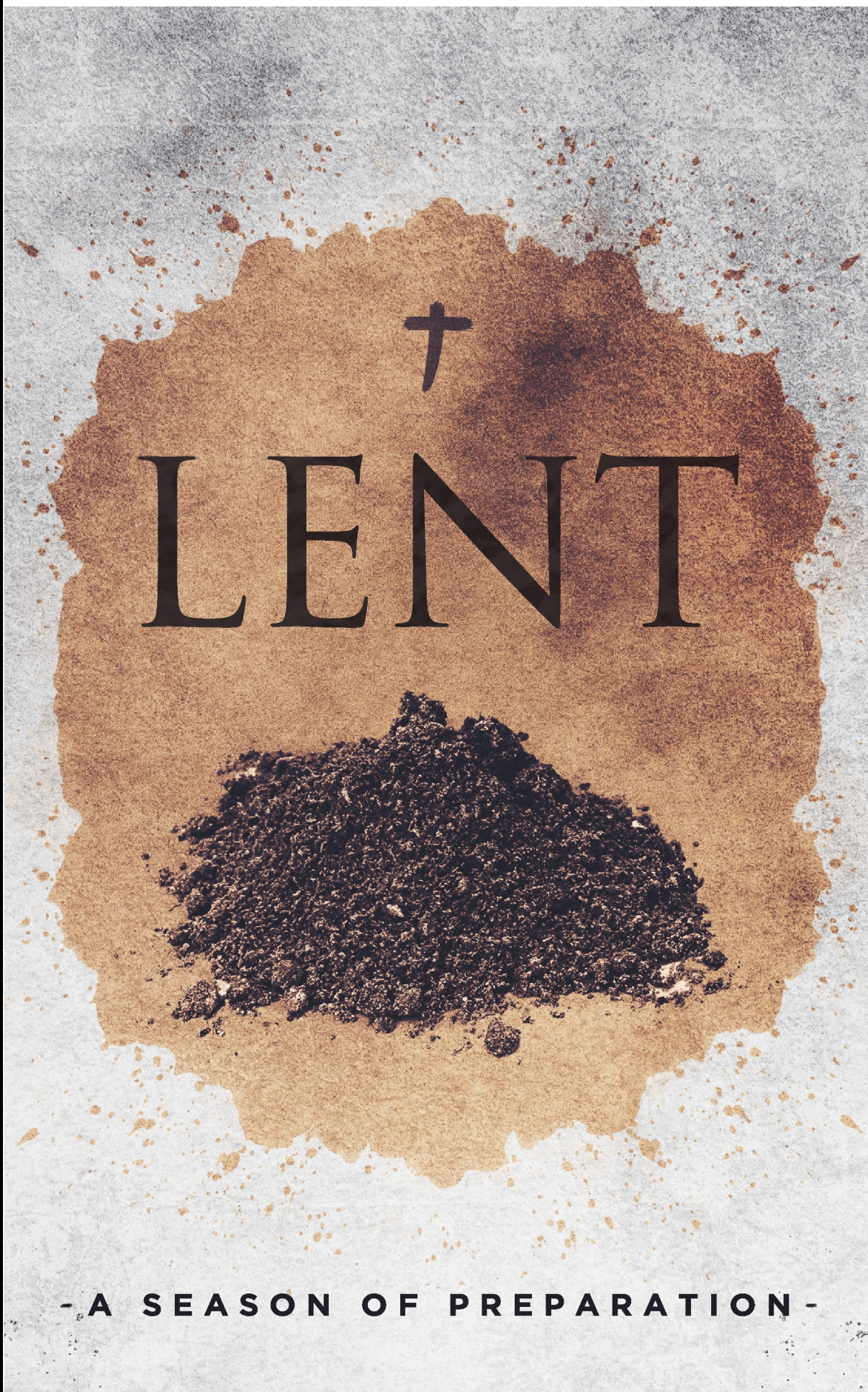


Sunday, March 23, 2025

# Third Sunday in Lent

St. Johns Lutheran Church





# Welcome to *St. John's Lutheran Church*



I have come  
looking for fruit

LUKE 13:7

Harvesting figs with fig bowl in foreground by James B. Janknegt. Copyright © James B. Janknegt.  
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Lisa Minton

Kate Higgins Tirro

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### **Debby Jones**

### **Nicki Nye**

### **Margareth Olsson**

### **Mary Rimer**

### **Valerie Taylor**

### **Chris Wise**

9:00 AM

**Acolyte/Crucifer:**

Kaydence Denney

**Lector:**

Chris Wise

**Communion**

**Assistant:**

Ann Rita Ditmore

Mari Brooks

**Usher:**

Cindy Merkel

Darrell Merkel

**A/V:**

Brennan Whitehead

11:00 AM

**Acolyte/Crucifer:**

Jaylene Jimenez

**Lector:**

Misty Anderson

**Communion**

**Assistant:**

Thea Peterson

Valerie Taylor

**Ushers:**

Garry Menendez

Lynn Menendez

**A/V:**

Dresden Ley

**Altar Guild:**

**Before:**

**Toni Wise**

**Between:**

Brad Long

Angela Long

**After:**

Monica Wilson

A cantor sings the parts in  
normal text.

All sing the parts in bold.

Text:

Thomas Merton

Music: John Tirro

©1954 Abbey of

Gethsemani (text), 2014

Mondo Zen Music (music)

## PREPARING OUR HEARTS

### THIS MORNING'S WORSHIP THEME

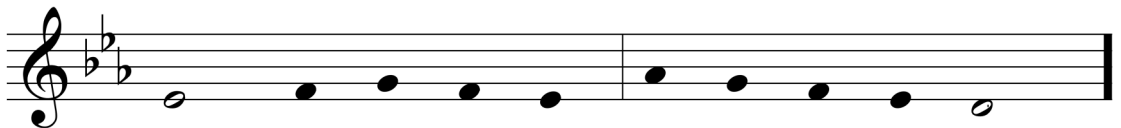
The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

### PRELUDE

(Please stand in body or spirit. Those who are able may turn to follow the cross in the Procession.)

### SILENT PROCESSION

### OPENING SONG



My Lord God, I have no idea / where / I am / go- / ing.

I do not / see the / road a- / head / of me.

**I cannot know for certain / where / it / will / end.**

**Nor do I / really / know / my- / self,**

and the fact that I think / I / am / fol- / lowing your will  
does not / mean that I am / actually / doing / so.

**But I believe that my de- / sire / to / please / you  
does / in / fact / please / you.**

And I hope that I have that desire in / all that / I am / do- / ing.  
I hope that I will / never do / anything / apart from that de- / sire.

**And I know that / if / I / do / this  
you will / lead me / by the / right / road**  
though I may know nothing about it.

Therefore will I / trust / you / al- / ways  
though I may / seem to be / lost and in the / shadow of / death.

**I will not fear, for you are for- / e- / ver / with / me,  
and you will never / leave me to / face my / perils a- / lone.**

**A- / a- / a- / a- / men.**

**A- / a- / a- / a- / men.**

Amen.

We acknowledge our sin  
before God. The  
forgiveness God first gave  
us in our Baptism is  
again proclaimed to us.

The music is by John  
Bell, of the Iona  
Community in Scotland.

(Please kneel in body or spirit.)

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS



An ancient prayer of  
the church, "eleison"  
means "have  
mercy." "Kyrie"  
means "Lord."  
"Christe" means  
"Christ." Lord have  
mercy, Christ have  
mercy, Lord have  
mercy.

God of all time,

**forgive us our false busyness,**

**the busyness we manufacture to make us seem important,**

**the busyness we invent to keep us from ourselves,**

**the busyness in which we hide because we fear to stand still,**

**to be alone, or even to meet you. Kyrie...**

God of all hope,

**forgive us our hopelessness,**

**our bondage to an imagined glorious past,**

**our cynicism regarding the good in others,**

**our weird talent for spotting the problem before the potential. Kyrie...**

God of all love,

**forgive our grudged compassion,**

**our unquestioning affection for what seems safe,**

**and all our lusts, especially those we pretend are heartfelt longings. Kyrie...**

God of all time, hope, and love,

**recreate us until we live looking more to Christ than to the clock,**

**walk by the light without being obsessed with the darkness,**

**and in all our loving seek to credit and never shame**

**the one in whose name we pray.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, + your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

# PROCLAIMING THE WORD

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

**HYMN OF PRAISE ACS 1082**

**“O God You Search Me”**

1 O God, you search me and you know me.  
2 You know my rest - ing and my ris - ing.  
3 Be - fore a word is on my tongue, Lord,  
4 Al - though your Spir - it is up - on me,  
5 For you cre - at - ed me and shaped me,  
All my thoughts lie o - pen to your gaze.  
You dis - cern my pur - pose from a - far,  
you have known its mean - ing through and through.  
still I search for shel - ter from your light.  
gave me life with - in my moth - er's womb.  
When I walk or lie down you are be - fore me:  
and with love ev - er - last - ing you be - siege me:  
You are with me be - yond my un - der - stand - ing:  
There is no - where on earth I can es - cape you:  
For the won - der of who I am, I praise you:  
ev - er the mak - er and keep - er of my days.  
in ev - 'ry mo - ment of life or death, you are.  
God of my pres - ent, my past, and fu - ture, too.  
e - ven the dark - ness is ra - diant in your sight.  
safe in your hands, all cre - a - tion is made new.

Text: Bernadette Farrell, b. 1957

Music: O GOD, YOU SEARCH ME, Bernadette Farrell

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## GREETING

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

**C:** And also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P:** Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life,  
death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and  
bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and  
Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C:** Amen.

*This prayer concerns the  
theme of the day and  
prepares us for hearing  
the readings from  
scripture.*

*In the First Lesson:  
To those who have  
experienced long years in  
exile, the return to their  
homeland is a  
celebration of abundant  
life. God calls them into  
an everlasting covenant  
of love. Those who return  
to God will enjoy new life  
and forgiveness, because  
God's ways are not our  
ways.*

*(Please be seated.)*

## FIRST READING

ISAIAH 55:1-9

- <sup>1</sup> Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;  
and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.
- <sup>2</sup> Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?  
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.
- <sup>3</sup> Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.  
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
my steadfast, sure love for David.
- <sup>4</sup> See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
a leader and commander for the peoples.
- <sup>5</sup> See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
for he has glorified you.
- <sup>6</sup> Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
- <sup>7</sup> let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
- <sup>8</sup> For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
- <sup>9</sup> For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## PSALM 63:1-8

- <sup>1</sup> O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;  
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where  
there is no water.
- <sup>2</sup> **Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
- <sup>3</sup> For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.
- <sup>4</sup> **So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**
- <sup>5</sup> My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- <sup>6</sup> **when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
- <sup>7</sup> For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- <sup>8</sup> **My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast.**

*In the Second Lesson:  
Paul uses images from  
Hebrew Scriptures and  
prophecy to speak the  
truth of Jesus Christ: He  
is our rock, our water,  
our food, and our drink.  
Christ is the living sign of  
God's faithfulness.*

## SECOND READING

**I CORINTHIANS 10:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup> and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup> and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup> and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup> Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. <sup>6</sup> Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup> Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup> We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup> We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup> And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup> These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. <sup>12</sup> So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup> No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

## GOD'S INVITATION: "Let the Children Come..."

**Matthew 19:14**

*(Please stand in body or spirit.)*

## GOSPEL VERSE

*"Nothing in All Creation"*



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

*In the Gospel Lesson:  
Asked about current  
tragic events, Jesus  
turns a lesson about  
whether suffering is  
deserved into a hard  
call to obedience. He  
then tells a parable that  
holds out hope that the  
timeline for ultimate  
judgment will be  
tempered by patience.*

## HOLY GOSPEL

**LUKE 13:1-9**

<sup>1</sup> At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup> Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' <sup>8</sup> He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup> If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*(Please be seated.)*

## MEDITATION

**PASTOR AMY FIGG LEY**

## SILENCE FOR REFLECTION

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

## HYMN OF THE DAY ACS 922

"When We are Tested"

We sing this principal  
hymn in response to  
the Word which has  
been proclaimed to us.



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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We respond to God's  
almighty acts as we  
confess our faith in the  
Words of the Creed.

## APOSTLES CREED

**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.**

This reference to the  
holy catholic church is  
to the church universal.



*With this prayer, we express our concern for the whole Church, for the nations of the world, for people in their various needs, and for our own congregation.*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

**A:** Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*(Please kneel in body or spirit. Following each petition, respond with "receive our prayer.")*

**A:** We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**A:** We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

**A:** We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,

**A:** We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. God, in your mercy,

**A:** We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

**A:** We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy

**A:** Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**C: Amen.**

### ***Those Remembered in Prayer:***

*Michael Adams, David & Linda Cash, Pat & Charlsie Counts, Hugh Denton,  
Al Gill, Lynda Hinkle, John Jessel, Dick Krogmann, Don McWilliams,  
Nancy O'Callaghan, Chris Oehler, Norma Peterson, Don Ray, Frances Ratliff,  
Clarence Scott, Pam Shealy, Keith Solt, Barbara Teague,  
Maxine Whistler, Ann Williams, Bill Wing,  
our seminarians: Jordan Baker, Caitlynne Fox, and Joe Ley,  
the students, staff, & mentors at Christenberry Elementary school,  
synod partners in Guatemala, and all those affected by the devastation of Hurricane Helene*

# SHARING THE EUCHARIST

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

## SHARING OF THE LORD'S PEACE

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C:** And also with you.

## OFFERING AND SIGNING OF THE PEW REGISTER

### OFFERTORY ANTHEM

"Were You There?"

- Leavitt

(Please stand in body or spirit.)

### OFFERTORY RESPONSE

"Tree of Life"

We respond to God's  
Word by giving our  
offerings for God's work  
in the world. Offerings  
may be made online  
at [www.sjcknox.org](http://www.sjcknox.org) or  
by mail at 544 N.  
Broadway, Knoxville,  
TN 37917.



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
bod - y of our Lord.  
riv - er, you the sea.

### Canon Refrain



A - do - ra - mus te Chri - ste, a - do - ra - mus te Chri - ste,



a - do - ra - mus te Chri - ste, a - do - ra - mus Chri - ste.

Text: Marty Haugen  
b. 1950  
Music: Marty Haugen  
Text and music  
© 1984 GIA

Text: Antiphon from  
Good Friday Liturgy  
Tune: Marty Haugen,  
b. 1950  
© 1984,  
GIA Publications, Inc.

The offertory prayer  
reminds us that God is  
the source of all gifts.

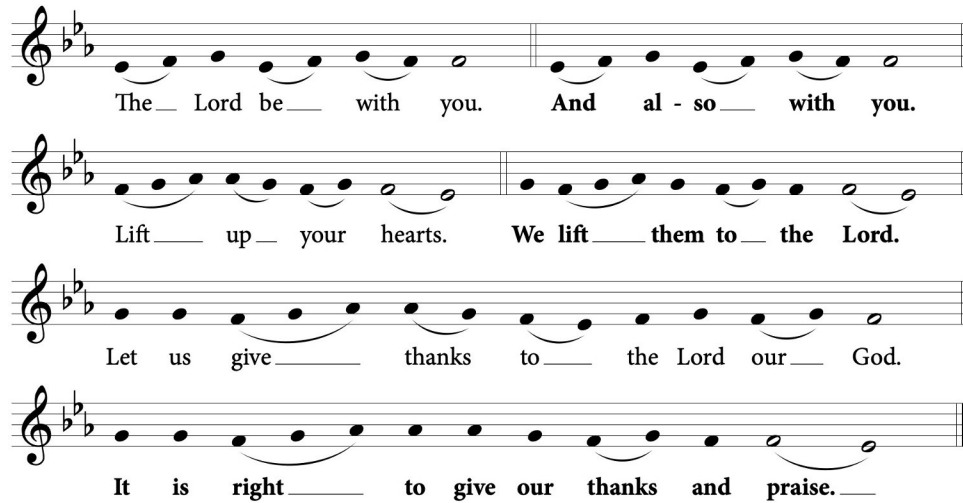
### OFFERTORY PRAYER

**P:** Gracious Provider,

**C:** you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

*The Presiding minister  
greet the assembly  
and invites all present  
to give thanks.*

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



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.

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:

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The words Jesus used in  
instituting the Lord's  
Supper remind us of  
God's wonderful works,  
invite us to receive the  
sacrament, and ask for  
the Holy Spirit to  
bless us.*

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION



*This prayer is based on  
Matthew 6:9-13 and  
Luke 11:24.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

*(Please be seated.)*

## COMMUNION

Regarding the gift of Holy Communion, all are welcome! This is God's table, and there is a place for each of God's beloved. Gluten-free wafers are in the small silver box on the baptismal font.

An usher will direct you down the center aisle to the chancel stairs where you may:

- Receive Holy Communion by intinction, taking the bread, dipping it in the wine, and consuming them together
- Receive Holy Communion by the common cup, first eating the bread and then drinking from the silver chalice
- Receive a blessing by placing your hands across your chest and embracing God's love for you

You will return to your seat by the side aisle.

Again, all are welcome at God's table; come and see that the Lord is good.

## LAMB OF GOD



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.

Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä,      täs - sä  
 1 In this feast of love,      in this  
 2 In this bread and wine,      in this  
 3 Grant us peace, O Lord,      grant us

pöy - däs - sä      syn - ti - sil - le  
 feast of love,      Lord, you share your  
 bread and wine,      you have prom - ised,  
 peace, O Lord;      fill us with the

it - se - si an - nat,      Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!  
 blood and your bod - y,      Je - sus, Lamb of God.  
 Lord, to be with us,      Lamb . . of God div - ine.  
 joy of your Spir - it,      ev - er - liv - ing Word.

Text: Jarkko Maukonen; tr. Mark Sedio, b. 1954  
 Music: TÄSSÄ PÖYDÄSSÄ, Jarkko Maukonen; arr. Mark Sedio  
 Text and music © 2017, 2020 Jarkko Maukonen, admin. Augsburg Fortress

*The blessing prepares us to continue our mission as Christian people in the world. The Sign of the Cross may be made by all as a reminder of Christ in whose name we are baptized and live.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**P:** Generous Host,  
**C:** you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
 Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
 that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
 in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

*(Please stand in body or spirit.)*

## BLESSING

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.

**C: Amen.**

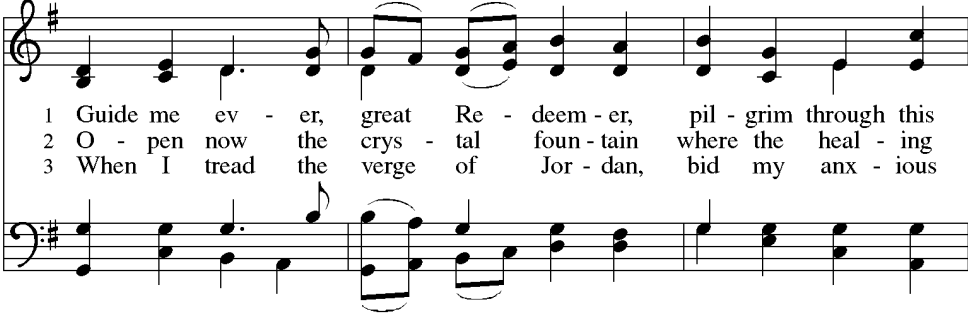
## BENEDICTION

*The benediction imparts God's blessing upon God's people at the close of a service.*

# SENDING GOD'S PEOPLE

CLOSING HYMN ELW 618

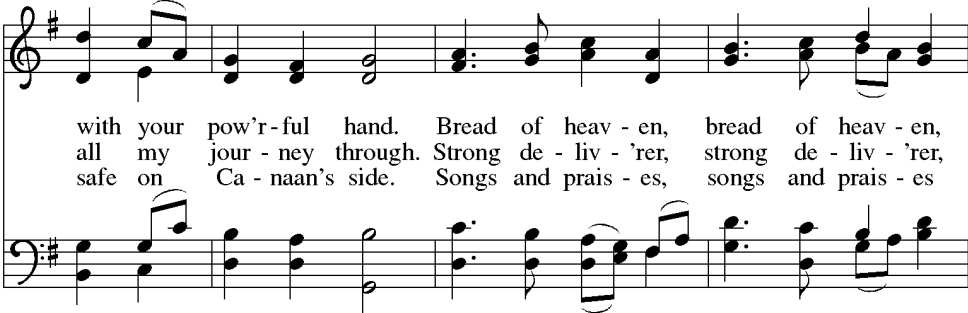
"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"



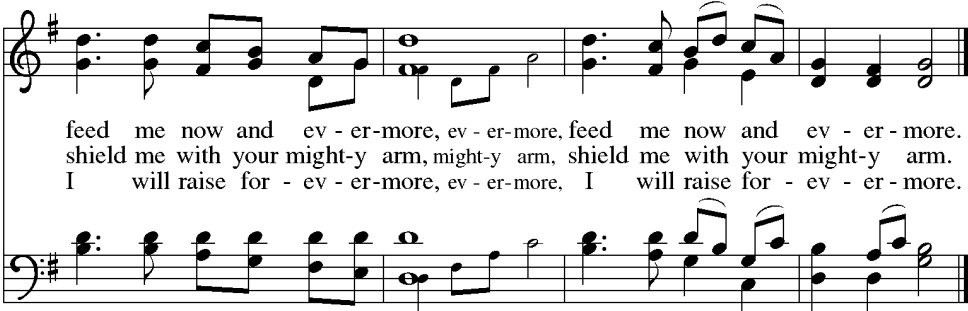
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this  
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing  
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



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  
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,  
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'er, strong de - liv - 'er,  
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



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

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

## DISMISSAL

**P:** Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

## POSTLUDE



# THE SJLC MINUTE

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH NEWSLETTER

## March 2025

### SJLC CALENDAR

- March 23** 3rd Sunday of Lent  
Worship  
Faith Formation  
\*Nursery  
\*Children ... Music, Lesson, Snack, and Craft  
\*Youth ... Games and Spiritual Gains  
\*Parents ... Coffee and Conversation  
\*Adults ... Bible Study of The Gospel of Luke  
Worship  
Knox Area Youth  
Gathering (KAYG)\*
- March 24** Staff Meeting  
APATT Feeding Ministry
- March 25** B.E.E.R. Meeting\*  
Church Council Meeting
- March 26** Communion Instruction  
Midweek Dinner  
Midweek Lenten Worship



#### Midweek Lenten Worship Wednesdays at 6:30 PM

Enjoy quiet moments of Compline, a meditative thought to engage senses, and Holy Communion.

2025 Lenten Focus  
**40-40-40**  
miles | days | donate  
TO BENEFIT:  
**Casa MILAGRO**  
TRANSFORMING FUTURE LEADERS.  
EMPOWERING WOMEN TODAY

March 5 - April 19, 2025

#### If you are considering a Lenten discipline, we invite you to join the 40-40-40 campaign.

This is a synod-wide focus on 40 days of: Daily Devotion, Daily Discipline and Daily Donation during Lent. Our donations will support MILAGRO, the Women's Center in Guatemala. Many of us have met Pastor Karen, Diego and Pastor Beatriz and are aware of the amazing and faithful work they are doing in Guatemala.

To join the 40-40-40 campaign and to access the daily Lenten devotions go to: <https://www.elca-ses.org/fortyforlent2025> Questions? Thoughts? Excitement?! Contact Nancy Friedrich.

#### ADULT FAITH FORMATION

Thanks to Misty Anderson for leading the discussion of Session Eight of our study of the Gospel of Luke. Today at 10:10 in the Fellowship Hall, we'll conclude our series by recapping the eight sessions we examined over the past couple of months. Those with books might scan through the eight sessions and note what were the most intriguing, surprising, or meaningful parts of the book for you. (One quick way to do that would be to re-read the Focus Statement and Key Verse from the first page of each of the sessions.) You might also think about what the central ideas or themes of the gospel were for you.

We'll have table discussions, and everyone is welcome. Coffee and some sweets will be available to accompany our explorations.



#### B.E.E.R. MEETING

**March 25 at 6:00 PM**  
**Barrelhouse**

B.E.E.R. (Brothers Engaged in Enriching Relationships) will meet for some friendly chat and forgettable stories. Barrelhouse also serves non-alcoholic drinks and some pretty tasty food. If you've been on the fence about joining the fun, we encourage you to come along!

Contact Garry Menendez [menendez@utk.edu](mailto:menendez@utk.edu) or Matt Whitehead [mattwhitehead@gmail.com](mailto:mattwhitehead@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Hope to see you there!



Stepping Stones of Faith

## HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTION

If your elementary school-aged child is ready to receive Holy Communion instruction, please consider our Lenten instruction classes. The program concludes with a special Family Communion celebration, where each child receives a framed picture and a personalized communion set they create.

**3/26** 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Instruction in the Conference Room

**4/2** 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM  
Instruction in the Conference Room

**4/5** 3:30 PM - Pottery Party at Liza Moz  
Dinner following at Tomato Head

**4/27** Family Communion Celebration  
at both Worship Services

## CHILD, YOUTH, & FAMILY FAITH FORMATION HAPPENINGS!

Children, Youth and Families

# FAITH Formation

**Sunday, March 23rd -**

Knox Area Youth Gathering  
(3-12 graders) @Messiah Lutheran 1-2:30 PM

**Beginning Wednesday, March 26th -**

Holy Communion Instruction (*elementary age*)  
@4:30 PM in the Conference Room

**April 4-6 - Youth Group Spring Retreat in Sevierville!**

**Sunday, April 20th - Easter Brunch & Flowering of the Cross**

**Sunday, April 27th - Family Communion (*both services*)**

**Sunday, April 27th - Knox Area Youth Gathering**  
(3-12 graders) @St. John's Lutheran 1-2:30 PM

## UKRAINIAN EGG MAKING CLASS

Back by very popular demand, Natasha Patchen is offering a bonus Lenten activity: Pysanky, the beautiful art of making Ukrainian eggs.

**Mark your calendar for Saturday, March 29, at 9:00 am and join us in the Sparks Fellowship Hall to enjoy time together being brave and curious!**



You MUST RSVP to Natasha at (865) 922-4556 so she can prepare for the class with ample supplies. All supplies and eggs will be provided at no cost. However, if you'd like to contribute something, there will be a box for donations toward the cost of the supplies.

As always, activities like this are great opportunities to invite friends and enjoy learning something fun and new!



**SAM---Senior Adult Ministry**  
**Wednesday, April 2 at 11:30am**

**Lunch:** Salsarita's Catering  
Your cost: \$5

**RSVP:** Mary Cole 865-370-3132  
[memecole@comcast.net](mailto:memecole@comcast.net)

**Blessing Basket:** cleaning supplies and bars of soap  
**Program. Birthday Party for Everyone!**

**Debbie Sousa---Music from the 1960s**

Join us to hear Debbie play wonderful music from the 1960s.

Hope to see you there!

## FINANCIAL REPORT

2-28-2025

YTD actual income is \$106,538.  
YTD budgeted income is \$121,478.  
Variance **\$14,939** (*income was less than budgeted*)

YTD actual expenses is \$112,380.  
YTD budgeted expenses is \$117,064.  
Variance **\$4,684** (*expenses were less than budgeted*)

Variance income to expenses is **\$5,842**;  
expenses were more than income.

### Questions?

Please contact Heather Wallace at  
[heatherbpwallace@gmail.com](mailto:heatherbpwallace@gmail.com) or  
773-351-9143 or  
Debbie Sweany at  
[doubledcs@yahoo.com](mailto:doubledcs@yahoo.com) or  
423-921-4812.

*Holy Week begins on Palm Sunday, April 13!*

*Stay tuned for more info about Holy Week and Easter services.*