



Luther Memorial Church

## Holy Communion

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 2026 | 10:30 AM

## Welcome!

*Please silence your cell phone in the nave.*

### LIVESTREAM BROADCAST

This service is livestreamed on our website at [www.luthermem.org](http://www.luthermem.org) and YouTube. Cameras are installed in the nave, and worshipers may occasionally be visible on this broadcast.

### PARKING

Free parking is available Sundays in the Grainger Hall parking ramp, one block east of the church, off Brooks Street. For closer access, parking is available in the garage under the church off Conklin Place alley.

### RESOURCES

T-coil audio is available in the nave. Ushers can provide hearing assistance and a wheelchair, if needed. Prayer shawls are available in the narthex.

### CHILDCARE

Infants and children are welcome in worship. Changing tables are located in the restrooms. A staffed nursery is available Sundays 9–noon.

### LEARN MORE

If you would like a pastor to call, or want to learn more:

- Please fill out a pew card and place in the offering plate
- Visit us online at [www.luthermem.org](http://www.luthermem.org) or Facebook

PRELUDE *What Wondrous Love Is This* | Michael Larkin

## GATHERING

*Please rise.*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Cleanse me from sin, O Lord, wash me with hyssop branches; cleanse me from guilt, and I shall be clean as the new snow.

**Have mercy on me, O my God, according to your great compassion.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.**

**Amen.**

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

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.

Amen.

**The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.**

**Amen.**

**I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; wherefore I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life.**

**Amen.**

The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins.

Amen.

*Please turn and face the cross as the procession approaches the altar.*

**#324 PROCESSIONAL HYMN** In the Cross of Christ I Glory

1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing  
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -  
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and  
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of  
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the  
love up - on my way, from the cross the  
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.  
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
ra - dianc stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.  
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

**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.**

**#160 TRISAGION** Holy God

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly God, ho - ly and might - y,  
ho - ly and im - mor - tal, have mer - cy on us.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

Bend us to your will, O Christ, and open our eyes to your work in the world. By your cross and passion, enlighten our darkness; anoint us with your Spirit, that we might believe in the mercy of God, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## WORD

*Please sit.*

### FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 23

*The cantor and congregation alternate in the singing of the psalm verses, beginning with the cantor.*



The Lord | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

**The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

You restore my | soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

## SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise.*

## GOSPEL

Cantor: Jesus says, I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will have the light of life.

## GOSPEL John 9:1-41

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began

has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit.*

**SERMON**

*Please rise.*

**#510 HYMN OF THE DAY** Word of God, Come Down on Earth

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from  
 2 Word e - ter - nal, throned on high, Word that brought to  
 3 Word that speaks God's ten - der love, one with God be -

heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth  
 life cre - a - tion, Word that came from heav'n to die,  
 yond all tell - ing, Word that sends us from a - bove

faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,  
 cru - ci - fied for our sal - va - tion, sav - ing Word, the  
 God the Spir - it, with us dwell - ing, Word of truth, to

we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.  
 world re - stor - ing, speak to us, your love out - pour - ing.  
 all truth lead us; Word of life, with one bread feed us.

## 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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

... Lord in your mercy,  
**Hear our prayer.**

## PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**  
*Please greet your neighbor: Peace be with you.*

## MEAL

*Please sit.*

**OFFERING** Adolescentulus sum ego | William Munday (1529–1591)

*Please rise.*

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with  
these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in  
feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord.  
Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

**SANCTUS**

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

We give you thanks, Father... both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**LORD'S PRAYER**

Our Fa-ther, who art in heav- en, hal- low- ed be  
thy name, thy king-dom come, thy will be done,  
on earth as it is in heav- en. Give us this day our

dai- ly bread; and for- give us our tres- pass- es,  
 as we for- give those who tres- pass a- gainst us; and lead us  
 not in- to temp- ta- tion, but de- liv- er us from e- vil.  
 For thine is the king- dom, and the pow- er, and the  
 glo- ry, for- ev- er and ev- er. A- men.

*Please sit.*

**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 COMMUNION**

*All baptized Christians are welcomed to receive Holy Communion. We receive the Body of Christ (bread) in our open hands. Christ is fully present in both bread and cup. The Blood of Christ (wine) may be received by drinking from the first chalice or by dipping the bread (intinction) into the chalice. Gluten-free bread is available on request.*

**MUSIC AT THE COMMUNION** Exaudi, Domine | Giovanni Gabrieli (1557–1612)

COMMUNION HYMNS

#330 Seed that in Earth Is Dying



1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of  
 2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and  
 3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much



grain. Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel  
 grave, to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:  
 fruit. Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,



turn in - to gold - en wine. God, through this mys - ter - y grant us  
 praise and e - ter - nal life. Heav - en's own prais - es be - gin here  
 give us the bread of life. Lord, we do thank and a - dore you!



faith in our deep - est dark - ness, life in our night and death.  
 where you your - self are near us, deep in our night and death.  
 Un - ceas - ing praise of the a - ges ris - es from night and death.

#337 Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed



1 A - las! And did my Sav - ior bleed, and did my sov - 'reign die?  
 2 Was it for sins that I had done he groaned up - on the tree?  
 3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide and shut its glo - ries in  
 4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face while his dear cross ap - pears,  
 5 But tears of grief can - not re - pay the debt of love I owe;



Would he de - vote that sa - cred head for sin - ners such as I?  
 A - maz - ing pit - y, grace un - known, and love be - yond de - gree!  
 when God, the might - y mak - er, died for his own crea - tures' sin.  
 dis - solve my heart in thank - ful - ness, and melt my eyes to tears.  
 here, Lord, I give my - self a - way: 'tis all that I can do.



*Please rise.*

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

### SENDING

### BLESSING

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

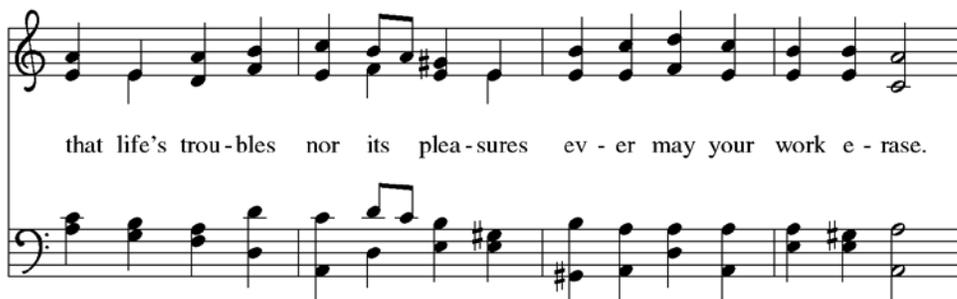
**Amen.**

*Please turn and face the cross as the procession approaches the font.*

### #811 RECESSIONAL HYMN On My Heart Imprint Your Image



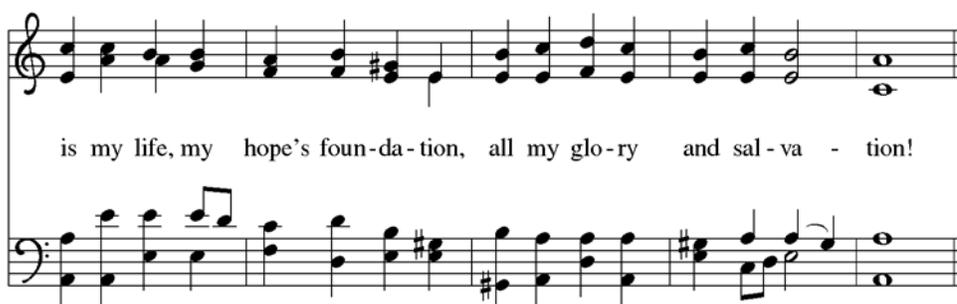
On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



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!

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** Christ, the Life of All the Living | Anne Krentz Organ (b. 1960)

## TODAY FROM THE LIFE OF THE CHURCH

### The Lenten Prayer of St. Ephrem the Syrian

*Of all Lenten hymns and prayers, one short prayer can be termed the Lenten prayer. Tradition ascribes it to one of the great teachers of spritual life, St. Ephraim the Syrian.*

O Lord and Master of my life!  
Take from me the spirit of sloth,  
faintheartedness, lust of power and  
idle talk. But give rather the spirit  
of chastity, humility, patience and  
love to your servant. Yea O Lord  
and King! Grant me to see my own  
errors and not to judge my brothers  
and sisters; for you are blessed unto  
ages of ages. Amen.

## SERVING TODAY

PRESIDER	Pastor Brad Pohlman
PREACHER	Pastor John Worzala Dumke
PIANIST	Andrew Schaeffer
ASSISTING MINISTER	Amy Grunewald Mattison
COMMUNION ASSISTANT	Heidi Notbohm
CRUCIFER	Brian Uphoff
LECTOR	Judy Braham
SACRISTAN	Cynthia Vander Woude
AUDIO	Bill Braham
VIDEO	Lee Powell
HEAD USHERS	Bob Uphoff
USHERS	Chris Uphoff, Phyllis Pleuss

**Recently the ELCA** switched to the NRSVue translation of the bible. That translation is printed in this bulletin. However, our lectionary book that we read from during worship is the older NRSV translation. The ELCA is in process to publish a new lectionary book. Until then, you may notice some differences between what is printed and what is spoken during worship.

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