



**Christ
Lutheran**
CHURCH

2610 Campbell Street
Valparaiso, Indiana 46385
(219) 462-6660 • clcvalpo.org



Season of Lent
March 8, 2026

We welcome you to Christ Lutheran Church! We are a community of people sharing God's love through Christ and growing together in faith.

We celebrate all the ways we are made in the image of God, seeking to see God in everyone. We honor and respect each person's age, ethnicity, family composition, gender identity, gender expression, life history, mental well-being, physical ability, relationship status, sexual orientation, skin color, and socioeconomic standing. Together, we strive to love and serve our neighbor and all creation, including working toward racial and social justice. We would love to walk with you on this creative adventure* of faith, grace, and love.

** The first sermon ever preached at Christ Lutheran was titled "A Call to Creative Adventure."*

ABOUT WORSHIP

We gather to worship weekly to hear and remember our shared hope: the life, death, and resurrection of Christ makes all things new, even us.

You will find everything that happens in worship printed in this bulletin, with hymns found in the red hymnals ("ELW") in the seats in front of you.

If you have a prayer request, note it on a yellow card from the seatback holder and pass it to an usher; the other side is for any information you would like about Christ Lutheran. Please feel welcome to remain seated as necessary during the service.

CHILDREN ARE ALWAYS WELCOME IN CHURCH!

God's people come in all shapes and sizes – it is a gift to the whole community when the smallest of us are present! Sitting with parents and learning to treasure times of worship is the foundation for helping build a growing faith in a child's life. There's some noise and movement that we expect from little ones - feel free to make use of the **activity bags, doodle pads, bookshelf in the overflow area and quiet room at the back of the sanctuary** as needed. Whatever sacrifice of energy and effort you make to include your children in worship is multiplied as the good news of God's love takes root in their lives!

WHEN NURSERY CARE IS NEEDED DURING WORSHIP

A fully equipped and staffed Nursery is available for both infants and toddlers during all services. The Nursery is located west of our gathering area in **Room 110**.

RESTROOMS

Men's and women's restrooms off the Gathering Area and Church Hall have changing tables, as does the all-gender restroom near the nursery. A second all-gender restroom is through the Vestry off the East hallway, past the Welcome Center.

HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is the family meal of God's people, to which we come at Jesus' invitation. The body and blood of Christ, in the bread and wine, are his real presence with us and offer the gift of forgiveness because of his death and resurrection. Drawn together and strengthened by this meal, we are given a taste of the fullness of God's coming kingdom, and are equipped to be the hands and feet of God's love in the world. All baptized Christians are always welcome at the Lord's table.

Our services are on video, and occasional photographs are taken for our website and e-mail news. If you have concerns, please speak to a church staff member.

Hearing assistance devices are available to those who need help with listening to the service and are located at the entrance to the sanctuary, or please see an Usher for assistance.

A Reminder: Please turn off all cell phones during worship services.

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

PRELUDE

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now

Below

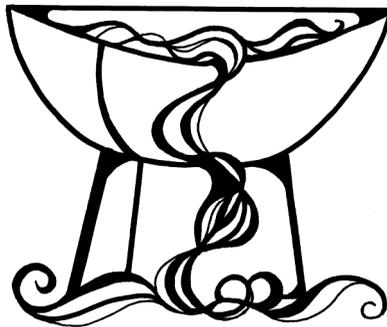
WELCOME

*If you are joining us for the first time, welcome! We'd love to meet you, or if there's anything you'd like to know about the ministry of Christ Lutheran Church, please consider **filling out a Connection Card online** (you can point your phone at the graphic to the right) or using a yellow Connection Card in the pew holders.*



***Prayer requests** can be posted to the live chat or use a yellow Prayer Request (on the backside of the Connection Card) and give them to an usher.*

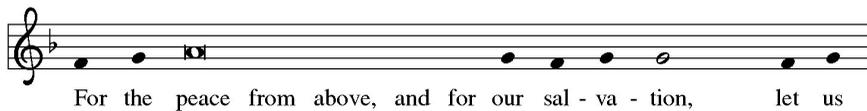
*If you are worshipping with us via livestream, consider **preparing your space for Communion**: light a candle (if appropriate and safe), and have a plate with bread/cracker/tortilla and a cup for wine or grape juice (or an empty cup as a sign Jesus is sufficient in one or both elements).*



KYRIE



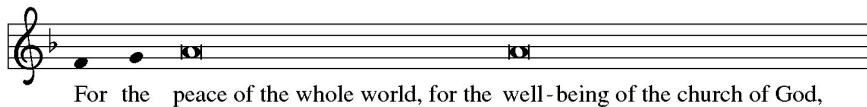
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer-cy.**



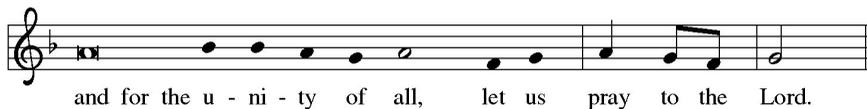
For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



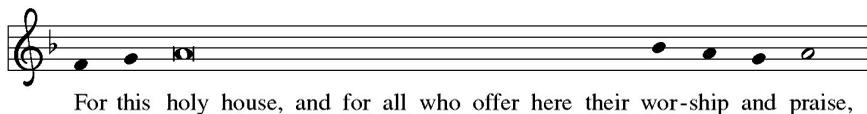
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



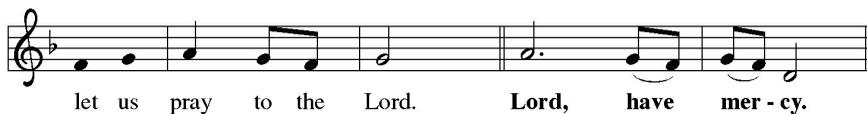
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



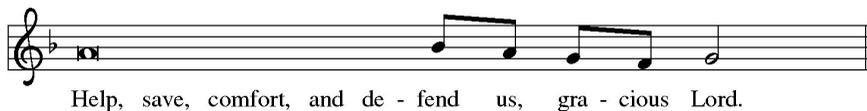
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



A - men.

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.

Children: This is the day that the Lord has made.
Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Lord of the wellspring,
source of life and truth:
Jesus asked for water
from the hands of a woman
in the land of the stranger;
may he teach us to name our need,
to love our neighbor
and to worship you
in spirit and in truth,
through Jesus Christ, who shows us who we are.
Amen.

WORD

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

SPECIAL MUSIC

Marigold

Buchtel

CHILDREN'S TIME

The assembly is seated as children are invited for a time together.

SPECIAL MUSIC

A Day in Venice

Schytte

PSALM 95

The congregation is invited to sing the psalm refrain when indicated (R). Verses will be chanted alternately by the leader and the people.

Refrain



Psalm Tone



Come, let us sing | to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

**²Let us come before God's presence | with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**

**³For you, LORD, | are a great God,
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.**

**⁴In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**

**⁵The sea is yours, | for you made it,
and your hands have molded | the dry land.**

**⁶Come, let us worship | and bow down,
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker. R**

**⁷For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture
and the sheep | of God's hand.**

Oh, that today you would | hear God's voice!

**⁸"Harden | not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**

**⁹There your ancestors | tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.**

**¹⁰Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.'**

**¹¹Indeed I swore | in my anger,
'They shall never come | to my rest.'" R**

people must worship is in Jerusalem.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word.⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

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

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Time for reflection follows the sermon.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #328

Restore in Us, O God

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
 fruit - less fear un - furl our lives like spring - time bud and flow'r.
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
 we, when all our search - ing ends, may see you face to face.

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.

**Or, "he descended into hell," another translation of this text in widespread use.*

PRAYERS

Our prayers draw on the Ecumenical Prayer Cycle and the Church's calendar of Commemorations. Further information is found each week at the end of the bulletin.

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Keep in your care the churches, people, and lands of Ireland and the United Kingdom. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles – our choir, youth and adult bell ensembles, those who serve as cantors, and the instrumentalists who share their gifts. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Holy Guide, we pray for our Little Lamb Preschool community, for Laura and Mallory who teach the Dazzling Dinos class, and for these students and their families: Brady, Dax, Emilia, Emma, Harper, Jackson, Kaden, Kenzee, Lauren, Lynn, Madison, Nicolo, Quinn, Tate, Tip and Tommy. Bless the students in their growth and learning, that they might know your love more and more each day; strengthen and equip their families in their calling to nurture your beloved children. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Gregory the Great, and all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

*We invite those worshiping by livestream to share a sign of peace in the live chat, and for those in person we turn to offer them our greeting of peace before sharing a sign of peace with one another: **Peace be with you!***

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

This congregation serves our neighbors, community, and the world through the participation and support of its members and guests. Because offerings are never just about us, this month we are sharing a portion of your gifts for the Lutheran Diaconal Association www.thelda.org.

If you wish to give electronically, use the QR code, browse to our secure on-line portal at clcvalpo.org/give or use our CLC app (download at clcvalpo.org/app).



OFFERTORY (8:00 am):

Fugue in A minor

J.S. Bach

OFFERTORY ANTHEM (10:30 am):

God So Loved the World

Stainer

God so loved the world that He gave his only begotten Son, that whoso believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved.

(John 3:16, 17)

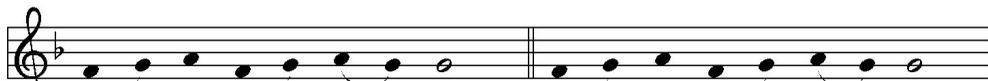
OFFERTORY PRAYER

The assembly stands as the gifts are brought forward.

O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The pastor continues the prayer then all join in singing:



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



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



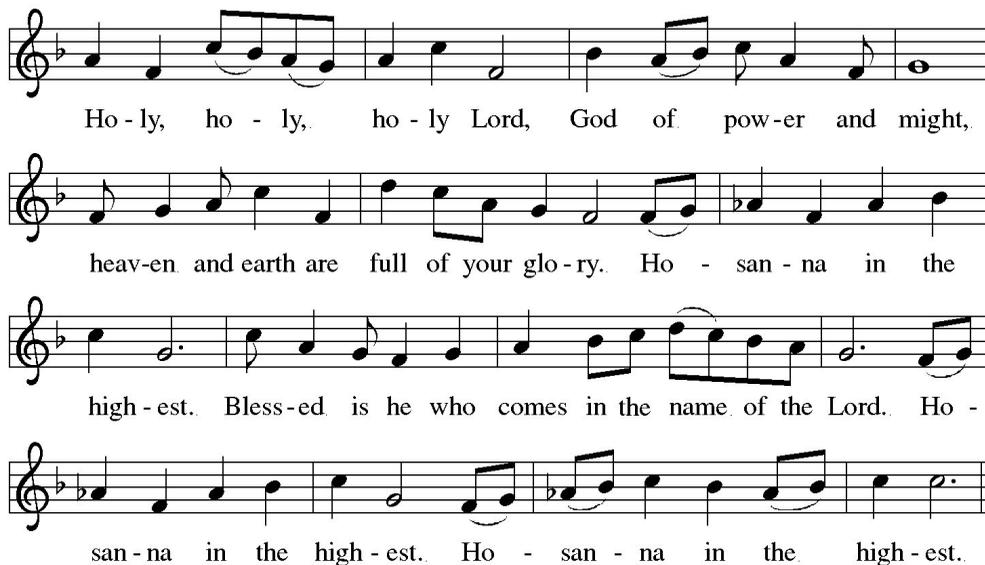
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

SANCTUS

(An ancient practice invites us to make the sign of the cross in honor of Jesus at the words "Blessed is he.")



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

TABLE PRAYER

LORD'S PRAYER

Children: The Spirit makes us one. We 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

Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Thanks be to God!

DISTRIBUTION

*The assembly is seated. The pastor invites those worshipping via **livestream** to commune:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

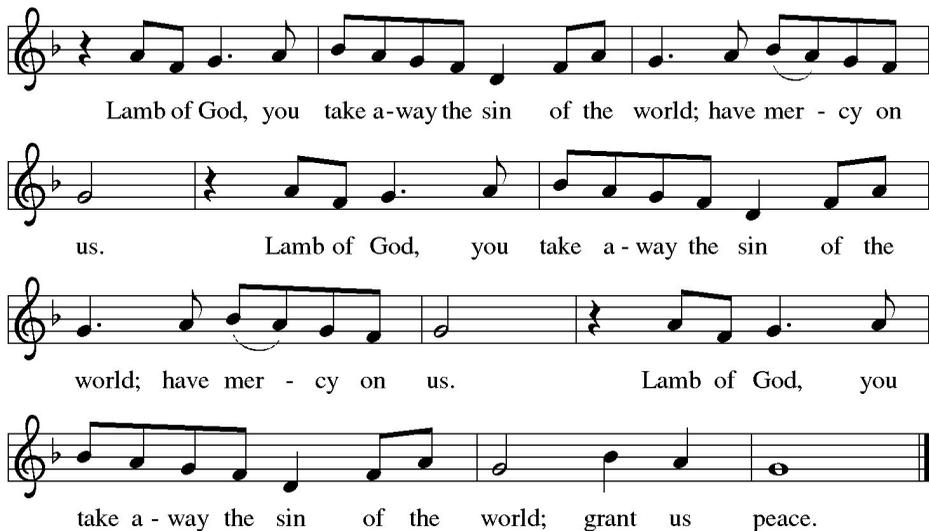
Amen (receive the bread)

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen (receive the cup)

In-person distribution: When indicated by the ushers, come up the right-hand ramp to approach the altar rail. When finished you may leave individually without being dismissed. WINE is lighter-colored and GRAPE JUICE is dark; wine is received either by Common Cup or from individual cups in the trays. USED GLASSES are placed in the basket located near the ramp. GLUTEN-FREE BREAD IS AVAILABLE, please indicate to the server that you require this.

LAMB OF GOD



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.

COMMUNION HYMNS

ELW #777 *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty*

1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.
 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.

If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain

Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.

In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- 5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
 I would be your trusted friend.
 Come and seek the gift I offer,
 come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*
- 6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
 lonely ways no longer roam.
 Come and take the gift I offer,
 let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

ELW #480 *O Bread of Life from Heaven*

1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims
 2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er
 3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den

giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed
 stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come
 splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,

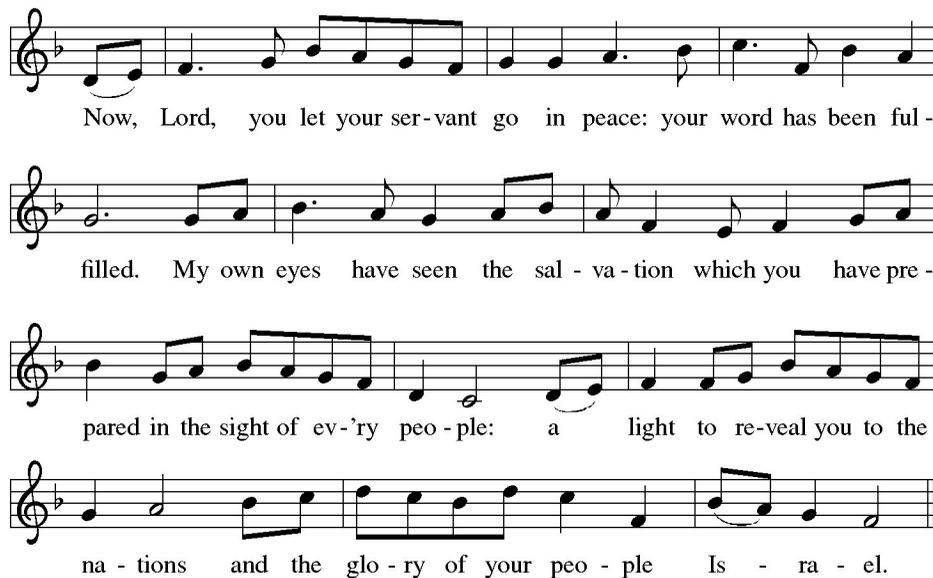
with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -
 now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and
 let the veil be riv - en, and our clear eye in

plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
 flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.
 heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

After all have returned to their places, the assembly stands as the minister continues.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been fulfilled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have prepared in the sight of ev-'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

INVITATIONS

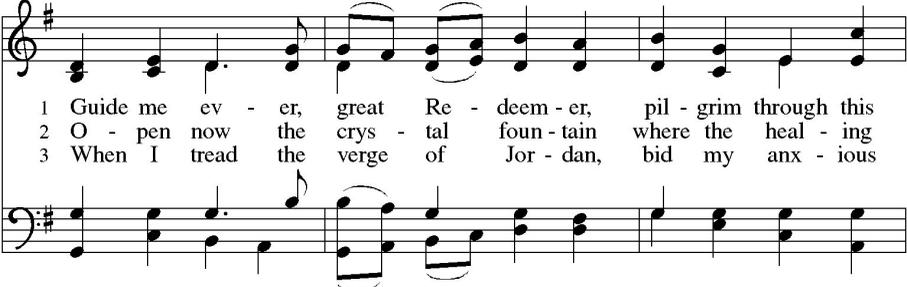
The assembly is seated as brief invitations are shared, especially those related to the assembly's participation in God's mission in the world.

BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

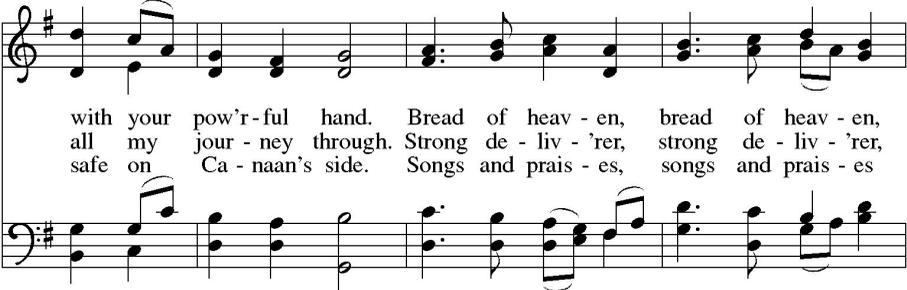
SENDING HYMN ELW #618

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer


1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
 2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
 3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
 wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
 fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
 all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
 safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
 shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
 I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Children join the pastors to send us in mission.

DISMISSAL

Children: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

If Thou But Trust in God to Guide Thee

J.S. Bach

As worship concludes we move to the Gathering Place, where we are invited to greet one another and share in fellowship.



Worship Leaders	<u>8:00 a.m.</u>	<u>10:30 a.m.</u>
Acolyte		Caleb Burnside
Lector	Gail Lutze	Becky Fry
Prayer Assistant	Betty Lockett	Phil Hahn
Communion Assistants	Bob Lockett Betty Lockett	Phil Hahn Holly Knauff
Ushers	Tim Sutherland Irene Adams	
Sound/Light	Lance Nolting	
Video/Livestream		
Pastors	Rev. Timothy Knauff, Jr Rev. Erica Gibson-Even	
Director of Music Ministries	Brian Bartusch	
Cantor	Luke Venstrom	
Worship Participants	Sanctuary Choir Stevan Joseph Enciso, trumpet Andrea Enciso, alto saxophone	
Communion Baker	Candace Jacques	

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle

This week we pray for the churches and people of **Ireland; United Kingdom: England, Northern Ireland, Scotland, Wales**

We give thanks for:

- the many distinct cultures in these islands and how literature, music, dance, and other traditions rooted here, have enriched people around the world
- the economic and other aid that consistently have come from the area to those in the world who are most in need
- the many who have emigrated to other parts of the world, and in turn, the immigrants from these lands who are now turning the United Kingdom and Ireland into increasingly multi-ethnic, multireligious societies
- the positive contributions Great Britain has made in world history and that church leaders have played in the ecumenical and interfaith movements.

We pray for:

- the healing of scars and memories that linger after times of colonization
- overcoming barriers so that all might experience welcome as these countries become more genuinely multi-ethnic and multi-faith
- resolving differences and political tensions over how Great Britain should relate to the rest of Europe
- dealing with the challenges of increasing secularism and the emergence of new ways of expressing religion and spirituality.

COMMEMORATIONS

Week of March 8, 2026

March 10

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society

Harriet Tubman, born into slavery, helped about 300 others to escape slavery until the institution was abolished. Sojourner Truth, whose birth name was Isabella, was freed after slavery was abolished, and discerned a call to be a preacher. Taking the name Sojourner Truth, she set out on an evangelistic journey, where people found her testimony to be deeply moving.

March 12

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604

Born into wealth and power, Gregory was for a time the chief administrator of the city of Rome. Giving this up for a life in the church, he was elected pope in 590. He influenced public worship through the establishment of a lectionary and prayers to correlate with the readings. Gregorian chant is named in his honor.

One in a Thousand

Gathering water from the well is something the Samaritan woman did regularly, habitually even, drawing water up in a bucket hundreds, maybe thousands of times over the course of her life. But this time, this one in a thousand times, is different. While she is busy doing the mundane work of life, she is suddenly confronted by the Messiah—there in the flesh, asking her for a drink of water!

These forty days of Lent interrupt our regular routine and our habits, confronting us with the presence of God in Christ on his journey to the cross and, ultimately, the resurrection. This interruption of our own daily work calls us to see this Jesus who reaches out to us, promising “a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4:14). Through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, we embrace interruptions in the regular patterns of our lives, sparking curiosity about where and how God is at work in our world, and where we are being called.

This text also shows us that Jesus may be present in unexpected ways in the faces of unexpected people. We may expect to hear the gospel from our pastor, synod bishop, or other church members. But do we have ears to hear the gospel proclaimed in the voice and experience of our neighbors—especially among neighbors too often pushed to the margins of our communities? Are we ready to encounter the signs of the gospel bubbling up outside the walls of our churches?

And like the Samaritan woman, are we ready for that one in a thousand times when the gospel feels so near and so powerful that all we can do is go out and tell everyone we know about this living water? May this Lent interrupt our habits, draw our attention to the unexpected, and send us out to proclaim the love of God to all our neighbors!

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