

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



12 MARCH 2023  
The Third Sunday in Lent  
10:30 am

*In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

## 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*

**12 MARCH 2023**

**THE THIRD 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 – “Voluntary No. 3 in F”**

John Keeble (1711 - 1786)

### 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

**HANDBELL VOLUNTARY – “Come to Me, You Pilgrims Weary”**

arr. Jeffrey Honoré

*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.

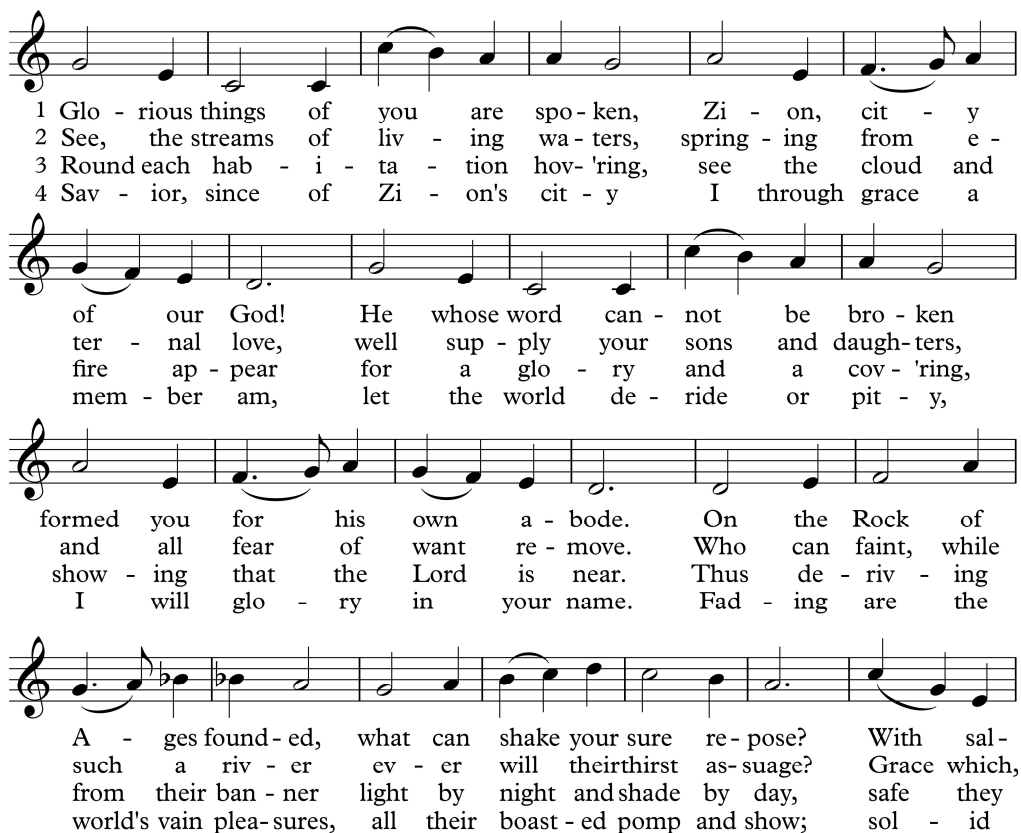
**P** Hear the good news:  
 God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,  
 so that all may receive life.  
 This promise is for you!  
 God embraces you with divine mercy,  
 ☩ forgives you in Christ's name,  
 and revives you in the Spirit's power.  
**C** Amen.

*The author of this hymn text was an English slave-trader who had a conversion experience, studied and took holy orders, and served forty-four years as curate in two churches. The Austrian national hymn tune written by Joseph Haydn was commonly used for this text. But the strong association of that tune with German nationalism during WWII led this British composer, while working in the Religious Broadcasting Department of the BBC, to provide an alternative tune that we use today.*

## ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 647

### Glorious Things of You Are Spoken

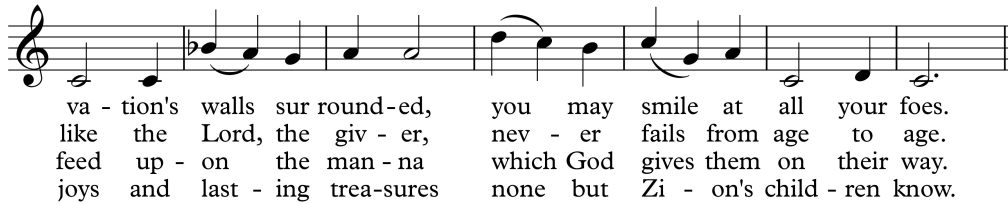


1 Glo - rious things of you are spo - ken, Zi - on, cit - y  
 2 See, the streams of liv - ing wa - ters, spring - ing from e -  
 3 Round each hab - i - ta - tion hov - 'ring, see the cloud and  
 4 Sav - ior, since of Zi - on's cit - y I through grace a

of our God! He whose word can - not be bro - ken  
 ter - nal love, well sup - ply your sons and daugh - ters,  
 fire ap - pear for a glo - ry and a cov - 'ring,  
 mem - ber am, let the world de - ride or pit - y,

formed you for his own a - bode. On the Rock of  
 and all fear of want re - move. Who can faint, while  
 show - ing that the Lord is near. Thus de - riv - ing  
 I will glo - ry in your name. Fad - ing are the

A - ges found - ed, what can shake your sure re - pose? With sal -  
 such a riv - er ev - er will their thirst as - suage? Grace which,  
 from their ban - ner light by night and shade by day, safe they  
 world's vain plea - sures, all their boast - ed pomp and show; sol - id



Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt.  
Music: ABBOT'S LEIGH, Cyril V. Taylor, 1907-1991

## 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



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.
- C** Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*Please be seated.*

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

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the LORD among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.*

## FIRST READING: Exodus 17:1-7

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the Lord, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ►

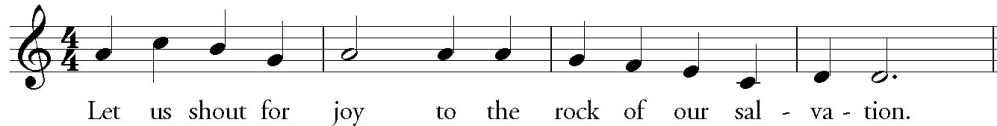
<sup>5</sup>The Lord said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”

📖 The word of the Lord.

🙏 Thanks be to God.

## PSALM: Psalm 95

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



<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to him with psalms.

<sup>3</sup>For the Lord is a great God,  
and a great King above all gods.

<sup>4</sup>In his hand are the caverns of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are his also. **R**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is his for he made it,  
and his hands have molded the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>Come let us bow down and bend the knee,  
and kneel before the Lord our maker.

<sup>7</sup>For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hand.  
Oh, that today you would hearken to his voice!

<sup>8</sup>"Harden not your hearts as your forebears did in the wilderness,  
at Meribah and on that day at Massah when they tempted me. **R**

<sup>9</sup>They put me to the test,  
though they had seen my works.

<sup>10</sup>Forty years long I detested that generation and said,  
'This people are wayward in their hearts; they do not know my ways.'

<sup>11</sup>So I swore in my wrath,  
'They shall not enter into my rest.' " **R**

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

## SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But it is proof of God's own love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by the blood of Christ, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were ►

enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of the Son of God, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by the life of the Son of God. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

☐ 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 - clined.

☐ The Holy Gospel according to John.



☑ Glory to you, O Lord.

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation.  
Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

## GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a man of Judea, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his children and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to Jesus, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to Jesus, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Judeans. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "Here I am, the one who is speaking to you." Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see someone who told me everything I have ever done! Can this be the Messiah?" They left the city and were on their way to him. Meanwhile the disciples were urging Jesus, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, ►

*“Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will and accomplish the work of the one who sent me. Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” So when the Samaritans came to Jesus, they asked him to stay with them, and Jesus stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”*

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

*Please be seated.*

## SERMON

Pastor Jay

*Please stand as you are able.*

*This author was a school music teacher, private piano and organ instructor, and parish organist/choir director for 12 years. She served as liturgy coordinator for her religious community for six years, Director of the Office of Worship for the Dioceses of St. Cloud, MN for 15 years and liturgical music consultant in southeast Australia for 15 months. She is currently preparing a fourth hymn collection and assisting with liturgy planning and music leadership at St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, MN.*

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

ELW 777



- 1 “Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
- 2 “Come to me, all trav-’lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
- 3 “Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live.”  
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest.”  
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face.”

#### Refrain



Je - sus, ev - er - flow-ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- 6 “Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;  
 lonely ways no longer roam.  
 Come and take the gift I offer,  
 let me make in you my home.” *Refrain*

## 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.

## WELCOMING OUR NEW PASTOR

**L** A church family is constantly changing. Loved ones come to the end of their lives. Individuals come and go in our church life. It is important and right that we recognize these times of passage, of endings and beginnings. Today we share the time of welcome with Pastor Jay, whose time as our Pastor begins now.

**L** Pastor Jay, in the presence of this congregation, will you commit yourself to this new trust and responsibility, and promise to discharge your duties in harmony with the constitutions of the church?

**P** *I will and I ask God to help me.*

**L** Will you love, serve, and pray for these people of God, nourishing us with the Word and Holy Sacraments, and lead us forward during this important time of change?

**P** *I will and I ask God to help me.*

**L** Will you lead us in giving faithful witness to the Word of God and in making known the love of God through loving service among us and in this community?

**P** *I will and I ask God to help me.*

**L** Almighty God, who has given you the will to do these things, give you the power of the Spirit so that you may perform them with strength and compassion.

**C** Amen.

**L** I ask all of you, now, people of Luther Memorial, will you receive this messenger of Christ, Pastor Jay, who continues the work of bringing the Gospel of hope and salvation? Will you regard him as a fellow servant of Christ and work with him in the ministry of this congregation?

**C** We will.

**L** Will you pray for him and honor him for his work's sake and in all things strive to live together in the peace and unity of Christ?

**C** We will.





**L** By your statements of commitment and the affirmation of this congregation, we welcome you as the Pastor of this congregation in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C** 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** We pray for your church. Bless partnerships with other Christians and inter-religious dialogue. Guide the daily work of denominational and congregational leaders. Strengthen our combined witness for the sake of the gospel, that all experience your life-giving love. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** We pray for the universe. All creation teems with life, from the depths of the earth and seas to the skies above. Fill us with awe and reverence for the diversity and preservation of life. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** We pray for the nations of the world. Topple the dividing walls that separate us from our neighbors. Form us into your beloved community where diversity of gender, race, language, ability, and ethnic origin is celebrated and affirmed. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** We pray for those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit. Be present with all who are lonely and give courage to all who are afraid. Comfort those who live with chronic illness or other sickness, in particular those whose names and needs we lift up now: *the assembly may lift up persons and causes they hold dear either silently or aloud*. Give them your living water always. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** We pray for this congregation. We give you thanks for your faithfulness during our time of pastoral transition and for drawing us together with Pastor Jay. Guide us as we continue to seek to faithfully serve you together in this place. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** We give thanks for the lives of all your saints especially Gregory the Great and J. David Mumford. Their hope in you sustained lives of faith and service. Encourage us with the hope they shared in you. Merciful God,

**C** receive our prayer.

**P** 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*

## ANTHEM – "Thou Wast, O God"

Thomas Tallis (arr. Arlen Clarke)

*Thou wast, O God, and Thou wast blest, before the World began,  
Of thine eternity possessed, before time's hourglass ran.  
Thou needest none Thy praise to sing, as if thy joy could fade;  
Could'st Thou have needed anything, Thou could'st have nothing made.*

*Great and good God it pleased Thee Thy Godhead to declare;  
And what Thy goodness did decree Thy greatness did prepare  
Thou spak'st and heaven and earth appeared, and answered to Thy call;  
As if their maker's voice they heard, which is the creature's all.*

*To whom, Lord, should I sing, but Thee, the maker of my tongue?  
Lord, other lords would seize on me, but I to Thee belong,  
As waters haste into the sea, and earth into its earth,  
So let my soul return to Thee, from whom it had its birth.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY

### Come to the Table

ELW 481



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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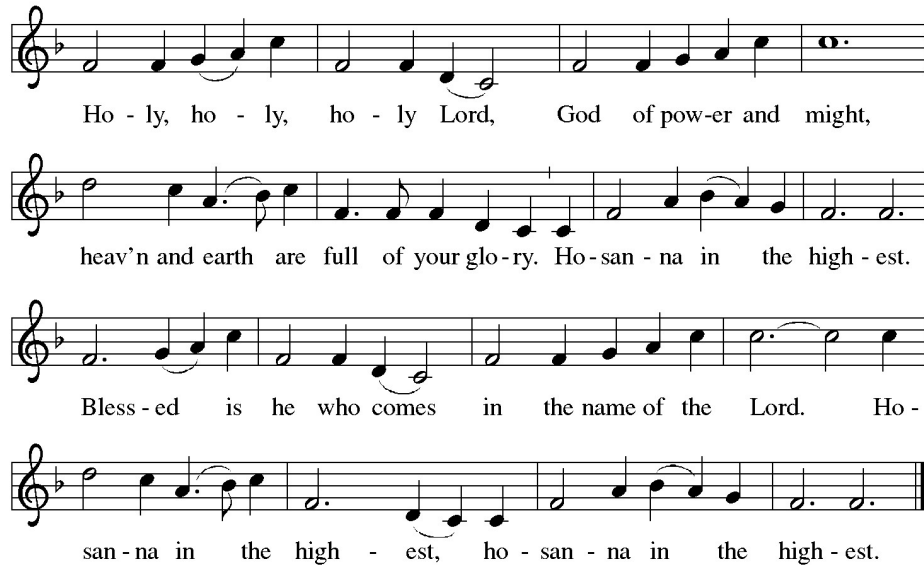
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**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.
- P** 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:



## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- P** All praise to you, glorious God of grace.  
Throughout the ages you have blessed us  
with foremothers of the faith.  
With Sarah, we bless you for your gift of life. *Genesis 18:12*  
With Ruth, we praise you for family and food. *Ruth 4:13*  
With Miriam, we celebrate our escape from the foe. *Exodus 15:21*  
Remembering Deborah,  
we honor the words of your prophets. *Judges 4:4-5*  
Remembering the woman at the well,  
we laud you for living water. *John 4:29*  
Remembering Junia, we thank you for those  
who minister among your people. *Romans 16:7*  
One with the daughter of Jairus,  
we wake to life in you. *Mark 5:41-42*
- P** With Mary, your servant, we magnify your name:
- C** My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior. *Luke 1:46*



- ☐ Remembering Martha and Mary,  
we join Jesus at this meal.     *Luke 10:38-39*  
Living, he healed the bleeding woman;     *Mark 5:29*  
dying, he cared for his mother;     *John 19:26-27*  
risen, he sent Mary Magdalene in mission.     *John 20:14-18*

*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.*

- ☐ With Mary, your mother, again we magnify your name:

☑ **My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

- ☐ Mighty God of mercy,  
as you heard the prayers of Hannah,  
so now hear us.     *1 Samuel 1:27*  
Send your Spirit on this bread and wine,  
that sharing the body and blood of Christ  
we become his body in the world.  
Send your Spirit on this assembly, that like Phoebe,  
we serve one another with zeal.     *Romans 16:1*  
Send your Spirit on the church, that like Anna,  
we tell others of your mercy.     *Luke 2:38*  
Send your Spirit into our hearts, that like Dorcas,  
we care for the poor and needy.     *Acts 9:40-41*

- ☐ With Mary, chief of your saints, once more we magnify your name:

☑ **My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.**

- ☐ All praise to you, powerful God of peace.  
We adore you, our God,  
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,  
you who mother and feed and comfort us,  
today, tomorrow, and forever.

☑ **Amen.**

## 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.**



**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.*

*The author of this hymn text is a tremendously accomplished musician and author who was born in Ashtabula, OH. The text is based on John 15:3, "I am the vine, you are the branches."*

*The melody was composed for this text by a distinguished composer and Lutheran pastor who had attended a workshop with the author of the text.*

## HYMN FOR THE DISTRIBUTION

ELW 447

### O Blessed Spring

1 O bless - ed spring, where word and sign em - brace us  
2 Through sum - mer heat of youth - ful years, un - cer - tain  
3 When au - tumn cools and youth is cold, when limbs their  
4 As win - ter comes, as win - ters must, we breathe our  
5 Christ, ho - ly Vine, Christ, liv - ing Tree, be praised for

in - to Christ the Vine: here Christ en - joins each one to  
faith, re - bel - lious tears, sus - tained by Christ's in - fus - ing  
heav - y har - vest hold, then through us, warm, the Christ will  
last, re - turn to dust; still held in Christ, our souls take  
this blest mys - ter - y: that word and wa - ter thus re -

be a branch of this life - giv - ing Tree.  
rain, the boughs will shout for joy a - gain.  
move with gifts of beau - ty, wis - dom, love.  
wing and trust the prom - ise of the spring.  
vive and join us to your Tree of Life.

Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, b. 1953  
Music: BERGLUND, Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950  
Text © 1993 Susan Palo Cherwien, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Music © 1993 Robert Buckley Farlee, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

☞ The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

☞ Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

**A** 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.

**C** Amen.

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

## BLESSING

**P** God, the giver of love,  
✠ Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
bless you in this Lenten journey.

**C** Amen.

*The author of this hymn text is said to be the pre-eminent hymn-writer of Wales. He wrote over 800 Welsh hymns and more than 100 in English. The composer of the tune was a Welsh coal miner and churchman, and the tune name honors his lifelong home, the Rhondda Valley, Glamorganshire, Wales. The tune was written for a singing festival in Wales, and in the first 25 years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century it was used in over five thousand such festivals.*

## SENDING HYMN

ELW 618

### Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me  
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,

feed me now and ev - er - more, shield me with your might - y arm,  
feed me now and ev - er - more, shield me with your might - y arm.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.  
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

**A** Go in peace. Serve in love.

**G** Thanks be to God!

**POSTLUDE** – "Voluntary in A Minor, Op. 7, No. 2"

John Stanley (1712 - 1786)

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### — SERVING TODAY —

*PREACHING* – Pastor Jay Mitchell

*GREETER* – Dave Griswold

*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Emma Chaffee

*LECTOR* – Marilyn Rositer

*USHERS* – Diana Alvaro, Ann Flick, Carl Moore, Betty Pletz

*ALTAR GUILD* – Pam Masiroff



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of loved ones by Lois and Les Fobes.

**Columbarium flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of Pastor Dave Mumford by Bill Braendel, Jr.

### Today's Events

**Join us** in the parlor at 9:30 this morning for refreshments to celebrate Chickie Braine's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday which was on Friday, March 10.

**We welcome** you to join us in the parlor following the 10:30 service this morning to greet Pastor Jay and enjoy some light refreshments.

**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.

**First Holy Communion** classes will 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.

**Children's Church** classes for PreK – grade 6 meet this morning from 9:30 – 10:15. Our youth in grades 7 - 12 will meet next Sunday, March 19 at 9:30am.

### 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

**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
<b>March 15</b>	<b>Questions for the Curious</b>
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 15 will be hot chicken salad.

**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](mailto: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 next Sunday, March 19 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 14 and 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 Worchester 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 11<sup>th</sup> 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.

### – PRAYER LIST –

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:			
Our Members:			
Cathy & Don MacGregor	C. Noelle Partusch	Chickie Braine	Mike Daniels
Paul Meucci	Dave Birkner	Torsten Carlson	Mary Laver
Julie Sturm			
Friends and Family:			
Dennis & Lori Sander	Elayne Morphy	June Madurski	Edie Jackman
Elizabeth, Craig & Winnie	Mary Correll	Judy Skoog	Branden Jones
Karen Dahlstrand	Nichole Jones	Bob Guenther	Christine Norris
Jessica & Damian Ream	Elise VanDamia	Gary Flick	Meghan Kessler
Austin Coverdale	Kevin	Tom Wilson	Dawn Weborg
Baby Archer Bardwell	Curtis Krick	Tom Braendel	Susan Brooks
Abbie (Treiber) Dixon	Debbie	Caitlyn Kessler	Michele Seifert
Megan Bruno			
Grief:			
Bill Youngman family	J. David Mumford family		
Our Military Service Men & Women:			
Lt. Col. Matt Anderson	Michael Stickner	Andrew Watson	Alli Brown
Ben Dixon			

## CALENDAR

**MONDAY, MARCH 13**

**TUESDAY, MARCH 14**            10:00pm            Magic Fingers Grace Group

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15**       12:05pm            Worship  
   12:35pm            Lenten Luncheon  
   5:30pm            Walk to Emmaus

**THURSDAY, MARCH 16**           5:30pm            Handbell Rehearsal  
   6:30pm            Choir Rehearsal

**FRIDAY, MARCH 17**                                    LMA Closed

**SATURDAY, MARCH 18**

### **SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023 THE FOURTH 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.

**LYO** will meet at 9:30am.

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

**Jigsaw puzzle cart** will be in the parlor area all ready for swapping puzzles.

**Choir rehearsal** for the May18 Ascension Service will be held at 12:00 noon.

<b>SUNDAY, MARCH 19, 2023</b>		
<b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Julie Ditz
Altar Guild	8:15am	Cathie Dugan
	10:30am	Jessica Copfer, Mary Daniels
Greeters	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	Linda Graffius
Counters	10:30am	Jeff Swanson, Pat Young