

**FEBRUARY 25, 2024**  
**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Welcome to 9:30 am Worship**

**St. Luke Lutheran Church**  
**35 Wilson Ave, PO Box 338; Gilbertsville, PA 19525**

**PRELUDE:**

**How Firm a Foundation**

setting, Dale Wood; ©2001 Sacred Music Press

**GATHERING HYMN:**

**ELW 796 How Firm a Foundation**

Text: J. Rippon, A Selection of Hymns, 1787, alt.; Music: Early American

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**ELW 667 Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said**

Text: Charles W. Everest, 1814-1877, alt.; Music: W. Hauser, Hesperian Harp, 1848, Arr. ©2006 Augsburg Fortress

**HOLY COMMUNION:**

**Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

setting, Robert A. Hobby; ©1996 MorningStar Music Publishers.

**SENDING HYMN:**

**ELW 338 Beneath the Cross of Jesus**

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869; Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927

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**St. Luke**  
**Lutheran**  
**Church**

Knowing,  
Sharing, and  
Celebrating  
*Christ*

Lincoln Noecker,  
Director of Music

Valerie Schlegel  
Dir. Handbell & Youth Choir

Marsha Staub,  
Office Administrator

**Executive Officers:**

Connie Hukari, President  
Dave Janzow, Vice President  
Pam Reifsnyder, Secretary  
Scott Moyer, Treasurer

**Congregational Council:**

John Bealer  
Donna Biehl  
Donna Conrad  
Michael Ferraro

David Girtan  
Connie Hukari  
Dave Janzow  
Bonnie Kuser  
Pam Reifsnyder  
Leslie Romasco  
Tom Undercuffler  
Joe Vendetti

stlukegilbertsville.org  
610-367-9738

## **GATHERING**

The Holy Spirit Calls us together as the people of God.

## **PRELUDE**

*During the prelude, please use this time to quietly allow God to open your heart to his blessed presence.*

## **WELCOME**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,

**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,

washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through † Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN

## How Firm a Foundation

ELW 796

### 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.**

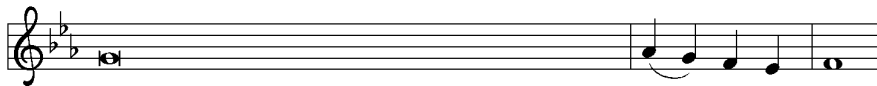
### KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



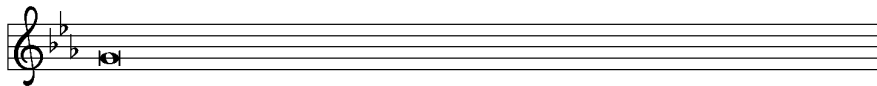
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



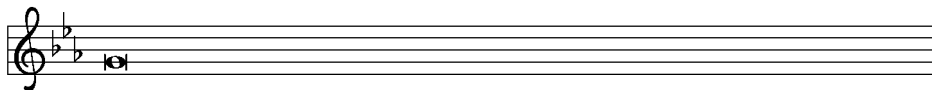
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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



A - men, a - men.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Holy God, heavenly Father,  
**in the waters of the flood you saved the chosen,**  
**and in the wilderness of temptation**  
**you protected your Son from sin.**  
**Renew us in the gift of baptism.**  
**May your holy angels be with us,**  
**that the wicked foe may have no power over us,**  
**through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,**  
**who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,**  
**one God, now and forever.**  
**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

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

### FIRST READING

A reading from Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

<sup>1</sup>When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. <sup>2</sup>And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." <sup>3</sup>Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, <sup>4</sup>"As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>5</sup>No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. <sup>6</sup>I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. <sup>7</sup>I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you."

<sup>15</sup>God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. <sup>16</sup>I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### PSALM 22:23-31

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob's line, give glory.  
Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off-spring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty;  
neither is the LORD's face hidden from them;  
but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

**<sup>26</sup>The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;  
all the families of nations shall bow before God.

**<sup>28</sup>For dominion belongs to the LORD,  
who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;  
all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before  
the LORD.

**<sup>30</sup>Their descendants shall serve the LORD,  
whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God's deliverance to a people yet unborn,  
saying to them, "The LORD has acted!"

## SECOND READING

A reading from Romans 4:13-25

<sup>13</sup>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. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup>For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness

of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup>Therefore his faith "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup>Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup>but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup>who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

## GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to Mark 8:31-38

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>[Jesus] began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the

scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again.<sup>32</sup>He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup>But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

<sup>34</sup>He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, "If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup>For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup>For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup>Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup>Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**MESSAGE:**

**Rev. Burlington Latshaw**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY TAKE UP YOUR CROSS, THE SAVIOR SAID ELW 667**

**CREED**

Together, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**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 assembly is seated*

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

We turn to you for meaning, holy God. Nurture in your children the gifts of the Spirit poured out in baptism and let the mind of Christ guide the church. Give wisdom and discernment to our bishops, pastors, deacons, teachers, and leaders. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for renewal. Save lives and ecosystems threatened by pollution and a changing climate. Cleanse the earth's waters and restore the soil. Preserve rainforests, deserts, and wildlife, that generations to come may cherish your creation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for justice. Uphold the worth and dignity of every person, especially any who experience hatred and rejection because of gender, ability, sexual orientation, color, ethnicity, or religion. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for healing. Send compassionate helpers to any who suffer because of war and violence. Shelter unhoused people, befriend those who are lonely, bring hope to any in despair, and console the bereaved. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for purpose. Remind us of your faithfulness to this congregation. Increase our trust in your guidance and keep us near the cross. Grant that our acts of service will express Christ's sacrificial love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We turn to you for peace. We honor the saints who lived in service to others. Inspire us by their example until you gather us into your kingdom. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you**

## **MEAL**

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Please rise in body or spirit*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life

**and the host of this meal.**

**Bless these gifts that we have gathered**

that all people may know your goodness.  
**Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.  
We pray this in your name.  
Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING DIALOGUE**

The Lord be with you.  
**And also with you.**

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

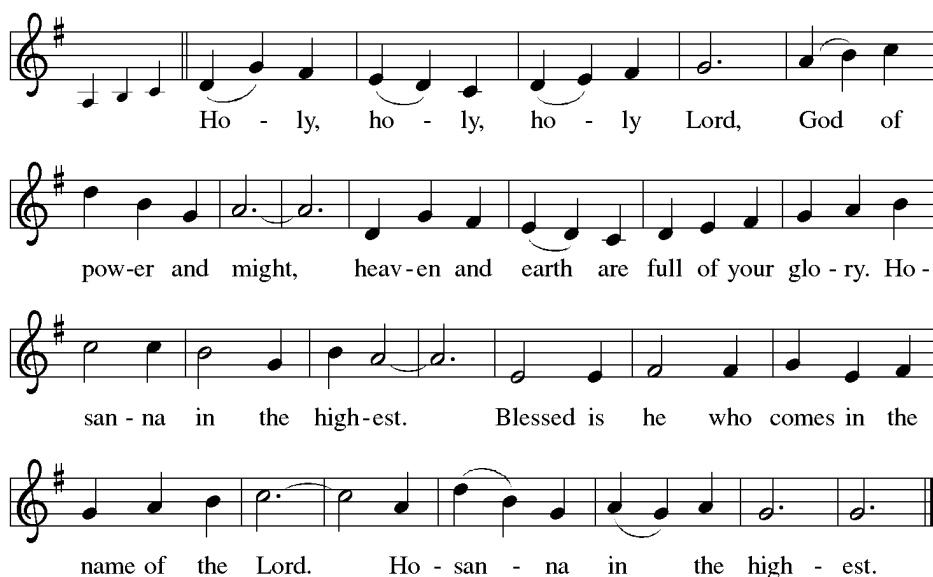
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **PREFACE**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
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



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

*All are welcome to the table. If you will be coming to the altar for communion, please follow the ushers' instructions. Those who are choosing to stay in the pew, using the prefilled cups, and those who need to have the pastor bring the elements to them should wait for instructions from the pastor. Children are most welcome to accompany their parents to the altar for a blessing.*

## LORD'S PRAYER

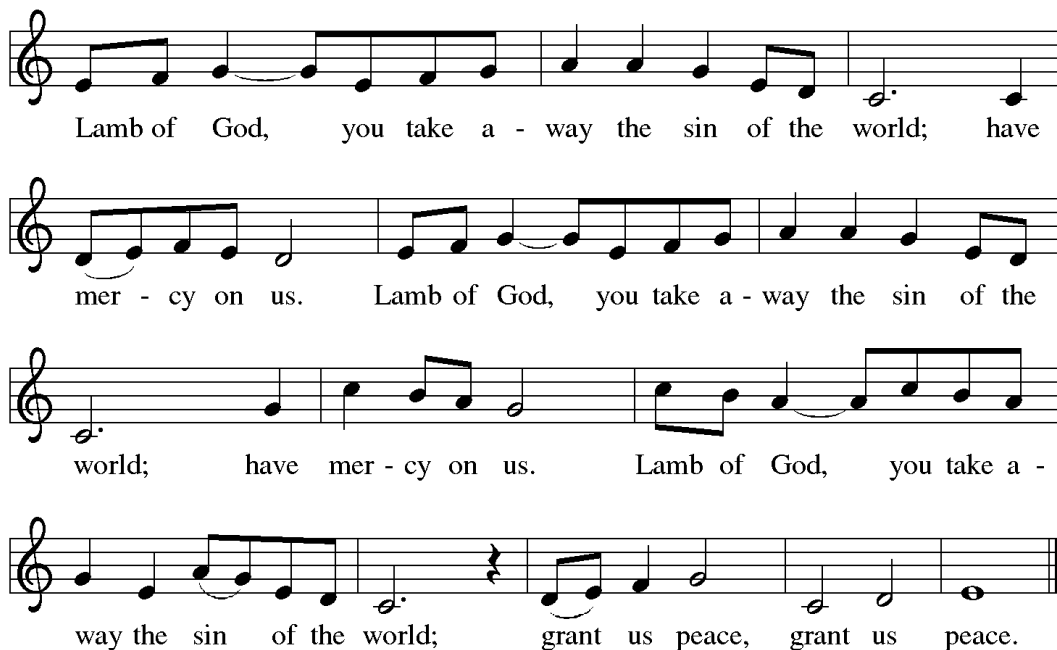
*Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.*

**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.**

## COMMUNION SONG



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

Bread for the journey,  
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

*The assembly is seated.*

## COMMUNION

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen**

The blood of Christ, shed for you. **Amen**

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Generous God,

**at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.**

**As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,**

**now make us one loaf to feed the world;**

**in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.**

**Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SENDING

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

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## BLESSING

Beloved,

we are God's own people,

holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN**

***Beneath the Cross of Jesus***

**ELW 338**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

From [Sundayandseasons.com](http://Sundayandseasons.com)

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**TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:**

Worship Leader & Message: The Rev. Burlington Latshaw

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Cantor: Kathy Billger

Lector: Joe Vendetti

Audio Video: Ron Ball

Ushers: Gary Fronheiser, Ron Hukari

Sacristan: Val Schlegel

**PRAYERS FOR Health and Healing:**

- ◊ Paul Moatz, health & healing, (friend of Kathy & Tom Undercuffler)
- ◊ Joanne Rissell, foot surgery (sister of Linda Fronheiser & Cheryl Homa)
- ◊ Thelma Borchelt, hospitalized for tests (friend of the Billgers)
- ◊ Terry Oxenreider, multiple health issues

### **PRAYERS FOR those in grief:**

- ◇ Family & friends of Mary Van Dyke (friend of Marsha Staub)
- ◇ Family & friends of Christine Gresh (friend of Connie Hukari)
- ◇ Family & friends of Marge Yanalavage (friend of the Hukari family)

### **PRAYERS FOR those Needing Continued Prayers:**

|               |             |                  |
|---------------|-------------|------------------|
| Bob Arobone   | Tom Bucks   | Kristopher Yoder |
| Jalen Gray    | Larry Kuser | Sharon Smith     |
| Bonnie Ritter |             |                  |

### **PRAYERS FOR those at home:**

|                     |                |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Gloria Christman    | Paul McFarland |
| Marie Geiger        | Helen Penketh  |
| Ruth Nice           | Cookie Stasik  |
| Jean & Bill Christy |                |

### **Lenten Worship**

Please join us every Wednesday evening in Lent at 7:00 pm for worship.

### **Toiletries Needed**

Going to the dentist? If you soon have a dental appointment, please ask if they have extra toothpaste or toothbrush samples. Ruth Nice is collecting them for the Pottstown Salvation Army Shelter. Her Action Team project is for toiletries for the shelter. Please place items in the bin in the Narthex.

### **Scouts Ice Cream Social**

Please join the Scout Troop #36 for a communitywide ice cream social on Saturday, March 16 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm in the St. Luke Pavilion.



| Date   | Week of February 25-March 2                          | Location                    |
|--|--|-----------------------------|
| <b>Sunday, February 25</b><br><b>Second Sunday in Lent</b> | 9:30 am Worship                                      | Nave                        |
| <b>Tuesday</b><br><b>February 27</b>                       | 7:00 pm Boy Scouts                                   | Memorial Hall               |
| <b>Wednesday,</b><br><b>February 28</b>                    | CCR Donations 1:00-4:00 pm<br>7:00 pm Lenten Worship | CCR<br>Sanctuary            |
| <b>Thursday,</b><br><b>February 29</b>                     | 6:30 pm Girl Scouts<br>Bronze Award                  | Memorial Hall               |
| <b>Friday,</b><br><b>March 1</b>                           | 8:30 pm AA Meeting                                   | Class Room Downstairs       |
| <b>Worship Leaders</b>                                     | <b>Sun., March 3, 2024</b>                           | <b>Sun., March 10, 2024</b> |
| <b>Presiding</b>   | Rev. Tyson Frey                                      | Rev. Burlington Latshaw     |
| <b>Lector</b>  | Pat Hallman  | Ron Ball                    |
| <b>Ushers</b>  | Ron Hukari, Dave Janzow                              | Dave Girton, Pete Huber     |
| <b>Audio Video</b>   | Ron Hukari   | Mike Ferraro                |
| <b>Office Volunteer</b>                                    | Donna Biehl (Feb. 29)                                | Cindy Bealer (Mar. 7)       |
| <b>Sacristan</b>   | Donna Biehl  | Donna Biehl                 |

| <b>Worship and Stewardship</b>       |          |                              |                                 |
|--------------------------------------|----------|------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <b><u>Our January Commitment</u></b> |          | <b><u>Our Generosity</u></b> | <b><u>Overage/Shortfall</u></b> |
| Budget                               | \$10,080 | \$ 10,467                    | \$387                           |
| Mission Support                      | \$532    | \$ 713                       | \$181                           |



# READER

Lent 2

- Today is the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday in **Lent**.
- During Lent we remember that **Jesus suffered**.
- In our **church family**, we can **support** people who are suffering.

During Lent, we can pay more attention to the ways people may be suffering. In each space write something you can do for other people during Lent.

