



**MARCH 16, 2025 – 10:30 AM
SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT
CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH
WOODCLIFF LAKE, NEW JERSEY**

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A SPECIAL WELCOME AS WE CELEBRATE THE SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

[All text in *italics* is spoken by the leader. Please speak the **bolded** words if you desire.]

* * * * *

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

TODAY'S COVER ART is by Violet Stutzel.

WORSHIP IS LIVESTREAMED ON FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE with cameras showing everything along the altar space (including the rail) as well as the front pews.

BREAKING THE SOUND BARRIER: We invite you to try one of our listening devices for those who need hearing assistance. Please speak to a worship leader if you need one.

PINK PRAYER CARDS: **You** may write names for prayer on a pink card from the pew rack in and place on the altar rail. To add a name to our printed prayer list and to our prayer chain write "Add to Prayer List" on the card. Please be sure this prayer request is approved by the person for whom we are praying.

NURSERY AND PLAYROOM: There is a self-serve Nursery and Playroom for young children accompanied by their parents. The Nursery contains a bathroom with a changing table. These rooms are located along the hallway through the side door of the sanctuary.

NEED AN OFFERING ENVELOPE? We have envelopes in the pews for you. Please include your contact information or envelope number. Offerings may also be paid via checking account online at www.clc4u.com/give, scan the QR cord, or mail to the church.



WEEKLY NEWSLETTER: Stay up to date with everything happening at CLC and in our local community by signing up to our weekly newsletter at www.clc4u.com/Newsletter.

PRELUDE, WELCOME, AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

[The congregation stands as able.]

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.*
Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

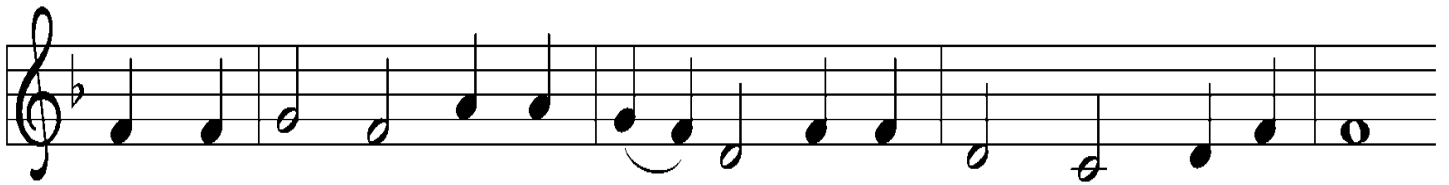
[Time for reflection.]

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**
**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**
**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**
**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**
Amen.

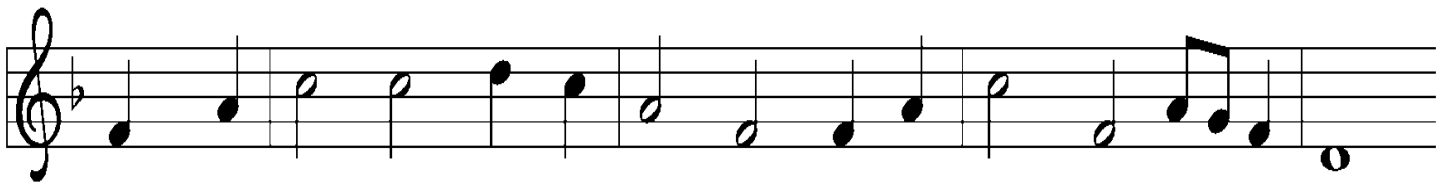
*Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.*
In † Christ your sins are forgiven.
You have a place in God's house forever.
Amen.



1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
 2 We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
 3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimagined, all your ways!



Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.
 Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.
 To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!



Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.
 God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,
 We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.



Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.
 one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.
 By your grace, our lives we offer. Re-create us; God, transform!

THE APOSTOLIC 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

Let us pray. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in 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 congregation may sit.]

CHILDREN'S SERMON

[Kids are invited to come sit with Pastor Marc on the steps of the altar.]

FIRST READING FROM THE BIBLE: GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18

¹After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." ²But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" ³And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." ⁴But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." ⁵He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." ⁶And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." ⁸But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" ⁹He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.”

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING FROM THE BIBLE: PHILIPPIANS 3:17—4:1

[Paul wrote to the followers of Jesus in Philippi:] ¹⁷Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1}Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.

[Please stand as you are able.]

THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE 13:31-35

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³²He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it!

How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, O Christ.

[You may be seated.]

THE SERMON – “Covered” Rev. Marc A. Stutzel

MUSICAL OFFERING – “Kyrie”

[By Schubert. Chancel Choir. Argine Safari, directing.]

[Please stand as you are able.]

THE APOSTLES' CREED

Let us confess our faith in 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 congregation may be seated.]

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Refrain:



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

[O Lord, hear my prayer. ELW 751. Taize Community. Copyright: GIA. Onelicense #A-715430.]

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Provide wisdom, strength, and a prophetic heart to our bishops Elizabeth and Tracie as well as all chaplains serving in the military. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name.

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers.

Refrain

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders especially Donald the President, Philip, NJ's governor, Holly, Robert, John, our NJ state legislators, to work for justice. May they move beyond short sighted goals and safeguard the world for future generations who will expand our vision of what it means to be a welcoming and loving child of God.

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need especially...

**Dolores Albert, Deb Caspere, Jason, Harry, Mary Sullivan,
David and Doris Crouse, Jackson Fehr, Jim Sallo, Judy Trembath, Faye Rekosik,
Conrad Martin, Vivian, Steven Korinko, Edie Post, Bruce Conway, Jeffrey,
Chris Quesada, Cian Dankin, Gunnel Wuehler, Miriam Valder, Matthew Clune,
the family of Joel Mowery, the family of James Taylor**

May all know they are not alone.

Refrain

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love.

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example.

Refrain

OFFERING PRAYER

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, bless the generosity shown in the financial gifts we placed in the offering plate, mailed to the church, donated online, as well as the generosity we live out through the care and service we share in the world. Deepen our commitment to sharing all your treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

PEACE

I invite you to take a look at everyone who surrounds you in your sacred space. Let us send a blessing to one another via the peace sign, wishing that the peace of Christ may be with them.

Let us now think about all who are worshiping in the sanctuary, online, via conference call, or at a different time than right now. In our hearts, let's send to your entire faith community a blessing and wish that the peace of Christ may be with them.

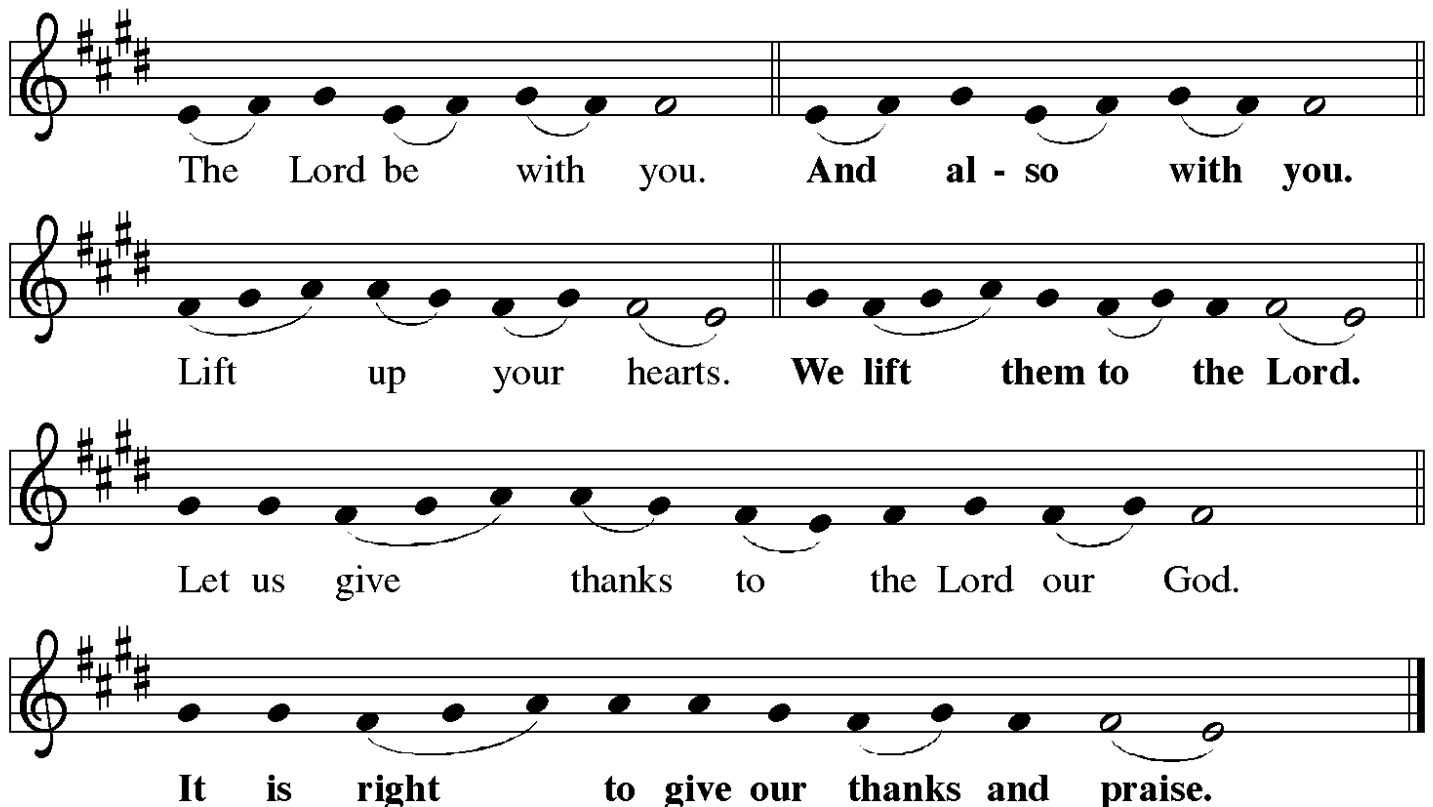
Finally, let the blessing we offer each other go out to our families, friends, neighbors, and the entire world. With God's help, our hearts are big enough to extend peace that far. Let us embody the peace of Christ after we leave worship today.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

[This is the Lord's Table. You are welcome and invited to it. Please stand as you are able.]

THE DIALOGUE

[Sung responsively.]



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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

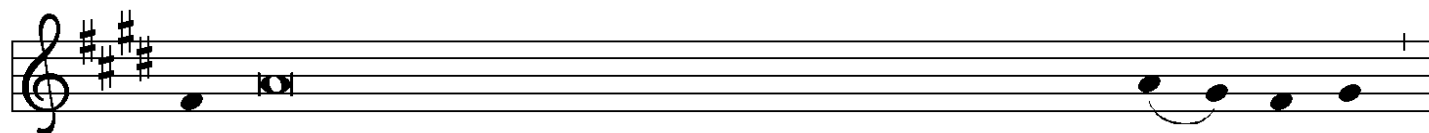
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

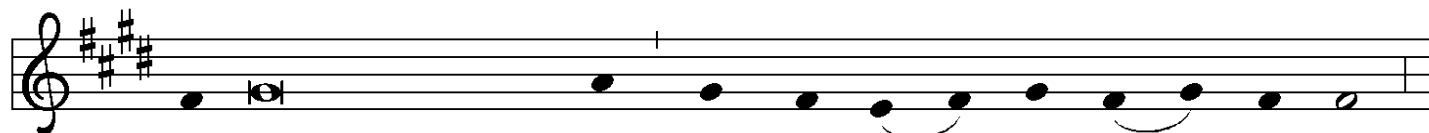
THE PREFACE



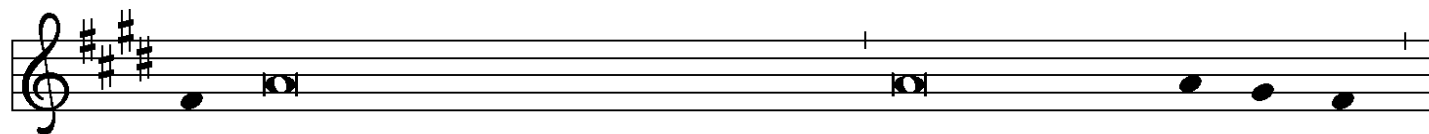
It is indeed right, our du - ty and our joy,



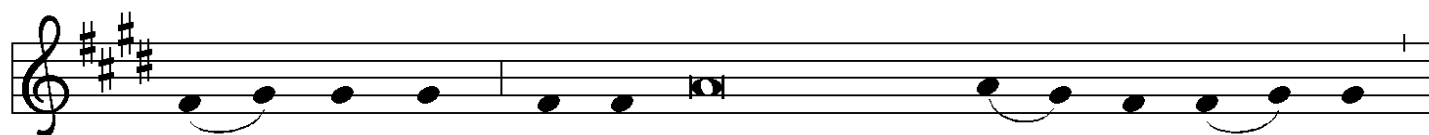
that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you,



al-mighty and merciful God, through our Sav - ior Je - sus Christ.



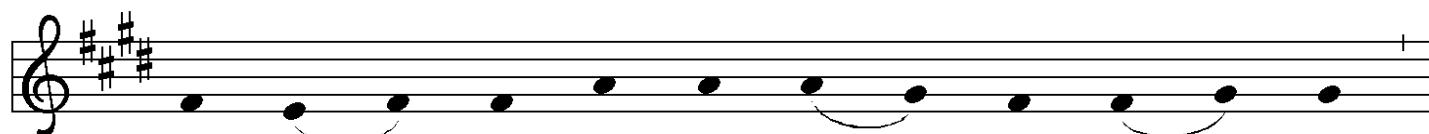
You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the



pas - chal feast, that re - newed in the gift of bap - tism,



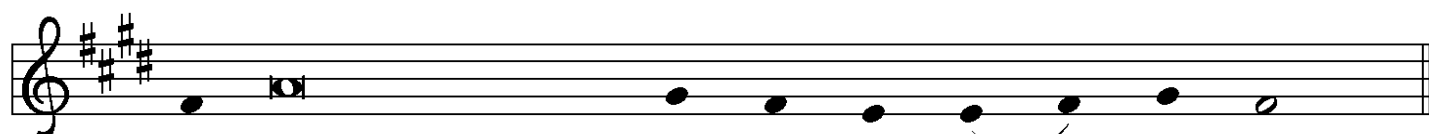
we may come to the full - ness of your grace.



And so, with all the choirs of an - gels,

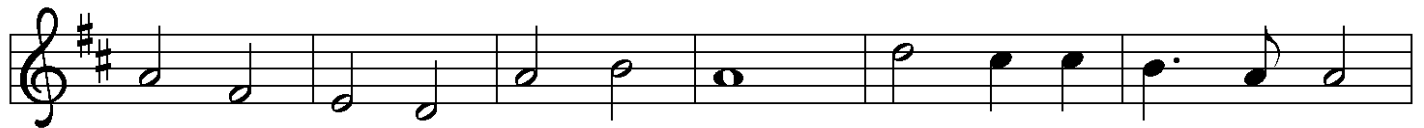


with the church on earth and the hosts of heav - en,



we praise your name and join their un - end - ing hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



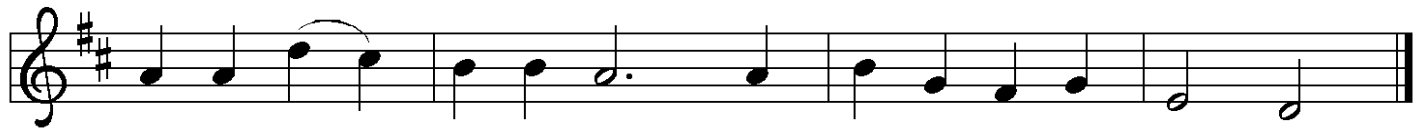
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

*Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.***

*With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered together by the Holy Spirit, present here and connecting across space and time itself – 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

You are here, not because you are perfect, but because, through Christ Jesus, you are welcomed and loved.

[The congregation may sit.]

HOLY COMMUNION

[All are invited to the Table where Christ is bodily present in the bread and drink.
When space is available at the rail, please come forward to kneel or stand.
Bread will be distributed first (gluten free wafers are available),
followed by wine and grape juice in individual cups.
Children and all who have not received First Communion can request a blessing.
For those joining at home or in your seats, we invite you to commune yourself
when Pastor Marc is served at the end.]

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

[The following song is sung by the congregation during the distribution of Holy Communion.]

COMMUNION SONG – “Eat This Bread”

[ELW 472. Repeat.]

Refrain

“Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev - er be hun - gry.
OR Je - sus Christ, bread of life, those who come to you will not hun - ger.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst.”
Je - sus Christ, ris - en Lord, those who trust in you will not thirst.

The image shows two systems of musical notation for the Communion Song. Each system consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in the key of D major (one sharp). The first system is labeled 'Refrain' and contains two lines of lyrics. The second system contains two lines of lyrics. The music is written in a simple, accessible style with block chords and single notes.

[O Lord, hear my prayer. ELW 751. Taize Community. Copyright: GIA. Onelicense #A-715430.]

[Please stand as you are able.]

*May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in his grace.*

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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

SENDING SONG – “As a Mother Comforts Her Child”

[ACS 1015, repeat twice.]

As a moth-er com-forts her child, so God will com - fort you.

As a hen gath-ers her brood, so Christ will gath - er you.

As a wise one coun-sels her friend, so the Spir-it will coun-sel you.

The Trin - i - ty of love will be with you.

[Text and Music: Brian Wentzel. Copyright: Augsburg Fortress. Onelicense #A-715430.]

BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

[By Rev. Roddy Hamilton.]

*May we find the road that leads to life;
may we take the turns that brings right relationships;
may we pause to accompany others on the way;
and may we journey with † Christ through Lent,
and long for the horizon and dawn.*

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A SPECIAL HELLO TO EVERYONE ATTENDING CLC TODAY FOR THE FIRST TIME. We are blessed by your presence and pray you will be blessed in this space. If you wish, fill out the orange card ("We're glad you're here!") in the back of the pew in front of you. And if you need to talk to Pastor Marc, please reach out!

AED: If a medical emergency occurs and an AED is needed, one is located in the red bag on top of the church mailboxes next to the church office and choir room.

ENRICH YOUR WORK WEEK AND ENHANCE YOUR PRAYERS: read these appointed selections in preparation for Sunday, March 23: Isaiah 55:1-9. Psalm 63:1-8. 1 Corinthians 10:1-13. Luke 13:1-9.

LENT DEVOTIONAL: Copies of our Lenten Devotion, *Life Renewed*, are available in the Narthex. Take a copy home or ask the church office to send you one.

CARE COMMITTEE SPONSORED COFFEE HOURS: During the season of Lent, the Care Committee will be hosting coffee hours after worship. Enjoy the cups of coffee, bagels, and other items. Care is accepting cash donations to benefit ELCA World Hunger as well as the Tri-Boro Food Pantry. Knit 1, Crochet Too, will also have items available for sale as well.

ALTAR FLOWERS: If you would like to sponsor flowers for future weeks (\$60 per Sun. through our florist or you can bring two bouquets of your own) in honor or memory of loved ones, sign your name on the flower chart in the narthex.

DECORATE THE ALTAR FOR EASTER: Help beautify the worship space for Easter! Envelopes to purchase flowers are available in the narthex. Each plant costs \$10. Sign-up for as many as you would like - 6" lilies, 6" tulips, and 6" daffodils.

ASSISTING MINISTERS TODAY:

9:00 AM

Musician – David Scance

10:30 AM

Musician – Argine Safari

Communion – Tom Kearns

Lector — Lois Hainsselin

CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday – March 16

Worship at 9:00 am & 10:30 am

Confirmation Class, 9:45 am

Thursday, March 20

Church Council, 7:30 pm

Tuesday, March 18

Knit One, Crochet Too, 10:00 am

Sunday – March 23

Worship at 9 am & 10:30 am

Confirmation Class, 9:45 am

Wednesday, March 19

Bible Study, 11:00 am

Chancel Choir, 4:30 pm

CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor: Rev. Marc A. Stutzel

Parish Admin: Evie Salerno

Director of Music: Argine Safari

Contemporary Music: David Scance

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Worship on Sundays:

9:00 am & 10:30 am