



NATIVITY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4517 Mt. Royal Blvd., Allison Park, PA 15101

(412) 346-4971

e-mail: NativityLC@verizon.net

www.nativitylutheranchurch15101.org

Caring, Witnessing, Serving



1st Sunday of Lent

10:15 a.m.

March 9, 2025

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ELW - SETTING V

-----*-----

INTRODUCTION

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

P: = *Pastor*

W: = *Worship Assistant*

A: = *All in Attendance*

**indicates congregation should stand if able.*

(During the procession and recession please turn to face the Processional Cross and follow its movements to and from the Altar).

PRELUDE

GATHERING AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

P: Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship:

(a moment of silence for reflection as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.)

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

A: Amen

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

Silence is kept for reflection

P: Compassionate One,

A: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

A: Amen.



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - 'ling days are done.

*GREETING

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

A: And also with you.

Leader

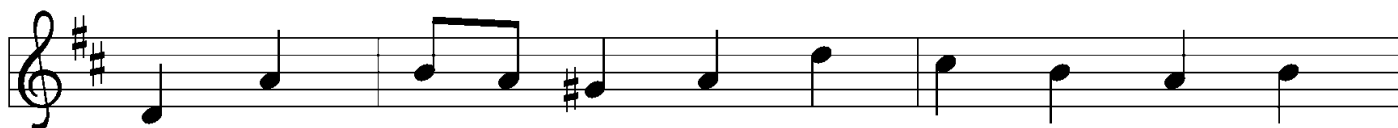


OĽce nebeský, Svoritel' u sveta, Bo - že, zmi - ľuj sa nad na - mi.
 1 O God, Father in heav - en, have mer - cy up - on us.
 2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer - cy up - on us.
 3 O God, Holy Spir - it, have mer - cy up - on us.

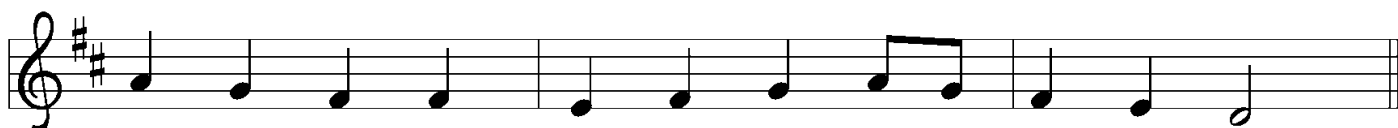
All



Vie - me to, Pa - ne Bo - že náš, že sa na
 Your heart, O God, is grieved, we know, by ev - 'ry
 Your arms ex - tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
 O lav - ish Giv - er, come to aid the chil - dren



nás hrieš - nych hne - váš, sved - či o tom smrt'
 e - vil, ev - 'ry woe; up - on your cross - for -
 death and grasp of grave; your scars be - fore the
 that your word has made. Now make us grow and



ne - vin - ná Tvoj - ho je - di - né - ho Sy - na.
 sak - en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
 Fa - ther move his heart to mer - cy at such love.
 help us pray; bring joy and com - fort, come to stay.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

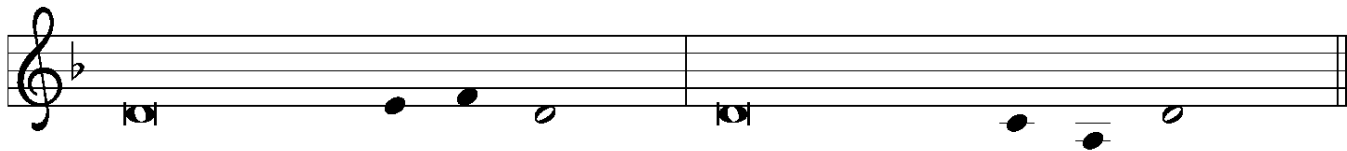
¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

During Lent, we will be singing the Psalm responsively



Refrain: God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

W: ¹ You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—

A: ² **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust.” R**

W: ⁹ Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,

A: ¹⁰ **no evil | will befall you,
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**

W: ¹¹ For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.

A: ¹² **Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone. R**

W: ¹³ You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.

A: ¹⁴ **I will deliver those who | cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**

W: ¹⁵ They will call me, and I will | answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.

A: ¹⁶ **With long life will I | satisfy them,
and show them | my salvation. R**

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b} “The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

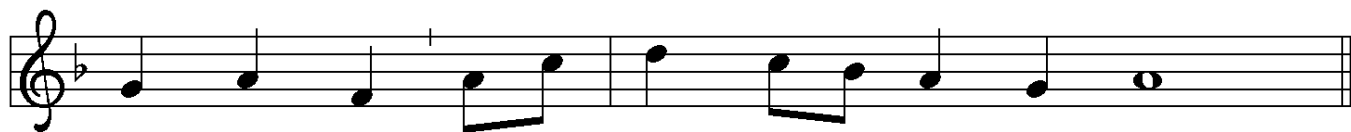
pg.142



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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the fourth chapter.

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13**

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸ Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

A: Praise to you, O Christ.

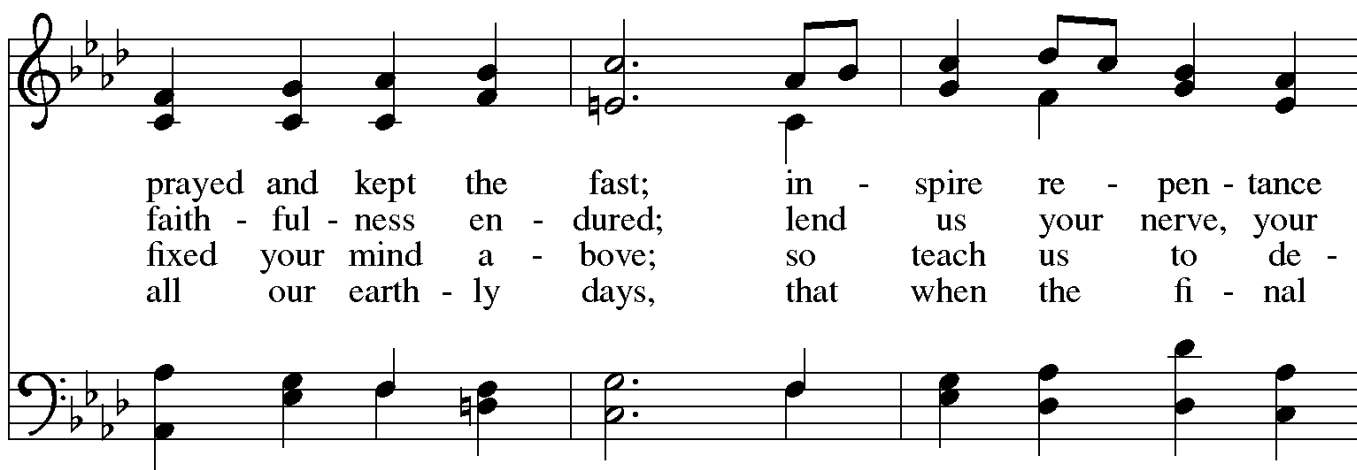
SERMON

*HYMN OF THE DAY: "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

ELW#319



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

P: Let us now confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

A: 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**

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

A brief silence.

W: Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. We pray for all those who witness and experience violence, especially the people of Ukraine, Russia, Haiti, the Middle East, regions of Africa, and wherever conflict and war exist in the world. God, in your mercy,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill. We pray especially for *Dave Miller, Debbie Pappa, Maryann Gilbert, Janet Liotta* and those we name in our hearts before you. God, in your mercy,

A: receive our prayer.

W: Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,

A: receive our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

A: Amen.

***PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

A: And also with you.

*OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW#188

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right

spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your

pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re -

store un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

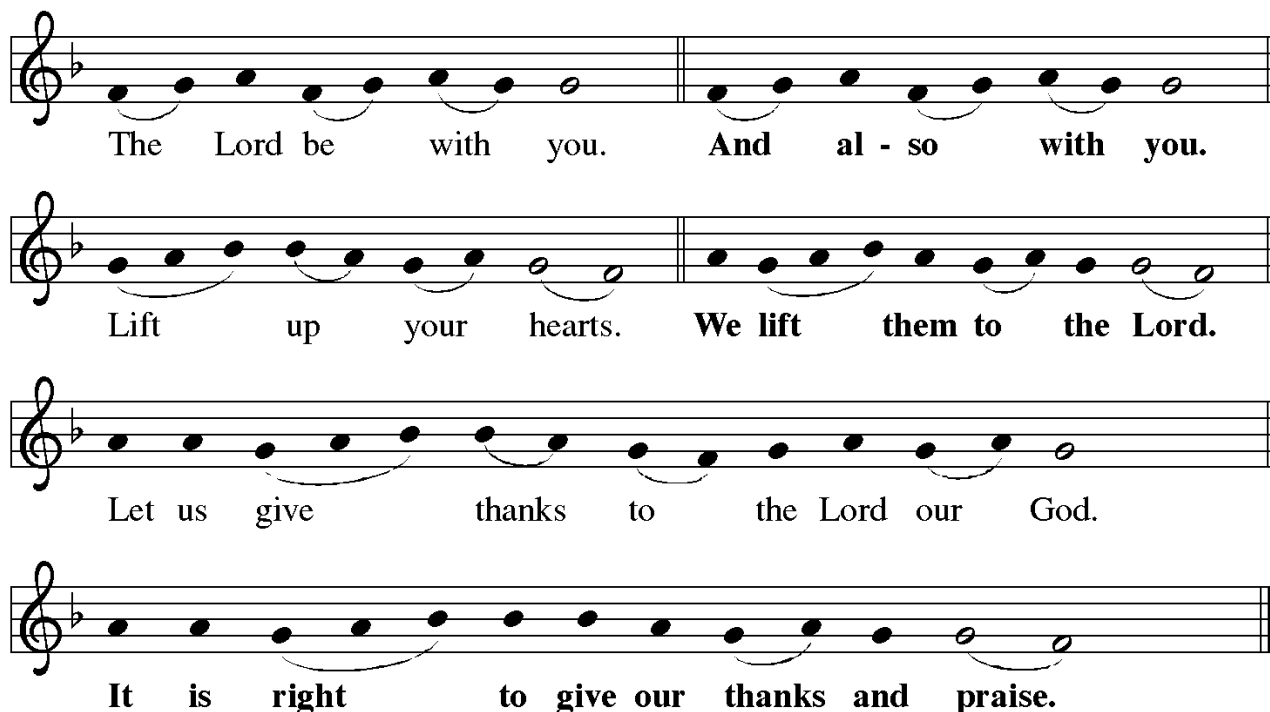
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

W: Let us pray together.

A: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING:

Pg. 161



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 our thanks and praise.

*THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. 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:

*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 in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.



Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

pg.111

P: Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth. Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood. Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea. Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey. Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one. Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ. Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

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.

With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

A: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

A: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

A: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.

A: Amen.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

A: 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.

***THE PRESENTATION:** The gifts of God for the people of God. Come for all is now ready.

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. A - men.

COMMUNION

There is a grape juice option in cups located in the communion trays for those who wish to abstain from wine. If you desire a gluten free wafer in lieu of the bread for communion, please let Pastor know.



1 You who dwell in the shel-ter of the Lord, who a-bide in this shad-ow for life,



say to the Lord: “My ref - uge, my rock in whom I trust!”



And he will raise you up on ea-gle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,



make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.



2 The snare of the fowl-er will nev-er cap-ture you, and fam-ine will bring you no



fear; un - der God’s wings your ref-uge, with faith-ful-ness your shield.



3 You need not fear the ter-ror of the night, nor the ar-row that flies by



day; though thou-sands fall a - bout you, near you it shall not come.

Continued on next page

***TABLE HYMN:**

“On Eagle’s Wings” (Cont’d)

ELW#787

4 For to the an-gels God’s giv-en a com-mand to

guard you in all of your ways; up-on their hands they will

bear you up, lest you dash your foot a- gainst a stone.

Final refrain

All

And he will raise you up on ea-gle’s wings, bear you on the breath of dawn,

make you to shine like the sun, and hold you in the palm of his hand.

And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

***TABLE BLESSING**

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

A: Amen

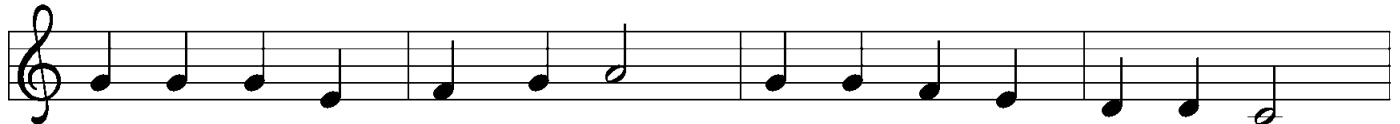
***POST COMMUNION CANTICLE: "On My Heart Imprint your image" ELW#811**



On my heart im - print your im - age, bless - ed Je - sus, king of grace,



that life's trou - bles nor its plea - sures ev - er may your work e - rase.



Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, all my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

W: Let us Pray, Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: Amen.

*** BLESSING**

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

A: Amen.

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
 2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
 your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
 We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

***DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*** Announcements ***

If you would like to **help decorate the chancel for Easter**, we are offering Easter lilies and assorted color tulips for purchase. Lilies are \$9.25 and tulips are \$7. Please indicate your choices on the [sign up Genius](#) or on the posted sheet across from the nursery. Deadline for ordering is Sunday, April 2. Please note "flowers" on your payment envelope. Flowers may be taken home following the Easter Sunday service.

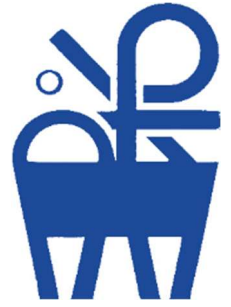
Join us for **Soup Supper Church (Dinner Church)**, Wednesdays in Lent, beginning THIS WEDNESDAY **March 12**. Our worship and our meal will be held in the fellowship hall, beginning at 6030pm. We are asking for volunteers to bring in soup, bread or dessert. Please see the signup sheet across from the kitchen. We will be singing Holden Evening Prayer for our first and last midweek service, with elements of a combination of Compline/Taizé for the weeks in-between services.

We are in need of **worship helpers and offering tellers** each week. We will also need some **offering tellers in April & May**. Feel free to use either the paper signup sheet by the flower chart or the on-line signup genius to volunteer.

Nativity will be supporting the **NHCO Personal Care Collection** again this year. Please see flyer posted on the bulletin board across from the kitchen, or visit the Missions/NCHO page of our website for a list of specific items needed. Please place your donations in the bins under the coat racks. Collection will run through March.

North Hills Community Outreach is currently in need of the following: Peanut Butter, Pasta Sauce, Granola Bars, Toilet paper, Tissues, Paper towels, Crackers. Please place all donations in the box labeled NCHO.

The Rev. Jennifer Soltis, Pastor



Organist: Alex Bednar
 Worship Assistant: Ken Saunders
 Lector: Jean Chantz
 Usher: Joe Coon
 Greeter: Lori Coon
 Videographer: Heather Johnson
 Altar Guild: Diana Mitchell
 Offering Tellers: Heather Johnson & Lori Coon

~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~  
 The flowers in the chancel this morning are presented by Milan Glock in memory of  
 Mildred Glock  
 ~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~

For the Week of March 9 - 15

MONDAY

Art Group – 1pm
 AA meeting – 7pm
 Bible Study (Zoom) – 7p

TUESDAY

WELCA – 10am

WEDNESDAY

Mid-Week Lenten Dinner Church – 6p

~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~\*\*~~~~

|                | <u>In-person</u> | <u>YouTube</u> | <u>Offering</u> |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| <b>March 2</b> | --               | --             | \$ --           |

**YTD Financial Summary as of February 28, 2025**

Revenue YTD \$ xxx  
 Expenses YTD \$ xxx  
 Difference YTD (-\$xxx)

For Pastoral care, you can contact Pastor Jennifer:  
[pastorjennifersoltis@gmail.com](mailto:pastorjennifersoltis@gmail.com) (570) 401-1764