

Welcome to Worship
St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024



Disciples and Ministers: *All the People*

Pastor:

NWOS Bishop: *Daniel Beaudoin*

ELCA Presiding Bishop: *Elizabeth Eaton*

Companion Church: *Mwanawotta, Tanzania*

Web Page: <http://www.stlukesnb.org>

eMail: StLukesNB@gmail.com

Church Phone: 419-257-3253

*Whether this is your first time with us or you have been here your whole life, **WELCOME** to the place where we stand together before God as equals. If you are new here and seeking a church home, please contact the church office at 419-257-3253 and leave a message.*

Assisting in Worship

Organist: *Janet Goldner*

Worship Leader: *Pastor Elizabeth Hadler*

Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Karen Krauss*

Ushers: *Jill Guy, Zach Stewart*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*



To the Glory of God

March Candles: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

March Bulletins: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

March Newsletter: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

North Baltimore Food Pantry March requested donations include: hand soap, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste. Perhaps regular donations to the community food pantry could be one of your goals for Lent.

Choir rehearsals are Sundays @ 9:30 a.m. You may join us anytime. Everyone age 16 and older is invited to join us. Come and lift your voice in praise to God.

Order of Worship

Fourth Sunday in Lent, March 10, 2024

God is glad you have joined us for worship today. At the symbol ✠ assembly members may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked upon us at baptism.

**please stand, sit, or kneel as you feel comfortable.*

Pandemic update: we will continue monitoring the CDC and following their guidelines.

GOD GATHERS US

GREETING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE WITH SILENT MEDITATIVE PRAYER

Use your breath as a form of prayer as you listen to the music. When you breathe in, pray, "Loving God." When you exhale, pray, "help me to listen."

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: This day is a gift from God.

ALL: And a day to reflect, to offer thanks, to seek the good.

Leader: This time is a pause from the fever of life;

ALL: A time to be with one another, knit into community by God.

Leader: So let us sing, and listen, and pray, and feast.

ALL: And let us worship God.

*GATHERING HYMN #838

BEAUTIFUL SAVIOR

*AN OFFERING OF CONFESSION

Leader: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Please take a moment for personal reflection.

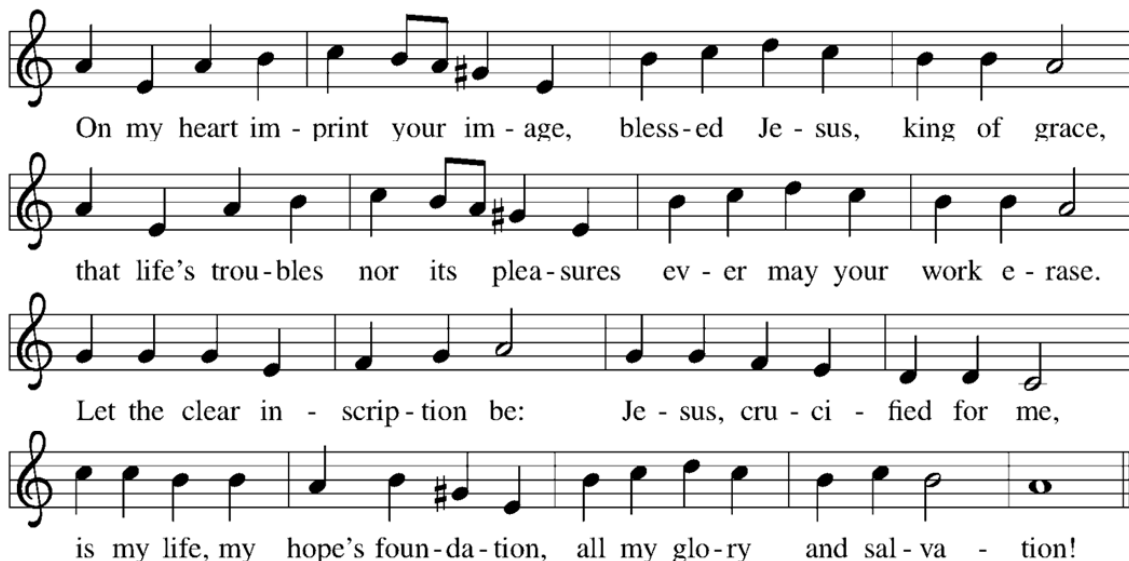
Leader: Holy God,

ALL: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Leader: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ✠ Jesus Christ. Amen.

* LENTEN CANTICLE

ELW HYMN 811



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!

* PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray:

ALL: O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

GOD SPEAKS TO US

FIRST READING

NUMBERS 21:4-9

Reader: From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM READING

(responsively)

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

Reader: Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good, for God’s mercy endures forever.

ALL: Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,

Reader: gathering them in from the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

ALL: Some were fools and took rebellious paths; through their sins they were afflicted.

Reader: They loathed all manner of food and drew near to death’s door.

ALL: Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD and you delivered them from their distress.

Reader: You sent forth your word and healed them and rescued them from the grave.

ALL: Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your steadfast love and your wonderful works for all people.

Reader: Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Reader: You were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. ³All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—⁶and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—⁹not the result of works, so that no one may boast. ¹⁰For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

Reader: Word of God, word of life. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

*LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

setting 3



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*GOSPEL READING

JOHN 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

Leader: The holy gospel according to John. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: Jesus said: ¹⁴“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. ¹⁸Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. ¹⁹And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. ²⁰For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. ²¹But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.

Leader: The gospel of the Lord. **All: Praise to you, O Christ.**

(PLEASE BE SEATED)

THE MESSAGE

***HYMN OF THE DAY #638**

BLESSED ASSURANCE

***A LENTEN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

Leader: Please join me as we confess our faith for the journey ahead.

ALL: We believe in God, creator and sustainer of all that is and all that is to come, the God of our living and our loving.

We believe in the cross of Christ, drenched in hatred and cruelty, yet overflowing with God's unquenchable love that we might be free.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, poured into our hearts. We believe in the gospel, the good news of Jesus Christ, despised by the world, but our way of life.

We believe that, through faith our sins are forgiven, and that we will be with Christ, our Savior and Lord, our divine friend, in heavenly glory; life that never ends. Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

Prayer Leader: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: Hear us, O God. **ALL: your mercy is great.**

We pray for Lorraine, Sue, Dave, Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, Tony, Ron, Chase, Bob, Cali, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Deanna, Laura, Michael, Cindy, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Teresa, Doug, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Braxton, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene,

Logan, Don, Ashley, Beth, Holly, Tessa, Riker, Kelly, Al, Pat, Dan, and Cooper.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: As we continue our journey through Lent together, let us share the peace of Christ with one another. The peace of Christ be with you.

ALL: and also with you.

“Please share God’s peace.”

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: Lord Jesus, Our Savior and Redeemer, you have set the ultimate example of sacrificial love by giving life for our salvation. We ask for grace to emulate your sacrificial love in our own lives. Grant us the capacity to give as a heartfelt act of worship and devotion to you.

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE**

DOXOLOGY

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Dear God, bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Accept these gifts as our response to all of the blessings you have bestowed upon us. Open our eyes to the needs of others and feed us with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in Jesus’ name. Amen.

GOD NOURISHES US

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them unto the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Leader: It is truly good, right.....evermore praising you and singing:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

MELODY TUNE; ELW HYMN 666

Blest be the One who bears God's blest name un - to us. Blest
be the ho - ly name of our Lord. Let Je - sus' name be blest,
by all the world con - fessed. Our high - est and our best prais - es
ring, an - thems sing: "Ho - san - na, Christ our Lord, God and King!"

***WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Leader: Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the night when he was betrayed, took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples and said, "Take, eat; this is my body, given to you. This do in remembrance of me." In the same way, 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 covenant in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do in remembrance of me." **ALL: Amen**

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

ALL: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Leader: With faithful hearts, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us saying,

*THE PRAYER OUR LORD TAUGHT US

All: 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

*LAMB OF GOD

SETTING 2 PG. 135



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.

* INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Leader: Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come to the table where heaven and earth are joined as one!

* DISTRIBUTION

* TABLE BLESSING

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

* HYMN AFTER COMMUNION #313

O LORD, NOW LET YOUR SERVANT

(Verse 1)

* PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join me prayer,

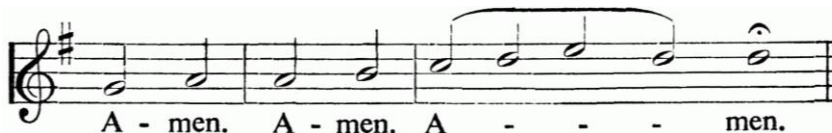
ALL: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. Amen.

GOD SENDS US

* BLESSING

Leader: Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

* THE AMEN



*SENDING HYMN #779

AMAZING GRACE, HOW SWEET THE SOUND

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE



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"Beautiful Savior" TEXT: *Gesangbuch, Münster, 1677*; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823-1904 Music: Silesian fold tune, 19th cent.

"On My Heart Imprint Your Image" TEXT: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Stromme, 1856-1921, alt. Music: Johann B. König, 1691-1758

"Blessed Assurance" TEXT: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 Music: Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830-1908

"O Lord, Now Let Your Servant" TEXT: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886-1981, alt., based on the Nunc dimittis Music: Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version TEXT © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress (#313)

"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound" TEXT: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.

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Lenten Bible Study continues on Wednesday, March 13, at 6 p.m. for soup and sandwiches, and 7 p.m. for the study on "Restoration." What does it mean to believe that God is invested in our future?

Easter Lilies have been ordered. Donations are welcome. Please drop your gift with a note for the bulletin designation in the offering plate or mail it to the church.

Kairos Cookie Baking - You are invited to join us to bake cookies for the Kairos Prison Ministry at the Allen/Oakwood Correctional Institution in Lima, Ohio. We will gather on Saturday, March 16, at 10 a.m. to bake and package cookies. We will provide the ingredients and the packaging supplies.

Holy Week Worship Services begin on **Palm Sunday**, March 24, at 10:15 a.m. We begin with the Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem and end with the story of the Passion of Christ and the stripping of the Altar.

On **Maundy Thursday**, March 28, at 7:00 p.m. we will experience an interactive story of the Last Supper.

There will be no Good Friday Worship at St. Luke’s.

On **Easter Morning**, March 31, at 9:00 a.m. we will have breakfast together and at 10:15 a.m. celebrate the resurrection of our Lord in Worship.

The April – June issue of the ***Christ in Our Home*** devotional is here and can be found on the Information Table. Pick up your copy today.

The **Northwestern Ohio Synod Assembly** is Saturday, June 1, 2024, from 9am-6pm, at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church in Bowling Green. St. Luke’s Church member allows us 2 lay voting members and 1 youth or young adult voting member. Registration has begun. The cost is \$100.00 until April 30 and \$200.00 from May 1–May 31. If you are interested in attending but might need some financial assistance, please call the church office. For more information go to <https://nwosassembly.org/>



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DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS® by March 31st.



Please help to keep our Prayer List up-to-date by notifying the church office of any changes, additions or deletions.

WE GIVE THANKS: for the leadership of Bishop Daniel Beaudoin of the NWOS, and for Bishop Elizabeth Eaton of the ELCA. Thanks be to God!

MEMBERS: Lorraine Ferguson, Sue & Dave Ebersole, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, Pat Wheeler, Rick Van Mooy, Kolton Williams, Ron Bean, Cheryl & John Kruse, Shirley Heilman, Larry Slaughterbeck, Bob Kelley, Caroline Lieser, Marilyn Ziegler, Bertha Carter, Barb Williams.

FAMILY AND FRIENDS: Tony Matthes, Ron Stewart, Chase, Bob, Cali, Emelyn, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Deanna Griffith, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

GRIEVING: the family and friends of **Fred Husing** who passed away on March 4.

MILITARY: for all those who are in training and who are serving in the military & their families; the chaplains (*especially those in combat zones*); grieving families and friends of those who died while serving.

COMPANION CHURCH: **Mwanawotta Lutheran Church**, of the Dodoma Diocese, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania.

WIDER CHURCH PRAYERS: all ministries of the **ELCA** (**E**vangelical **L**utheran **C**hurch in **A**merica), our presiding **Bishop Elizabeth Eaton**, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the **NWOS** (**N**orthwestern **O**hio **S**ynod), **Bishop Daniel Beaudoin**, and our **15 Central Conference** congregations.

THE WORLD: for peace in our country and around the world. For the end of violence against one another. For world leaders to seek guidance from you.

The Cosmic Love of God

The prologue of John's gospel begins with the story of creation, connecting the Word that became flesh in Jesus with the bringing forth of life and all things. Then, as the gospel continues, the testimony of John the Baptist is shared, which continues to point the reader to Jesus' significance for the whole world, not only one group or people. John, upon seeing Jesus approach him in the wilderness, declares "Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!" (John 1:29). The Gospel of John highlights the cosmic reach of Jesus and the purpose for which Jesus was sent. God loves the whole world, not just part of it. And God loves us, all of us. God's purpose in sending Jesus is "that the world might be saved through him" (John 3:17).



Our world and our lives include darkness and sin, evil and brokenness. But God's love for us and for the world is complete, passionate, and sacrificial. God is not willing to settle for part of the world, or for some of us. Instead of condemning all that is not pleasing, God gave God's own son, lifted up on the cross, so that all might have the possibility of eternal life. The light of God's love shining down from the cross demonstrates the totality of God's love and proclaims God's desire to transform the dark places in this world into places of light, healing, and salvation.

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[Church Office Hours M-F 9-1](#)