

Abiding Presence Lutheran Church and Preschool



ALL ARE WELCOME SUNDAY
The Second Sunday of Lent
Sunday 9:30am, March 1, 2026
Monday, 7:30pm, March 2, 2026
Abiding Presence Church and Preschool

Rt. 25A and Sunken Meadow Road
Fort Salonga, New York 11768
(631) 269-6454

The People of God, Ministers
The Reverend Robert Schoepflin, Pastor

Ms. Kathy Pucci, Deacon

Mr. Gavin Schwen, Deacon

Mr. Brian Forberg, Deacon

Dr. Thomas Zatorski, Director of Music

Ms. Lisa Pecchio, Soloist

Dcn. Gavin Schwen, Ms. Karen Garone, Ms. Joanne Pitfick, Ms. Jean Seher, Mr. Roy Seher, Assisting
Ms. Jane Stark, Usher

Mr. Hendrick Peters, Greeter Monday Evening

Ms. Whitney O'Donnell, Ms. Nicole Redden, Ms. Janet Schoepflin, Readers

Ms. Kathy Smith, Altar Guild

Ms. Meredith Mayer, Communion Bread Baker

Mr. Patrick O'Donnell, Video Production

Ms. Marialaina Sheehan, Preschool Director



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Welcome to Worship!
The Second Sunday of Lent
March 1, 2025
9:30am
Abiding Presence Church and Preschool

INTRODUCTION

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

PRELUDE *“Wer Nun den Lieben Gott Lässt Walten”* Helmut Walcha

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

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

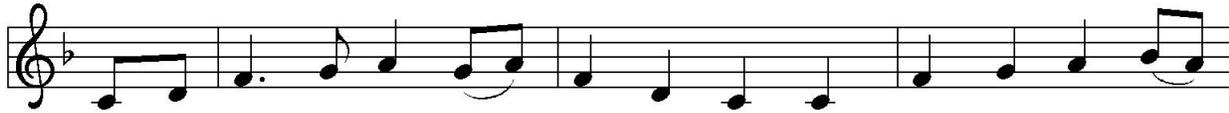
Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN 641

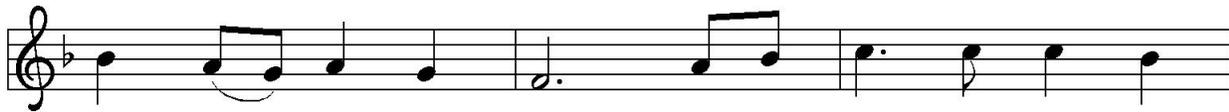
"All are Welcome"



1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
 2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
 3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
 4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
 5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
 true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
 wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
 stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
 heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as



hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
 dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
 peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
 live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
 words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and



vi - sions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
 wit - ness and as sym - bol of God's grace; here as one we
 Je - sus, is re - vealed in time and space; as we share in
 stran - ger bear the im - age of God's face; let us bring an
 laugh - ter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house pro -



Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
 claim the faith of Je - sus:
 Christ the feast that frees us: All are wel - come,
 end to fear and dan - ger:
 claim from floor to raf - ter:



all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: TWO OAKS, Marty Haugen

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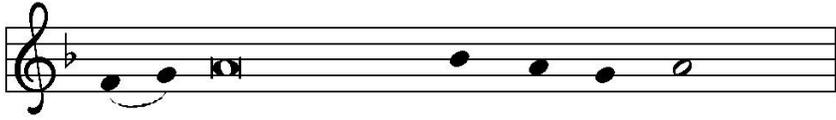
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GREETING

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

And also with you.

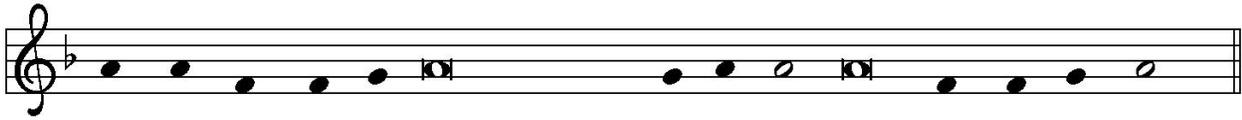
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



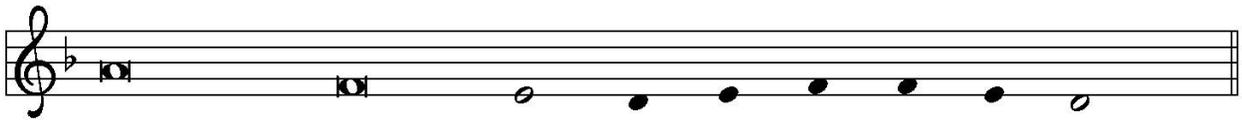
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



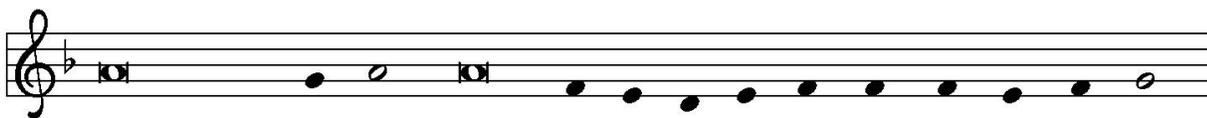
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



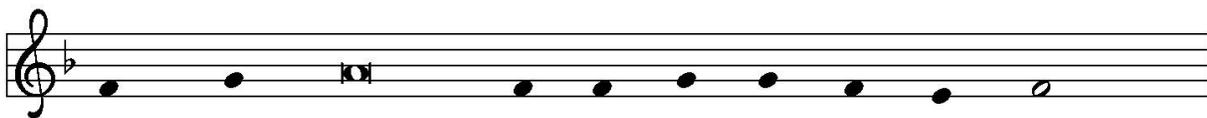
For this ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,



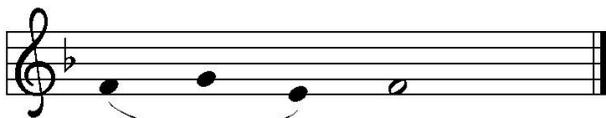
let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together:

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

WORD – God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Please sit

First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

A Reading from Genesis

¹ The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

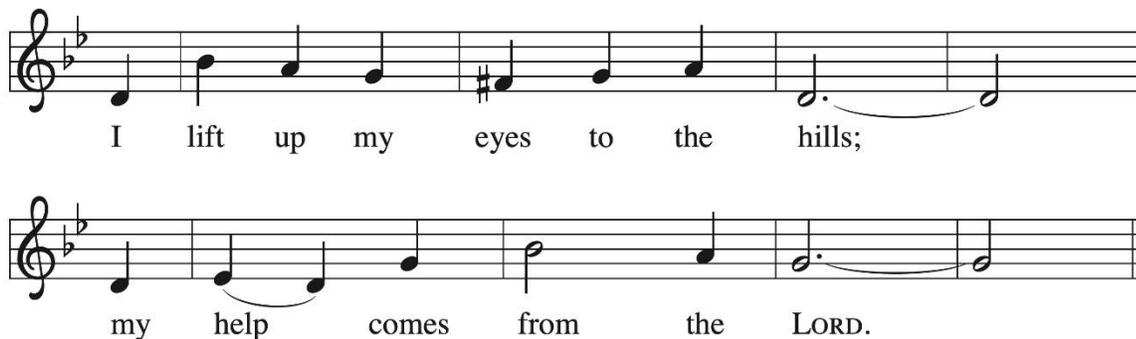
^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

Lector/. Word of God. Word of Life. Congregation/. Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 121

(Cantor sings verses. All sing response.)

Response



I lift up my eyes to the hills;
my help comes from the LORD.

Psalm 121:1-2

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

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- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?
- ² My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.
- ³ The Lord will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

- ⁴ Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep; **R**
- ⁵ the Lord watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;
- ⁶ the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.
- ⁷ The Lord will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.
- ⁸ The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore. **R**

Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

A Reading from Romans

¹¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is

the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Lector/. Word of God. Word of Life. Congregation/. Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able

GOSPEL PROCESSIONAL 769 (st. 1)

“If You But Trust in God to Guide You”

***If you but trust in God to guide you
with gentle hand through all your ways,
you'll find that God is there beside you
when crosses come, in trying days.
Trust then in God's unchanging love;
build on the rock that will not move.***

Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The Holy Gospel according to John
Glory to You, O Lord

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is

spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

GOSPEL RECESSIONAL 769 (st. 4)

"If You But Trust in God to Guide You"

***Sing, pray, and keep God's ways unswerving,
offer your service faithfully.***

***Trust heaven's word; though undeserving,
you'll find this promise true to be.***

***This is our confidence indeed:
God never fails in time of need.***

Please sit

REFLECTION

Please stand as you are able

HYMN 660

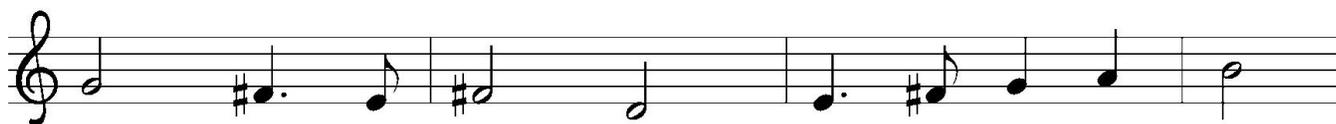
“Lift High the Cross”



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

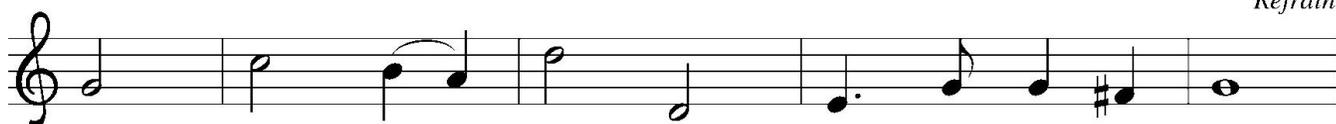


all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



- 1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
- 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
- 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
- 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation

**he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;**

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the + life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Response: “Your mercy is great.”)

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs, responding “your mercy is great.”

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss, especially Vicky, Joseph, Aleen, Sally, Jane, Brooke, Dylan, Stephen, Betty, Laurie, Jennifer, Doris, Bill, Jim, Anthony, Karen, Joan, Matt, Grace, Richard, Lucille, Bobby, Mariette, Ella, Jessica, [], those on our prayer list, and those we name before you, aloud or in our hearts *pause for names*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

SHARING OF PEACE

Please sit

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

ANTHEM

***“For God So Loved the World”
Choir of the Abiding Presence***

Mitch Rorick

OFFERING

**NO OFFERING ENVELOPE?
SCAN THE QR CODE TO CONTRIBUTE**



Please stand as you are able

OFFERING HYMN 339 (st.1)

“Christ the Life of All the Living”

***Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.***

OFFERING 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,

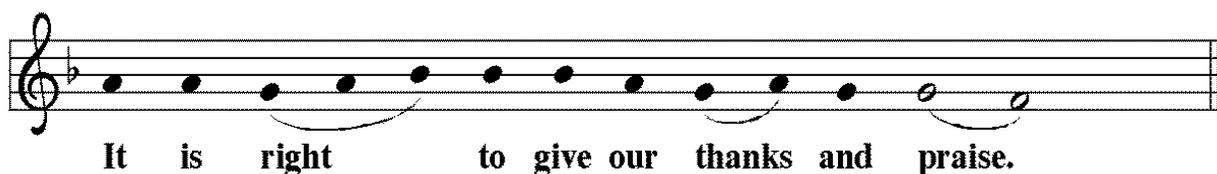
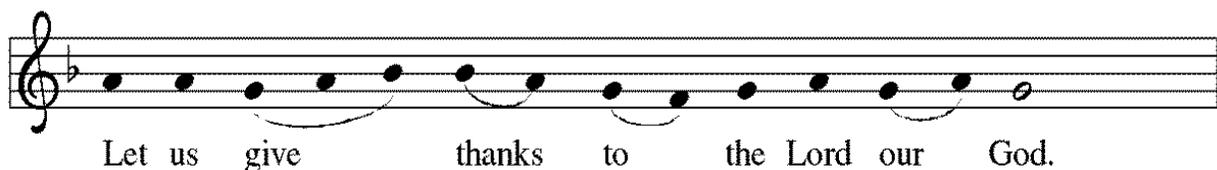
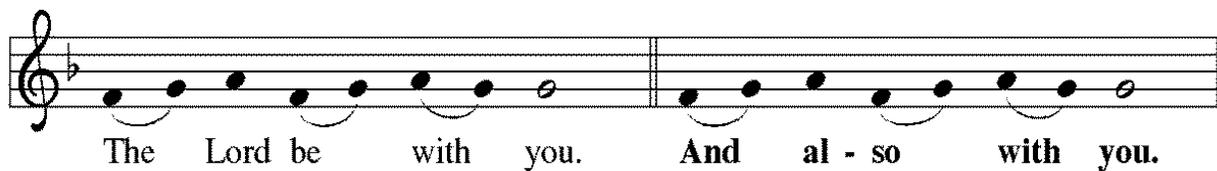
draw us into the death and life of your Son,

who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.

We ask this in Jesus' name.

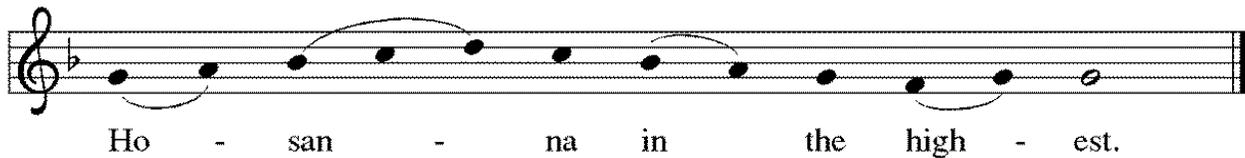
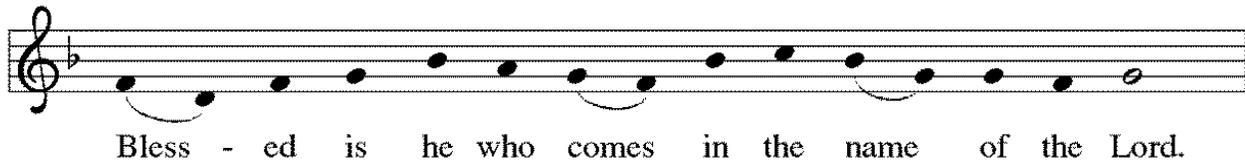
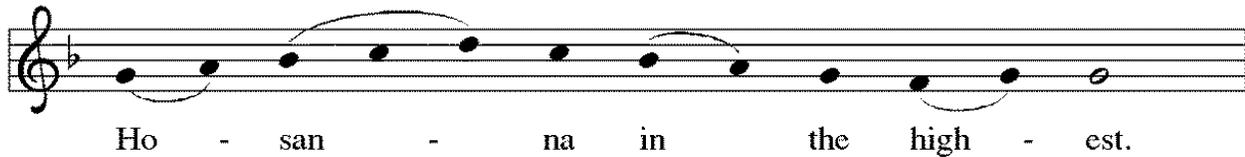
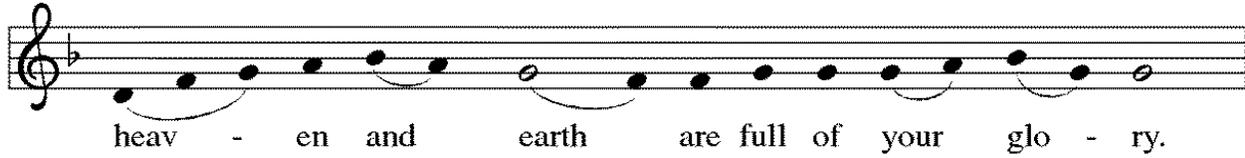
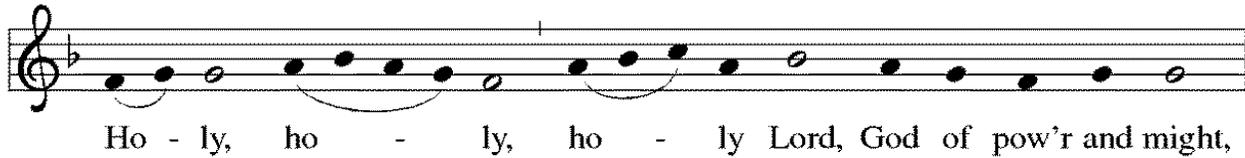
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Happy are those who are called to come to his Supper.

**O Lord, we are not worthy to receive you, but only say the
word and we shall be healed.**

ANGUS 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. A - men.

Please sit

THE DISTRIBUTION

All who believe that along with the bread and wine we receive the true Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ are invited to the Lord's table to receive the Sacrament. The Sacrament will be distributed in one or two continuous lines at the main aisle. The bread is received in the hand and the communicant then proceeds to a gold chalice for intinction or to a crystal chalice to drink from the common cup, or if so desired, the communicant may receive only the bread. Please let your Communion Minister know if you wish to receive a gluten free wafer. Please follow the guidance of the ushers.

COMMUNION HYMN 451 "We are Baptized in Christ Jesus"



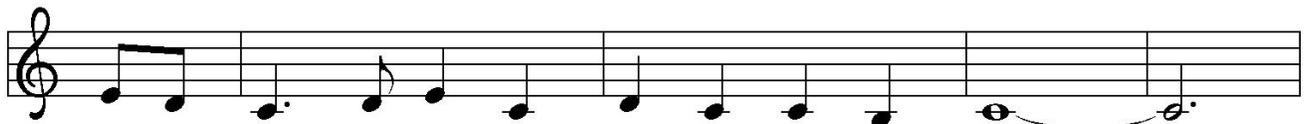
1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
2 In the wa - ter and the wit - ness, in the break - ing of the bread,
3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread - ful death like his,
God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;
as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re - sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Please stand as you are able

BLESSING

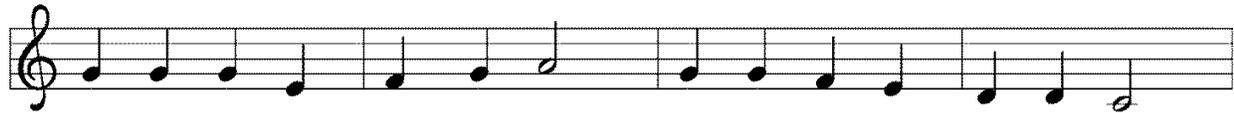
POST COMMUNION HYMN 811 *“On My Heart, Imprint Your Image”*



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634–1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856–1921, alt.
Music: DER AM KREUZ, Johann B. König, 1691–1758

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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you his peace, In the name of the Father and of the \dagger Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 803 *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

DISMISSAL

Gathered by Christ, Growing in Faith, Sent to serve.

All are welcome!

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

“Wer Nun den Lieben Gott Lässt Walten”

J.S. Bach

IN OUR PRAYERS FOR COMFORT AND HEALING ARE: Alie, Rakel Anderson, Annette, Jean B., J. Bauer, Cael Begley, Margaret Belt, Rich Bender, Karin Bergesen, Betsey Berry, Anthony Bonello, Betty Bose, Brenda, Bobby Burns, Annabelle Carini, John Carini, Fran Casola, Claire, Anthony Ceriello, Christel Clausen, The Colozzi Family, Nancy Couture, Mitch Crowley, Jackie DeVille, Avery Doino, Mary Donnelly, Elaine, Wayne Ericksen, Felix, Melinda Geis, Ella Giana, Sal Giannotta, Frank Gonzalez, Kristen Bruce-Gonzalez, Gregory, Thomas H., Ed and June Heidelberger, Charlie Hoffman, Jennifer Hoffman, Josephine Hoffman, Herbert Holzmann, Jennifer Howard, Dylan Israelian, Joanne, Joe, Cliff Johnson, Brian Kennedy, Judy Korsh, Erik Krisch, Kristen, Melissa L., Terry Lago, Douglas Lozel, Marissa Luethi, Loretta Lusteg, Laurie Mandel, Mason, Thomas Medlin, Mel, Melissa, Stancy Mentnech, Herb Menzel, Doris Meyer, Katy Monte, Terry Moore, Jennifer Morrell, Debra Morsello, The Murphy Family, Steven N., Matthew Naeher, Kim Nallan, Jane O'Brien, Lucille Ochal, Pamela, Rose P., Patrick, Paul, Richard Pecchio, Dorothy Philcox, Keith Philcox, Jessica Pucci, Ron Pucci, Joseph, Joan and Matt Reilly, Grace Revere, Lynn R., Margaret Rizzo, Doris Roche, Charlotte Roessle, Jim Rogin, Nancy Rosen, Ruth, Jordan S., Sal, Susan Salerno, The Seale Family, Joan Sepp, Jeff Smith, Jeffrey Starke, Stephen, Suzanne Stoklosa, Annette Swanson, Gavin Tarsio, Todd, Peter T., Anna T., Julie Tiberie, Michael Wagner, Peter Weichner, Bill Witte, Kathy Zieran, Erwin Zimmermann.

FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY: Courtney Burke, Paul Cassuti, John Delano, Jonathan Dixon, Walton Delano Gouldin, Eric Hank, Jr., Michael Hewson, Alycia A. Howard, Claire James, Justin MacDonald, Katie Mayer, Daniel Murray, Richard Mutari, Jay Rosenwald, Jake Sass, Kaitlin Stark, Bryce Michael Wheeler, Rachel Williams.



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Daily Bible Readings for Year A (March 1 – March 8)
From *EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP*

The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

Sun 3/1	<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> Genesis 12:1-4a Psalm 121 Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 John 3:1-17
Mon 3/2	Psalm 128 Numbers 21:4-9 Hebrews 3:1-6
Tues 3/3	Psalm 128 Isaiah 65:17-25 Romans 4:6-13
Wed 3/4	Psalm 128 Ezekiel 36:22-32 John 7:53—8:11
Thurs 3/5	Psalm 95 Exodus 16:1-8 Colossians 1:15-23
Fri 3/6	Psalm 95 Exodus 16:9-21 Ephesians 2:11-22
Sat 3/7	Psalm 95 Exodus 16:27-35 John 4:1-6
Sun 3/8	<i>Third Sunday in Lent</i> Exodus 17:1-7 Psalm 95 Romans 5:1-11 John 4:5-42

Monday, March 2, 2026
7:30 pm

PRELUDE

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,
we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

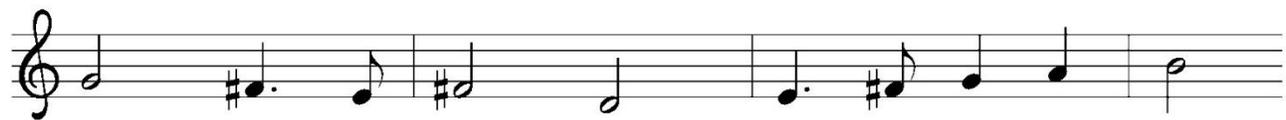
GATHERING HYMN 660 “Lift High the Cross”



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

Refrain



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827–1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874–1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875–1947

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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

Let us pray together:

**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.**

Gospel: John 3:1-17

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The Holy Gospel according to John

Glory to You, O Lord

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” ³ Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about

earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

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

Please sit

REFLECTION

Please stand as you are able

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Response: “Your mercy is great.”)

Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs, responding “your mercy is great.”

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.** Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss, especially Vicky, Joseph, Aleen, Sally, Jane, Brooke, Dylan, Stephen, Betty, Laurie, Jennifer, Doris, Bill, Jim, Anthony, Karen, Joan, Matt, Grace, Richard, Lucille, Bobby, Mariette, Ella, Jessica, [], those on our prayer list, and those we name before you, aloud or in our hearts *pause for names*. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

SHARING OF PEACE

OFFERING

**NO OFFERING ENVELOPE?
SCAN THE QR CODE TO CONTRIBUTE**



OFFERING HYMN 339 (st.1)

“Christ the Life of All the Living”

*Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Christ, yourself for me once giving
to the darkest depths of woe:
through your suff'ring, death, and merit
life eternal I inherit.
Thousand, thousand thanks are due,
dearest Jesus, unto you.*

OFFERING 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 HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

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 Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he (+) who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,
who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor,
and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.
Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory, now and forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.
Happy are those who are called to come to his Supper.
**O Lord, we are not worthy to receive you, but only say the
word and we shall be healed.**

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. A - men.

THE DISTRIBUTION

Gluten-free wafers are available. When you come forward, please let your Communion Minister know if you wish to receive a gluten-free wafer.

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

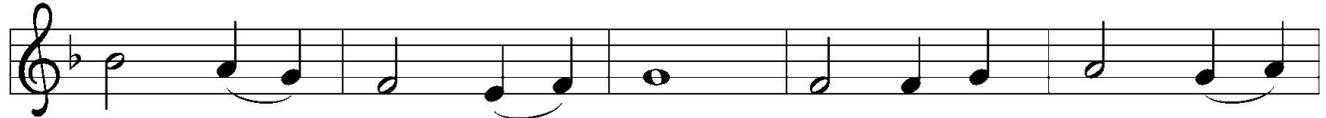
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make his face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you his peace, In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN 803

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”



1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the
 2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the
 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and
 4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a



prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I
 death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that
 love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and
 pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,



count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.
 charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.
 sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?
 so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

SENDING

A: Gathered by Christ, Growing in Faith, Sent to serve

C: All are welcome!

A: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Sun 3/1 *Second Sunday in Lent*
Genesis 12:1-4a
Psalm 121
Romans 4:1-5, 13-17
John 3:1-17

Mon 3/2 Psalm 128
Numbers 21:4-9
Hebrews 3:1-6

Tues 3/3 Psalm 128
Isaiah 65:17-25
Romans 4:6-13

Wed 3/4 Psalm 128
Ezekiel 36:22-32
John 7:53—8:11

Thurs 3/5 Psalm 95
Exodus 16:1-8
Colossians 1:15-23

Fri 3/6 Psalm 95
Exodus 16:9-21
Ephesians 2:11-22

Sat 3/7 Psalm 95
Exodus 16:27-35
John 4:1-6

Sun 3/8 *Third Sunday in Lent*
Exodus 17:1-7
Psalm 95
Romans 5:1-11
John 4:5-42

THE PARISH COUNCIL

*If you would like contact information for the council members listed below,
please call the church office at 631-269-6454.*

- Joanne Pittfick, President
- Pr. Robert Schoepflin, Vice-President
- Brian Ansink, Fellowship
- Karen Garone, Finance
- Joie Burkhardt, Treasurer
- Karen Garone, Assistant Treasurer
- Mark Waldron, Assistant Treasurer
- Arthur Wakefield, Assistant Treasurer
- Barbara Kaifler, Secretary
- Marina Bedrossian, Youth
- Chris Fick, Property
- Karen Wallin, Social Ministries
- Betty Bose, Music and Worship
- Aubrey Minton, Christian Education
- Paul Farber, Stewardship
- Lauri Christiansen-Wegener, Outreach and Marketing (Evangelism)

+++++

Sunday Schedule	9:30am In person and Live stream via YouTube	The Holy Eucharist
Sunday school N3 – Grade 5	9:30am In person	
Monday Schedule	7:30pm In person	The Holy Eucharist

OUR MISSION

The mission of Abiding Presence Lutheran Church, a spiritual home centered in Christ and community, is to share Jesus’ love in our words and in our works as we welcome all to the family of God.



CHURCH WEBSITE



PRESCHOOL WEBSITE

**Church: www.abidingpresencechurch.org email: abidingpresenceoffice@gmail.com
Preschool: www.abidingpresencepreschool.com email: aplcpreschool@gmail.com**