

St. John Lutheran Church



How often
have I desired
to gather
your children
together
as a hen gathers her
brood under her wings

LUKE 13:34

Cover: *Hen sheltering chicks* by Mak_photo. Copyright © Getty Images Plus via Getty Images. Used by permission.

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ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev. Tammy P. Harmer

Deacon Betsey Eley & Deacon Ken Weaver

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT • MARCH 16, 2025

Reverent Reflection

Prelude

Welcome

Church Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

- D. Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C. **Amen.**
- D. Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C. **Amen.**
- D. Most merciful God,
- C. **we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.**
- Amen.**
- D. God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.
- C. **Amen**

Gathering Hymn: My Hope Is Built On Nothing Less (#596)

Greeting

- D. 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 p. 147

- D. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- D. For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**

- D. 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 mercy.**
- D. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.
- C. **Lord, have mercy.**
- D. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.
- C. **Amen.**

Canticle p. 148

- D. Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's people on earth.
- C. **Lord God, heavenly King, God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father . Amen.**
- D. The Lord be with you.
- C. **And also with you.**

Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

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, 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.

Word

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹ 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."² 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?"³ And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir."⁴ 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."⁵ 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."⁶ And he believed the Lord; and the Lord reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷ Then he said to him, "I am the Lord who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess."

⁸ But he said, "O Lord God, how am I to know that I shall possess it?"⁹ 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."¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

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

¹⁷ When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸ 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."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 27

Response: "In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter."

¹ 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?

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

³ Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear. Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

⁴ **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. R**

⁵ 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.

⁶ **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.**

⁷ Hear my voice, O Lord, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

⁸ **My heart speaks your message — "Seek my face." Your face, O Lord, I will seek. R**

⁹ 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.

¹⁰ **Though my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me in.**

¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord; lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

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

¹³ This I believe — that I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living!

¹⁴ **Wait for the Lord and be strong. Take heart and wait for the Lord! R**

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17—4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ 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.

^{4:1} 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation p. 151 (Lent)

Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you."

³² 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. ³³ 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.' ³⁴ 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! ³⁵ 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.'"

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Children's Sermon

Anthem

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, 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 Intercession

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

A brief silence.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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.**

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.**

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 (especially). May all know they are not alone.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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.**

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us (especially). Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for peace throughout the world: in our nation, Ukraine, Israel, Gaza, Sudan, and all war-torn areas. We pray for our military and their families.

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

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

Offering

Thanksgiving for the Word p. 220

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Let us pray:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

Sending Hymn: God Of Grace and God Of Glory (#705)

Dismissal

Postlude

PRAYER LIST

Please keep the following in your prayers for healing:

Jen Bailey	Indie Fisher	Valerie Hoffmann	Erica Polito	George Vaneman, Sr.
Brian Byrnes	Rhea Fryor	Rebecca Livingston	Kimberly Rickert	Beverly Warming
Randy Cantoral	Bob Garner	Joanne McVelli	Ashley Rosser	Christopher Weaver
Janet Cappuccio	Heidi Goff	Melanie Miles	Finn Schureman	Ryan Williams
Sandra DeRitis	Angela Guedes	Kent Montford	Frank Siderio III	Helen Yezusko
Helen Dominic	Stan Harmer	Sue Murphy	Eric Sprengel	Bob Zielsdorf
Rosemarie Doucette	Ann Henning	Doris Piech	Janice Stronski	

Please notify the office if you want to add or remove a person from this list.

ALTAR FLOWERS DEDICATION FOR SUNDAY, MARCH 16TH

Dedicated by Andrea in Honor of her Beautiful Mother, Patricia Reed on her Birthday.

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION

Altar Flowers are available for dedication for \$30. Please fill out the envelope located in the pew rack at least one week before you wish to dedicate the flowers. The card may be placed in the offering plate or left in the office. Please be sure to note the date on the white board in the Narthex. Please see Pat Reed to make payment.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday	9:30 am 10:30 am 10:45 am 11:15 am 11:30 am	Regular Sunday Morning Church Service Band Rehearsal Sunday School/CIA Youth Chime/Vocal Choir Bell Choir (<i>every other Sunday</i>)
Wednesday	7:00 pm	Band Rehearsal
Thursday	7:00 pm	Chancel Choir Rehearsal
Ongoing		Lenten Giving: Lutheran Indian Ministries Shelf Stable Milk Collection Crocheting for a Cause Collection for Baby Pantry Holy Communion Berlin
Wednesday, March 19th	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper and Devotions in the Ed. Bldg.
Wednesday, March 19th	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room
Monday, March 24th	5:30 pm	Confirmation Class in the Parish House
Wednesday, March 26th	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper and Devotions in the Ed. Bldg.
Monday, March 31st	5:30 pm	Confirmation Class in the Parish House
Tuesday, April 1st	7:00 pm	Bible Study: Acts of the Apostles in the Parish House
Wednesday, April 2nd	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper and Devotions in the Ed. Bldg.
Saturday, April 5th	9:30am to 12:30 pm	Breakfast and Bunny Races in the Ed. Bldg.
Sunday, April 6th	11:35 am	First Holy Communion Instruction in the Parish House
Wednesday, April 9th	6:00 pm	Lenten Soup Supper and Devotions in the Ed. Bldg.
Saturday, April 12th	11:30 am	Community Luncheon in the Ed. Bldg.
Monday, April 14th	7:00 pm	Council Meeting in the Parish House.
Wednesday, April 16th	7:00 pm	Grief Gathering in the Parish House Tea Room
Thursday, April 17th	7:00 pm	Maundy Thursday Worship Service
Friday, April 18th	Noon to 3 pm	Good Friday Christian Ministerium Service at St. Johns
Friday, April 18th	7:00 pm	Good Friday Tenebrae Service
Monday, April 21st	5:30 pm	Confirmation Class in the Parish House
Monday, April 28th	5:30 pm	Confirmation Class in the Parish House
Wednesday, April 30th	6:00 pm	Dinner and Discussion



JUST A REMINDER...

We are accepting donations of
Shelf Stable Milk for Our Lady of Peace Food Bank.

Donations in the form of cash or check will also be welcome.

Calling All Crafters!

Work on crochet projects from home to
benefit various non-profits in South Jersey.

Current project: Tote Bags, Hats, Scarves & Baby Hats

Please take a flyer (in the Narthex) for more details.



Crocheting For A Cause
VOLUNTEER CENTER
of South Jersey



**HOLY COMMUNION LUTHERAN CHURCH
OF BERLIN BABY PANTRY NEEDS
DONATIONS OF BABY DIAPERS**
(especially larger size ones).

Collection will take place in the Narthex.



Grief Gathering
Wednesday,
March 19th



Parish Tea Room
@ 7pm
All Are Welcome!

CONFIRMATION CLASS



Monday, March 24th
Monday, March 31st
5:30 pm
in the Parish House

BIBLE STUDY!

Tuesday, April 1st
at 7:00 pm in the Parish House
Please join us!



Community
LUNCH

SATURDAY, APRIL 12TH • 11:30 AM TO 1:30 PM
IN THE ED. BUILDING

PLEASE JOIN US FOR SOME GOOD FOOD
& GOOD FELLOWSHIP!

MONDAY • APRIL 14TH @ 7PM
COUNCIL MEETING
PARISH HOUSE

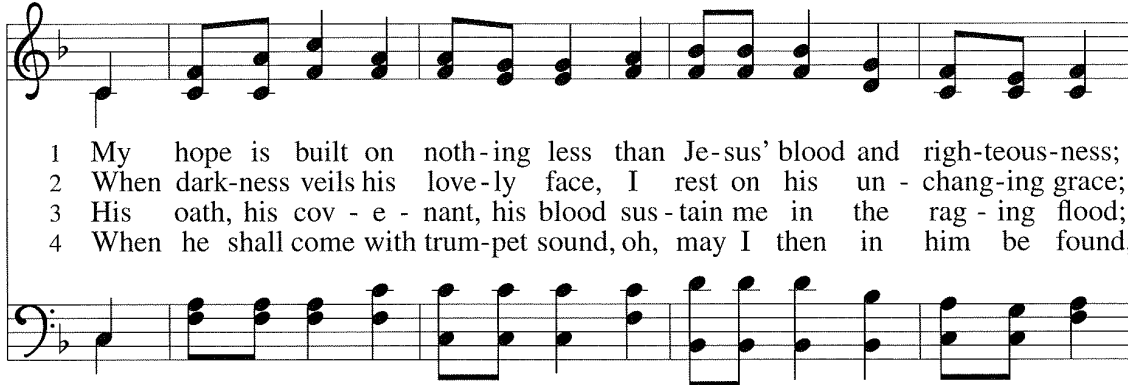


Grief Gathering

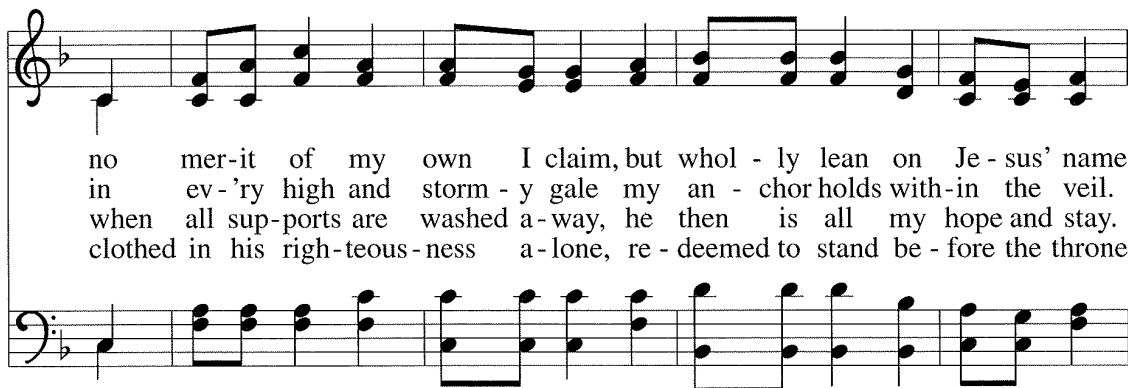
Wednesday, April 16th at 7:00 pm
in the Parish Tea Room.

All Are Welcome!

My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less

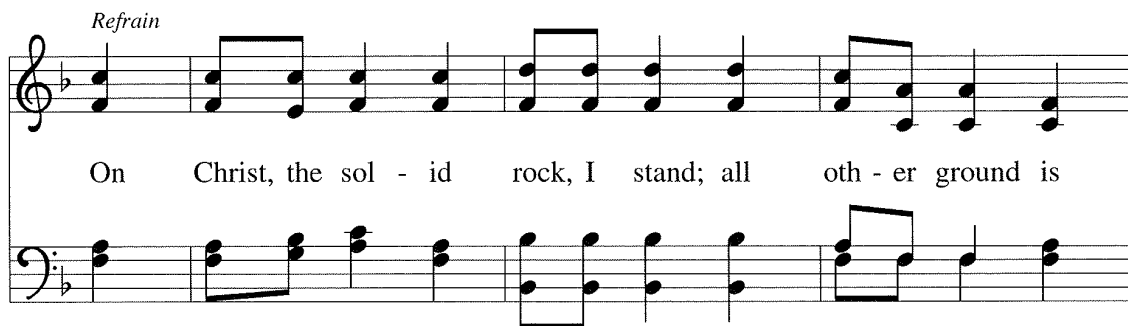


1 My hope is built on noth-ing less than Je-sus' blood and righ-teous-ness;
 2 When dark-ness veils his love-ly face, I rest on his un - chang-ing grace;
 3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
 4 When he shall come with trum-pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,

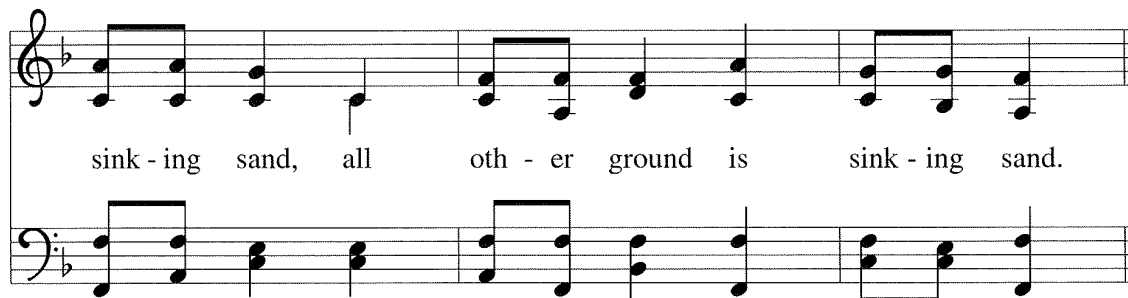


no mer-it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
 in ev-'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with-in the veil.
 when all sup-ports are washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
 clothed in his righ-teous-ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

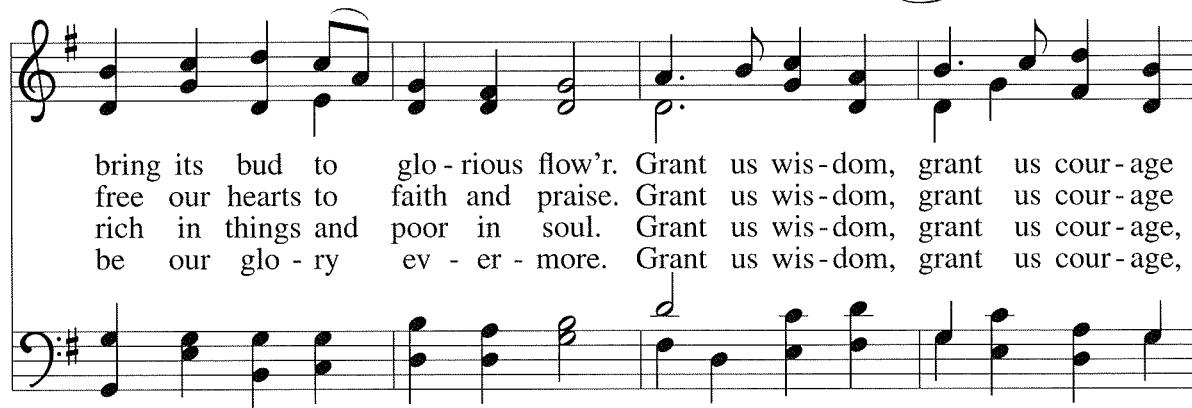
God of Grace and God of Glory



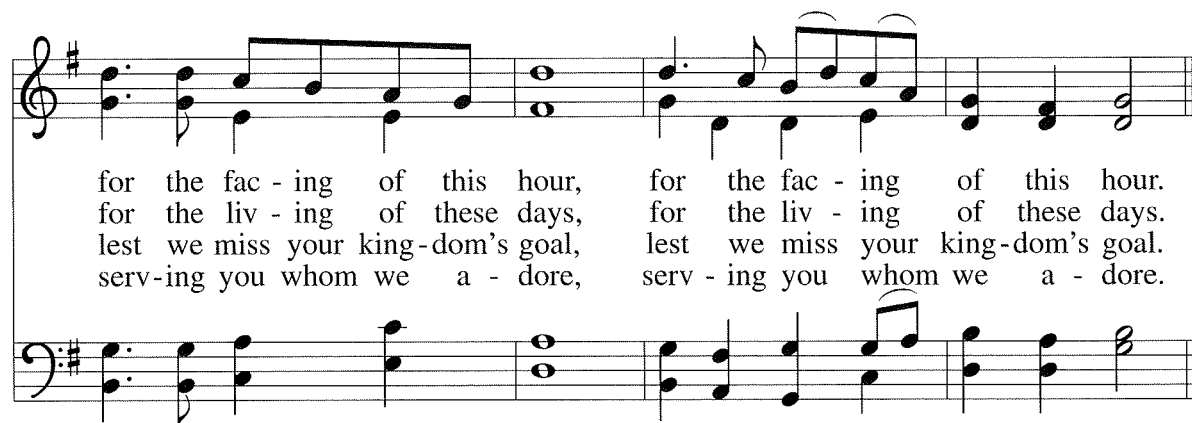
1 God of grace and God of glo - ry, on your peo - ple
 2 Lo! The hosts of e - vil round us scorn the Christ, as -
 3 Cure your chil - dren's war - ring mad - ness; bend our pride to
 4 Save us from weak res - ig - na - tion to the e - vils



pour your pow'r; crown your an - cient chur - ch's sto - ry;
 sail his ways! From the fears that long have bound us
 your con - trol; shame our wan - ton, self - ish glad - ness,
 we de - plore; let the gift of your sal - va - tion



bring its bud to glo - rious flow'r. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 free our hearts to faith and praise. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age
 rich in things and poor in soul. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,
 be our glo - ry ev - er - more. Grant us wis - dom, grant us cour - age,



for the fac - ing of this hour, for the fac - ing of this hour.
 for the liv - ing of these days, for the liv - ing of these days.
 lest we miss your king - dom's goal, lest we miss your king - dom's goal.
 serv - ing you whom we a - dore, serv - ing you whom we a - dore.

Giving for
Lent
2025

LUTHERAN INDIAN MINISTRIES

Banks are on the table in the Narthex.

Please see Lynn Illi to donate by cash or check.



March 19th • 26th

April 2nd • 9th

6pm in the Ed. Building

Bring your favorite soup, side or dessert to share and participate in the Lenten Study.



First Holy Communion will be celebrated at the Maundy Thursday Worship Service on April 17th at 7pm

Instruction for First Holy Communion will take place on Sunday, April 6th at 11:35 am in the Parish House.
See Pastor Tammy for further information and sign-up.



Good Friday + April 18th

12 Noon to 3 pm (25 minute segments)

Unity Service with Local Christian Ministerium

Theme: "The Seven Last Words Of Christ"



Good Friday + April 18th

Tenebrae Service at 7:00 pm



Easter Sunday Worship Service

April 20th at 9:30 am

He Is Risen!

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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