

Welcome to
Luther Memorial Church
of the Erie Lutheran Parish



25 February 2024
The Second Sunday *in* Lent
10:30 am

LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH

LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY

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

REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

WALT GABER

Cantor

RON KING

Pastoral Asst. ~ Holy Trinity

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL

THE REV. KAREN PARSH

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

Pastors in Residence

LINDA GRAFFIUS, RN

Director of Care & Health Ministries

JAN MACINNES

Care Ministry

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

Youth and Family Ministry

MICHELLE THOM

Academy Administrator

25 FEBRUARY 2024

THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

Holy Communion • ELW Setting Five • 10:30

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

PRELUDE – "Toccata & Fugue No. 2 in G Minor"

Johann Ernst Eberlin (1702 - 1762)

PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

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

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

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

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

☞ **Amen.**

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

Please kneel or sit. Silence is kept for reflection.

☞ Holy God,

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

**We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.**

We speak in ways that silence others.

We are silent when we should speak up.

We keep score in our hearts.

We let hurts grow into hatred.

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

Amen.

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

☑ Amen.

Please stand as you are able.

GATHERING HYMN

ELW 326

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993
Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.
Text © 1991 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.
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GREETING

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

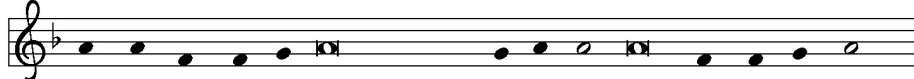
KYRIE



A In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



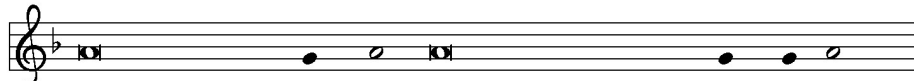
C Lord, have mer - cy.



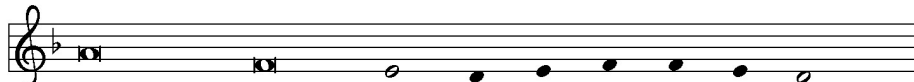
A For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



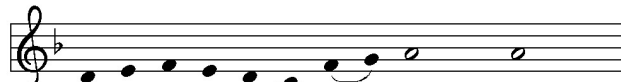
C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



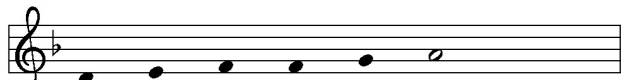
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



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



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



C A - - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you made an instrument of shameful death to be for us the means of life. Grant us so to glory in the cross of Christ that we may gladly suffer shame and loss for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

A MESSAGE FOR THE YOUNG AND YOUNG-AT-HEART

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

As with Noah, God makes an everlasting covenant with Abraham and Sarah. God promises this old couple that they will be the ancestors of nations, though they have no child together. God will miraculously bring forth new life from Sarah’s womb. The name changes emphasize the firmness of God’s promise.

FIRST READING: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

¹When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. ²And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous.” ³Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, ⁴“As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁵No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. ⁶I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and rulers shall come from you. ⁷I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.” ¹⁵God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. ¹⁶I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; rulers of peoples shall come from her.”

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM: 22:23-31

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



All the ends of the earth shall re - mem - ber and turn to the LORD.

²³ You who fear the Lord, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the Lord, all you offspring of Israel.

²⁴ For the Lord does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;

neither is the Lord’s face hidden from them;

but when they cry out, the Lord hears them.

²⁵ From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the Lord.

²⁶ The poor shall eat and be satisfied,

Let those who seek the Lord give praise! May your hearts live forever! **R**

²⁷ All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

²⁸ For dominion belongs to the Lord,

who rules over the nations.

²⁹ Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;
 all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the Lord.
³⁰ Their descendants shall serve the Lord,
 whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.
³¹ They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,
 saying to them, "The Lord has acted!" **R**

Paul presents Abraham as the example for how a person comes into a right relationship with God not through works of the law but through faith. Though Abraham and Sarah were far too old for bearing children, Abraham trusted that God would accomplish what God had promised to accomplish.

SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

¹³The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. ¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all Abraham's descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom Abraham believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. ¹⁸Hoping against hope, Abraham believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be." ¹⁹He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. ²⁰No distrust made Abraham waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹being fully convinced that God was able to do what God had promised. ²²Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ²³Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone ²⁴but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in the one who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, ²⁵who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

L The Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able to greet the Gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

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



*May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord [|] Jesus Christ,
 by which the world is crucified to me, and I [|] to the world.
 (Galatians 6:14)*

After Peter confesses his belief that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus tells his disciples for the first time what is to come. Peter's response indicates that he does not yet understand the way of the cross that Jesus will travel.

P The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

G Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

³¹Jesus began to teach them that the Son-of-Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. ³²Jesus said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, Jesus rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things." ³⁴Jesus called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son-of-Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

- 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW 667

Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said". It consists of three systems of music, each with a vocal line in the treble clef and a piano accompaniment in the bass clef. The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

1 "Take up your cross," the Sav - ior said,
2 Take up your cross; let not its weight
3 Take up your cross, nor heed the shame,
4 Take up your cross and fol - low Christ,

"if you would my dis - ci - ple be;
per - vade your soul with vain a - larm;
nor let your fool - ish heart re - bel;
nor think till death to lay it down;

for - sake the past, and come this day,
his strength shall bear your spir - it up,
for you the Lord en - dured the cross
for those who hum - bly bear the cross



and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me."
 sus - tain your heart, and nerve your arm.
 to save your soul from death and hell.
 one day will wear the glo - rious crown.

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814–1877, alt.
 Music: BOURBON, W. Hauser, *Hesperian Harp*, 1848; arr. hymnal version
 Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

APOSTLES' CREED

- A** Let us confess the faith into which we are baptized:
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty,**
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

THE PRAYERS

- A** Trusting in the promises of baptism, the mercy and grace of God, let us pray for the Church, those in need, and all of God's good creation.
- A** Let us pray for the Church; for deacons, pastors, and bishops; for all the faithful.
Here you may pray silently or aloud for the Church of Jesus Christ in every place.
- A** Let us pray for God's good creation; for the changing of the seasons; for the promises of spring; for shelter from harsh weather; and for all who work for clean water and fresh air for all.
Here you may pray silently or aloud for the needs of creation.
- A** Let us pray for the nations; for those who rule, govern, and lead; all who run for public office; and all places that know war and strife.
Here you may pray silently or aloud for the nations of the world.
- A** Let us pray for those in need; the underhoused and underemployed; the sick; those who bear another's burdens; those who will die today.
Here you may pray silently or aloud for the sick, suffering, and those in need.
- A** Let us pray for those preparing for baptism; for those who seek after the mysteries of God; those who prepare for ministry in the Church.
Here you may pray silently or aloud for those in their catechetical journeys.

A Let us pray in thanksgiving for those who have gone before in the way of the cross; those whose faith inspires our own, Robert C. Chaffee, William Youngman, Carol Emerson and Melanie Benn Brown, and those whose faith was known only to God.

Here you may give thanks silently or aloud for our beloved dead.

A Keep us, O God, in the promises of baptism until we come to the Feast around the Lamb in whose mercy and grace we trust.

C Amen.

THE PEACE

P The peace of Christ be with you.

C And also with you.

Please be seated.

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

THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

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

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and to the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship

ANTHEM – "Hide Not Thou Thy Face"

Richard Farrant

*Hide not thou thy face from us, O Lord,
And cast not off thy servants in thy displeasure;
For we confess our sins unto thee,
And hide not our unrighteousness.
For thy mercy's sake deliver us from all our sins.*

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERTORY

WOV 732

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and

The image shows a musical score for the offertory "Create in Me a Clean Heart". It consists of two systems of music, each with a treble and bass staff. The first system has the lyrics "Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right" written below the notes. The second system has the lyrics "spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and" written below the notes. The music is in a key with two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a common time signature.

take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to me the

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

Text: Psalm 51:10-12
 Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739, arr. Harold W. Gilbert

OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A** Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.
- C** Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

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

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

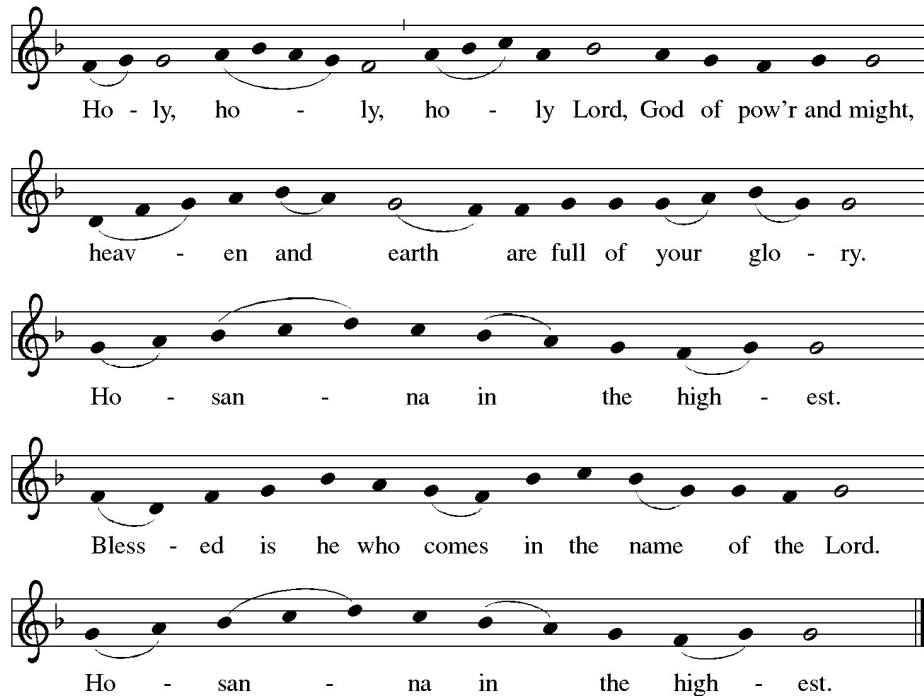
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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

SANCTUS



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

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

*In the same way, 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.

☐ We lament his death:

☑ Amen.

☐ We celebrate his resurrection:

☑ Amen.

P Transform us, O God, + with your lively Spirit. Make this food into manna for our journey, the body and blood of your Son. Grant us with the Ninevites forty days of repentance. Teach us your words of wisdom and justice. Renew the whole earth with baptismal grace. At the last, lead all your pilgrim people through our deserts to your Easter garden.

P To you, O God, Creator, Savior, Comforter, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be our worship and praise, adoration and thanksgiving, now and forever.

C Amen.

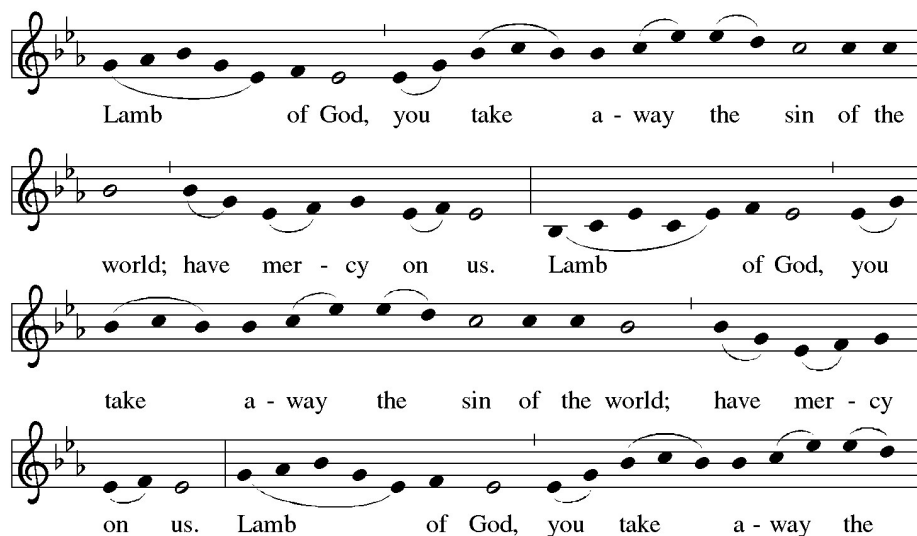
THE LORD'S PRAYER

P *Lord, remember us in the kingdom and teach us to pray:*

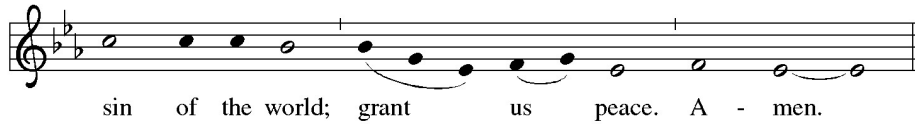


C Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

AGNUS DEI



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



INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- ☐ Here is the Lamb of God. Here is the One who takes away the sin of the world. Happy are those who are called to the supper.
- ☑ **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**
- ☐ Those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the body and blood of Christ given and shed 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.

If you would like, as you return to your seat after receiving the Sacrament, you may pause with either person who is offering anointing and healing prayer.

HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 831

The God of Abraham Praise

1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;
 2 The God of A-br'ham praise! At your su-preme com-mand
 3 The God of A-br'ham praise! Your all-suf-fi-cient grace
 4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de-pend.

An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.

“I Am the One I Am”— by earth and heav'n con - fessed;
 I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!
 I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,

I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.
 and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.
 and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

5 Though nature's strength decay,
 and earth and hell withstand,
 to Canaan's bounds I urge my way
 at your command.
 The wat'ry deep I pass,
 with Jesus in my view,
 and through the howling wilderness
 my way pursue.

6 The goodly land I see,
 with peace and plenty blest;
 a land of sacred liberty,
 and endless rest.
 There milk and honey flow,
 and oil and wine abound,
 and trees of life forever grow
 with mercy crowned.

7 Before the great Three-One
 the saints exulting stand
 and tell the wonders God has done
 through all their land.
 The list'ning spheres attend
 and swell the growing fame
 and sing the songs which never end,
 the wondrous name.

8 The whole triumphant host
 give thanks to God on high.
 “Hail, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!”
 they ever cry.
 Hail, Abr'ham's God and mine!
 I join the heav'nly lays:
 to you be glory, might divine,
 and endless praise!

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the *Yigdal*, c. 14th cent.
 Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C Amen.

Please be seated.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

THANKSGIVING FOR SERVICE

Please stand as you are able.

BLESSING

- P** ...until we meet again.
C Amen.

DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A** Go in peace. Share your bread.
C Amen.

POSTLUDE – "Fugue No. 2 in G Minor"

Johann Ernst Eberlin

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— SERVING TODAY —

*ACOLYTE – Jessica Copfer
ASSISTING MINISTER – Linda Swanson
COMMUNION ASSISTANT – Stan Rose
LECTOR – Christy Adams
USHERS – Mary Daniels, Les Fobes, Tom Klomp, Carl Moore
VIDEO STREAMING – John Bartlett
ALTAR GUILD – Loretta Deeds*



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

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

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Melanie Benn Brown who died Thursday, February 15. Our prayers are with Melanie's husband, Jon Brown; mother-in-law, Cheryl Brown; and family.

Our love and sympathy is with the family and friends of Carol Emerson who died Sunday, February 18. Our prayers are with Carol's sister, Pat Young, and family.

Today's Events

Please join with us in the parlor following the 10:30 service this morning for a time of refreshments and fellowship. Thank you to our Tuesday W/ELCA Circle for this morning's gathering.

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

Where's the Sending Hymn? In our Eucharistic Prayer throughout the season of Lent, we hear of this meal we share as Manna in the wilderness and refreshment on the journey. And the Communion we share is precisely that. In order to simplify down our worship service (part of the other worship practices in last week's Worship Matters) and to draw the closer connection between the Lord's Supper we share and the journey we are on, the ministry we share, we will find ourselves going straight from the Table through the announcements (how we minister in this place) and into our journey of Lent. Perhaps this is the season to sit and tarry a while in prayer while the Postlude plays.

Worship

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

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

Lutheran Schools Week is an annual week of activities and celebration hosted by the Evangelical Lutheran Education Association. This year it runs from March 3 through March 9. A worship service will be held **Monday, March 4 at 1:00pm** in our main church with Bishop Michael Lozano preaching. **Cookies** are needed for the reception which will be held following the service. If you are available to provide cookies, please contact Les Fobes or the church office. All are welcome to attend.

Lent Opportunities

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

Lenten Luncheons are offered on Wednesdays in Lent; February 21 – March 20 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. A home-cooked meal will fill you up for the day; cost \$8. The main dish for Wednesday, February 28 will be hot chicken salad. Help is always appreciated and anyone interested in lending a hand with cooking, serving and/or clean-up may contact Betty Pletz at 898-1053 or the church office.

Steps in Faith, our evening Lenten gatherings, are 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 is open each weekday thru **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.

Hamloaf orders will be accepted through Sunday, March 10. Be sure to stock up as they won't be available again until December. Order forms are located at the welcome tables and in the church office. Hamloaf will be available for pick up on Sunday, March 24.

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.

Opportunities for Fellowship

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

Support Our Youth!

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

Luck of the Irish Bingo is set for Sunday, March 17. Doors open at 1:30pm with Bingo beginning at 1:00pm. Eight games of bingo will be played with case prizes. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$25 at the door. Bring a 4 leaf clover for luck and have an exciting afternoon. Tickets are available from Beth Keller, Sarah Prylinski and the church office.

Luther Memorial Academy

At the conclusion of Lutheran Schools Week, the Parent Teacher League (PTL) of LMA will be hosting a fundraiser Trivia event at Lavery Brewing. On Sunday, March 10 from 2:00-4:00pm, we will gather for trivia, raffles, and fun! Teams of 4 can sign up for \$50 by calling Kim Wertz. Individuals who would like to be assigned to a team, may sign up for \$15 per person. All funds benefit LMA.

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.

Caring Community

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

Items to Note

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

– PRAYER LIST –

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

Readings and Commemorations This Week

February 25 – Elizabeth Fedde, deaconess, 1921 – Hosea 2:18-23; Psalm 94:1-14; Romans 12:9-21; Luke 6:20-36 -- *Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.*

February 26 – Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 21:1-7; Hebrews 1:8-12

February 27 – Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Genesis 22:1-19; Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19

February 28 – Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45; Jeremiah 30:12-22; John 12:36-43

February 29 – Psalm 19; Exodus 19:1-9a; I Peter 2:4-10

March 1 – George Herbert, hymnwriter, 1633 – Psalm 1; I Peter 5:1-4; Matthew 5:1-10 -- *An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.*

March 2 – Psalm 19; Exodus 19:16-25; Mark 9:2-8

CALENDAR

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 26

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 27 10:00am Magic Fingers Grace Group
2:30pm LMA Play Rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28 12:05pm Lenten Worship Service
12:35pm Luncheon
5:30pm Steps in Faith

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 29 1:00pm Grief Support Group
2:30pm LMA Play Rehearsal
5:30pm Handbells
6:30pm Choir

FRIDAY, MARCH 1 LMA Read Across America Day Celebration

SATURDAY, MARCH 2 10:00am Quilt Group

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024 THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

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

Adult Forum will gather at 9:15am.

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

SUNDAY, MARCH 3, 2024		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Communion Assistant	10:30am	Elaine Kern
Lector	10:30am	Vance Meucci
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Beth Keller
Counters	10:30am	Pat Bellingham, Nick Lang
Ushers (4 needed)	10:30am	Sue Cappelletty