



Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024 at 8:45am & 11:15am

Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School

9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.

THE GATHERING

PRELUDE • *What Wondrous Love is This*

Gordon Young (1919–1998)

WELCOME

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠
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 • ELW 848 *Give to Our God Immortal Praise*

DUKE STREET

All turn, following the way of the cross.



1 Give to our God im - mor - tal praise! Mer - cy and
 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save from guilt and
 3 Give to the Lord of lords re - nown; the King of

truth are all his ways. Won - ders of grace to
 dark - ness and the grave. Won - ders of grace to
 kings with glo - ry crown. His mer - cies ev - er

God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 God be - long; re - peat his mer - cies in your song.
 shall en - dure when lords and kings are known no more!

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.**



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect 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.**

Please be seated.

THE WORD

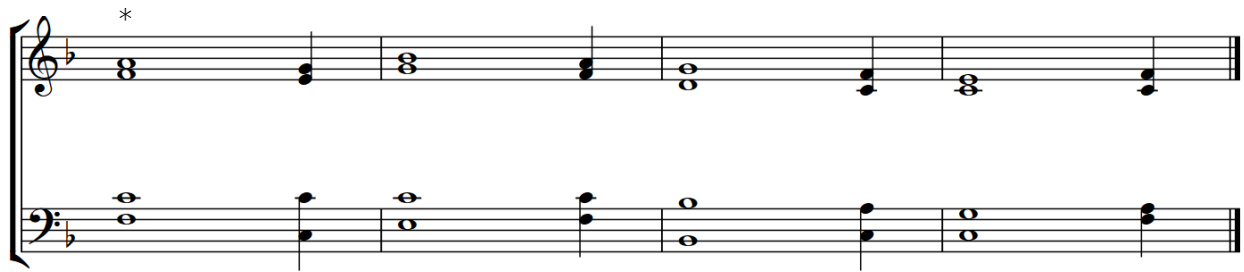
FIRST READING • Numbers 21:4-9

Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



- 1 Give thanks to the LORD, ' for the LORD is good,
for God's mercy endures forever.
- 2 Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,
- 3 gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, ' from the north and from the south.
- 17 Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.
- 18 They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death's door.
- 19 Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD
and you delivered them from their distress.
- 20 You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.
- *21 Let them give thanks to you, LORD, ' for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.
- 22 Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING • Ephesians 2:1-10

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus.
We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works
are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*

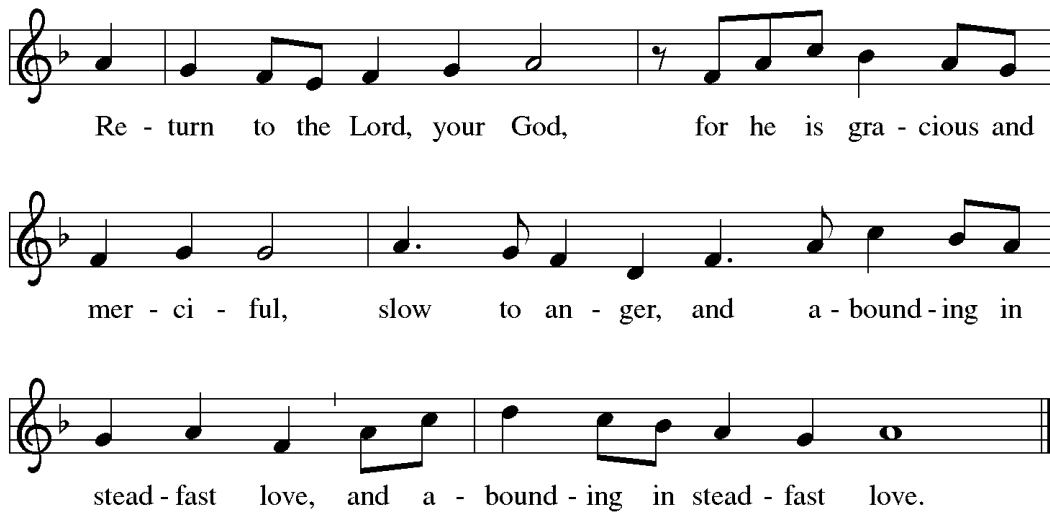
You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come

he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION • ELW Setting Three



GOSPEL READING • John 3:14-21

To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.

The holy gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus said: "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "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. "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. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil.

For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

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

SERMON

Pastor Miller

Please stand as you are able.

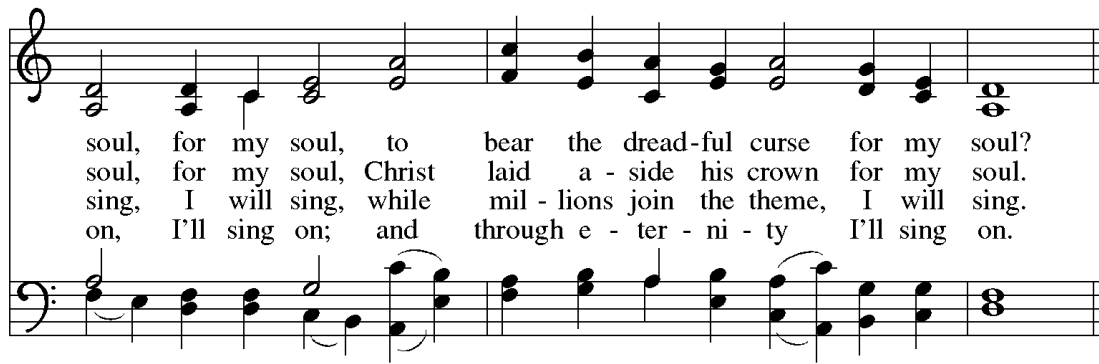
HYMN OF THE DAY • ELW 666 *What Wondrous Love is This*

WONDROUS LOVE

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



APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

After each portion of the prayers:



O Lord, hear our prayer we of-fer up to you; O Lord, hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us
You may also mail your checks to:

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

(8:45) OFFERTORY ANTHEM • *God So Loved the World*
Schola Cantorum

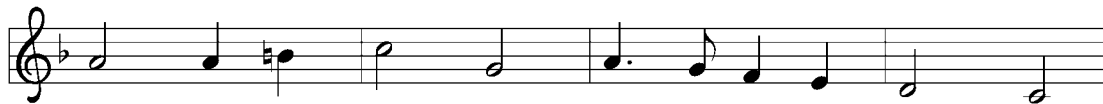
Sir John Stainer (1840–1901)

(11:15) OFFERTORY HYMN • ELW 342 *There in God's Garden*

SHADES MOUNTAIN



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!"



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
self - hood feed on its life - blood.
stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

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:

SANCTUS • ELW S190 *Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*

DEUTSCHE MESSE

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.

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 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.**

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,
así en la tierra como en el cielo.
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día;
perdona nuestras ofensas,
como nosotros perdonamos
a los que nos ofenden;
y no nos dejes caer en la tentación,
mas libranos del mal.
Porque tuyo es el reino,
el poder, y la gloria,
por los siglos de los siglos. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are stations at the foot of the chancel steps.

Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ.

(Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server)

Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew, please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

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:

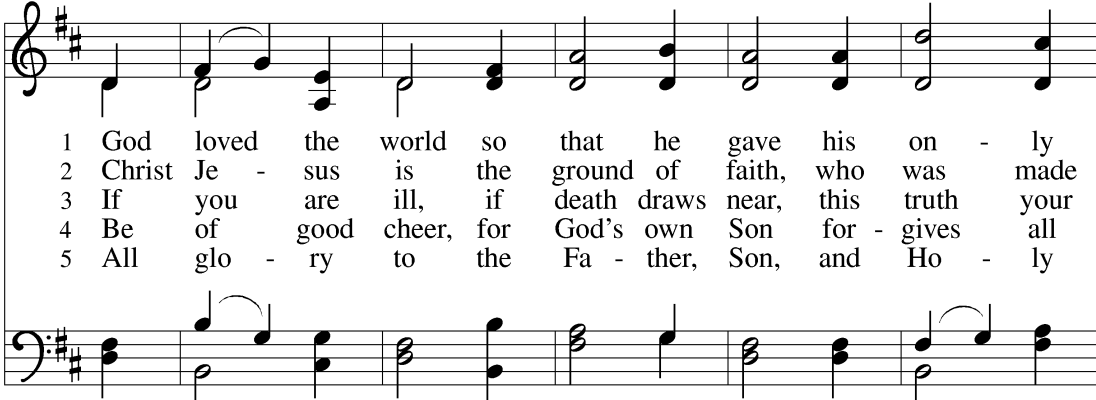
Amen.

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,

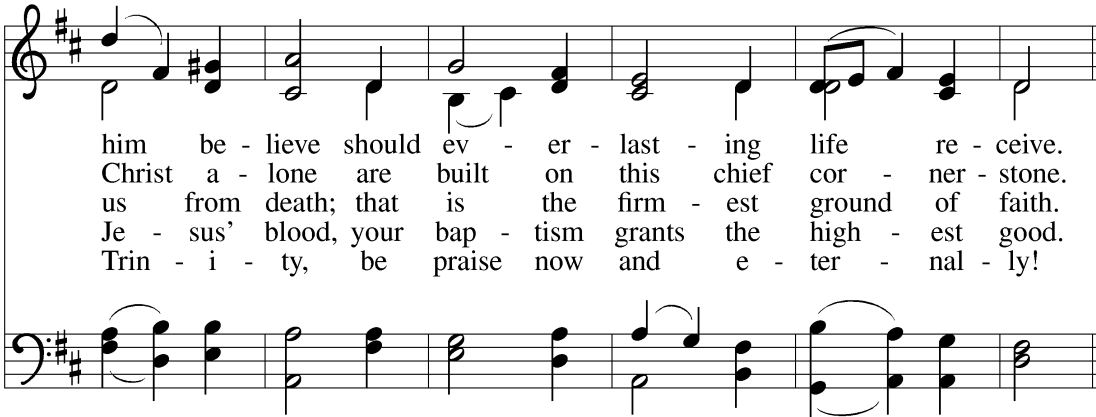
grant us peace, grant us peace.



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

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.

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of Life. **Amen.**

THE SENDING

BLESSING

God who names you, Christ who claims you,
and the Holy Spirit who dwells in you,
✠ bless you and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING HYMN • ELW 779 *Amazing Grace*

NEW BRITAIN

All turn, following the way of the cross.

1 A - maz - ing grace! — how sweet the sound — that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. You are God's beloved.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE • *Amazing Grace*

Mark Hayes (b. 1953)

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WORSHIP LEADERS:

PRESIDING MINISTERS

The Rev. Richard Graham
Pastor-in-Residence
The Rev. Rich Zawistoski
Confirmation Pastor

PREACHING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller
Senior Pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Deacon Kyle Warfield
Director of Discipleship and High School Ministries

READERS

8:45 a.m. Karen Evans
11:15 a.m. Bailey Sullivan

MUSICIANS

Adam Scott Graham
Interim Director of Music

Schola Cantorum

THIS WEDNESDAY IN LENT

7:00 p.m. (In person and Online)
March 13

Reflection: Pastor Hernandez

What comes to mind with you hear the word lament? What does it mean to sit with our grief, rather than push it aside? So many faithful believers have wrestled with grief, sorrow, and questions for God about why the innocent suffer. Let us this Lent explore the laments found in scripture and relearn the gift of holy lament.

Guaranteed to be a meaningful worship experience for our Lenten time together!

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS IN LENT

Jesus: My Song as I journey

7:00 a.m. Online at www.saintlukeonline.us
March 13

Reflection: Bishop Graham

We have sung the beautiful hymn, *Lord Jesus, You Shall be My Song as I Journey*, now and then, but what does it mean for Jesus to be our song each day? We thank Luther Seminary for this 2024 Lenten Devotional and will glean words and wisdom each Wednesday morning from this moving hymn, ELW 808. Imagine Jesus as a song of life, a song of peace, a song of love. Let us “sing.”



A NEW KIND OF EASTER LILY

Back by popular demand, it's the new kind of Easter Lily. **This year it looks much like a food card, much needed as we care for those in our local area. More than ever, so many around us are food insecure.**

Yes, this year instead of giving Easter lilies in remembrance or in honor of a loved one, we are doing the same, only giving to eradicate hunger in our community.

Each month, Saint Luke distributes aid to those referred by agencies. The number right now is growing and we especially think of the children. Now more than ever these gifts continue to be needed.

Please consider giving an Easter Lily for local hunger relief. All dedications will be printed in the worship bulletin for the festival Easter services.

Deadline for all dedications: Wednesday, March 27

[CLICK HERE](http://sldedication.us) to give this year's "new kind of Easter lily" or go to sldedication.us

HOLY WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

Sunday, March 24 - Sunday, March 31

SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. and 11:15 a.m.

DRAMATIC READING OF THE PASSION ACCORDING TO ST. MARK

MONDAY/TUESDAY/WEDNESDAY

12:00 noon READINGS/PRAYERS FOR HOLY WEEK **Online Only**

MAUNDY THURSDAY

7:00 p.m. Full Liturgy, Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY

12:00 – 3:00 p.m. SEVEN LAST WORDS FROM THE CROSS

(Seven different meditations)

7:00 p.m. CHORAL SERVICE

The Seven Last Words of Christ

Théodore Dubois

Choir, Orchestra, Word, Prayers

HOLY SATURDAY

10:00 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt

EASTER SUNDAY

8:45 a.m. FESTIVAL WORSHIP

10:00 a.m. EASTER FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENTS

11:15 a.m. FESTIVAL WORSHIP

THIS WEEK AT SAINT LUKE

SUNDAY, March 10—Lent 4B

8:00am Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
8:45am Worship (Hybrid)
10:00am Sunday School
10:00am SLSHY
10:00am Affirmation of Baptism Class
10:00am Up for Discussion (Hybrid)
11:15am Worship (Hybrid)
5:00pm San Lucas Misa (Hybrid)
5:00pm AA

MONDAY, March 11

8:00am CDS Classes
1:00pm CDS Aftercare
4:00pm After School Art Program - Langley Park
6:00pm Yoga
6:00pm Alvarez Memorial Service
7:00pm ESL Class

TUESDAY, March 12

8:00am CDS Classes
9:00am CDS Puppet Show
10:00am Mary/Martha Circle (Hybrid)
1:00pm CDS Aftercare
1:30pm Program Staff Meeting
4:00pm Piano Lessons
7:00pm Reformation Bells
7:00pm Girl Scouts
7:00pm ESL Class

WEDNESDAY, March 13

7:00am Zoom Faith Connections
7:00am Lenten Devotion (Online)
8:00am CDS Classes
10:00am Women in Community
10:00am CDS Chapel
1:00pm CDS Aftercare
3:00pm En Camino: Children's Tutor Program
5:30pm RSCM Choristers Rehearsal
7:00pm Lenten Worship
7:00pm ESL Class
7:30pm Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
7:30pm AA

THURSDAY, March 14

6:30am Parking Lot Ministry - Langley Park

8:00am CDS Classes
1:00pm CDS Aftercare
2:45pm Caring Project: Children's Tutor Program
7:30pm Centering Prayer (Zoom)
8:30pm AA

FRIDAY, March 15

8:00am CDS Classes
12:00pm Food Ministry

SATURDAY, March 16

8:00am Food Distribution: Langley Park
9:30am Quilters
9:30 am AA
10:00 am Visitation
11:00am Memorial Service
11:00am Al-Anon

SUNDAY, March 17—Lent 5B

8:00am Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
8:45am Worship (Hybrid)
10:00am Sunday School
10:00am SLSHY
10:00am Affirmation of Baptism Class
10:00am Up for Discussion (Hybrid)
10:10am Making Connections 2.0
11:15am Worship/Holy Baptism (Hybrid)
3:30pm Girl Scouts
5:00pm AA

NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed