Fourth Sunday in Lent March 30, 2025

As We Gather - Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday in Lent has been known as Laetare Sunday, from the Latin Introit *Laetare Jerusalem*: "Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad for her" (Isaiah 66:10). Though still in the penitential season of Lent, this Sunday is a relaxation from normal Lenten discipline. Flowers may appear, and ministers may wear rose-colored vestments as a lighter shade of violet.

Today's service is inspired by the Old Testament Reading of Isaiah, the First Song of Isaiah: "Sing praises to the Lord, for He has done gloriously; let this be made known in all the earth" (Isaiah 12:5). Today we take that admonition literally as not only the liturgy is sung but also the Readings are expanded with hymn stanzas. "Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion, for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel" (Isaiah 12:6). In the joy of the faithful father in Jesus' parable of the prodigal son, the forgiveness of our sin and reconciliation with God as His baptized sons and daughters, well, it just makes you want to sing! So we shall!

Offering and Registry of Worship Cards: Please fill out a Registry of Worship Card found in the pew racks. We ask that you print the names of every person in your family, indicating if they take communion. One side of the card is for members and the other side for guests. As the offering is collected, pass the cards to the center aisle so our ushers can gather them.

Saturday Worship: Offerings and Worship Cards will be received in the offering plates at the rear of the church either upon entering or when leaving. Thank you for your gift to the work of the Lord.

About Protecting the Healthy: To protect yourself and others from COVID-19 and other infectious respiratory diseases, individuals may choose to mask at any time. Appropriate hand washing by everyone is encouraged. People with symptoms of an infectious illness are highly encouraged to stay home. Symptoms include fever or chills, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, fatigue, muscle or body aches, headache, new loss of taste or smell, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Thank you for helping to keep everyone healthy as we receive God's gifts in worship.

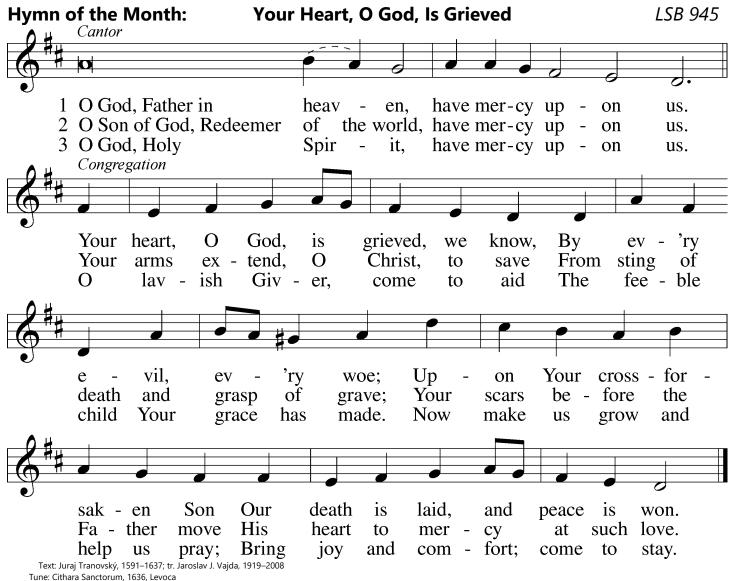
GENERALLY, BE MINDFUL, NOT FEARFUL.

Prelude and Meditation: Before worship we talk to God (see prayers on page 308 in the hymnal); during worship God talks to us; after worship we talk to one another.

Prelude:

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS The Greeting and Sharing of Peace (stand)

Confession and Absolution



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Tune: Public domain

Stand

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

■ In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

G But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

- Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Service of the Word

Psalm 51:2-6; antiphon: v. 1



- Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;* according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.
- Wash me thoroughly from my in- | iquity,* and cleanse me | from my sin!
- For I know my trans- | gressions,* and my sin is ever be- | fore me.
- Against you, you only, have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight,* so that you may be justified in your words and blameless in your | judgment.

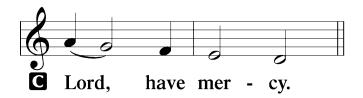


- Behold, I was brought forth in in- | iquity,* and in sin did my mother con- | ceive me.
- Behold, you delight in truth in the inward | being,* and you teach me wisdom in the | secret heart.
 Glory be to the Father and | to the Son* and to the Holy | Spirit; as it was in the be- | ginning,* is now, and will be forever. | Amen.
- Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;* according to your abundant mercy blot out my trans- | gressions.

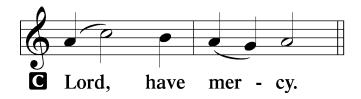
Kyrie

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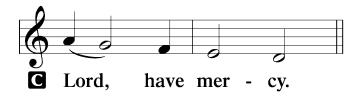
P In peace let us pray to the Lord.



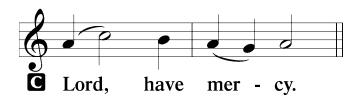
P For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



P Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.



P Let us pray.

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.





Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 12:1-6

¹You will say in that day:

"I will give thanks to you, O LORD,

for though you were angry with me,

your anger turned away,

that you might comfort me.

²"Behold, God is my salvation;

I will trust, and will not be afraid;

for the LORDGOD is my strength and my song,

and he has become my salvation."

³With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation. ⁴And you will say in that day:

"Give thanks to the LORD,

call upon his name,

make known his deeds among the peoples,

proclaim that his name is exalted.

⁵"Sing praises to the LORD, for he has done gloriously;

let this be made known in all the earth.

⁶Shout, and sing for joy, O inhabitant of Zion,

for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel."

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle

2 Corinthians 5:16–21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer. ¹⁷Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come. ¹⁸All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

G Thanks be to God.

Luke 15:1–3, 11b–32

Holy Gospel

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.



¹Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear [Jesus]. ²And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, "This man receives sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: . . .

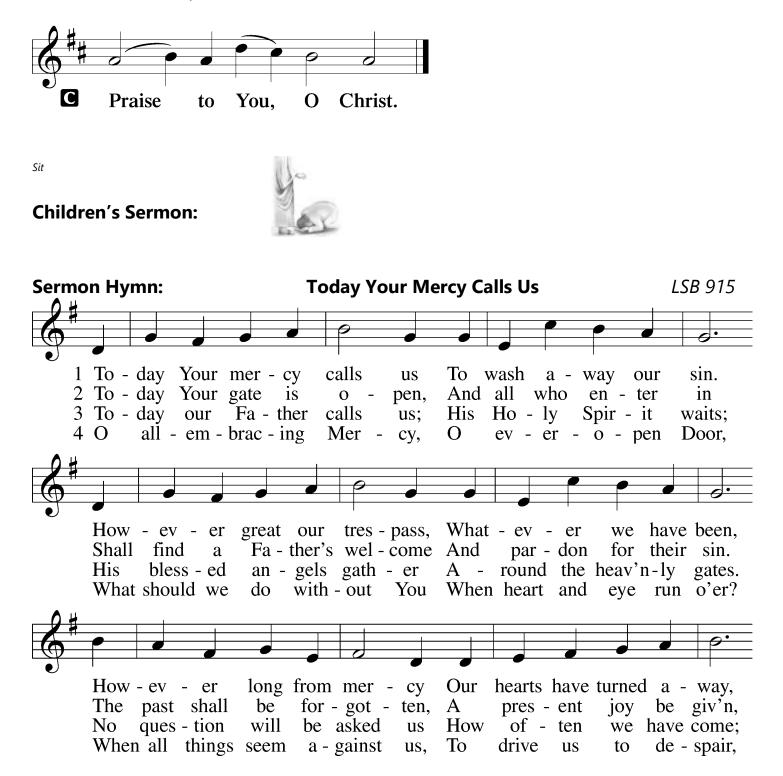
"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them. ¹³Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living. ¹⁴And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs. ¹⁶And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.

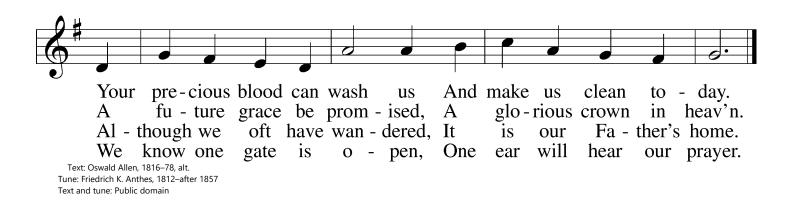
¹⁷"But when he came to himself, he said, 'How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger! ¹⁸I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants."²⁰And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him. ²¹And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his servants, 'Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet. ²³And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. ²⁴For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant. ²⁷And he said to him, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.' ²⁸But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him, ²⁹but he answered his father, 'Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you

never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!' ³¹And he said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.'"

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.





Sermon:

"Sought After In Love" Luke 15:11-32

Stand

Apostles' Creed

G I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Sit

Choir Anthem: (Sunday Only) "Footprints In The Sand" Gathering of Our Tithes and Offerings (Sunday Only)

Registry of Worship Cards (Sunday Only)– Please pass your completed cards to the center aisle

Preface

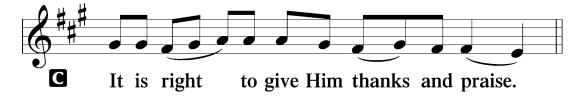
P The Lord be with you.



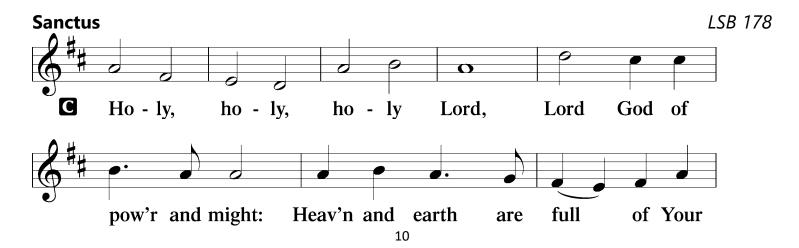
P Lift up your hearts.

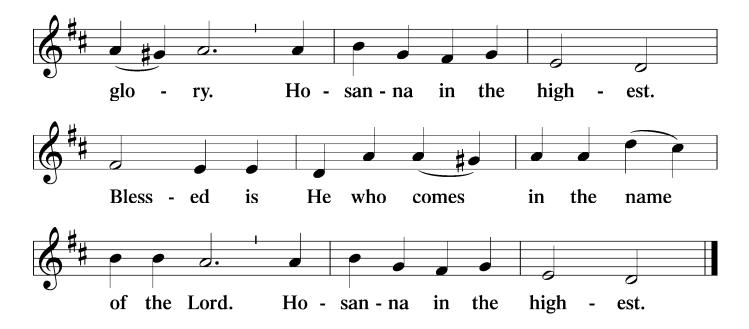


P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that with cleansed hearts we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the paschal feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:





Prayer of Thanksgiving

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Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers; deliver and preserve us. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

The Words of Our Lord

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My + body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My + blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Proclamation of Christ

- As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
- **G** Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.
- O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

Lord's Prayer

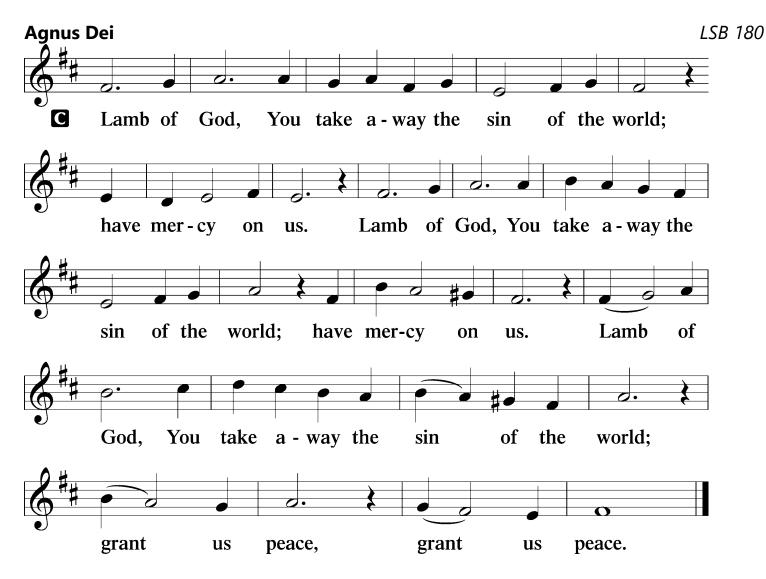
Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Pax Domini

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.



LSB 180

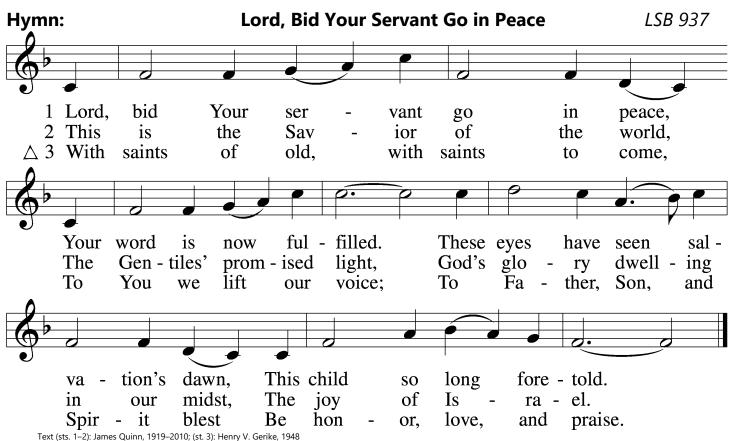


Sit

Distribution

Distribution Hymns (Sunday Only)

LSB 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be LSB 864 Shepherd of Tender Youth LSB 744 Amazing Grace sts. 1–5 Stand



Tune: American

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Post-Communion Collect

(Saturday)

- **P** Let us pray together.
- I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

(Sunday)

P Let us pray.

We give thanks to You, almighty God, that You have refreshed us through this salutary gift, and we implore You that of Your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward You and in fervent love toward one another; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



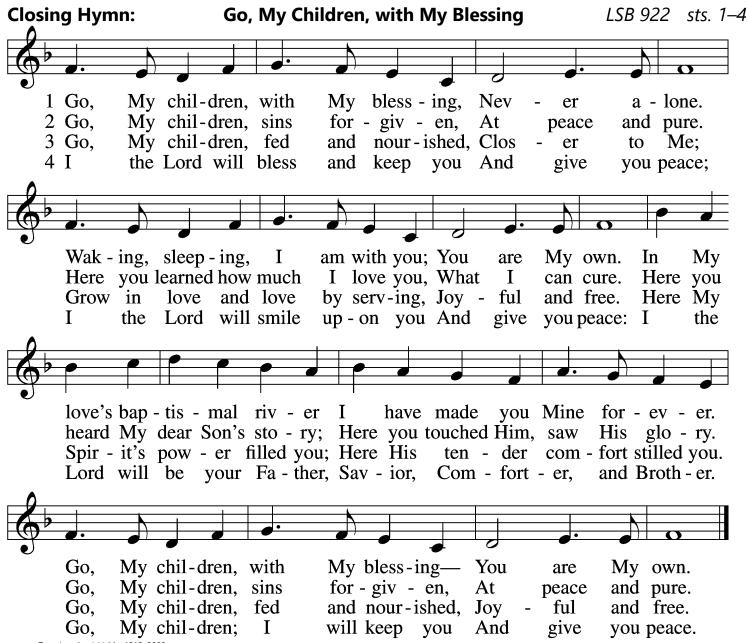
Benediction

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



LSB 183



Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, 1919–2008

Tune: Welsh, 18th cent.

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Postlude:

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska

Saturday	
Organist	Pat Calhoon
Elder	
Lector	Gerie Slaten/Carlos Orellana
Audio	Robin Fox

<i>Sunday</i> Elder	Fred Sterns
Lector	
Greeter	Bob and Cheryl Langanke
Audio	Kyle Welch
Video	Video TD: Josiah Hazzard
	GFX: / Stream: Barbara Szymanski
Altar Guild	Debbie and Rick Smith

LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP <u>NEXT SUNDAY</u>

Pastor	Pastor Christopher Hazzard
Organist	Elena Miraztchiyska
Elder	Carlos Orellana
Lector	John T. Doherty Jr.
Greeter	John T. Doherty Jr.
Audio	Kim Kaniecki
Video	Video TD: Kris Welch
	GFX: / Stream: Roland Feickert
Altar Guild	Dawn Peters, Gwen Snook, and Jonelle Butler

ATTENDANCE AND OFFERINGS FROM LAST WEEK

Lent Service March 19	43
Saturday Worship Attendance	
Sunday Worship Attendance	
Envelope and Loose Plate Offerings	
Simply Giving/Vanco	\$0
Paypal Offerings	
Website (ShareFaith)	
Total of Offerings Received	\$
Misc. Income, Memorials and Special Gifts	\$

ANNOUNCEMENTS

LIFE THOUGHTS IN THE CHURCH - Lent IV – The prodigal's father kept watching every day for his wayward son's return. He had to have in order to spot him "while he was still a long way off" (Luke 15:20). Our Gracious God never gives up on a human life, no matter what size, skills, circumstances, or sins it involves. We need not let surprise pregnancies, chronic conditions, or terminal diagnoses steal our hope—or anyone else's!

FLOWER SPONSOR – Barb Szymanski, in memory of her husband's birthday. **BULLETIN SPONSOR** – Barb Szymanski, in memory of her husband's birthday.

FELLOWSHIP HOUR (SUNDAY) – Church Potluck is today. Next week is the Volunteer Appreciation. There is no charge and a freewill offering is voluntary. March freewill offerings will go to VISTE.

CHURCH POTLUCK – Today, Sunday, March 30th, we have a Church Potluck for Fellowship. All are invited. Help is needed with set-up and clean up.

LENTEN SERVICE – Join us this Wednesday at 6:30 for our Lenten Service. The topic is "Protector" – we acknowledge that Jesus protects us from the devil and from danger and keeps us safe in him.

ELDERS MEETING – The Elders will meet next Sunday, April 6th, after service.

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION LUNCHEON – Come one, come all, and help us celebrate our wonderful volunteers here at Christ, next Sunday, April 6th, after service. All food is provided and there will be Door Prizes! Everyone is invited.

CIVITAN CLUB FUNDRAISER - Lakeland-Polk Civitan Club is holding a Butter Braid Pastry fundraiser. All the money raised will be designated to projects for the Lakeland Community and our friends with disabilities. If you've never had Butter Braid pastries, you're in for a yummy treat! Contact Wendy Rogers, Barb Szymanski, Pastor, or Robin Fox for information. We are selling until March 31. Delivery will be April 11, just in time for Easter Brunch.

EASTER BASKETS –LIGHTHOUSE MINISTRIES - Outreach will be doing Easter Baskets for Lighthouse Ministries and the young children of our congregation again this year. We will have a box in the Narthex for candy and trinkets for the baskets.

GRIEF SHARE – A GriefShare grief support group for people grieving the death of a loved one continues on **Tuesdays, at 1 pm.** At GriefShare you'll watch a weekly video with counsel and insights from respected grief experts and relatable personal stories—followed by a time of sharing and support. Session topics include what's normal in grief; how to handle difficult emotions; and what to do with regrets, questions, and worries.

MARY MARTHA QUILTERS - Mary Martha Quilters meet each Wednesday at 10am. All Ladies from the congregation are invited to come. You don't have to be a quilter or know how to sew as we need people who can cut, arrange, and tie.

ALTAR GUILD- HELP NEEDED - We are looking for two to four individuals willing to serve on a Communion service team -- men and couples also welcome! This is a low time-commitment role of roughly an hour combined each weekend for one month each year and a wonderful opportunity to serve God and church. Full training will be provided and completing a year of membership at Christ Lutheran Church is not a requirement. Please see Dawn Peters for more information.

HELP WANTED- The Church is in need of workers in several positions around the Church. These include Ushers, Offering Counters, Altar Guild, Lectors, Sound Board, Video Assistance, Elders (requires one year membership, and many other opportunities to serve. Please consider using your time and talents in some way here at Christ Lutheran.

ADOPT-A-BLOCK – VOLUNTEERS NEEDED– To reserve your spot on the team or if you have questions, please contact either Robin Fox or Pastor Chris.

TRUSTEE WORKDAY - The Trustee Workday is each Wednesday from 9am – 1pm. If you would like to help with the various needs of the church, come join us. A job, whether large or small can be found to help with. If you notice something you think needs attention, come let us know. Thanks for helping.

DREAM CENTER VOLUNTEERS – Volunteers are needed to help check- in and sort items here at Christ Lutheran for the Dream Center. Please see or contact Robin Fox at 863-513-4774 to schedule a day and time to volunteer.

CHECK YOUR MAILBOX – Please check your mailbox in the narthex.

CHURCH DIRECTORY – For those that are not aware, our church member directory is now available online. Please see the flyer sheets in the narthex for more information or email <u>stewardship@clclakeland.org</u>.

NAMETAGS – We would like to encourage all our members to please wear their nametags to church. If you can't find your nametag or don't have one, please sign-up for one on the bulletin board in the Narthex of the church.

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - Luke 15:12 – "And the younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.' And he divided his property between them." This prodigal son only sees the father as a source of wealth. "Give me my inheritance now!" he says, which is really to say, "You are better off dead in my eyes." This is the sin at the heart of all greed: valuing things over people. This parable calls us to come to our senses as well, and to see God as the loving Giver of all good, the true Father to be valued above and beyond all the things of this world.

THIS WEEK AT CHRIST LUTHERAN

Tuesday	Adopt-A-Block
	GriefShare @ 1 pm
Wednesday	Dream Center @ Christ Lutheran
	Trustee Workday @ 9 am
	Mary Martha Quilters @ 10 am
	Private Communion 1:30 – 2:30 pm
	Jr. Confirmation
	Lent Service @ 6:30 pm
Thursday	Bible Study @ 10 am
Friday	Church Office closed, Pastor's Day Off
Saturday	
Sunday	Bible Study @ 8:30 am
	Worship @ 10 am
	Elders Meeting
	Volunteer Appreciation Luncheon