di - vine,  
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;  
dawn on our dark - ness and lend us your aid.



Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,  
 an - gels a - dore him in slum - ber re - clin - ing,  
 gems of the moun - tain and pearls of the o - cean,  
 rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,  
 Star of the east, the ho - ri - zon a - dorn - ing,

guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.  
 mak - er and mon - arch and sav - ior of all.  
 myrrh from the for - est or gold from the mine?  
 dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.  
 guide where our in - fant re - deem - er is laid.

Text: Nikolai F. S. Grundtvig, 1783–1872; tr. Jens Christian Aaberg, 1877–1970, alt.  
 Music: MORNING STAR, James P. Harding, 1850–1911, adapt.

ELW 726

## Light Dawns on a Weary World

1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to  
 2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find  
 3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -

see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a  
 bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a  
 lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a

wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.  
 wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.

*Refrain*  
 The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;  
 the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!  
 We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953  
Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951  
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*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

**P** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,  
keep you in all goodness and health, and bring you to everlasting life.

**C** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



**C** Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -



filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -



pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,



and will be for - ev - er. A - men

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** Giver of every gift, Christ's body is our food, and we are Christ's body. Raise us to life by your power for the benefit of all and to your glory, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## BLESSING OF ASSISTING MINISTERS AND COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

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

*Please be seated.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Please stand as you are able.*

**BLESSING**

**P** ...remain with you always.

**C** Amen.

**SENDING HYMN**

**ELW 815**

**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to  
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to  
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to

fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give  
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous - ness,  
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with

light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.  
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.  
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

*Refrain*

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the  
cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934  
 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson  
 Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- Go in peace. You are God's beloved!
- Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE – Prelude and Fugue in G Minor

J. S. Bach

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### — SERVING TODAY —

*GREETER* – Scouts of Troop 104G and Pack 52  
*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer  
*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Pam Masiroff  
*LECTOR* – Scouts of Troop 104G and Pack 52  
*GUEST CANTOR* – Bill Lasher  
*USHERS* – Scouts of Troup 104G and Pack 52  
*VIDEO STREAMING* – Beth Keller  
*ALTAR GUILD* – Sharon Burke



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in honor of my granddaughter, Addie, for her birthday by Donna Sedelmyer.

**Our love and sympathy** is with the family and friends of Cynthia Hessinger who died Monday, January 29. Her funeral service will be held Monday, February 5, at Luther Memorial Church with Pastor Jay presiding. Please keep her husband, Bob, and family in your prayers.



**In recognition** of Scout Sunday, members of Scout Troop 104G and Pack 352 will be taking part in our service this morning. We thank these young people for serving this morning and wish them the best as they continue to develop life-long skills offered in scouting.

### Today's Events

**“Souper” Bowl Tasting** event will be held in fellowship hall following the 10:30 service this morning. A variety of “heart-warming” soups are available for tasting. And maybe some recipes will be shared as well. Thank you to our Congregational Life Committee for planning this fellowship time.

**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.

### Worship Matters

**During the Season after Epiphany**, we are using the *Nunc Dimittis* (Latin: “Now dismiss”) as our **Post-Communion Cantic**. This Gospel Cantic is the Song of Simeon, which the prophet sings while holding the child Jesus at the Purification in the Temple. Martin Luther added this cantic to the Communion service because, he explained, just like Simeon held the child Jesus in the Temple, in Communion we too hold Jesus in our hands. So, like Simeon, we can sing in prophecy, proclamation, and praise.

**The Presentation of Our Lord** is the official end of the Christmas season. Forty days after Christmas, we remember that Jesus was brought to the Temple to be dedicated and Mary and Joseph came to be purified after his birth. It is also traditionally the day of **Candlemas** celebrating Jesus as the Light that Simeon prophesies about in his Song (“A Light to reveal to you the nations.”) As such, today we light candles and celebrate the light even as we still experience the cold and dark of winter and we bless our Assisting Ministers and Communion Assistants who serve at Luther who, with their very hands and hearts and voices, praise and share Jesus with us.

### Worship

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

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

**Ash Wednesday** worship services will be held in our main church on February 14 at 10:00am and 7:00pm. Ashes will also be given throughout the day for those who would like them.

### Christian Education

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

### Where Is Pastor Jay?

**Pastor Jay** would love to meet with you! You don't just need to have an emergency to have a great chat. If you want to get together, because Pastor Jay is often away from his desk doing other pastorly things, you should probably call the church office or e-mail Pastor Jay directly at [JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org](mailto:JMitchell@LutherMemorialOnline.org). This week, Pastor Jay is available Thursday, February 8 from 7:30-8:30am at BrewHaHa in the Colony Plaza.

## Opportunities for Fellowship

**Magic Fingers Grace Group** continues to spend wonderful mornings together knitting, crocheting, and being creative with needlepoint, cross-stitch and more. Join them the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month; February 13 and 27 from 10:00am – 12:00 noon. Please contact Norma, in the church office, or Jan MacInnes if you are in need of more yarn or have any questions.

## Faith Formation

**B.A.D. (*Bible After Dark*)** will be held on February 7 at 6:30pm at the Brewerie. Our evenings are a wonderful time of fellowship as we gather with folks from Mt. Calvary to share in Bible Study and fellowship (with some adult beverages if you would like). Due to gatherings offered in Lent and Easter our next get-together will be May 1.

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

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

## Donations Needed

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

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

## Lenten Preparations

**Do you have your palms** from last year? Did you know that the former year's palms are used for the ashes on Ash Wednesday of the next year? Please bring your old palms (from any year) into church and/or the office any time before Sunday, February 11! A basket will be on the Welcome Table near the ramp entrance. We will be using them to make this year's ashes for Ash Wednesday. Thank you.

**Tuesday, February 13** is Shrove Tuesday (some know it as Mardi Gras or "Fat Tuesday"). We will celebrate with a fundraiser for our youth: a Pancake Supper will be held from 5:30 – 7:00pm in our fellowship hall. Join us for a delicious meal as we celebrate Mardi Gras. Cost is \$8/adults and \$5 for children 12 and under. Proceeds will benefit our youth attending the National Youth Gathering in July 2024.

**Lenten Luncheons** will be offered on Wednesdays in Lent; February 21 – March 20 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. A home-cooked meal will fill you up for the day; cost \$8. Help is always appreciated and anyone interested in lending a hand with cooking, serving and/or clean-up may contact Betty Pletz at 898-1053 or the church office. **A Lenten luncheon planning meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 7 at 11:00am in the parlor.**

**There will be a Lenten Prayer Retreat** for the whole congregation on Saturday, February 17 from 10:00am to 2:00pm. We will begin with a brief service of prayer and then disperse throughout the building to explore a variety of prayer practices. There will be light refreshments throughout the day. If you have questions, or would like to set up for this event, please see Pastor Jay.

## Speaker Series

**Lunch and Listen**, a speaker's series devoted to the idea that listening to talented people sharing their passions, hobbies, career histories, etc., can be a refreshing alternative to the news that we hear daily, will be held at Abiding Hope Lutheran Church, 2402 W. Grandview Blvd. on Wednesday, February 14. Sandy Globa, from "Canine Companions" will share how these amazing dogs help their owners get through each day living with a handicap. Bring a sandwich, enjoy a cup of coffee at 12:00 noon, and enjoy the presentation from 12:30 – 1:30pm.

## Items to Note

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

## Readings and Commemorations This Week

**February 5 – The Martyrs of Japan, 1597** – Ezekiel 20:40-42; Psalm 16:5-11; Galatians 2:19-20; Matthew 28:16-20 -- *Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.*

**February 6** – Psalm 102:12-28; II Kings 8:1-6; Acts 15:36-41

**February 7** – Psalm 102:12-28; Job 6:1-13; Mark 3:7-12

**February 8** – Psalm 30; Leviticus 13:1-17; Hebrews 12:7-13

**February 9** – Psalm 30; Leviticus 14:1-20; Acts 19:11-20

**February 10** – Psalm 30; Leviticus 14:21-32; Matthew 26:6-13

## – PRAYER LIST –

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

## CALENDAR

<b>MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5</b>	1:00pm 3:00pm	Visitation / Cynthia Hessinger Funeral / Cynthia Hessinger
<b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6</b>	2:00pm 2:30pm	W/ELCA Board Meeting / Circle LMA Play Rehearsal
<b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 7</b>	11:00am 2:30pm 3:00pm 6:30pm	Lenten Luncheon Planning Meeting Girl Scouts School Board Bible After Dark (Brewerie)
<b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8</b>	1:00pm 2:30pm 5:30pm 6:30pm	Grief Support Group LMA Play Rehearsal Handbells Choir
<b>FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9</b>	6:30pm	Club 50
<b>SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10</b>	10:00am	Quilt Meeting

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024 THE TRANSFIGURATION OF JESUS

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

**Adult Forum** will gather at 9:15am.

<b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 2024</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Ellen DiPlacido
	10:30am	Kate Martin
Communion Assistant	10:30am	Elaine Kern
Altar Guild	8:15am	Donna Sedelmyer
	10:30am	Martha & Tom Klomp
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Linda Graffius
Video Streaming	10:30am	Christy Adams
Counters	10:30am	Jean McMillin, Skip Meyn
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	Sue Cappelletty, Pat Gilbert, Carl Moore