

# Service of Holy Communion

## Second Sunday in Lent

### March 16, 2025



#### **INTRODUCTION**

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

#### **GATHERING**

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*The congregation stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity,  $\text{†}$  one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

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

*The congregation sits or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One, **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.**

P. 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. **Amen.**

*Congregation stands*

## **GATHERING HYMN**

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

ELW 596

## **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**

A. Hold us in your mercy.

**C. hold us in your mercy.**

A. Open our hearts.

**C. Open our hearts.**

A. Hold us in your love.

**C. Hold us in your love.**

**C. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P. God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy and love, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Congregation is seated*

## **WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord God, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the Lord came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the Lord, and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, “I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” <sup>8</sup> But he said, “O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” <sup>9</sup> He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.”

A. Word of God, word of life.      **C. Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 27** (*read responsively*)

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;**

**that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze  
upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,

hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I  
will sing and make music to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;

have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”**

**Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God  
of my salvation.

<sup>10</sup> **Though my father and my mother forsake me,**

**the LORD will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD;

lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup> **Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**

<sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup> **Wait for the LORD and be strong.  
Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17-4:1**

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

A. Word of God, word of life.

**C. Thanks be to God.**

## **A TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL**

*Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.*

*Congregation stands*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



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.

## **GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35**

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

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and

the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.' <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' "

P. The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation is seated*

**SERMON**

Take Heart

### **PRAYER STATIONS**

*There are 5 prayer stations throughout the sanctuary that you can move to during this time. The 6th option is to stay seated while meditating, praying, and listening to the background music. The prayer stations are the same each week, with the exception of the poem changing weekly. The intention is that you take in 1 or 2 stations each week, visiting each station at least once by the end of Lent. We will spend about 5 minutes at the prayer stations before entering into the Hymn of the Day.*

*Congregation stands*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

Thy Holy Wings

ELW 613

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**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 CHURCH

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

A. Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

A. Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

A. Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. We pray especially for ...those we name aloud...and those we hold in our hearts... May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

A. Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

A. Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

P. 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. **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**

P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

*Congregation is seated*

## CHOIR ANTHEM

My Only Hope Is You

*Chris Lovejoy  
arr. Kris Crunk*

## MEAL

### OFFERTORY INVITATION

Scan to give  
via Venmo ↓



Offering can be given by putting it in the offering plate when it is passed, online directly via the QR codes for Tithely or Venmo, or by requesting your bank to send a check to the church. Find more details on our website.

Scan to give  
via Tithely ↓



**Thank you for your generous gifts!**

*Congregation stands*

### OFFERING SONG

Just as I am; thy love un-known has bro - ken ev - 'ry  
bar - rier down; now to be thine, yea, thine a - lone,  
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

### OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... 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.**

## DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

P. Lift up your hearts.

**C. 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.**

P. 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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:

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

*The congregation sits or kneels.*

## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P. Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs, we bless and magnify you. You led your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water, who joins us in our desert, pouring out his life for the world.



In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, 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, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food and on all gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be renewed for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **Amen.**

#### **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.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Children are invited to the table for a blessing.*

*Gluten free and traditional wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come up. The bread is dairy and egg free. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.*

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

## COMMUNION SONG

*sing 2 times through*

Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;

set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*After all have received Communion the congregation stands.*

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION

“Go, my chil - dren, with my bless-ing, nev - er a - lone.

Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.

In my love's bap-tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for-ev - er.

Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own.”

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A. Let us pray... 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.**

## **SENDING**

### **BENEDICTION**

P. God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

Guide My Feet

*(printed in the back)*

### **DISMISSAL**

A. Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. **C. Thanks be to God.**

# Announcements for March 16<sup>th</sup> , 2025

*Welcome to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God's presence in our worship!*

*If today is your first time worshipping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the "Guest Book" on the table in the narthex and take a welcome bag.*

*Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. Large print bulletins are available.*

*Worship is live streamed to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.*

~~~~~  
***Thank you, Nancy Knecht, for this morning's refreshments!***  
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## **Volunteers for today's Worship**

<b>Lay Asst.</b>	Dawn McCormick
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	Debbie Lennon
<b>Ushers</b>	<i>Jump in before worship!!</i>
<b>Tech</b>	<i>Jump in during worship!!</i>
<b>Tellers</b>	<i>Jump in after worship!!</i>

## **Volunteers for next Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

<b>Lay Asst.</b>	Nancy Knecht
<b>Comm. Asst.</b>	<i>Jump in during worship!!</i>
<b>Ushers</b>	<i>Jump in before worship!!</i>
<b>Tech</b>	<i>Jump in during worship!!</i>
<b>Tellers</b>	<i>Jump in after worship!!</i>

**\*\*\*\*\* Join us for refreshments after worship\*\*\*\*\***

## **THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR**

**Sunday, March 16:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am  
Worship w/Communion, 9:30am  
Pick-up Corned Beef & Cabbage dinners after worship  
Choir Rehearsal, following worship  
Confirmation Class, 6-7:30pm

**Wednesday, March 19:** Adult Ed, Zoom, 10am  
Mindfulness Walk, Maple Grange Park, 4-5pm  
Lenten Study & Soup Supper, 6:30-8pm

**Thursday, March 20:** Pastor's Community Hours, Scout Goods, 1-3pm

**Saturday, March 22:** Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am

**Sunday, March 23:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am  
Worship w/Communion, 9:30am  
Choir Rehearsal, following worship  
Rainbow Café Sussex zoom, 1-2pm

**Lenten Study & Soup Supper -- THIS Wednesday:** Join our Lenten Study series, "Love of Neighbor". We will gather for soup, a documentary, and discussion from 6:30-8pm on Wednesdays 3/19, 3/26, and 4/2. We will be watching "Buy Now! The Shopping Conspiracy" and discussing our faith and how we can love one another through redistribution of goods and the care for God's creation. **Sign up on the sheet on 'Sign up Central' to be a dinner host making soup & bringing bread one week!** Food costs will be covered with a Thrivent card. We have paperware at church. **Connect with Pastor Peggy with questions or to let her know your plans to attend!**

**Mindfulness Walk:** Mindfulness Walks are back! **Join Pastor Peggy for a rejuvenating mindfulness walk at Maple Grange Park on Wednesday, March 19<sup>th</sup> (the first day of Spring) from 4-5 pm.** We will meet in the first parking lot and determine our route based on the group. You're invited to **wear your 'Live Generously T-shirt'**. All ages are welcome!

**Pastor's Community Office Hours:** Pastor Peggy will be at Scout Goods, this Thursday, March 20<sup>th</sup> from 1-3pm for Community Office Hours. All are welcome to drop in for a visit as she is present in the community.

**Vacation Bible School—Coordinator Needed-Final Call:** We are looking for a leader or co-leader to be the VBS Coordinator this summer. Pastor Peggy will help with pre-planning and organizing. **If you are available during the daytime in the summer and love having fun with kids this is for you!** Please contact Pastor Peggy ASAP as planning needs to begin.

**Easter Egg Hunt Donations:** We are excited for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at 11:30am! We are looking for **donations of individually wrapped candy, non-candy prizes, and larger prizes. Please bring all donations to church by Sunday, March 30<sup>th</sup>** and put them under the narrow table in the Narthex. Speak to Diane Rossi with questions.

**Lay Worship Leaders/Sermon Reflections:** Pastor Peggy is always open to new worship leaders, especially those interested in leading worship in her absence. In addition to leading with a lay assistant you also get to share the sermon reflection for that Sunday. Pastor can provide you with study resources and guides. If you're interested in sharing a reflection, but not leading worship, we have others who like to lead without leading the sermon time. **Please connect with Pastor Peggy to express your interest!**

**Food Pantry:** The Food Pantry is low on canned chili, canned stew, pasta sauce, canned corn, rice, boxed potatoes, instant pudding & jello, and 4-pack toilet paper. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be placed in the blue bin by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!



# Guide My Feet



Leader  
All

1 Guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand  
3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
4 I'm your child  
5 Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual



**Holy Counselor**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH  
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### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*As Children of God,  
we are called to share and serve  
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.*

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Pastor** Rev. Peggy Ludlow  
**President** Nancy Knecht  
**Vice President** Frank Urbaniak  
**Treasurer** Claire Speroni  
**Recording Secretary** Dawn McCormick  
**Financial Secretary** John Heeren  
**Outreach Coordinator** Francine Vince  
**Nurture Coordinator** Fred Schoenagel  
**Administration Coordinator** Diane Rossi  
**Youth Representative** Kevin Drache

### **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Kristina Heeren  
Pam Kucks  
Matt Moller  
Aileen Donovan

*Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

