

Welcome to Worship  
St. Luke's Evangelical  
Lutheran Church



Third Sunday in Lent  
March 3, 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](mailto: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: *Tracey Pritts*

Ushers: *Pam & Rick Van Mooy*

Videographer: *Beth Williams*

## **To the Glory of God**

March Candles: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

March Bulletins: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*

March Newsletter: *Tracey & Steve Pritts*



**The flowers** are given by Jen Carter in celebration of her mom's birthday on March 7, and in honor of her late dad's birthday on March 9.

**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.

# Order of Worship

Third Sunday in Lent, March 3, 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.*

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## GOD GATHERS US

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### 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: In this hour we will pray because we long to draw near to God.

**ALL: In this hour we will sing, because words are hardly ever enough.**

Leader: In this hour we will sit side by side, as a reminder that we belong together.

**ALL: And in this hour, we will cultivate faith together.**

Leader: So let us worship God with open hearts.

### \*GATHERING HYMN #697

JUST A CLOSER WALK WITH THEE

### \*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.*

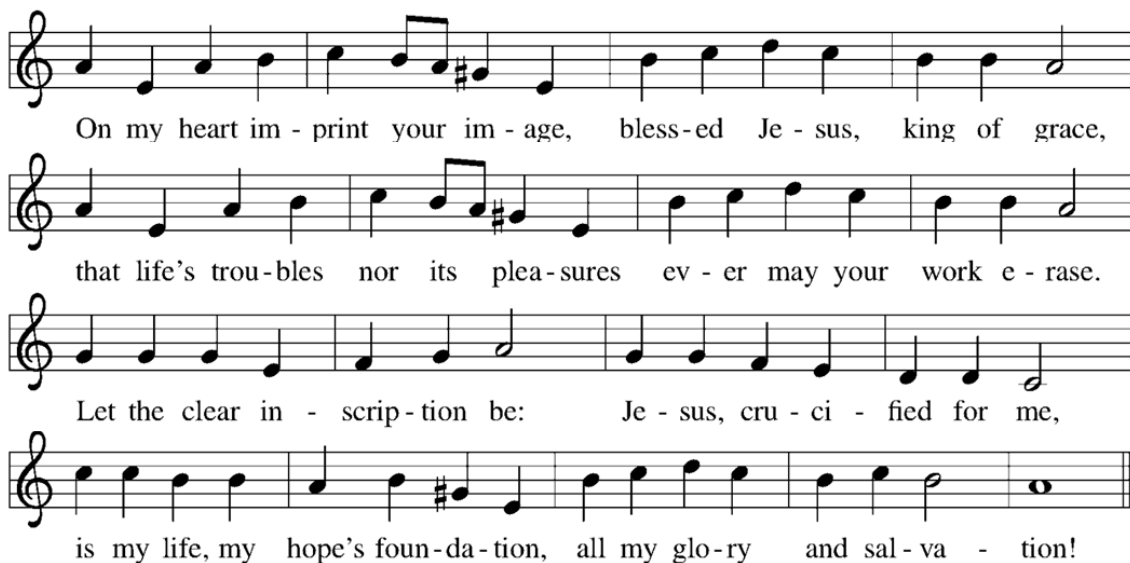
Leader: Holy God,

**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: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our**

**Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

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## **GOD SPEAKS TO US**

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### **FIRST READING**

EXODUS 20:1-17

Reader: God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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

## **PSALM READING**

*(responsively)*

Psalm 19

Reader: The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

**ALL: One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

Reader: <sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard, their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world, where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

**ALL: It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run its course.**

Reader: It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

**ALL: The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.**

Reader: The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

**ALL: The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever; the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.**

Reader: More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

**ALL: By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward.**

Reader: Who can detect one's own offenses? Cleanse me from my secret faults. Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

**ALL: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**

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

## **SECOND READING**

1 CORINTHIANS 1:18-25

Reader: The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup>For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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 2:13-22

*Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.*

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

Leader: The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

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



(PLEASE BE SEATED)

## THE MESSAGE

### \*HYMN OF THE DAY #606

OUR FATHER, WE HAVE WANDERED

### \*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 We pray for Don, Emily, Carl, Jim, Pat, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Fred, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn, Bertha, Barb, 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, we ask for the grace to be vessels of your love, compassion and truth. Impart a spirit of generosity, compassion and love to those entrusted to our care. May our words and actions be a reflection of your grace, inspiring those gathered here to experience the transformative power of your love through generous giving.

## OFFERTORY

### \*OFFERTORY RESPONSE

DOXOLOGY

### \*OFFERING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray.

**ALL: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.**

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# GOD NOURISHES US

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### \*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: As children of God, with faithful hearts, we 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: Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. Amen.**

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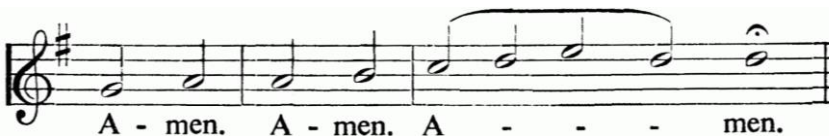
# GOD SENDS US

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## \*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 #742

WHAT A FRIEND WE HAVE IN JESUS

## \*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Share your bread. **ALL: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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## TODAY'S WORSHIP COPYRIGHT PERMISSIONS

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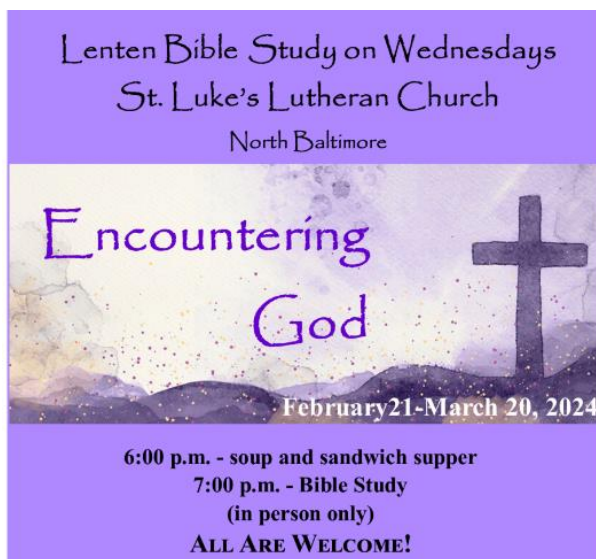
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**Choir** rehearsals are Sundays @ 9:30 a.m. You may join us anytime. Everyone age 16 and older is invited to join us. Come and lift your voice in praise to God.

**Easter flowers** – We have been able to order 20 Easter Lilies from Hoen's Garden Center in Holland. The cost is \$13.00 if you would like to purchase one or two. Please drop your check in the offering plate with a note for your bulletin designation. Or you may send it in the mail. Thank you.

**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 purchase the ingredients and the packaging supplies.



Lenten Bible Study on Wednesdays  
St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
North Baltimore

Encountering  
God

February 21-March 20, 2024

6:00 p.m. - soup and sandwich supper  
7:00 p.m. - Bible Study  
(in person only)  
**ALL ARE WELCOME!**



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 those who are providing leadership and meals for our Lenten Bible Study. 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, Fred Husing, 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 of Kevin Bickle. Kevin is a cousin of Carol Williams.

**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 (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), our presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton, all our bishops, pastors, and leaders of the congregations of the NWOS (Northwestern Ohio Synod), 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.

## Clearing a Path to Worship

In the gospel for today, Jesus discovers that the temple has been turned from a place of worship into a marketplace. The predominance of the selling of animals and the exchanging of money for profit overshadow what is supposed to be the main activity in the temple, worshipping God. The vendors and moneychangers seem to be more interested in serving their own interests and greedily filling their purses with coins than in serving God and God's people. Instead of helping people worship God, they are getting in the way. The commercialization of worship means that those who cannot afford the costs are unable to offer their worship to God, and money becomes a god more valued than the God to whom the temple was dedicated.



Jesus finds this situation unacceptable. The first commandment clearly states, “You shall have no other gods before me” (Exod. 20:3). Jesus will not allow anything, especially money, to be given more devotion than God. In addition, Jesus’ purpose in coming to earth was to take away the barriers between humans and God, so that all people might be reconciled to God through him.

John’s gospel is unique among the four gospels in that it places the story of Jesus clearing the temple at the beginning, rather than the end, of Jesus’ ministry. This placement shows how John’s gospel emphasizes that Jesus has come to replace the temple. No longer will God’s presence be confined to a place, the temple, but instead, God’s presence is now embodied in the person of Jesus. Jesus welcomes all to him, and erects no barriers or limits on who can be his follower.

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