

MARCH 3, 2024
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

Welcome to 9:30 am Worship

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

PRELUDE:

God of Grace and God of Glory

setting, Donald Rotermund; ©1992 Concordia Publishing House

GATHERING HYMN:

ELW 324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872; Music: Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

HYMN OF THE DAY:

ELW 723 My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout

Text: Rory Cooney, b. 1952, Text © 1990 GIA Publications, Inc.; Music: Irish traditional

HOLY COMMUNION:

O Bread of Life from Heaven

setting, G. Winston Cassler; ©1960 Augsburg Fortress

SENDING HYMN:

ELW 705 God of Grace and God of Glory

Text: Harry E. Fosdick, 1878-1969; Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932

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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

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW 324

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.

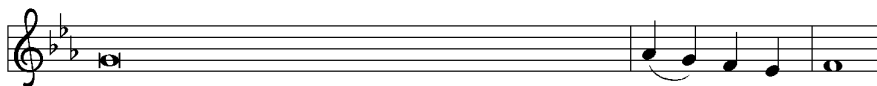
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



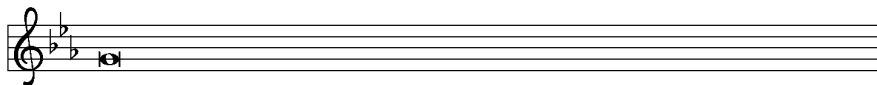
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



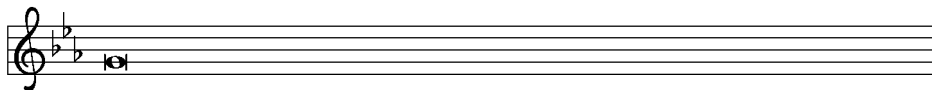
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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,

through your Son

you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously.

Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace,

and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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 Exodus 20:1-17

¹God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God,
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²**One day tells its tale to another,
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

³Although they have no words or language,
and their voices are not heard,

⁴**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the
ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

⁶**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to
the end of it again;
nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸**The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.**

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²**Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

SECOND READING

A reading from 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. ¹⁹For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,

and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

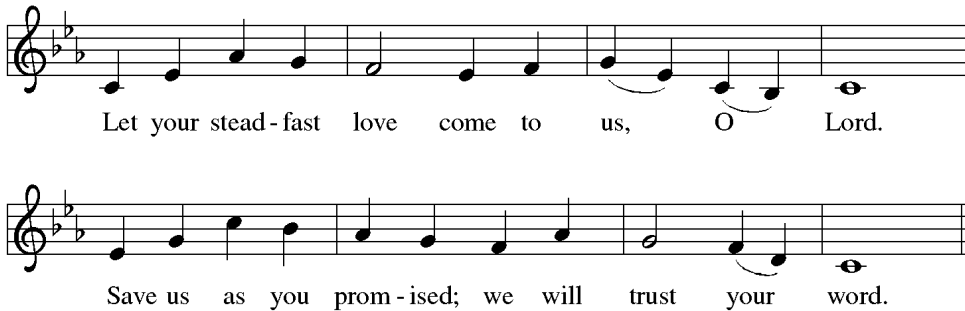
²⁰Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. ²²For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, ²⁴but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or spirit.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

The holy gospel according to John 2:13-22

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

MESSAGE:

Mr. Dennis Faust

Please rise in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY *My Soul Cries Out with a Joyful Shout* ELW 723

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.

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family. We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. 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.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Gathered at the Lord's table, our congregation remembered with thanksgiving that "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.

This is the supper of our Lord Jesus Christ. This same bread and cup, shared in our community of faith, are here given for you.

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.

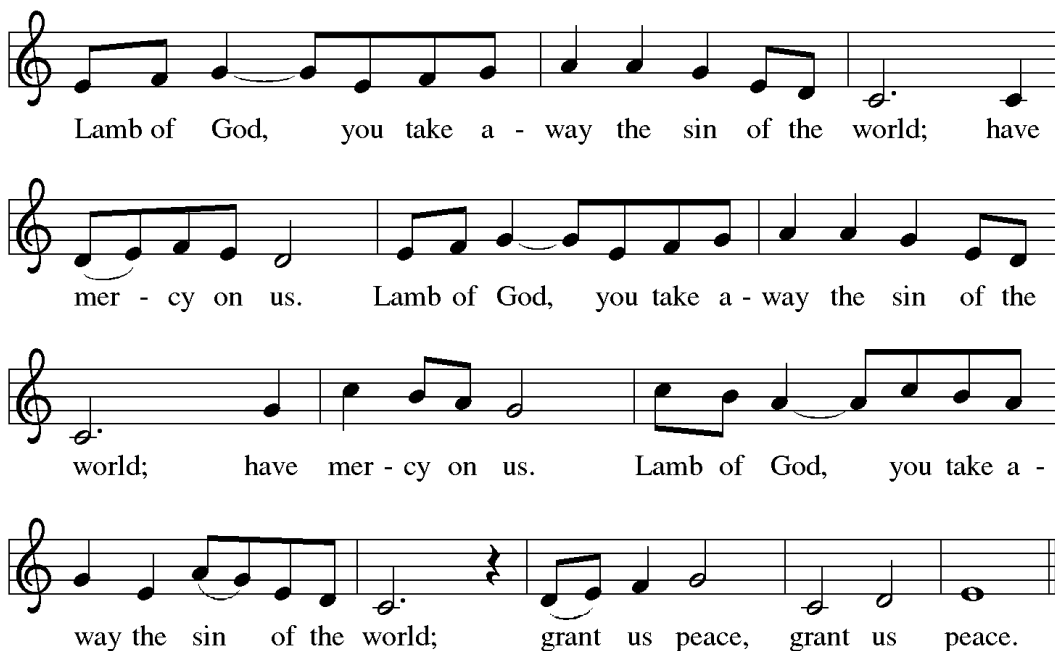
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Share your bread.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

TODAY'S WORSHIP LEADERS:

Worship Leader & Message: Mr. Dennis Faust

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Cantor: Kathy Billger

Lector: Pat Hallman

Audio Video: Ron Hukari

Ushers: Ron Hukari, Dave Janzow

Sacristan: Donna Biehl

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
- ◇ Karen Lee Girton, recovering from surgery

PRAYERS FOR those in grief:

- ◇ Family & friends of Christine Gresh (friend of Connie Hukari)
- ◇ Family & friends of Marge Yanalavage (friend of the Hukari family)
- ◇ Family & friends of John Werner (friend of Connie Hukari)
- ◇ Family & friends of Evelyn Augustine (sister-in-law of Ruth Nice)

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

Sponsors

The flowers are sponsored by Larry and Kathy Billger with thanksgiving to God, and in joyful celebration of their 30th wedding anniversary, to be celebrated March 5.

The communion elements and bulletins are sponsored by Ruth Nice in honor of the birthday of her daughter-in-law, Michelle.

The sanctuary lamp is sponsored by Hilda Cooney in honor of Gloria Christman's birthday.

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.

Endowment Applications

St. Luke Endowment applications are now being considered. If you would like an application, please contact the church office at 610-367-9738. Applications are due March 31.

Office Closed

The church office will be closed on Monday, March 4. Marsha is on vacation and will return on Tuesday, March 5.

Date	Week of March 3-9	Location
Sunday, March 3 Third Sunday in Lent	9:30 am Worship	Nave
Tuesday, March 5	3:00 pm Worship & Music 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Memorial Hall Memorial Hall
Wednesday, March 6	CCR Donations 1:00-4:00 pm 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	CCR Sanctuary
Thursday, March 7	6:30 pm Girl Scouts	Memorial Hall
Friday, March 8	8:30 pm AA Meeting	Class Room Downstairs
Worship Leaders	Sun., March 10, 2024	Sun., March 17, 2024
Presiding	Rev. Burlington Latshaw	Randy Schlegel
Lector	Ron Ball	Dave Janzow
Ushers	Dave Girton, Pete Huber	Larry Billger, Terry Conrad
Audio Video	Mike Ferraro	Ron Hukari
Office Volunteer	Cindy Bealer (Mar. 7)	Pat Hallman (Mar. 14)
Sacristan	Donna Biehl	Donna Biehl

Worship and Stewardship			
<u>Our February Commitment</u>	<u>Our Generosity</u>		<u>Overage/Shortfall</u>
Budget	\$10,080	\$ 8,861	-\$1,219
Mission Support	\$532	\$ 417	-\$ 115
Endowment Fund Donation: \$10,000			



READER

Lent 3

- Today is the 3rd Sunday in **Lent**.
- During Lent we focus on ways to **serve others**.
- Following the **Ten Commandments** helps us serve others.

The Golden Rule

Jesus taught us to love thy neighbor. Who are our neighbors? Everyone in the whole wide world! See if you can match the word for love with their languages.

liefde
dragoste
rakkaus
kärlek
ljubav
amour
amore
cinta
mapenzi
amor

Finnish
French
Romanian
Dutch
Swedish
Italian
Croatian
Indonesian
Swahili
Spanish

