

W elcome to W orship

**St. Luke's Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

March 23, 2025



The Third Sunday in Lent



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: *Rev. Susan Kronbach*
Scripture Reader and Prayer Leader: *Dwight Patterson*
Ushers: *Bryant Matthes, Matt Matthes*
Videographer: *Beth Williams*



To the Glory of God

March: [available for signup](#)
March: [available for signup](#)
March: [available for signup](#)

The North Baltimore Food Pantry

The requested donations for March are soap, shampoo, deodorant, and toothpaste. Please give joyously and generously so the no one goes hungry.

The Lenten Wednesday Bible Study

Will continue this Wednesday, March 26, with soup and sandwiches at 6pm and *The Chosen* at 7pm. All are welcome.

Order of Worship

Third Sunday in Lent, March 23, 2025

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.*

WELCOME, ANNOUNCEMENTS, & PRAYER REQUESTS

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 love like Jesus."

THE GREETING

Leader: the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **ALL: and also with you.**

*GATHERING HYMN #641

ALL ARE WELCOME

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Leader: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Please take a moment for silent confession.

Leader: Compassionate One,

ALL: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again

and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Leader: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✠ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **ALL: 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.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Leader: Let us join our hearts and voices together in the Prayer of the Day.

ALL: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

FIRST READING

ISAIAH 55:1-9

Reader: Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

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

PSALM READING

(responsively)

PSALM 63:1-8

Reader: O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

ALL: Therefore, I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

Reader: For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

ALL: So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

Reader: My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

ALL: when I remember you up on my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

Reader: For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

ALL: My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

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

SECOND READING

1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-13

Reader: I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful,

and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW pg 142 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**

LUKE 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

Leader: There is good news for us this day and it comes to us from the Gospel of Luke chapter 13. **ALL: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Leader: At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.² Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the

gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.' "

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

THE MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY #623

ROCK OF AGES, CLEFT FOR ME

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

ALL: 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 THE PEOPLE INTRODUCTION**

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

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Prayer Leader: God in your mercy, **ALL: receive our prayer.**

We pray for Rose Marie, Mike, Nancy, John, Becky, JoLynn, Emily, Carl, Jim, Rick, Kolton, Ron, Cheryl, John, Shirley, Larry, Bob, Caroline, Marilyn,

Bertha, Barb, Bobby, Frances, Eli, Riley, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Jennifer, Ron, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery, Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent, Richard, Laura, Michael, Cindy, John, Gary, Paul, Sue, Betty, David, LuAnn, Colene, Eva, Eric, Lisa, Chris, Arlene, Bob, Don, Ashley, Pat, and Gordon.

***SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Leader: The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Please share God's peace with those worshiping around you.

INVITATION FOR OFFERINGS

Leader: Let us gather our gifts together and offer them to God in gratitude and praise. The God of heaven and earth, of all of creation, holds each one of us in tender love and care. God is gracious and good, and no one is insignificant in God's eyes.

OFFERTORY

***OFFERTORY RESPONSE #186**

CREATE IN ME A CLEAN HEART

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Leader: Let us pray.

ALL: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

***THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

Leader: The Lord be with you. **ALL: And also with you.**

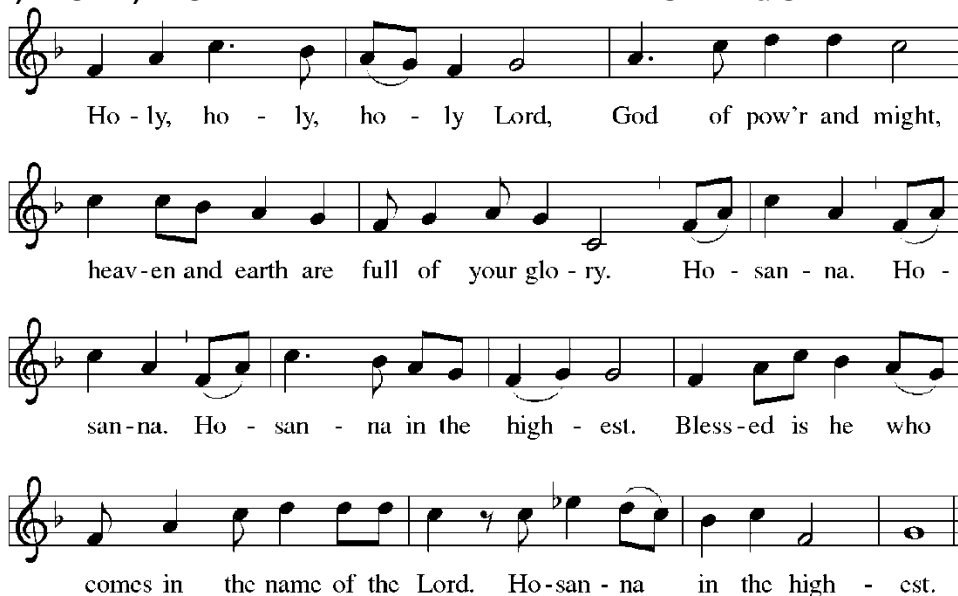
Leader: Lift up your hearts. **ALL: We lift them to the Lord.**

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **ALL: it is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Leader: And so, with all creatures and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and sing:

***HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**

SETTING 3 HYMNAL PAGE 144



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.

***THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Leader: 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his

coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. In the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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**

***THE INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Leader: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

DISTRIBUTION

***THE 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)

O Lord, Now Let Your Servant



1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill.
the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Please join with me in prayer.

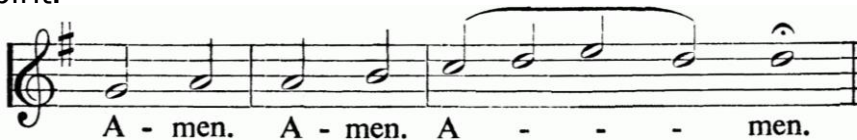
ALL: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



*BLESSING

Leader: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, bless you now and forever, in the name of the Father, ✠ the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

*The Amen



*SENDING HYMN #818

O MASTER, LET ME WALK WITH YOU

*DISMISSAL

Leader: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

ALL: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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*"Create in Me a Clean Heart"* PUBLIC DOMAIN

*"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)

*"O Master, Let Me Walk with You"* Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918, alt. Music: H. Percy Smith, 1825-1898

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*Central Conference Women's Gathering - Saturday, May 3*

Good Hope Lutheran Church, 300 S. Main St., Arlington @ 9am-1pm

Plan now to join us for faith, fellowship, food, and fun!

*And so it continues.....*



St. Luke's Lutheran Church  
Wednesday Lenten Bible Study

The Chosen

Continuing Wednesday, March 26  
Meal of soup & sandwiches @ 6pm  
Discussion @ 7pm

215 N. 2nd St.  
North Baltimore, OH

*Looking ahead.....*

Palm/Passion Sunday, April 13, worship @ 10:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday and Good Friday will be combined services on Thursday,  
April 17 @ 7:00 p.m.

Preparing the church for Easter, Saturday, April 19 @ 9a.m.

Easter Sunday Celebration of the Resurrection, April 20

Breakfast @ 9:00 a.m. and worship @ 10:15 a.m.



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 family and friends with whom to share the journey of Lent. Thanks be to God!

**MEMBERS:** Rose Marie Hosley, Mike Wheeler, Nancy Wymer, John Stewart, Becky Bean, JoLynn Stewart, Emily Meyerson, Carl Lieser, Jim Wymer, 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:** Jo Mineo, Bobby, Frances Bullock, Eli Swartz, Riley Guy, Mr. Doherty, Kristen, Jennifer Dochod, Ron Stewart, Chase, Cheryl, A.J., Mavery Breece, Caroline, Ethan, Brent Bradley, Richard Roberts, Laura, Michael Sullivan, Cindy.

**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.

## Fertilized, Fruitful, and Free

God's word for us today is nutritious and wholesome, though hard to digest. The gospel reading seems oddly brutal alongside the abundance and comfort of the texts from Isaiah ("delight yourselves in rich food") and Psalm 63 ("My spirit is content as with the richest of foods"). Even Paul finds himself using physical sustenance as a metaphor ("they drank from the spiritual rock, . . . and the rock was Christ"). Surrounded by this food imagery, we now find Jesus using some horrific events as illustrations.



After the mingled blood and fallen towers, it may be hard to hear the fig-tree parable as the graceful story it really is. But here is Christ himself as gardener: digging, fertilizing, protecting, and nurturing us. We are fragile creatures, living in a world of tragedy and terror, but God does not punish fragility with death. On the contrary, God sent Jesus to us so that we may live.

Living in that nurtured garden of Christ, tended to and cared for as we grow in that love, how can we keep from blossoming? Live, yes, and live fruitfully, our gospel proclaims! Grow, yes, and grow gloriously! Now the good news of Christ's redeeming mercy becomes clear: we are each treated with boundless mercy, not impartial justice. While the world may want to blame the withering tree for its inability to be productive, our Savior and Lord reaches into our lives, reminds us of our roots, nourishes us with grace, and allows us to bloom, to flourish, to freely share our gifts with the world.

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