

Second Sunday In Lent
Sunday, March 5, 2023
Holy Communion

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ *Please stand as you are able.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.** Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God, we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

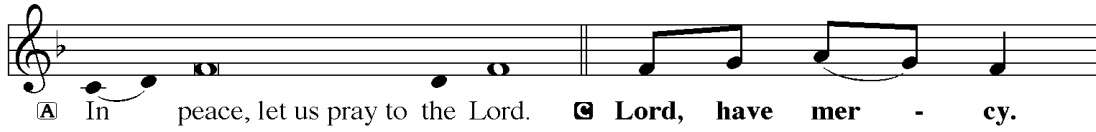
Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, † forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: *Lift High the Cross* **LBW # 377**

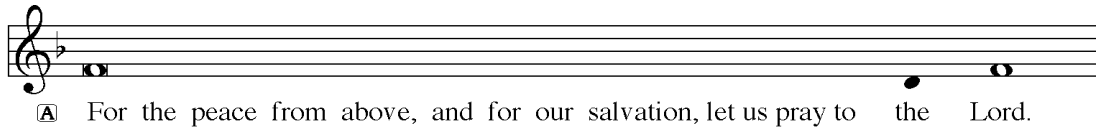
GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

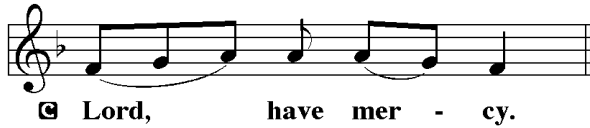
KYRIE



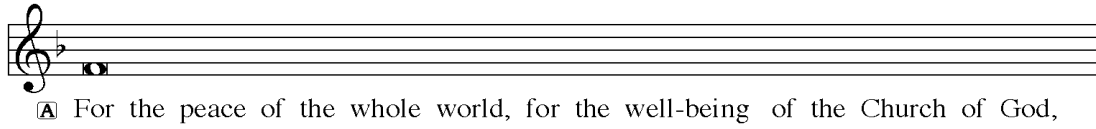
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



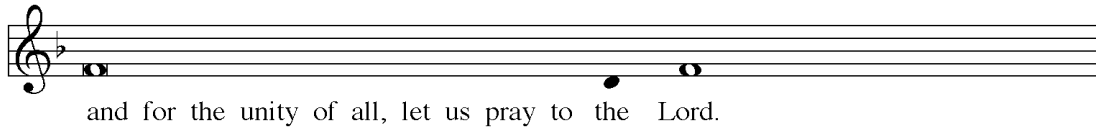
A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



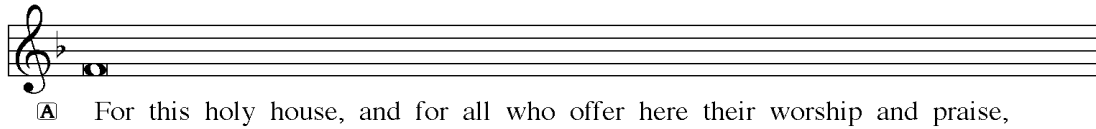
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



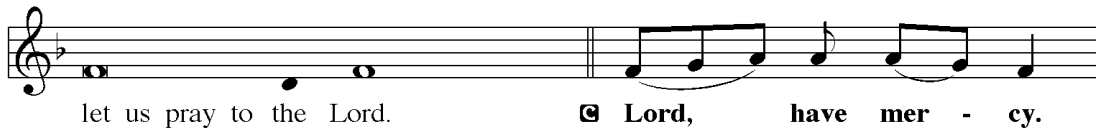
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



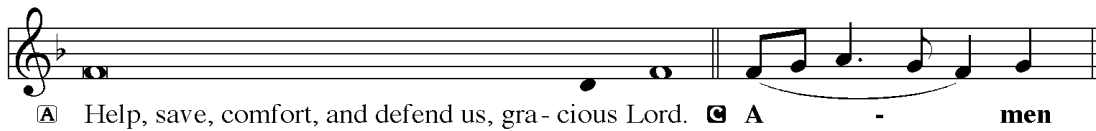
C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



B Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

+ *Please be seated*

FIRST READING: Genesis 12: 1-4a

The First Reading is from the 12th chapter of Genesis.

¹The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ^{4a}So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: Psalm 121 (Please read responsively)

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸**The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17

The Second Reading is from the 4th chapter of Romans.

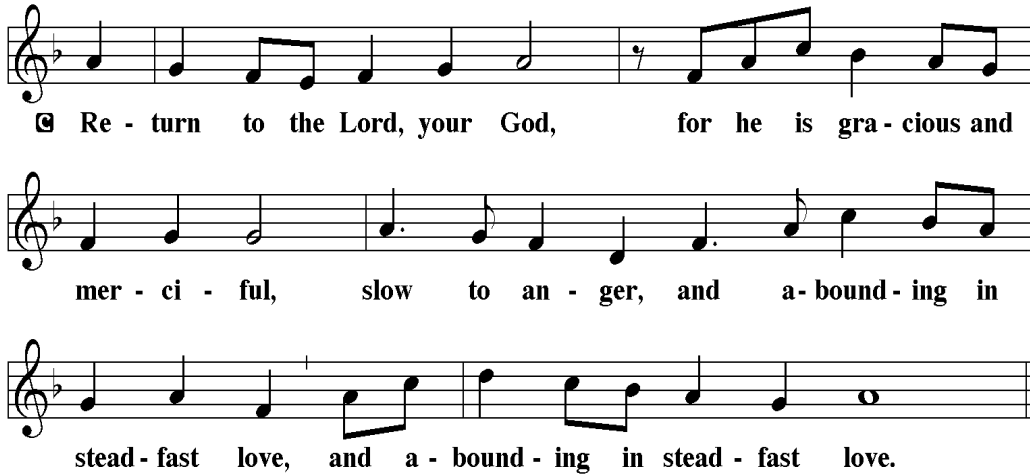
¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

+ *Please stand as you are able.*

LENTEN 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, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: John 3: 1-17

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 3rd chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And 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.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

+ *Please be seated. Children are invited to come forward for time with the Pastor.*

CHILDRENS' SERMON

THE SERMON

+ Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: *Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart* **LBW # 486**

THE APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

Response: Merciful God, receive our prayer.

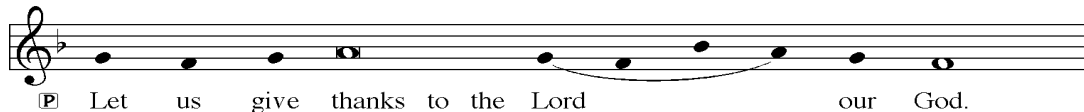
DIALOGUE



P The Lord be with you. **R** And also with you.



P Lift up your hearts. **R** We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



R It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

HOLY. HOLY, HOLY



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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

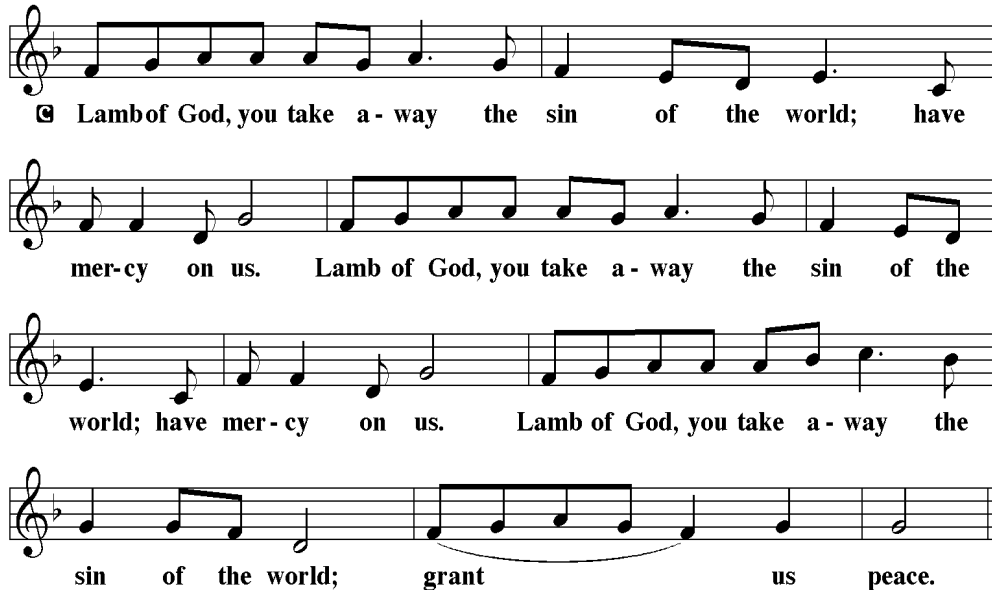
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

+ Please be seated.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

LAMB OF GOD



♩ 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.

COMMUNION

All baptized children of God are welcome at the Lord's Table, when we celebrate and receive the true presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and fruit of the vine.

Communion will be received in a continuous line. Come forward, forming a line down the center aisle. Stop at the end of the aisle, receive your bread, empty cup, and wine.

Grape juice is available in the pre-poured cups in the middle of the tray.

There is no need to hurry through Communion. Please take as much time as you wish for prayer and reflection.

If you are more comfortable remaining in your seat for Communion, individual bags containing Communion elements are available on the table at the back of the sanctuary. For those with mobility issues, the Pastor can bring Communion to you at your seat.

As the bread and wine/grape juice are given, the following is said:

The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*Each person may respond **Amen**. As you receive the bread and wine/grape juice, saying "Amen" means "Yes, truly, it is so: this is the body and blood of Jesus, given for me."*

After you have received Communion, please place your empty cup in the bowl, then return to your seat.

After all have received Communion, the Pastor will ask the congregation to stand, then give a blessing, ending with the following words:

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

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. **Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. Amen.**

BLESSING

God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: *How Firm a Foundation* LBW # 507

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

You may contact Pastor Stina at any time by email: stinaschaeffer@gmail.com or phone: **570-374-9544**.

Communion: If you prefer to remain in your seat, or have mobility issues, the Pastor will be happy to bring Communion to you at your seat.

Offerings: For your convenience, offering plates are located at the back of the sanctuary to receive your offerings as you enter.

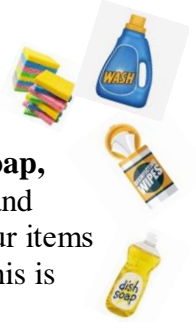
CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TODAY! Following the Worship Service, there will be a congregational meeting to present the proposed picnic grove renovation and improvement project and the estimated budget. Please plan to attend. We will vote on the proposal during a meeting **NEXT SUNDAY, March 12th**.

TODAY is “**Family Ministry**” Day! Children and their families are invited to join us in the basement for lunch, learning and fun following the Worship Service!



THANK YOU to everyone who purchased and/or sold sandwiches for our Sandwich Sale Fundraiser! Sandwiches will be available for pick-up **NEXT SUNDAY, March 12th** after church.

2023 LENT PROJECT! This year during the season of Lent, we will be working with Zion Lutheran Church in Kratzerville to support the “DIG Furniture Bank”. You can visit their website at: www.digfb.org to learn more information about their mission. We will be collecting items to support their ‘housewarming baskets’. The items we are collecting are: **Laundry Detergent, Dish Soap, Sponges and Disinfecting Wipes or Sprays.** This will be a friendly competition between the Zion and Salem Congregations! The real winner will be “DIG” and the families they support! Please bring your items to Salem before Easter and **drop them off in our designated collection area - the “Choir Loft”!** This is a great spot for everyone to watch as our collection grows!



Reading today’s lessons is Amanda Dempsey.

There will be **NO** Choir Practice tonight.



SALEM DIRECTORY: If you have any changes to the Directory – name, address, phone number, email address, or want to add a phone number – please contact Jane Korbar (jkorbar@verizon.net) or Linda Maurer (lmaurer56@outlook.com) by March 26th. If you are not a member of Salem Church but attend often, please contact us and we will be happy to include you.

SIGHT & SOUND! There are still **7 seats** available for our trip with Milton Lutheran Church to *Sight & Sound Theaters* for the spring production of “**Moses**”. The show is on **Wednesday, April 19th** at 11:00 am. The cost is \$135 and this includes your “Moses” ticket, bus, gratuity for the driver and lunch at ‘Shady Maple’. On **Wednesday, April 19th**, we will depart from Salem Lutheran Church at **8:30 am** and return is estimated to be 6:00 pm. Please see Brenda Stranko to sign-up. Checks can be made payable to Milton Lutheran Church and payment is due **NEXT SUNDAY, March 12th**. **If you are interested in the trip, please let Brenda know ASAP before we release the remaining tickets to others.**



“Lunch and Learn” - We will gather every Wednesday throughout Lent to enjoy a lunch of soup and bread, followed by Bible Study. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME!** **This is not just for Salem folks,** so invite family, friends and neighbors! The studies are not continuous, so if you cannot come every Wednesday, you will not miss out. Come when, and as often, as you can! **The next “Lunch and Learn” is THIS Wednesday, March 8th.**

SACC Easter Food Baskets - Do you know a family in need who would benefit from a Food Basket? If so, please contact Judy Kuhn (jkuhn@ptd.net) **by March 19th**. The information needed is: name, address, phone number, how many adults and how many children in the family, and ages of the children.

There are **NO** Prayer Meetings during Lent.

Daylight Saving Time begins **NEXT SUNDAY!** Turn your clocks ahead 1-hour Saturday night!





Remember to continue to support our College Students and those in the Military. Cards of encouragement and gift cards are sent to them to let them know their Salem Family is praying for and thinking about them. Donation cans are always available on the back table and on top of the sound system. If you have questions, please ask Linda Carl (dwarfgrumpy@yahoo.com). **Thank You** to all who continue to contribute.

The Reader's sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please stop by and sign-up to read the Sunday lessons. Readers are always needed and much appreciated. The Lessons are posted for your convenience as they are received.

The 2023 Altar Flower Chart is hanging in the vestibule. Choose a Sunday, sign-up to provide altar flowers. If they are for a special occasion or in memory of someone, please contact the Secretary so it can be noted in the bulletin.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 8 – “Lunch and Learn” – 12:30 pm in the church basement

Sunday, March 12 – Adult Sunday School – 9:30 am
Holy Communion Worship – 10:30 am
Congregational Meeting – following Worship
Sandwich Order Pick-Up – following Worship
Daylight Saving Time begins

Monday, March 13 – Council Meeting – 7:00 pm

Wednesday, March 15 – “Lunch and Learn” – 12:30 pm in the church basement

Sunday, March 19 – Adult Sunday School – 9:30 am
Holy Communion Worship – 10:30 am

Wednesday, March 22 – “Lunch and Learn” – 12:30 pm in the church basement

Sunday, March 26 – Adult Sunday School – 9:30 am
Holy Communion Worship – 10:30 am

Wednesday, March 29 – “Lunch and Learn” – 12:30 pm in the church