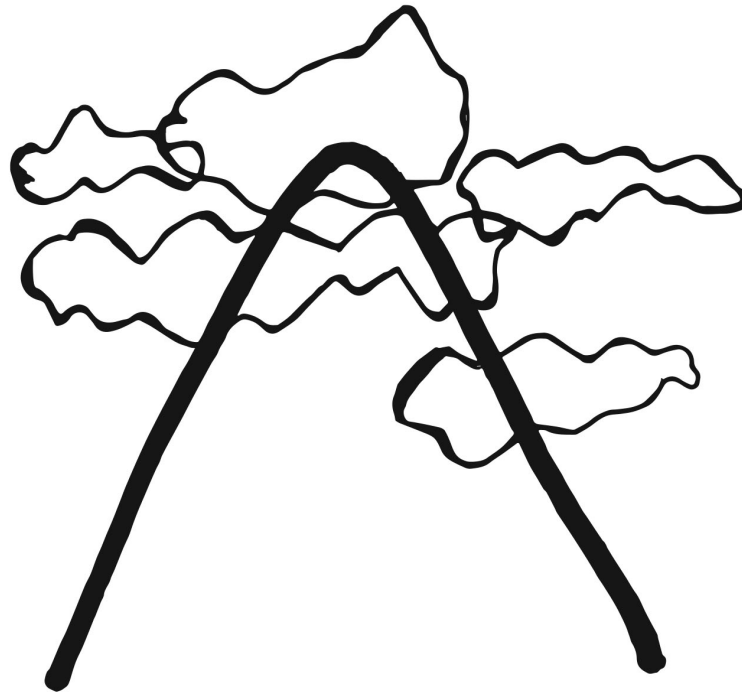


*Welcome to*  
**Luther Memorial Church**  
*of the Erie Lutheran Parish*



11 FEBRUARY 2024  
The Transfiguration of Our Lord  
10:30 am

*The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.*

# 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*

11 FEBRUARY 2024

## THE TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

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

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

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

#### SECOND SUNDAY FAMILY & FRIENDS PRELUDE

Bob Banks, *Soprano Saxophone*

"There Is a Balm in Gilead"

arr. Robert Buckley Farlee

"Gabriel's Oboe"

Ennio Morricone; arr. Frédéric Quinet

#### 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 as we gather with song.*

#### ENTRANCE HYMN

ELW 308

### O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright!



1 O Morn - ing Star, how fair and bright! You shine with  
2 Come, pre - cious dia - mond, light di - vine, and deep with -  
3 Lord, when you look on us in love, at once there  
4 Al - might - y Fa - ther, in your Son you loved us,



God's own truth and light, a - glow with grace and mer - cy!  
in our hearts now shine; there light a flame un - dy - ing!  
falls from God a - bove a ray of pur - est plea - sure.  
when not yet be - gun was this old earth's foun - da - tion!





Of Ja - cob's line, King Da - vid's son, our Lord and Sav - ior,  
 In your one bod - y let us be as liv - ing branch - es  
 Your word and Spir - it, flesh and blood re - fresh our souls with  
 Your Son has ran - somed us in love to live in him here



you have won our hearts to serve you on - ly! Low - ly,  
 of a tree, your life our lives sup - ply - ing. Now, though  
 heav'n - ly food. You are our dear - est trea - sure! Let your  
 and a - bove: this is your great sal - va - tion. Al - le -



ho - ly! Great and glo - rious, all vic - to - rious, rich  
 dai - ly earth's deep sad - ness may per - plex us and  
 mer - cy warm and cheer us! Oh, draw near us! For  
 lu - ia! Christ the liv - ing, to us giv - ing life



in bless - ing! Rule and might o'er all pos - sess - ing!  
 dis - tress us, yet with heav'n - ly joy you bless us.  
 you teach us God's own love through you has reached us.  
 for - ev - er, keeps us yours and fails us nev - er!

- 5 Oh, let the harps break forth in sound!  
 Our joy be all with music crowned,  
 our voices gaily blending!  
 For Christ goes with us all the way—  
 today, tomorrow, ev'ry day!  
 His love is never ending!  
 Sing out! Ring out!  
 Jubilation!  
 Exultation!  
 Tell the story!  
 Praise to Christ, who reigns in glory!
- 6 What joy to know, when life is past,  
 the Lord we love is first and last,  
 the end and the beginning!  
 He will one day, oh, glorious grace,  
 transport us to that happy place  
 beyond all tears and sinning!  
 Amen! Amen!  
 Come, Lord Jesus!  
 Crown of gladness!  
 We are yearning  
 for the day of your returning.

Text: Philipp Nicolai, 1556–1608; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*  
 Music: WIE SCHÖN LEUCHTET, Philipp Nicolai  
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

## GREETING

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

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P** Let us pray.  
 Almighty God, the resplendent light of your truth shines from the mountaintop into our hearts. Transfigure us by your beloved Son, and illumine the world with your image, through 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.

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

*Today’s reading centers on the transfer of power and authority from the prophet Elijah to Elisha. Their travels, which retrace the path of Joshua back to Moab (the place where Moses died) and the parting of the waters, demonstrate that Elisha and Elijah are legitimate successors of the great prophet Moses.*

**FIRST READING: 2 Kings 2:1-12**

<sup>1</sup>Now when the LORD was about to take Elijah up to heaven by a whirlwind, Elijah and Elisha were on their way from Gilgal. <sup>2</sup>Elijah said to Elisha, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me as far as Bethel.” But Elisha said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they went down to Bethel. <sup>3</sup>The company of prophets who were in Bethel came out to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he said, “Yes, I know; keep silent.”

<sup>4</sup>Elijah said to him, “Elisha, stay here; for the LORD has sent me to Jericho.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So they came to Jericho. <sup>5</sup>The company of prophets who were at Jericho drew near to Elisha, and said to him, “Do you know that today the LORD will take your master away from you?” And he answered, “Yes, I know; be silent.”

<sup>6</sup>Then Elijah said to him, “Stay here; for the LORD has sent me to the Jordan.” But he said, “As the LORD lives, and as you yourself live, I will not leave you.” So the two of them went on. <sup>7</sup>Fifty men of the company of prophets also went, and stood at some distance from them, as they both were standing by the Jordan. <sup>8</sup>Then Elijah took his mantle and rolled it up, and struck the water; the water was parted to the one side and to the other, until the two of them crossed on dry ground.

<sup>9</sup>When they had crossed, Elijah said to Elisha, “Tell me what I may do for you, before I am taken from you.” Elisha said, “Please let me inherit a double share of your spirit.” <sup>10</sup>He responded, “You have asked a hard thing; yet, if you see me as I am being taken from you, it will be granted you; if not, it will not.” <sup>11</sup>As they continued walking and talking, a chariot of fire and horses of fire separated the two of them, and Elijah ascended in a whirlwind into heaven. <sup>12</sup>Elisha kept watching and crying out, “Father, father! The chariots of Israel and its horsemen!” But when he could no longer see him, he grasped his own clothes and tore them in two pieces.

☐ The Word of the Lord.

☑ Thanks be to God.

**PSALM: Psalm 50:1-6 (St. Martin's Psalter - Setting 1 - NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT)**

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



Out of Zi - on, per-fect in beau-ty, God shines forth in glo - ry.

<sup>1</sup> The LORD, the God of gods has spoken;  
he has called the earth from the rising of the sun to its setting.

<sup>2</sup> Out of Zion perfect in its beauty,  
God reveals himself in glory.

<sup>3</sup> Our God will come and will not keep silence;  
before him there is a consuming flame, and round about him a raging storm. **R**

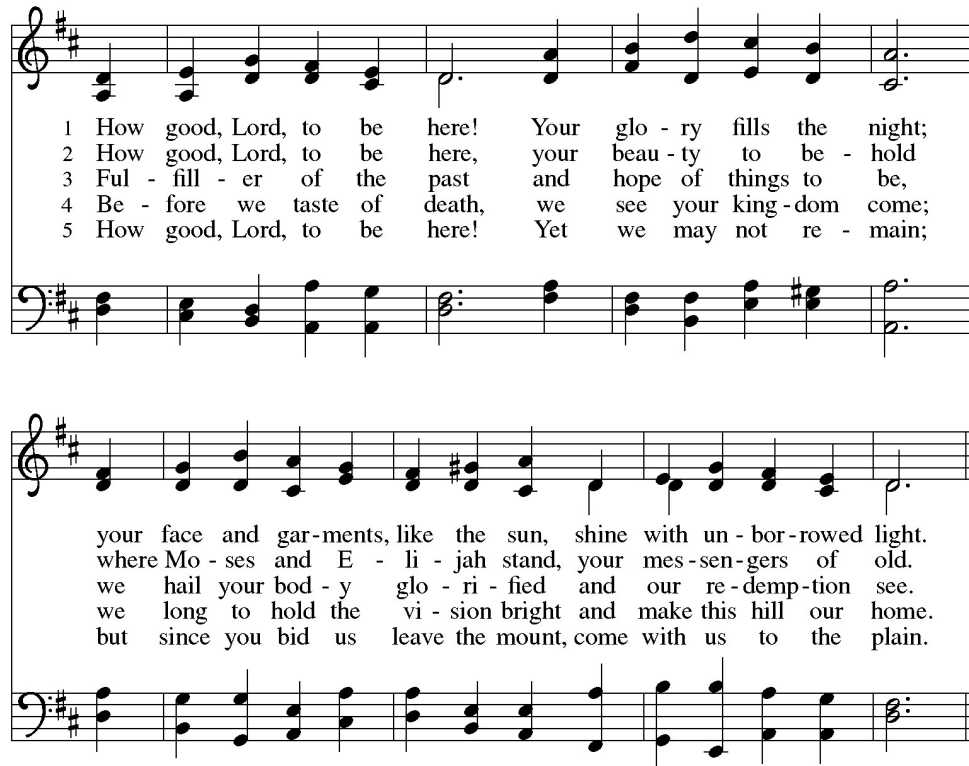
<sup>4</sup> He calls the heavens and the earth from above  
to witness the judgment of his people.

<sup>5</sup> "Gather before me my loyal followers,  
those who have made a covenant with me, and sealed it with sacrifice."

<sup>6</sup> Let the heavens declare the rightness of his cause;  
for God himself is judge. **R**



## How Good, Lord, to Be Here!



1 How good, Lord, to be here! Your glo - ry fills the night;  
 2 How good, Lord, to be here, your beau - ty to be - hold  
 3 Ful - fill - er of the past and hope of things to be,  
 4 Be - fore we taste of death, we see your king - dom come;  
 5 How good, Lord, to be here! Yet we may not re - main;

your face and gar - ments, like the sun, shine with un - bor - rowed light.  
 where Mo - ses and E - li - jah stand, your mes - sen - gers of old.  
 we hail your bod - y glo - ri - fied and our re - demp - tion see.  
 we long to hold the vi - sion bright and make this hill our home.  
 but since you bid us leave the mount, come with us to the plain.

Text: Joseph A. Robinson, 1858-1933, alt.  
 Music: POTSDAM, W. Mercer, *The Church Psalter and Hymn Book*, 1854

## APOSTLE'S CREED

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

## THE PRAYERS

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

*A brief silence.*

**A** We pray for the church, that the transformational power of God enters the hearts of all people. May its leaders serve as examples of your grace and healing across time and space. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** We pray for the creation, that we will humbly observe the swirl of wind and the heat of the bright sun. Teach us to honor all you have made and to care for the animals, plants, air, and bodies of water of this planet. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** We pray for those charged with leadership, lawmaking, and governance of our towns, states, and countries, that they will strive for goodness and justice all the days of their lives and callings. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** We pray for any who are sick and suffering. Guide us to offer hospitality, shelter, friendship, and care to any in need. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** We pray for this congregation and its ministry in the wider community. May we share the transforming beauty and love of God in ways that honor the dignity of all whom we encounter. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

**A** Trusting that all the saints, prophets, and those who die in faith are held in your care, we remember in thanksgiving those who have died, especially Dorothy Delamater, Grace D. Mitchell, John James Mitchell and Judy Aquino Hokaj . Grant us your gift of salvation as we await your coming again in glory. God of grace,

**C** receive our prayer.

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

**C** Amen.

**P** The peace of Christ be with you. **C** And also with you.  
*We greet one another with a sign of peace.*

*Please be seated.*

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

## THE OFFERING IS RECEIVED

**ANTHEM – "Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies"**

Healey Willan

*Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Thou, the true, the only Light,  
Sun of Righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;  
Dayspring from on high be near; Day-star, in my heart appear.*

*Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by Thee;  
Joyless is the day's return till Thy mercy's beams I see;  
Till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.*

*Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
Fill me, Radiance divine, scatter all my unbelief;  
More and more Thyself display, shining to the perfect day. Amen.*

*Please stand as you are able.*

## OFFERTORY

ELW 310

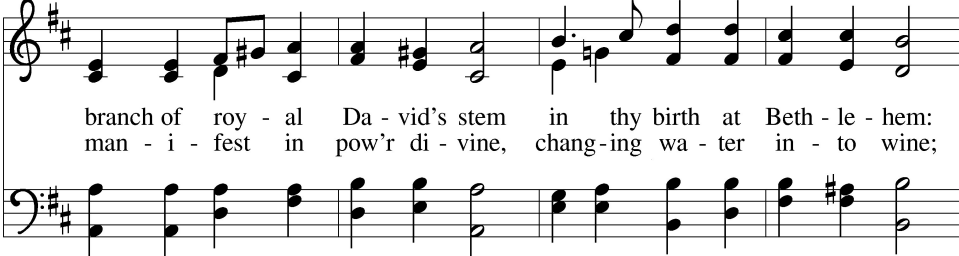
### Songs of Thankfulness and Praise



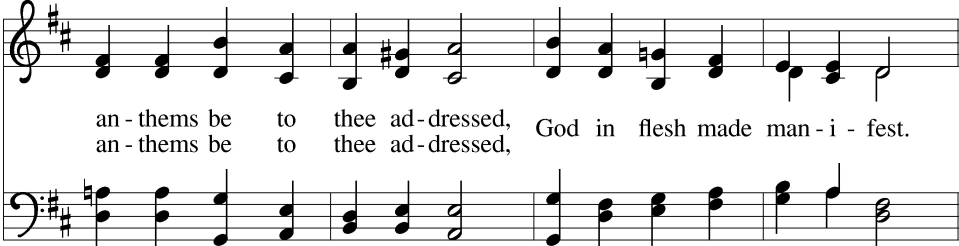
1 Songs of thank-ful - ness and praise, Je - sus, Lord, to thee we raise;  
2 Man - i - fest at Jor - dan's stream, proph-et, priest, and king su - preme;



man - i - fest - ed by the star to the sa - ges from a - far,  
and at Ca - na wed - ding guest in thy God-head man - i - fest;



branch of roy - al Da - vid's stem in thy birth at Beth - le - hem;  
man - i - fest in pow'r di - vine, chang - ing wa - ter in - to wine;



an - thems be to thee ad - dressed, God in flesh made man - i - fest.  
an - thems be to thee ad - dressed,

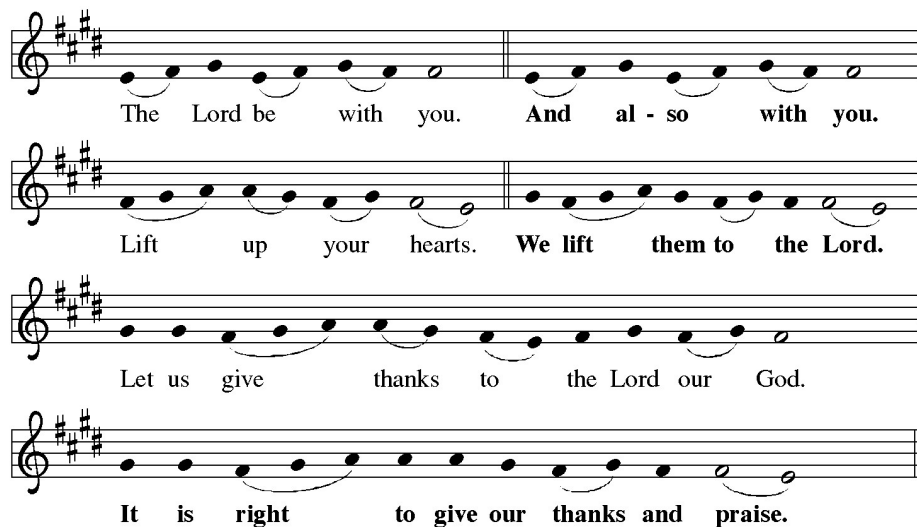
Text: Christopher Wordsworth, 1807–1885, alt.  
Music: SALZBURG, Jakob Hintze, 1622–1702; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

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



## GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOG

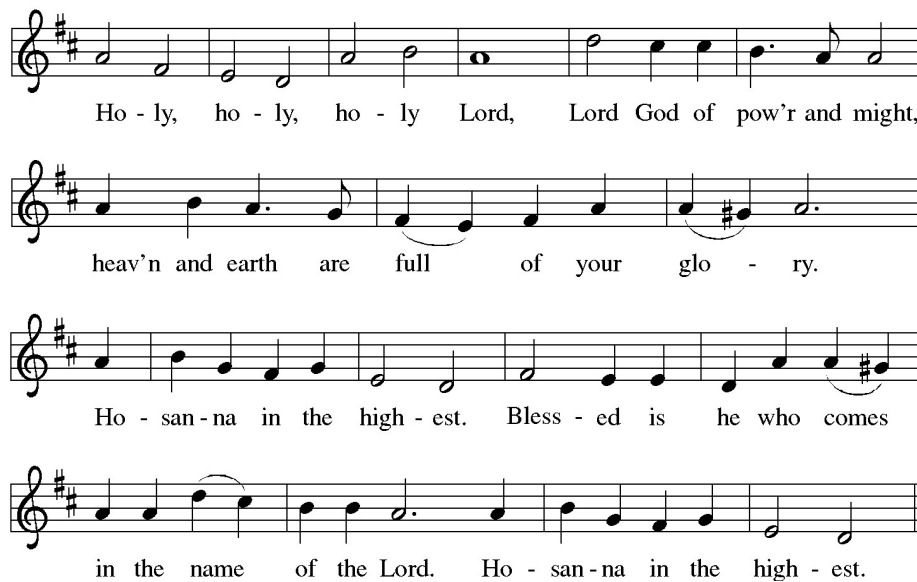


The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PREFACE

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

## SANCTUS



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

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

- ☐ Almighty Lord, we praise your shining light, your glowing grace. From before the earth's foundation, you loved us and promised us life forever. Within the earth's deep sadness, we laud your great and glorious might. Despite our tears and sinning, we sing of the gladness of your mercy.
- ☐ We praise your Son, our Morning Star. Christ is our diamond bright, our treasure dear. He is our living Savior who has ransomed us in love. He keeps us yours and fails us never—today, tomorrow, and every day.

*On the night before his great salvation, 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.*

**P** With joy we tell our story:

**C** **Alleluia!**

**P** We call for your Spirit on us and this meal. Refresh our souls with this heavenly food, the body and blood of your Son. Nourish us as branches of your tree, and enlighten us with your undying flame.

**P** We sing out to the Father, we ring out to the Son, we exult in the Spirit. Transport us in our yearning, and be for us the end and the beginning, our purest pleasure, our victorious crown, our never-ending love. And so we pray and praise:

**C** **Amen! Alleluia!**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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



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



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



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

☑ Amen.

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

*The congregation is seated.*

## SILENT PRAYER BEFORE RECEIVING HOLY COMMUNION

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

## COMMUNION

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## HYMNS DURING DISTRIBUTION

ELW 470

### Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether

1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly  
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of  
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -

in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,  
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er  
ments of you, that by car - ing, help-ing, giv - ing,

you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!  
 break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!  
 we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!

Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.  
 Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

Text: Percy Dearmer, 1867–1936, alt.  
 Music: UNION SEMINARY, Harold Friedell, 1905–1958  
 Text from *Songs of Praise* Enlarged Edition, © Oxford University Press 1931.  
 Music © 1957, 1985 H. W. Gray, admin. CPP/Belwin.

## Beautiful Savior

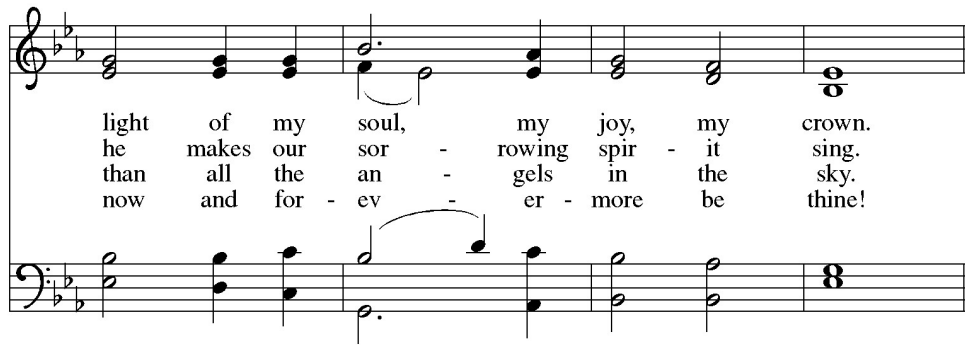
ELW 838

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,  
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,  
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,

Son of God and Son of Man!  
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;  
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;  
 Son of God and Son of Man!

Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,  
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er,  
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,





light of my soul, my joy, my crown.  
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.  
 than all the an - gels in the sky.  
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904  
 Music: SCHÖNSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

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

☑ Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



☑ Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal- va - tion which you have prepared in the sight of ev- 'ry peo- ple: A light to re-veal you to the na - tions and the glo- ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el. Glo-ry to the Fa- ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho- ly Spir - it, as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now, and will be for - ev - er. A - men

## POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

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

**C** Amen.

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

### *Farewell to the Alleluia*

**P** "As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen, until after the Son-of-Man had risen from the dead."

**C** Sometimes, deep within, we must keep our Alleluias.

**P** "Then Jesus called the crowd to him along with his disciples and said: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me.'"

**C** Sometimes, for others, we must give up our Alleluias.

**P** "With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last."

**C** Sometimes, in sorrow, we cannot sing our Alleluias.

**P** "Therefore we have been buried with Christ by baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For as we have been united with him in a death like his, we will certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his."

**C** Even at the grave our song shall be Alleluia!

**P** "When evening had come, and since it was the day of Preparation, that is, the day before the Sabbath, Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate wondered if he were already dead, and summoning the centurion he asked him whether he had been dead for some time. When he learned from the centurion that he was dead, he granted the body to Joseph. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth and, taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Jesus saw where the body was laid."

**C** In due time we will again find our Alleluias.

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

*Please be seated.*

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

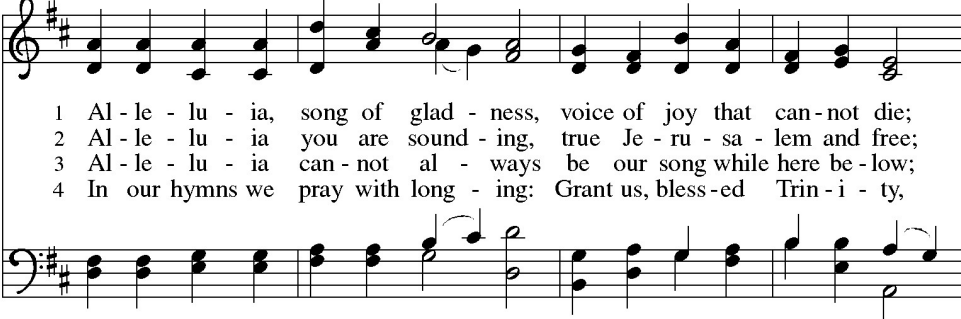
*Please stand as you are able.*

## BLESSING

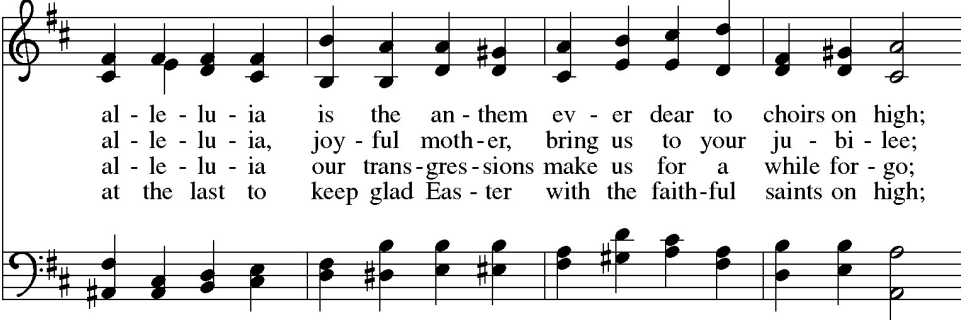
**P** ...remain with you always.

**C** Amen.

## Alleluia, Song of Gladness



1 Al - le - lu - ia, song of glad - ness, voice of joy that can - not die;  
 2 Al - le - lu - ia you are sound - ing, true Je - ru - sa - lem and free;  
 3 Al - le - lu - ia can - not al - ways be our song while here be - low;  
 4 In our hymns we pray with long - ing: Grant us, bless - ed Trin - i - ty,



al - le - lu - ia is the an - them ev - er dear to choirs on high;  
 al - le - lu - ia, joy - ful moth - er, bring us to your ju - bi - lee;  
 al - le - lu - ia our trans - gres - sions make us for a while for - go;  
 at the last to keep glad Eas - ter with the faith - ful saints on high;



in the house of God a - bid - ing thus they sing e - ter - nal - ly.  
 here by Bab - y - lon's sad wa - ters mourn - ing ex - iles still are we.  
 for the sol - emn time is com - ing when our tears for sin shall flow.  
 there to you for - ev - er sing - ing al - le - lu - ia joy - ful - ly.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. John Mason Neale, 1818–1866, alt.  
 Music: PRAISE, MY SOUL, John Goss, 1800–1880

## DISMISSAL INTO THE WORLD FOR SERVICE

- A** Go in peace. You are God's beloved! Alleluia! Alleluia!  
**C** Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

## POSTLUDE – "O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright"

G. F. Telemann

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— **SERVING TODAY** —

*ACOLYTE* – Isabella O’Brien

*ASSISTING MINISTER* – Kate Martin

*COMMUNION ASSISTANT* – Elaine Kern

*FIRST READING* – Blake O’Brien

*SECOND READING* – Jake O’Brien

*USHERS* – Diane Banks, Sue Cappelletty, Pat Gilbert, Carl Moore

*VIDEO STREAMING* – Christy Adams

*ALTAR GUILD* – Martha & Tom Klomp



**Altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Dorothy Delamater and Grace D. and John James Mitchell by Pastor Jay and Chaz Mitchell.

**Front altar flowers** are given to the Glory of God and in memory of my wife, Judy Aquino Hokaj, who passed away on February 17, 1997.

**Today’s Events**

**The Souper Bowl of Caring** is a national project sponsored by churches to help alleviate hunger in the community. Soup kettles will be at the entrances of the church this morning if you would like to make a donation. All donations received are kept in our local community.

**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**

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

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

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

**Worship Matters**

The word “**Alleluia**” is the Latinized version of the Hebrew word “Hallelujah” which is itself an allusion of words which translate as “Praise the Lord.” It is a joyous expression used in the life of the Church. Given the penitent nature of the season of Lent, the Great Fast of the Church for six weeks before Easter Sunday, it is the ancient practice of the Church to forego using “Alleluia” during this season. It is a fast of the soul, of the voice, and of the ears. This removal of the word from usage has come to be called by some “burying” the Alleluia. We will say farewell to the Alleluia and keep it in our hearts through the Great Fast of Lent knowing that it will burst forth from us as we rejoice in the resurrection of our great Paschal Lamb, Jesus Christ.

**Christian Education**

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



## Where Is Pastor Jay?

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

## Lent Opportunities

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

**Worship services** will be 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** will be offered on Wednesdays in Lent; February 21 – March 20 at 12:30pm in fellowship hall. A home-cooked meal will fill you up for the day; cost \$8. The main dish for Wednesday, February 21 will be stuffed manicotti. 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, will be held each Wednesday in Lent; February 21 – March 20. At 5:30 we gather for dinner; the main dish is provided, please bring a dish to share. A Bible lesson and a craft or activity will be held following our meal.

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

## Opportunities for Fellowship

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

**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.

## Donations Needed

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

**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>.

## Speaker Series

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

## Items to Note

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

## Readings and Commemorations This Week

**February 12** – Psalm 110:1-4, Exodus 19:7-25; Hebrews 2:1-4

**February 13** – Psalm 110:1-4; Job 19:23-27; I Timothy 3:14-16

**February 14 – Ash Wednesday** – Joel 2:1-2, 12-17; Psalm 51:1-17; II Corinthians 5:20b-6:10; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21; **Cyril, monk, 869; Methodius, bishop, 885; missionaries to the Slavs** – Psalm 96:1-7; Ephesians 3:1-7; Mark 16:15-20 - *These two brothers from Thessalonika, Greece, were monks and were sent to bring Christianity to the Slavic people. In the course of their work they created a written language, inventing the Cyrillic alphabet for it, and translated the Bible and the liturgy.*

**February 15** – Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:1-14; I John 1:3-10

**February 16** – Psalm 25:1-10; Daniel 9:15-25a; II Timothy 4:1-5

**February 17** – Psalm 25:1-10; Psalm 32; Matthew 9:2-13

## – PRAYER LIST –

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

## CALENDAR

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12**

|                             |                                       |  |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| <b>TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13</b> | 10:00am<br>2:30pm<br>5:30pm<br>6:00pm | Magic Fingers Grace Group<br>LMA Play Rehearsal<br>Shrove Pancake Supper<br>Church Council |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|

|   |                              |  |
|---|------------------------------|--|
| <b>WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14</b><br><i>Ash Wednesday</i> | 10:00am<br>11:00pm<br>7:00pm | Ash Wednesday Worship<br>OWLS (Ambassador / Luncheon)<br>Ash Wednesday Worship |
|---|------------------------------|--|

|                              |  |   |
|------------------------------|--|---|
| <b>THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15</b> | 1:00pm<br>2:30pm<br>5:00pm<br>5:30pm<br>6:30pm | Grief Support Group<br>LMA Play Rehearsal<br>Grade 8 Game Night<br>Handbells<br>Choir |
|------------------------------|--|---|

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16** LMA Closed

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17** 10:00am Congregational Prayer Retreat

### SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024 THE FIRST 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.

**VASA** will meet at 1:00pm.

| <b>SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2024</b>        |         |                                     |
|---|---------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>ASSISTING IN WORSHIP</b>             |         |                                     |
| Assisting Minister                      | 8:15am  | Mark Howell                         |
|   | 10:30am | Julie Ditz                          |
| Communion Assistant ( <i>1 needed</i> ) | 10:30am |                                     |
| Altar Guild                             | 8:15am  | Donna Sedelmyer                     |
|   | 10:30am | Pam Masiroff                        |
| Greeter                                 | 8:15am  | Vicky Blasco                        |
|   | 10:30am |                                     |
| Video Streaming                         | 10:30am | Gina Snider                         |
| Counters                                | 10:30am |                                     |
| Ushers ( <i>4 needed</i> )              | 10:30am | Cathy Beck, Pat Gilbert, Carl Moore |