



## Sunday, March 9, 2025 First Sunday in Lent

*These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in*

*Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.*

**WELCOME!** We are glad to have you join us in worship today. Here are a few notes to help you feel more at home participating in our worship.

**Worshiping.** Today's service is printed in this bulletin. Parts in **bold** indicate responses by everyone in which you are invited to participate.

**Communion:** *Lutheran Christians believe that the Lord Jesus Christ feeds us with his true body and blood "in, with, and under" the bread and wine in the Lord's Supper. All baptized Christians who receive Communion in their own churches are welcome to receive the sacrament. Please note that the darker wine is non-alcoholic and is available from the Lector. Communion will be distributed continuously, in procession. Please come forward as directed by the ushers.*

ST. STEPHEN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
270 South Broadway + Hicksville NY 11801  
Church Office: 516-931-0710

Mason Griffin, Minister of Music

Michelle Burkhardt, Parish Administrator ([email ststephenoffice@msn.com](mailto:ststephenoffice@msn.com))

Barbara Barcavage, Church Council President ([ststephentreasurer1@gmail.com](mailto:ststephentreasurer1@gmail.com))

Church Website [www.ststephenshicksville.com](http://www.ststephenshicksville.com)

Join us on Facebook: St. Stephens Lutheran Church, Hicksville, NY 11801

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

P God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C Amen.**

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

P Gracious God, **C have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

## ENTER IN SILENCE

## GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **C And also with you.**

## KYRIE

*Refrain*

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, on our world and on our way.

Ky-ri - e e - lei - son, ev-'ry day.



## **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

A reading from Deuteronomy.

“When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess and you possess it and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time and say to him, ‘Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.’ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: ‘A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.’ You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.” The word of the Lord.

**C Thanks be to God.**

## **PSALM: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16**

*The psalm for the day is read responsively*

You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High, who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—

**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge | and my stronghold, my God in whom I | put my trust.” R**

Because you have made the | LORD your refuge, and the Most High your | habitation, **no evil | will befall you, nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**

For God will give the angels charge | over you, to guard you in | all your ways.

**Upon their hands they will | bear you up, lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone. R**

You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper; you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

**I will deliver those who | cling to me; I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**

They will call me, and I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.

**With long life will I satisfy them, and show them my salvation. R**

### SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

A reading from Romans.

“The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim), because if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart, leading to righteousness, and one confesses with the mouth, leading to salvation. The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For “everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” The word of the Lord. **C Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

### GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**P** The Lord be with you. **C** **And also with you.**

**P** The holy gospel according to Luke. **C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tested by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over he was famished. The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’ ” Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give all this authority and their glory, for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” Then the devil led him to Jerusalem and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ” Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time. The gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *On Eagle's Wings* (ELW 787)**

## On Eagle's Wings

Leader or All  
1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,

say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain  
All  
And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All  
2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no

fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.

Leader or All  
3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by

day; thoug-h sand-s fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Leader or All  
4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Final refrain  
All  
And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

**C 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**

A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,  
**C receive our prayer.**

A Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill (*especially*). God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**



A Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life (*especially*). Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy, **C receive our prayer.**

A Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **C Amen.**

## **PEACE**

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

**P Let us offer each other a sign of peace.**

## **ADDITIONAL PRAYERS**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

## **THIS WEEK'S BIRTHDAYS**

*Vicki Maxey (3/12)*

## **BIRTHDAY SONG**

*He who began a good work in you (2x)*

*Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)*

*Will be faithful to complete it (Clap 3x)*

*He who started the work will be faithful to complete it in you!*

OFFERING *Change My Heart, O God* (ELW 801)



Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

OFFERING PRAYER

P Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words  
P of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty,  
P through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

DIALOGUE

P The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

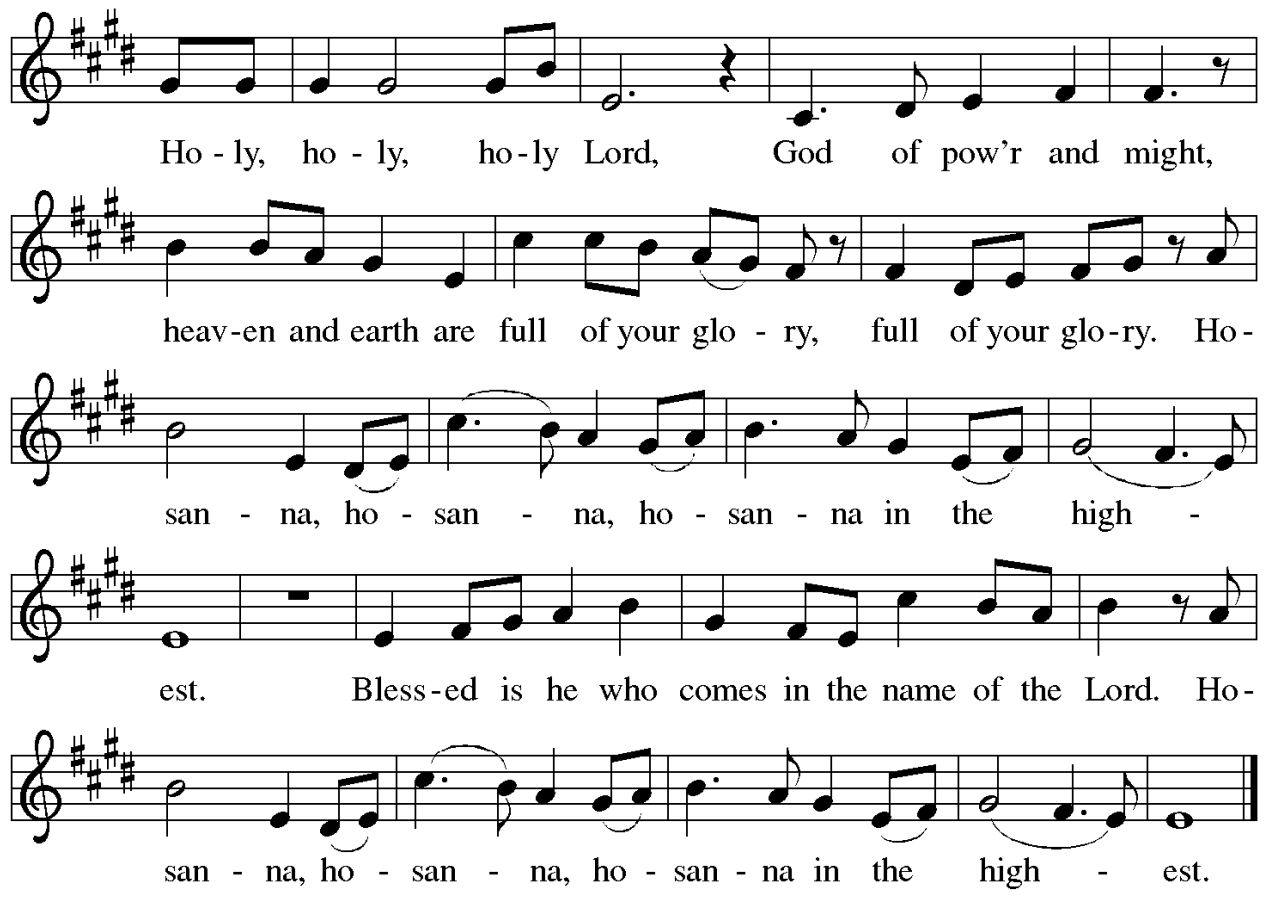
**C It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,  
we praise your name and join their unending hymn

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho-  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise:  
beyond the stars;  
beneath the sea;  
within each cell;  
with every breath.

**We praise you, O God.**

Generations bless your faithfulness:  
through the water;  
by night and day;  
across the wilderness;  
out of exile;  
into the future.

**We bless you, O God.**

We give you thanks for your dear Son:  
at the heart of human life;  
near to those who suffer;  
beside the sinner;  
among the poor;  
with us now.

**We thank you, O God.**

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.

Remembering his love for us  
on the way,  
at the table,  
and to the end,  
we proclaim the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died.**  
**Christ is risen.**  
**Christ will come again.**

We pray for the gift of your Spirit:  
in our gathering;  
within this meal;  
among your people;  
throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks

to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus,  
by your Spirit,  
in your church,  
without end.  
**Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

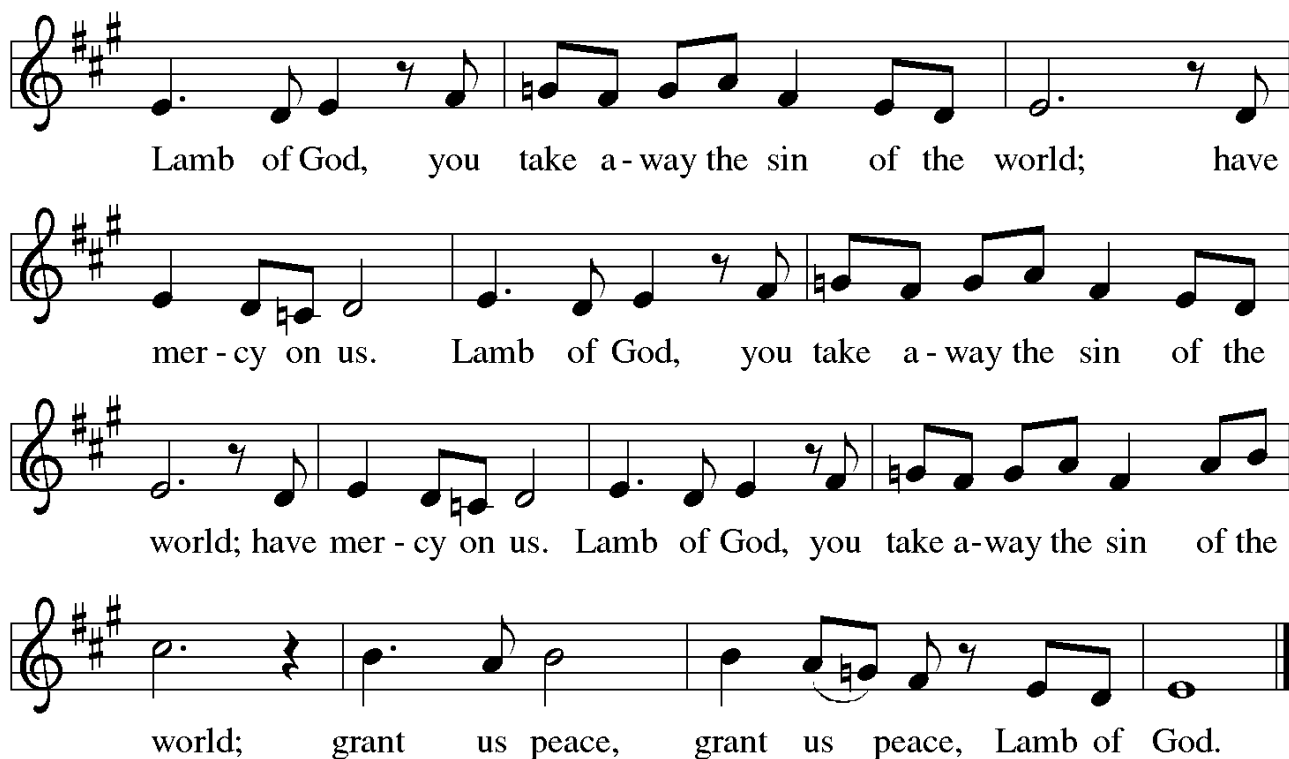
Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P** Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

### 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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

### SONG DURING COMMUNION (ELW712)

## On Eagle's Wings

Leader or All




1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: "My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!"

Refrain  
All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

Leader or All



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un-der God's wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.

Leader or All



3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; thou-gh thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Leader or All



4 For to the an-gels God's giv-en a com-mand to



guard you in all of your ways; up - on their hands they will



bear you up, lest you dash your foot a - gainst a stone.

Final refrain  
All



And he will raise you up on ea-gle's wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

SONG AFTER COMMUNION *Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service* (ELW 712)

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser - vice bore the weight of hu-man need,  
2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun - gry cry for bread;  
3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi - sion, till your love's re - veal-ing light  
4 Called by wor-ship to your ser - vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up - on the cross, for - sak - en, worked your mer-cy's per - fect deed:  
still the cap - tives long for free - dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.  
in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up - on our quick-ened sight,  
to the child, the youth, the a - ged, love in liv - ing deeds to show;



we, your ser - vants, bring the wor - ship not of voice a - lone, but heart;  
As you, Lord, in deep com-pas - sion healed the sick and freed the soul,  
mak - ing known the needs and bur - dens your com-pas - sion bids us bear,  
hope and health, good-will and com - fort, coun - sel, aid, and peace we give,



con - se - crat - ing to your pur - pose ev - 'ry gift which you im - part.  
by your Spir - it send your pow - er to our world to make it whole.  
stir - ring us to ar - dent ser - vice, your a - bun - dant life to share.  
that your ser - vants, Lord, in free - dom may your mer - cy know and live.

Text: Albert F. Bayly, 1901–1984

Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844

Text © Oxford University Press

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## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**+SENDING+**

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.

**Amen.**



SENDING SONG *For the Fruit of All Creation* (ELW 679)

For the Fruit of All Creation



1 For the fruit of all cre - a - tion, thanks be to God.  
2 In the just re - ward of la - bor, God's will is done.  
3 For the har - vests of the Spir - it, thanks be to God.



For these gifts to ev - 'ry na - tion, thanks be to God.  
In the help we give our neigh - bor, God's will is done.  
For the good we all in - her - it, thanks be to God.



For the plow - ing, sow - ing, reap - ing, si - lent growth while we are sleep - ing,  
In our world - wide task of car - ing for the hun - gry and de - spair - ing,  
For the won - ders that as - tound us, for the truths that still con - found us,



fu - ture needs in earth's safe - keep - ing, thanks be to God.  
in the har - vests we are shar - ing, God's will is done.  
most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.

Text: Fred Pratt Green, 1903–2000

Music: AR HYDY NOS, Welsh traditional

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DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Upcoming Commemorations

Harriet Tubman, died 1913; Sojourner Truth, died 1883; renewers of society  
Monday, March 10, 2025

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.

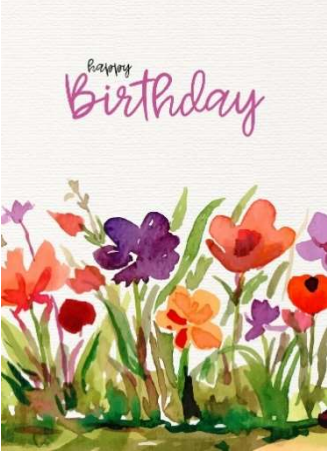

Gregory the Great, Bishop of Rome, died 604  
Wednesday, March 12, 2025

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.

**Announcements for the week of  
March 9, 2025**

*The Sanctuary Candle for March is given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Rudy Eberhardt by the Eberhardt family.*

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	<p>Tanya Mauer 3/3 Vicki Maxey 3/12 Lori Schiliro 3/19 Ryan Back 3/21 Neil Tingwall 3/22 Jennifer Ruiz 3/23 Lynn Browning 3/24 Brenda Beck 3/31</p>	<p>Susan &amp; Paul Portz 3/8</p> 
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~ We welcome Pastor Anderson and thank him for leading us in worship this morning.

~Reminder - February & March are **DIAPER** months. Sizes 3, 4 and 5 are most needed. They also accept donations of adult diapers. Our goal is to be able to fill the back of Paul's pickup truck!

~ The Gardening Group is starting up by attending workshops offered by Heritage Farm and Garden. We plan on attending on Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm "Get Your Garden Ready for Spring". Each attendee must register individually on Heritage's website: [heritagefarmandgarden.com](http://heritagefarmandgarden.com). We'll carpool from church so let either Lauren or Barbara know if you'll be attending.

We are also planning to attend the flower show at Hicks Nursery and the mansion tour at Planting Fields. Dates to follow.

~ Our March newsletter has been delayed. Please send your submissions to the church office as soon as possible.

~ Lutheran Bible Study – Significant Themes of the Lenten Season  
Mondays at 7pm beginning March 10<sup>th</sup> through April 7<sup>th</sup>.

Join zoom meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81976673296?pwd=liImhFtFMUnTUPBo3b8YFZjDtidkUp.1>

Meeting ID: 819 7667 3296

Passcode: 779639

~ Please join us for the coffee hour in the lobby after worship.

~ A chart on the lobby bulletin board allows us to designate weekly Sunday service altar flowers or the monthly sanctuary lamp candle as special memorial/in honor of gifts. Use the envelopes provided to forward the gift (\$25.00 for flowers; \$15.00 for candle). Be sure to include information concerning who is being honored/memorialized by your gift as well as your name, address and telephone number. You may also contact the church office at (516) 931-0710

### **PARISH CALENDAR THIS WEEK (March 9th - March 15<sup>th</sup>)**

<b>Today</b>	<b>Last Sunday after Epiphany</b>
	9:30 am Holy Communion
	10:00am H.S.S. Yoga
Tuesday	7:00 pm Back to Basics
Wednesday	7:00 pm N.A.
<b>Next Sunday</b>	<b>Second Sunday in Lent</b>
	9:30 am Holy Communion

### **SERVING AT WORSHIP TODAY**

Sunday, 9:30 am

ASSISTING MINISTER:	Beth Feeney
LECTOR:	Lauren Aiello
ACOLYTE:	Gavin Barone
USHERS:	Rick Mosebach
ACCOMPANIST	Mason Griffin
GREETER:	Lynn Browning
AUDIO/VISUAL:	Tyler LaVorgna
ALTAR GUILD:	Beth Feeney & Jane Ebersberger

**PARISH PRAYER LIST**

*If you would like to have your name or your friend or family member's name added to the Prayer List, please call the office. Please remember to keep the office updated.*

**PRAY FOR OUR CONGREGATION**

Vinny Aiello  
Bill Artus  
Kevin Barcavage  
Dottie Eberhardt  
Richard Engert  
Roger Engert  
Pastor Ron Klose  
Vicki Maxey  
Claire and John Parrett  
Ilona Riggers

**PRAY FOR OUR FAMILIES**

Joe DiSalvo (cousin of Maureen O'Brien)  
James Ebersberger (brother of Jane Ebersberger)  
Jim Fritz (cousin of Lauren Artus and John Langbehn)  
John Peck (nephew of Christel LaVorgna)  
Tom Portz (brother of Paul Portz)  
Jean Riolo (mother of Christine Carlson)  
William Stanton (cousin of Kellie Barone)

**PRAY FOR OUR FRIENDS**

Rich Carlstrom (friend of the Staton family)  
Maryellen Collins (friend of the Staton family)  
Cheryl Glasini (friend of the Ahlers-Pendas family)  
John Judge (friend of Jane Ebersberger)  
Jim Lasurdo (friend of the Maurer family)  
Ellen Motoi (friend of Maureen O'Brien)  
Sarah Motyka (friend of the Maurer family)  
Betty, John & Mary Beth Ott (friends of Jane Ebersberger)  
Martina Schmid (former member of the congregation)  
John Sheridan (friend of Bob and Nan Maurer)