

*WELCOME TO*  
**LUTHER MEMORIAL  
CHURCH & ACADEMY**

**WELCOME!**

+ Everything you need to follow along in worship is included in this bulletin. You are invited to stand and sit—as you are able—as indicated herein.

+ If you have a need to **children**'s bulletins, coloring pages, crayons, or other supplies they are available on the Welcome Table. You can proceed out the door next to the pulpit and find the Welcome Table near the door.

- Children are always welcome in worship and together we make a joyful noise! However, if you have need, a staffed nursery is available down the stairs across from the Welcome Table.

+ An all-gender and accessible **restroom** is available out the door next to the pulpit, up the ramp, and to the right. Follow signs for “Handicap Bathroom.” Other restrooms are available down the hallway next to Faith Chapel across from the parlor.

+ You do not need to turn off or disconnect here! However, please be mindful of those worshipping around you and turn your phones and devices to silent. Feel free to take pictures of our beautiful sanctuary or post about the sermon. However, we ask that you ask permission before taking any people pictures.

+ We welcome all to worship and to the Table trusting that it is the Holy Spirit that draws us all together. If you would like information about joining the congregation or receiving the Sacraments of the Church, be sure to talk to Pastor Jay after worship (you can usually find him next to the pulpit after the service).

8 MARCH 2026  
**The Third Sunday *in* Lent**  
10:30 am

## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### PRELUDE – "Beach Spring"

W. Wold

### CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

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

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

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

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers:  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

**Amen.**

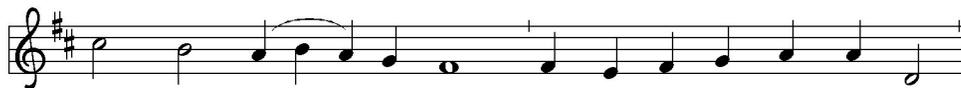
### KYRIE

ELW 657

### Rise, O Sun of Righteousness



1 Rise, O Sun of righ - teous - ness; with your  
2 Rouse our hearts from slum - ber deep; may your  
3 Gath - er in your scat - tered flock; give us  
4 Burst the bars of stub - born pride; make the



might cre - a - tion bless. Shine up - on your church to - day,  
word with - in us leap. Give us voic - es to pro - claim  
wa - ter from the rock. Bless the u - ni - ty we share  
heav'n - ly path - way wide. Raise us up from sin and death



show - ing all your gen - tle way. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
prais - es to your ho - ly name. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
in our shep - herd's lov - ing care. Have mer - cy, Lord.  
with your Spir - it's liv - ing breath. Have mer - cy, Lord.

Text: Christian David, et al.; tr. Frank W. Stoldt, b. 1958  
Music: SONNE DER GERECHTIGKEIT, Bohemian Brethren, *Kirchengeseng*, 1566  
Text © 2003 Augsburg Fortress.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

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

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, 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.*

## BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray. Oh, that today we would hear God's voice. May we hear your voice today, Lord, as Cathy reads to us the scriptures. Let not our hearts be hardened, but open to us your Word of Life.

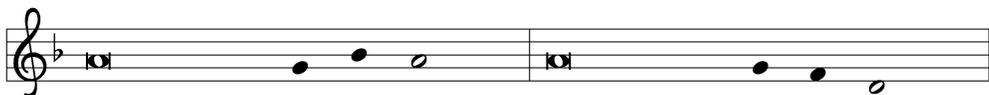
**Amen.**

## 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?"

## PSALM: Psalm 95

*The psalm is sung responsively according to the tone.*



<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing <sup>1</sup> to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of <sup>1</sup> our salvation.

<sup>2</sup> **Let us come before God's presence <sup>1</sup> with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the <sup>1</sup> LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup> For you, LORD, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

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

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

<sup>6</sup> **Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.  
Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

<sup>8</sup> **“Harden not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup> There your ancestors tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

<sup>10</sup> **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,  
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**

<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore in my anger,  
‘They shall never come to my rest.’”

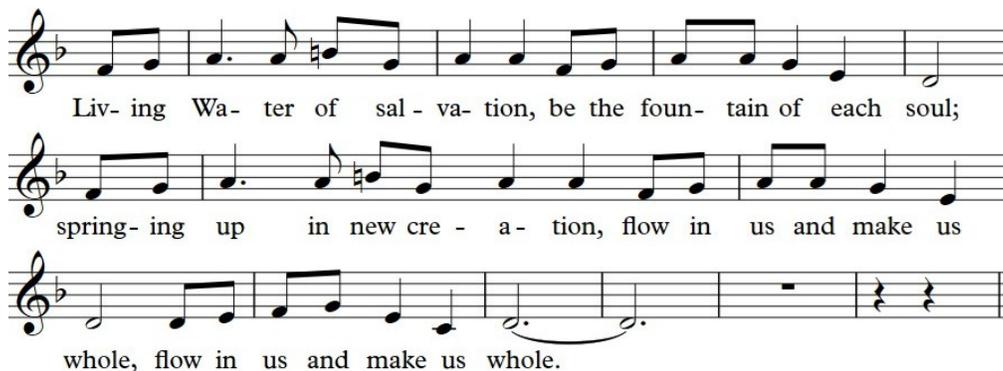
## SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

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

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Liv- ing Wa- ter of sal - va - tion, be the foun- tain of each soul;  
spring- ing up in new cre - a - tion, flow in us and make us  
whole, flow in us and make us whole.

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

## **GOSPEL: John 4:1-42**

The Holy Gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” <sup>2</sup>(although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized), <sup>3</sup>he left Judea and started back to Galilee. <sup>4</sup>But he had to go through Samaria. <sup>5</sup>Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup>Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> 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.” <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?” <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> 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.” <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup> 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.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> 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?” <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> 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. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> 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 at the invitation of the pastor.*

*After a brief silence for reflection, as the music sounds, please stand to proclaim the Word of God in song.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

**Faith of Our Mothers**

1. Faith of our moth - ers, liv - ing still, through gifts de - rid - ed,  
 2. Faith of our sis - ters, serv - ing still, with towel and ba - sin,  
 3. Faith of our daugh - ters, hop - ing still, ven - tur - ing path - ways  
 4. Faith of our fam - 'lies, grow - ing still, var - ied in gen - der,

calls de - nied, striv - ing un - daunt - ed through the years,  
 cup and bread, tend - ing earth's needs with pa - tient care,  
 yet un - trod, part - ners in wit - ness to the world,  
 class, and race, patch-work of pat - terns, shapes, and hues,

till bolt - ed doors have o - pened wide; faith of our moth - ers,  
 till hurts are healed and hun - gers fed: faith of our sis - ters'  
 seek - ing a liv - ing, mov - ing God: faith of our daugh - ters,  
 vast as the man - tle of God's grace: faith of our fam - 'lies,

firm and strong: voic - es long si - lenced rise in song!  
 art and skill, lov - ing with heart and mind and will.  
 bold and true, rest - less till Christ makes all things new.  
 grow - ing faith, we hon - or you in life and death.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b.1953 © 2017, GIA Publications, Inc.  
 Music: ST. CATHERINE, Henry F. Hemy, 1818-1888; adapt. James G. Watson, 1821-1905



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

rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: Marty Haugen  
 Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING SURSUM CORDA

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

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## THE PROPER PREFACE

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

## SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Ho - san - - na in the high - est.

VERBA

*♩ In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

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

A - men, a - - men. A - - men, a - - men.

PATER NOSTER

*♩ Lord, remember us in your sovereignty and teach us to pray:*

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.

## INVITATION TO THE TABLE

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

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

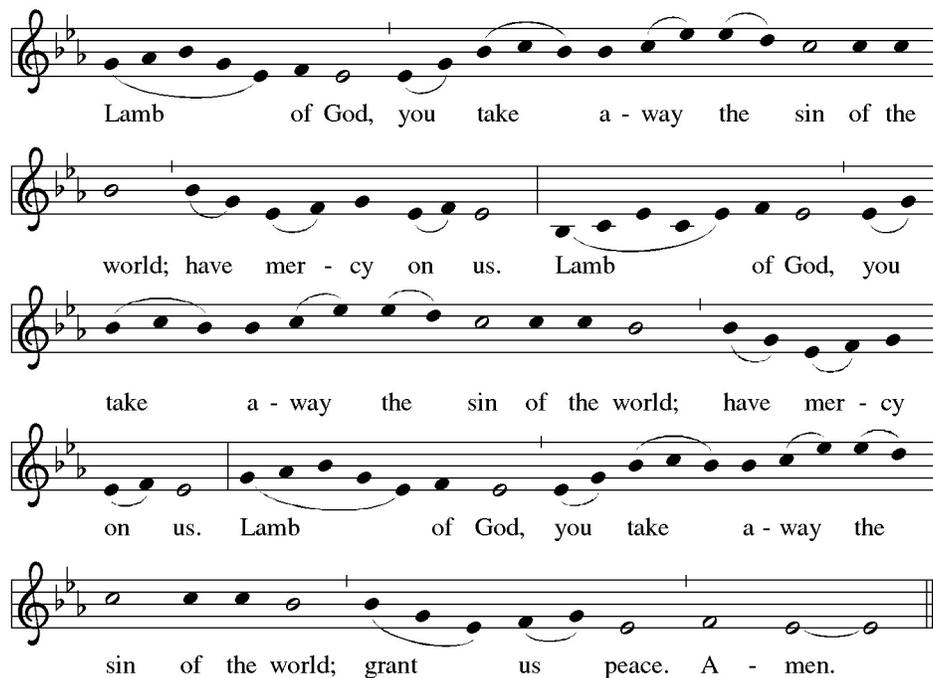
For those communing at home: take, eat, drink: the Body and Blood of Christ for you.

*Please be seated.*

## THE COMMUNION

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

## HYMNS DURING THE COMMUNION



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

ELW 623

## Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,

let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,

be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778  
 Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

TFF 73

### Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915  
 Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

ELW 334

### Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling  
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and  
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the  
 riv - er, you the sea.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
 Music: Marty Haugen  
 Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.  
 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

### TABLE BLESSING

### POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

**Amen.**

### SENDING

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

### BLESSING

...give you peace.

**Amen.**

### DISMISSAL

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

**Amen.**

*From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2018 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.*

*Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #46819.*

*Scripture quotations have been prepared by Augsburg Fortress for provisional use. Citations from Revised Common Lectionary © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts. Scripture quotations based on Readings for the Assembly © 1995, 1996, 1997 Augsburg Fortress; NRSV Bible © 1989 and NRSVue Bible © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA. Adapted and edited by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw. May be reproduced with a SundaysAndSeasons.com subscription for nonsale local use by worship leaders from September 1, 2022 through November 30, 2025.*

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



— **SERVING TODAY** —

*PRESIDING MINISTER* – Pastor Jay Mitchell

*ACOLYTE* – Jessica Copfer

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Stan Rose

*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* –

*LECTOR* – Cathy Beck

*USHERS* – Diane & Bob Banks, Jane & Dave Kinzig

*ALTAR GUILD* – Martha & Tom Klomp

*VIDEO STREAMING* – Christy Adams

**LUTHER MEMORIAL CHURCH**

**LUTHER MEMORIAL ACADEMY**

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

THE REV. JAY C. MITCHELL, *Pastor*

BRYAN TIMM, F.A.I.O.

*Cantor*

THE REV. KAREN LUNDWALL,

THE REV. BRIAN MORAN

THE REV. KAREN PARSH,

THE REV. GAIL ZACKRISON

*Pastors in Residence*

MICHELLE THOM

*LMA Principal*

JAN MACINNES

*Care Ministry*

BETH KELLER

SARAH PRYLINSKI

*Youth and Family Ministry*

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

**Our love and sympathy** is with the family and friends of Sam Seggi, Jr. who died Thursday, February 26. Our prayers are with his fiancé, Diana Alvaro.

**Today's Events**

**Please join us** this morning for:

**Sunday School** for our PreK-Grade 5 at 9:30am.

**LYO** at 9:30am.

**Good News Get Together** will gather in the parlor at 9:15am for refreshments and a chance to visit. Thank you to Les Fobes for hosting our time of fellowship this morning. Held the second Sunday of each month, please contact the church office if you would like to host this time of fellowship.

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

### Worship Matters!

**Ah! The workings of the Spirit.** While the readings we hear on Sunday—and indeed all of scripture—is Spirit breathed, she can definitely show up on days like today. It is serendipity that on this International Women’s Day, we encounter Photini. Now, in our gospel text this morning, the woman of Samaria that Jesus encounters at Jacob’s Well is unnamed. And, indeed, she has been in scripture since it was first written. But later tradition gives this unnamed woman—who has the longest interaction with Jesus of almost anyone in the New Testament and certainly the longest of any woman—a name: Photini, “enlightened one.” In the Church both East and West this woman has been remembered and celebrated not just for her interaction with Jesus but for what comes *next* in her story. We are told, almost as an afterthought, that many in her village came to believe in Jesus because of her testimony. She is the first person to *share* the story of Jesus and what his coming into the world means.

Sadly, throughout too much of history her story has been told as one of shame. She comes in the heat of the sun at noon—a time no one would be outside, let alone doing the manual labor of gathering water. Surely, history has said, she was ostracized from the other women of the village and had to come when they were not at the well. Jesus’ comments about the number of husbands she has had, history says, is condemnation of her—assuming she has divorced or otherwise left her living husbands for others. Even his statement that the man she currently lives with is not her husband has been scandalized through the years. But we must remember to read what Jesus *actually* says. There is no condemnation. There is no forgiveness he offers. He doesn’t need to. Simply a conversation that begins when Jesus asks for a drink of water from a woman he doesn’t know. And many came to believe in him because her life is transformed—not corrected or rectified, but shaped by her interaction with the Word of God, the source of Living Water, that deigns to talk to her.

### Faith Formation for All Ages

**Brown Bag Bible (B<sup>3</sup>)** gathers on Thursdays at 12:00 noon in the Conference Room. You bring a lunch, Pastor Jay brings something to talk about. This year we are using *Crossroads: Reading the Bible in Divisive Times* by Josh Scott. B<sup>3</sup> is on hiatus through the season of Lent.

**Bible After Dark (BAD)** meets on the FIRST TUESDAY of each month at 6:30pm at Calamari’s Squid Row (1317 State St.) for a time of conversation and fellowship. We are using Josh Scott’s book *Parables: Putting Jesus’ Stories in Their Place*. YOU are invited to join us on Tuesday, April 7 for our discussion on The Workers in the Vineyard.

### Luther Memorial Concert and Cultural Series

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

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

### Opportunities for Fellowship

**L.I.A.**, Lutherans in Action, will meet Tuesday, March 10 from 5:30-7:00pm for dinner and planning of our upcoming service projects and some very creative ideas. All youth in grades 5-12 and their families meet the second Tuesday of each month; join us.

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

### Lenten Season

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

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

**Lenten Luncheons** are offered on Wednesdays in Lent; February 25-March 25 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. Enjoy a home-cooked meal for only \$10. Hot Chicken Salad will be served at the Lenten luncheon on March 11. If you would like to help in any way please contact Betty Pletz at 898-1053 or the church office.

**Hamloaf** orders will be accepted through Friday, March 13. Specialty sausage flavors and Philly cheesesteak bratwurst are also delicious choices. Orders will be delivered fresh from Gahr’s Hamloaf in Franklin, PA and available for pick on Palm Sunday, March 29. Order forms are at the welcome table and the church and school offices.

### Outreach

**W/ELCA** women are sponsoring a food collection to support Holy Trinity’s food ministry. Holy Trinity provides food at least four times a week (over 8,000 meals in 2025) to those in need. Donations of the below items may be dropped off through Easter Sunday, April 5. A donation box marked “Holy Trinity” is located under the parlor area coat rack.

Cut green beans	Whole kernel corn	Wide egg noodles
Regular spaghetti	Tomato soup	Diced tomatoes
Tomato sauce	Cream of chicken soup	Cream of mushroom soup
Canned tuna in water	Canned chicken	

### Bethany Outreach Center

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

### Camp Lutherlyn

**Early Bird Deadline is March 3.** Several programs have already filled, and just a handful of spaces remain for programs like Adventurers, Night Owls, and Rocketry! You can learn more about this summer's awesome lineup by visiting [www.lutherlyn.com/summer](http://www.lutherlyn.com/summer). Lutherlyn’s staff is happy to answer any questions you may have about programs, the registration process, pricing, financial assistance, or any other questions you may have. You can contact Lutherlyn at 724-865-2161 or email [registrar@lutherlyn.com](mailto:registrar@lutherlyn.com).

### Items to Note

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

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

— PRAYER LIST —

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

**Readings and Commemorations This Week**

**March 9** – Psalm 81; Genesis 24:1-27; II John 1-13

**March 10** – **Harriet Tubman, 1913, Sojourner Truth, 1883, renewers of society** – Psalm 81; Genesis 29:1-14; I Corinthians 10:1-4 -- *Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.*

**March 11** – Psalm 81; Jeremiah 2:4-13; John 7:14-31, 37-39

**March 12** – **Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, 604** – Psalm 23; I Sameul 15:10-21; Ephesians 4:25-32 -- *Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.*

**March 13** – Psalm 23; I Samuel 15:22-31; Ephesians 5:1-9

**March 14** – Psalm 23; I Samuel 15:32-34; John 1:1-9

<b>MONDAY, MARCH 9</b>	2:30pm	LMA Play Practice
<b>TUESDAY, MARCH 10</b>	10:00pm 5:30pm 6:00pm	Magic Fingers Grace Group L.I.A. (Lutherans in Action) Church Council
<b>WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11</b>	12:00pm 12:30pm 1:00pm 2:30pm 6:00pm	Lenten Worship Lenten Luncheon Study Series LMA Cheer Practice Lenten Worship
<b>THURSDAY, MARCH 12</b>	1:00pm 2:30pm 5:30pm 6:45pm	Grief Group LMA Play Practice Handbells Rehearsal Choir Rehearsal
<b>FRIDAY, MARCH 13</b>	6:00pm	LMA Middle School Dance
<b>SATURDAY, MARCH 14</b>	11:00am	Scouting Event

**SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026  
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT**

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

**VASA** will be held at 1:00pm

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026		
ASSISTING IN WORSHIP		
Assisting Minister	8:15am	Rob Benacci
	10:30am	Pat Bellingham
Communion Assistant ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	
Lector ( <i>1 needed</i> )	10:30am	Bill Lasher
Altar Guild	8:15am	Nancy Benacci
	10:30am	Sharon Burke
Greeter	8:15am	Vicky Blasco
	10:30am	
Video Streaming	10:30am	Patrick Cimino
Counters	10:30am	Pat Bellingham, Jonathan Ulrich
Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )	10:30am	Carl Moore

WE'RE SUPPOSED TO LIKE SUFFERING BECAUSE IT MAKES US HOPEFUL?



WELL - NO ONE LIKES SUFFERING. BUT IT'S OFTEN TRUE THAT WE FIND GOD'S STRENGTH IN OUR OWN WEAKNESS.



IS THIS LIKE THAT "NO PAIN, NO GAIN"? 'CAUSE I WASN'T CRAZY ABOUT THAT ONE EITHER!



©-NETHERSTEN? 05.06

ROMANS 5:1-8