

**St. Luke**

Lutheran  
Church

Knowing,  
Sharing, and  
Celebrating  
Christ



**MARCH 5, 2023**  
**SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Welcome to 9:30 am Worship**

**35 Wilson Ave, PO Box 338; Gilbertsville, PA 19525**  
**610-367-9738 [www.stlukegilbertsville.org](http://www.stlukegilbertsville.org)**

**PRELUDE**

**God Loved the World**

setting, Robert Hobby ©1996 MorningStar Music Publishers

**GATHERING HYMN:**

**ELW 445 Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters**

Text: Ruth Duck, b.1947, ©1989 The United Methodist Publishing House, admin. Music Services, Brentwood; Music: The Sacred Harp, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. Selected Hymns, 1985, Arr.©1985 Augsburg Fortress.

**HYMN OF THE DAY:**

**ELW 323 God Loved the World**

Text: Gesangbuch, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.;  
Music: Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

**SENDING HYMN:**

**ELW 660 Lift High the Cross**

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956;  
Music: Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947; Text and music ©1974 Hope Publishing Company.

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Valerie Schlegel  
Dir. Handbell & Youth Choir

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Office Administrator

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Tom Undercuffler  
Joe Vendetti

St. Luke Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Lenapehoking people and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

## **GATHERING**

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

## **PRELUDE**

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

## **WELCOME**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God,  
Father, ✠Son, and Holy Spirit.  
who journeys with us these forty days,  
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

**Amen.**

Let us acknowledge before God and one another  
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess to you our faults and failings.**  
**Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;**  
**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;**  
**we spoil rather than steward your creation;**  
**we cause hurt though you call us to heal;**  
**we choose fear over compassion.**  
**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,**  
**as we seek to follow in your way of life.**  
**Amen.**

Hear the good news:  
God so loved the world that God gave God's only Son,  
so that all may receive life.  
This promise is for you!  
God embraces you with divine mercy,  
✠ forgives you in the name of Jesus,  
and revives you in the Spirit's power.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**    *Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*    **ELW 445**

### **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**

### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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.**

*The assembly is seated.*



## WORD

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

### FIRST READING:

A reading from Genesis 12:1-4a

<sup>1</sup>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. <sup>2</sup>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. <sup>3</sup>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."

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him; and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 121

<sup>1</sup>I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

**<sup>2</sup>My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup>The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**<sup>4</sup>Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup>the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

**<sup>6</sup>the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup>The LORD will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

**<sup>8</sup>The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth for evermore.**

## SECOND READING:

A reading from Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

<sup>1</sup>What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup>For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup>For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup>Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup>But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

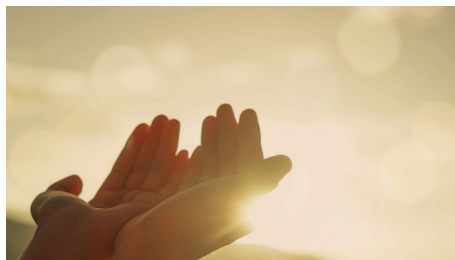
<sup>13</sup>For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings 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.

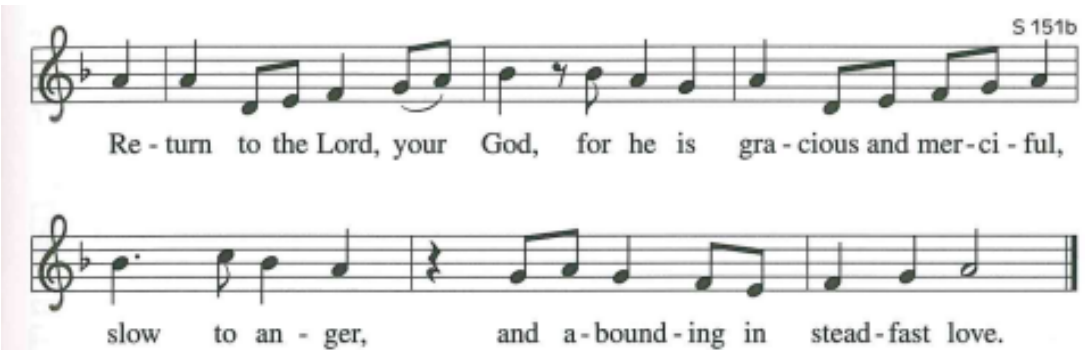
Word of God, Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or spirit*



## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



### GOSPEL:

The holy gospel according to John 3:1-17

### Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>1</sup>Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup>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 apart from the presence of God." <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." <sup>4</sup>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?" <sup>5</sup>Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup>What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup>Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' <sup>8</sup>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." <sup>9</sup>Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" <sup>10</sup>Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup>"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. <sup>12</sup>If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell

you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup>No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup>And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“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.

<sup>17</sup>“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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## **MESSAGE**

**Joe Vendetti**

*Please rise in body or spirit.*

## **HYMN OF THE DAY**

**God So Loved the World**

**ELW 323**

## **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**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary, and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with



children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.  
**Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

God of good gifts,  
**receive these and all our offerings  
as we present them in faithful service  
for the sake of your gospel.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you  
as you pour out your very presence  
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.  
Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

*Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.*

**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.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **SENDING**

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

*Please rise in body and spirit.*

### **BLESSING**

Church, receive this blessing.

God, the giver of love,  
✙ Christ, the resurrection and the life,  
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth  
bless you in this Lenten journey.  
**Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

*Lift High the Cross*

**ELW 660**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.  
**Knowing, sharing and celebrating Christ.**

### **POSTLUDE**

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

## **Lectionary for March 6-11**

**Monday** – Psalm 128; Numbers 21:4-9; Hebrews 3:1-6

**Tuesday** – Psalm 128; Isaiah 65:17-25; Romans 4:6-13

**Wednesday** – Psalm 128; Ezekiel 36:22-32; John 7:53—8:11

**Thursday** – Psalm 95; Exodus 16:1-8; Colossians 1:15-23

**Friday** – Psalm 95; Exodus 16:9-21; Ephesians 2:11-22

**Saturday** – Psalm 95; Exodus 16:27-35; John 4:1-6

### **Today's Worship Leaders:**

Worship Leader: Kathy Billger

Director of Music: Lincoln Noecker

Lector: Connie Hukari

Ushers: Larry Billger, Terry Conrad

### **PRAYERS FOR Health and Healing:**

- Emalyn Moyer, heart surgery, 9-year-old daughter of Alex and Jackie Moyer
- Polly Blackwell; pain from arthritis
- Linda Fronheiser, heart surgery
- Hilda Cooney, hospitalized

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

- Family & friends of those who lost a loved one.

### **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:**

Charles & Gloria Christman

Jean & Bill Christy

Marie Geiger

Paul McFarland

Ruth Nice

Helen Penketh

Clayton & Ann Rhoads

Cookie Stasik

**IN OUR PRAYERS:** This morning in our prayers we remember the saints whose commemorations fall during this week:

March 7 - Perpetua & Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, 202  
March 10 - Harriet Tubman, 1913; Sojourner Truth, 1883, renewers of society

**SPONSORS:**

**The flowers** are sponsored with joy and thanksgiving to God by Larry and Kathy Billger in celebration of their 29th wedding anniversary - today!

**All You Can Eat Spaghetti Dinner**

Our neighboring church, New Hanover Lutheran is holding a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, March 11 from 4:00 to 7:00 pm, Eat in or take out.

Cost is:

\$14 for Adults

\$11 for 65 and older

\$7 for children 7 to 12 years old

Free for children 6 and younger

**Menu:**

Homemade Meatballs

Homemade Sauce

Homemade Bread

Salad

Drink

Pizzelle and Ice Cream

New Hanover Lutheran Church 2941 Lutheran Rd., Gilbertsville PA  
(610)326-1395

Date	Week of February 26-March 4	Location
<b>Sunday, March 5</b> <b>Second Sunday of Lent</b>	9:30 am Worship 10:30 am Handbell Choir	Nave Nave
<b>Tuesday, March 6</b>	6:30 pm Cherub Choir 7:00 pm Boy Scouts	Choir Room Memorial Hall
<b>Wednesday, March 1</b>	1:00-4:00 pm CCR Donations 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	CCR Fellowship Hall
<b>Thursday, March 2</b>	6:30 pm Girl Scouts	Fellowship Hall
<b>Friday, March 3</b>	8:30 pm AA Meeting	Class Room Downstairs
<b>Worship Leaders</b>	<b>Sunday, March 12</b>	<b>Sunday, March 19</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Joe Vendetti	Katy Billger
<b>Ushers</b>	Ron Hukari, Dave Janzow	Gary Fronheiser, Ron Hukari
<b>Office Volunteers</b>	Pat Hallman (March 9)	Donna Biehl (March 16)

### 100th Anniversary Campaign

Pledges received year to date: \$96,430  
Actual monies received to date: \$123,464

### Worship and Stewardship

#### Our February Commitment

Budget \$13,064  
Mission Support \$544

#### Our Generosity

\$8,282  
\$ 480  
Endowment: \$50 and Memorial \$25

#### Overage/Shortfall

- \$4,782  
- \$ 64



# EARTHQUAKE IN TURKEY

## YOUR LOVE IS NEEDED

The needs of our neighbors in Turkey are growing every hour. Lutheran World Relief is already working with their trusted local partners to reach children, women and men in desperate need.

**Your gift to Lutheran World Relief's emergency response fund will deliver urgently needed support and care, like:**

- Food, water and other critically needed items
- Temporary shelter
- Medicine and supplies for clinics

**At this time, financial gifts are the number one need to assist our neighbors who are injured, hungry and displaced from multiple earthquakes.**

### HOW TO GIVE

You can give directly through Lutheran World Relief at [lwr.org/quake](http://lwr.org/quake) or by mailing to Lutheran World Relief, PO Box 17061, Baltimore, MD 21297-1061. Please write "QUAKE" in the memo line. Gifts can also be made through our congregation. Write "QUAKE" in the memo line and we will rush a check from the church to Lutheran World Relief.

**Until your love reaches  
every neighbor.**



**LUTHERAN  
WORLD RELIEF**

LWR.ORG/QUAKE