



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 27, 8:45 & 11:15 am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

GATHERING

PRELUDE

Sonata II in C Minor

Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

I. Grave

II. Adagio

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✠ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

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.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN • ELW 666

What wondrous love is this



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won-drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink-ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be-neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a-side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil-lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a-side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil-lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e-ter-ni-ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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 • ELW 152

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Christ, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.

Lord, have mer - cy, have mer - cy.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through 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

Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

The Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt.” And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

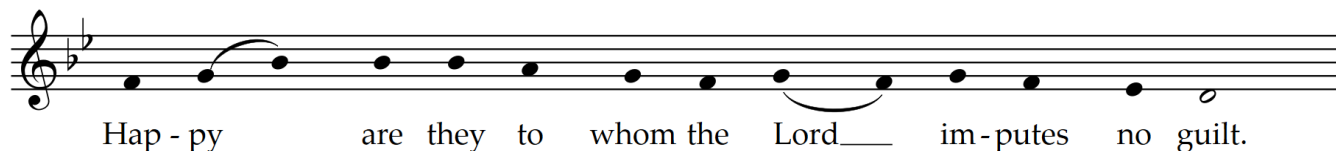
The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALMODY

Psalm 32

(8:45 & 11:15) The refrain is introduced by the choir/cantor. Please sing the second time. The refrain is subsequently sung once where indicated.



Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!
Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile! **R**

While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.
For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance. **R**

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.
Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

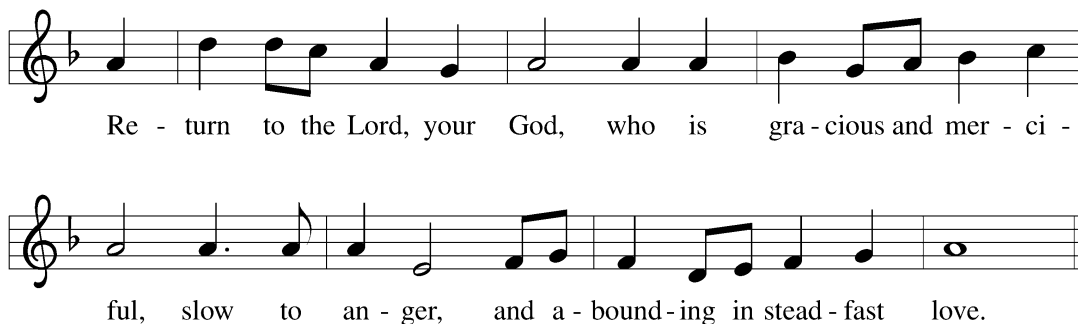
One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the fifteenth chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

So he told them this parable: “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all

these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pastor Morales

HYMN OF THE DAY • ELW 587

There's a wideness in God's mercy



- 1 There's a wide-ness
- 2 There is wel-come
- 3 For the love of
- 4 'Tis not all we



in God's mer - cy, like the wide - ness of the sea;
for the sin - ner, and a prom - ised grace made good;
God is broad - er than the mea - sures of our mind;
owe to Je - sus; it is some - thing more than all:



there's a kind - ness in God's jus - tice which is more than
there is mer - cy with the Sav - ior; there is heal - ing
and the heart of the E - ter - nal is most won - der -
great - er good be - cause of e - vil, larg - er mer - cy



lib - er - ty. There is no place where earth's sor - rows
in his blood. There is grace e - nough for thou - sands
ful - ly kind. But we make this love too nar - row
through the fall. Make our love, O God, more faith - ful;



are more felt than up in heav'n. There is no place
of new worlds as great as this; there is room for
by false lim - its of our own; and we mag - ni -
let us take you at your word, and our lives will



where earth's fail - ings have such kind - ly judg - ment giv'n.
fresh cre - a - tions in that up - per home of bliss.
fy its strict - ness with a zeal God will not own.
be thanks-giv - ing for the good - ness of the Lord.

Text: Frederick W. Faber, 1814–1863, alt.
Music: ST. HELENA, Calvin Hampton, 1938–1984
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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

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each portion of the prayers please sing the following:



The prayers conclude:

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.
Amen

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us then click *Giving* or on the Give Plus app.
You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

ANTHEM (8:45)

How Lovely Are the Messengers

How lovely are the messengers that preach us the gospel of peace.
To all nations is gone forth the sound of their words,
throughout all the lands their glad tidings.

Words: Romans 10: 15b, 18b

Music: Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Hal Hopson (b. 1933)

ORGAN VOLUNTARY (11:15)

Sonata IV in B flat Major

II. Andante religioso

Felix Mendelssohn

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Extravagant God, you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray.

Amen.

DIALOGUE

The Lord be with you

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PREFACE

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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. 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'r and might,

ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,

heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.

Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory. In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, and resurrection, we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

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

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

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Please pray in your own preferred language.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, 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.

Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos
Santificado sea tu Nombre
Venga a nosotros tu Reino
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia
Perdona nuestras ofensas
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is food and drink for the journey.

Take and be filled.

Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION

When communing, kindly receive the communion elements from the servers. The servers will then step back. At that time, please remove your mask and partake of the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Then proceed to the appropriate station to deposit your individual cup.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say:

Amen.

Je - sus, Lamb of God, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, bear - er of our sins, have mer - cy on us.

Je - sus, re - deem - er, re - deem - er of the world,

grant us peace, grant us peace.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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COMMUNION HYMN • ELW 773

Precious Lord, take my hand

1 Pre - cious Lord, take my hand, lead me on, let me stand,
 2 When my way grows . . drear, pre - cious Lord, lin - ger near,
 3 When the dark - ness ap - pears and the night draws . . near,

I am tired, I am weak, I am worn.
 when my life is . . . al - most . . gone,
 and the day is . . . past and . . . gone,

Through the storm, through the night, lead me on to the light.
 hear my cry, hear my call, hold my hand lest I fall.
 at the riv - er I stand, guide my feet, hold my hand.

Take my hand, pre - cious Lord, lead me home.

Text: Thomas A. Dorsey, 1899–1993
 Music: George N. Allen, 1812–1877, adapt. Thomas A. Dorsey
 Text and music © 1938, 1966 Unichappell Music Inc., admin. Hal Leonard Corp.

PRECIOUS LORD
 Irregular

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

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

Amen.



O liv-ing Bread from heav - en, how well you feed your guest! The



gifts that you have giv - en have filled my heart with rest. O



won-drous food of bless - ing! O cup that heals our woes! My



heart, this gift pos - sess - ing, in thank-ful song o'er- flows!

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

You are children of God,
anointed with the oil of gladness
and strengthened for the journey.

Almighty God,
motherly, majestic, and mighty,
✠ bless you this day and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN • ELW 675

O Christ, our light, O Radiance true



1 O Christ, our light, O Ra - diance true, shine forth on
2 Fill with the ra - diance of your grace the wan - d'ers
3 Lord, o - pen all re - luc - tant ears and take a -
4 Lord, let your mer - cy's gen - tle ray shine down on
5 Make theirs with ours a sin - gle voice up - lift - ed,



those es - tranged from you, and bring them to your home a -
lost in er - ror's maze. Set free all those whose hearts and
way the need - less fears of those who trem - ble to ex -
oth - ers strayed a - way. To those in con - science wound - ed
ev - er to re - joice with wond - 'ring grat - i - tude and



gain, where their de - light shall nev - er end.
minds some deep de - lu - sion haunts and binds.
press the faith their in - most hearts con - fess.
sore show heav - en's wait - ing, o - pen door.
praise to you, O Lord, for bound - less grace.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. composite
Music: O JESU CHRISTE, WAHRES LICHT, *Gesangbuch*, Nürnberg, 1676
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

DISMISSAL

Go in peace.

Jesus meets you on the way.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Sonata II in C Minor

Felix Mendelssohn

III. Allegro maestoso e vivace

IV. Fuga

In this penitential season, let us refrain from any applause after the postlude.

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

READERS

8:45 a.m. Katherine Bassein

11:15 a.m.

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

(8:45) Schola Cantorum

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at Saint Luke Lutheran

March 27, 2022

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

27
MAR

8:45 am Worship, *in-person & streaming online*

10:15 am Faith Formation *in person*

11:15 am Worship, *in-person*

5: 00 pm San Lucas Missa, *Online*

30
MAR

WEDNESDAY

7:00 pm Lenten Service, *in-person & streaming online*

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

03
APR

8:45 am Worship, *in-person & streaming online*

10:15 am Faith Formation *in person*

11:15 am Worship, *in-person*

3: 00 pm San Lucas Gospel Meditation, *Online*

Upcoming Commemorations

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824

Tuesday, March 29, 2022

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, died 1631

Thursday, March 31, 2022

After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

Saint Luke Update 3/20/22 Edition

TODAY, MARCH 20, third and fourth grade children will be presented Lutheran Study Bibles at the 11:15 a.m. worship service. Thank you for your prayers of support for these children and their families during this very special event.

WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR Ukraine and peace in the world. Several thousand have viewed the Service of Prayer. If you missed it and would like to view, it is at www.saintlukeonline.us/. Simply scroll down.

HAVE YOU COMPLETED a 2022 **Faith Commitment Card**? Due to the pandemic, the stewardship campaign is happening during these weeks of Lent. Each worshipper is asked to prayerfully complete a Commitment Card. Thank you so much. Simply go to www.saintluke.us and click *Giving*.

WEDNESDAY IN LENT, MARCH 23, we continue our journey of **G. R. A. C. E.** Each week our Lenten series will look at a response to this amazing grace we share. This week the letter **A for Act**.

12:00 noon zoom features Ruth Manchester, along with pastors and deacon, sharing how our faith is shown in action, especially now with **relief for refugees from Ukraine**. See **photos of what is happening** through Lutheran Disaster Response and Lutheran World Relief and others. What is faith in **ACTION**?

7:00 pm. Lenten Worship features a reflection by Pastor Morales, along with wonderful photos of faith in action through the Latinx ministry. The 7:00 p.m. Lenten worship will be in person and livestreamed.

MUSIC MINISTRY INVITES YOU: CONSIDER AN OPPORTUNITIES TO USE YOUR GIFTS.

Schola Cantorum (adult choir)

Rehearsals: Wednesdays from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. Sings at 8:45 a.m. service.

Choristers (3rd—8th grade or changing of voice for boys)

Rehearsals: Tuesdays from 4:30 to 5:30 PM and/or Wednesdays 5:30 to 6:30 PM Start date TBD

Carillon Guild

Play a few minutes before the Prelude, rotation based

Instruments

Provide music for Worship at the 11:15 service

Cantor

Provide leadership in congregational singing at the 11:15 service

Handbell Ensembles

Opportunity to ring in one of our adult or youth Bell Ensemble. Rehearsal time TBD

For more information or to express interest, contact Dr. Truche at atruche@saintluke.us

GRACE UNBOUNDED, a brief Lenten Devotion happens each morning, 7:00 a.m. Simply go to www.saintlukeonline.us for this grace-filled way to start the day. Devotions are shared each day (except Sunday) through April 9.

FOOD TRUCK VBS-ON A ROLL WITH GOD is the theme of Vacation Bible School (VBS) which will take place **in person** at Saint Luke June 27-July 1 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. Children who were 4 by 9/1/2021 through current 5th graders are eligible to attend. The children will play games, hear Bible stories, make crafts, participate in service projects, work with various science experiments, and more! Registration is available online at www.slvbs.us. Questions should be directed to Melissa Groen at mgroen@saintluke.us.

Music Ministry Page

HYMN NOTES

What wondrous love is this

American Folk Hymn

The melody for this hymn shows signs of Celtic influences, and the unusual meter is that of an old sea chanty about Captain Kidd. The tune first appeared in the valleys of the Southern Appalachians, where William Walker recorded it and included it in his historic *Southern Harmony*. Each stanza has a singer thought which is underscored by repetition, but it is the haunting melody which has made this hymn so popular in this country.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

There's a wideness in God's mercy

Frederick W. Faber, 1814-1863

Of Huguenot ancestry and strict training in Calvinism, Faber moved from priesthood in the Anglican Church to the Roman Catholic Church in 1846. He wrote 150 hymns, corresponding to the number of psalms. He tried to emulate William Cowper, John Newton, and the Wesleys, and this hymn in part matches their simplicity and evangelical fervor. Originally in 13 stanzas, the hymn was called "Come to Jesus" and began "Souls of men, why will ye scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep?" .—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

Precious Lord, take my hand

Thomas Dorsey (1899-1993)

Dorsey wrote this hymn following the tragic news that both his wife and newborn died. He thought he was playing a melody he had never heard before, but he was actually, with only slight variations, playing a tune called MAITLAND written by George Allen. - ELW Hymnal Companion

O Christ, Our Light, O Radiance True

Johann Heermann, 1585-1647)

Written during the Thirty Years' War, Heermann included this hymn in his *Devoti Musica Cordis* as one of the "Songs of Tears" in a section he called "In the time of persecution and grievous misery of faithful Christians." This hymn could easily have been vindictive, given the heading Heerman gave it and the context of the Thirty Years' War, but it is not. It does not pray for a reign of terror on the enemy. Instead it prays that they and we may with a single voice rejoice in gratitude for God's grace.—ELW Hymnal Companion

MUSIC NOTES

Prelude and Postlude: Sonata II in C minor, Op. 95—Felix Mendelssohn (1809-1847)

Felix Mendelssohn's six Organ Sonatas, Opus 65, were published in 1845. Mendelssohn's biographer Eric Werner has written of them: "Next to Bach's works, Mendelssohn's Organ Sonatas belong to the required repertory of all organists." Mendelssohn was a skilled organist, and during his visits to Britain gave a number of well-received organ recitals. These often included the improvisations for which he was famous (e.g., at his recitals during his 1842 tour in London and Oxford). The six organ sonatas were commissioned as a "set of voluntaries" by the English publishers Coventry and Hollier in 1844 (who also commissioned at the same time an edition by him of the organ chorales of J. S. Bach). The second sonata in C minor has four movements. Mendelssohn's love of J.S. Bach's music is reflected in the last movement which was composed in the form of a fugue.—Wikipedia

Choral Anthem: How Lovely Are the Messengers—Felix Mendelssohn, arr. Hal Hopson

Mendelssohn wrote his oratorio *St. Paul* in 1836. The composer with pastor Julius Schubring, a childhood friend, pulled together passages from the New Testament, chiefly the Acts of the Apostles, and the Old, as well as the texts of chorales and hymns, in a polyglot manner after Bach's model. The chorus *How Lovely Are the Messengers* is based on Romans 10:15b, 18b and is situated in the second part of the oratorio after the Tenor and Bass duet *Now We Are Ambassadors*. Hal Hopson wrote an arrangement for a three-voice part chorus.