



NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pearland, TX

Worship at 9:30 AM

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Holy Communion

March 30, 2025

*Our mission is to raise disciples planted in God's love,
growing in faithfulness and nourishing the world.*

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE

WELCOME – Pastor Kim Little-Brooks

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

All: 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,

**All: 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.

All: Amen.

OPENING HYMN *Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing (ELW 807)*

*1 Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.*

*2 Here I raise my Ebenezer:
"Hither by thy help I've come";
and I hope, by thy good pleasure,
safely to arrive at home.
Jesus sought me when a stranger,
wand'ring from the fold of God;
he, to rescue me from danger,
interposed his precious blood.*

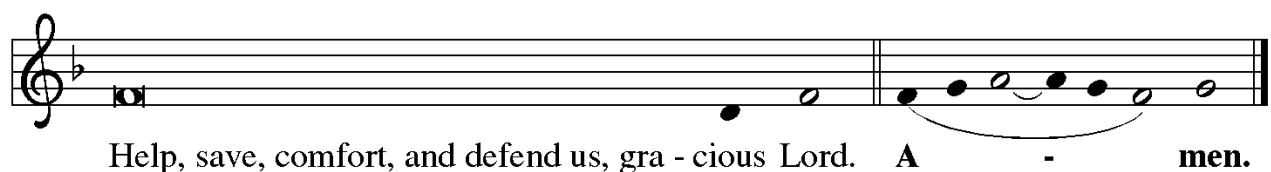
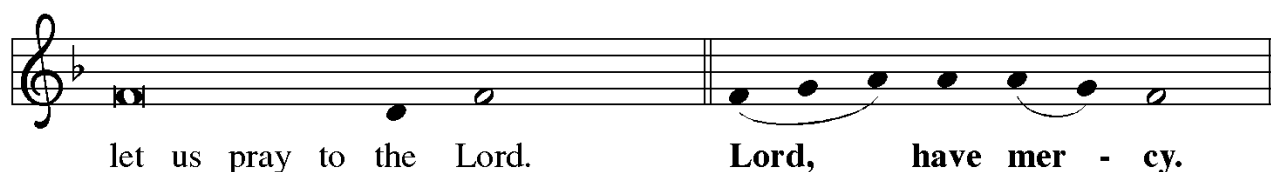
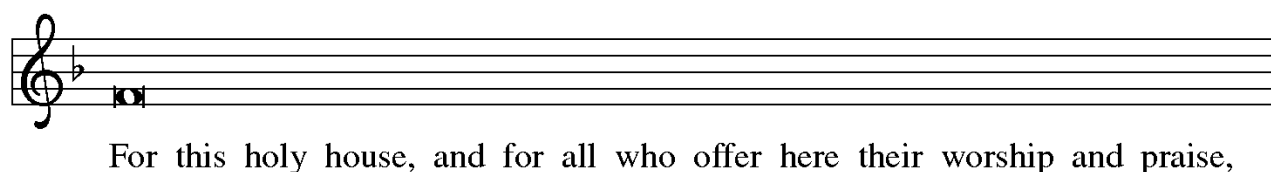
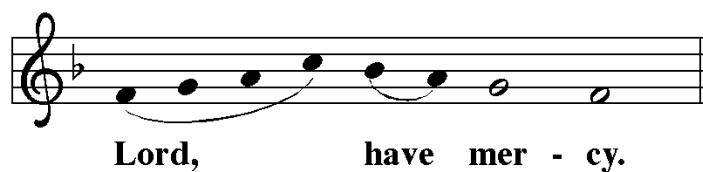
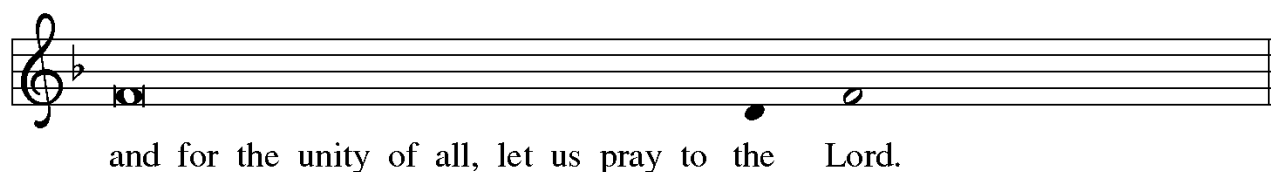
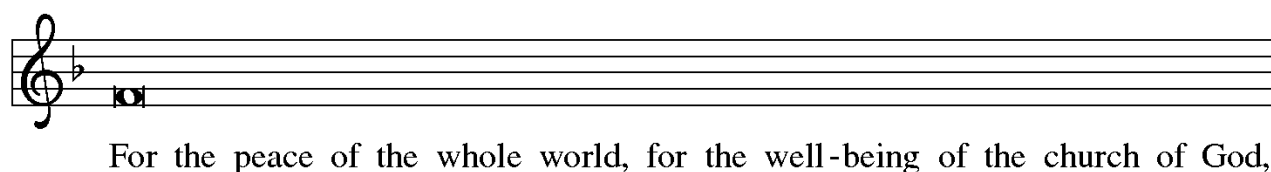
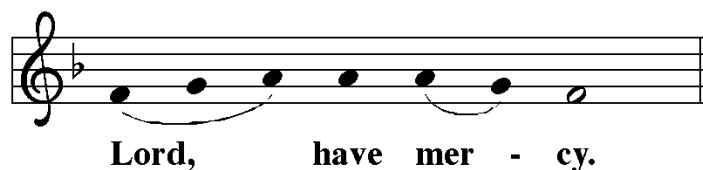
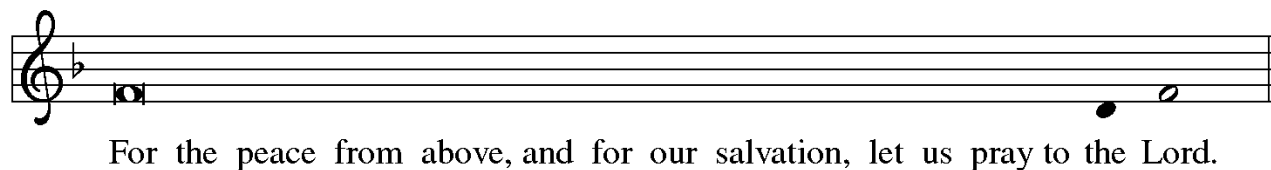
*3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor
daily I'm constrained to be;
let that grace now like a fetter
bind my wand'ring heart to thee.
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it;
prone to leave the God I love.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it;
seal it for thy courts above.*

GREETING

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

All: And also with you.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

All: Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Joshua 5:9-12:

⁹The 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.

¹⁰ 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. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² 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.

A: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32

Please read responsively.

A: ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

**All: ² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

A: ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

**All: ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

A: ⁵ 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.

All: ⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

A: ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

All: ⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

A: ⁹ 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."

All: ¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

A: ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart!

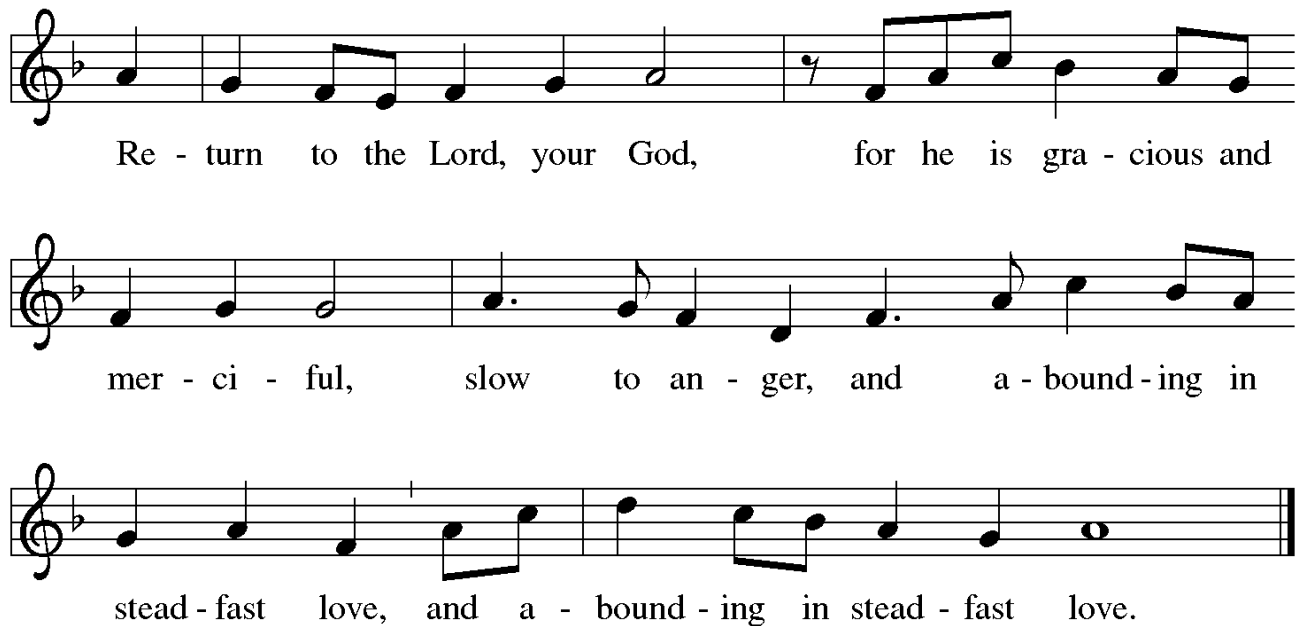
SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

A: ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ 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. ²⁰ 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. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

A: Word of God, word of life.

All: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL READING: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹ 1 Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: ^{11b} "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² 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. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ 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! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to

him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ²⁰ 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. ²¹ 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.' ²² 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. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ 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. ³⁰ But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³² 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.'"

P: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE – Pastor Kim Little-Brooks

SERMON – Pastor Kim Little-Brooks

**HYMN OF THE DAY: *Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling*
(ELW 608)**

1 Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching,
watching for you and for me.

Refrain "Come home, (Come home,)
come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
calling, "O sinner, come home!"

2 Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies,
mercies for you and for me? **Refrain**

3 Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised,
promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon,
pardon for you and for me. **Refrain**

APOSTLES' CREED

P: Joining together, let us confess our faith using the words of the
Apostles' Creed.

**All: 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

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

A brief silence.

A: God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

A: God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

A: God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

A: God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (especially). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

A: God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,

All: receive our prayer.

A: God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died (especially). We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,

All: 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.

All: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

The ministry of New Life Lutheran Church is made possible through the tithes, gifts, and offerings of the people. We encourage you to give as an act of worship today. You can offer a gift by texting to 281.864.3278, adding a dollar amount to the message box, and send. A link will appear for a one time set up. Once it is set up, it takes seconds to give again. You can also give through our website by scanning the QR code on the pew.

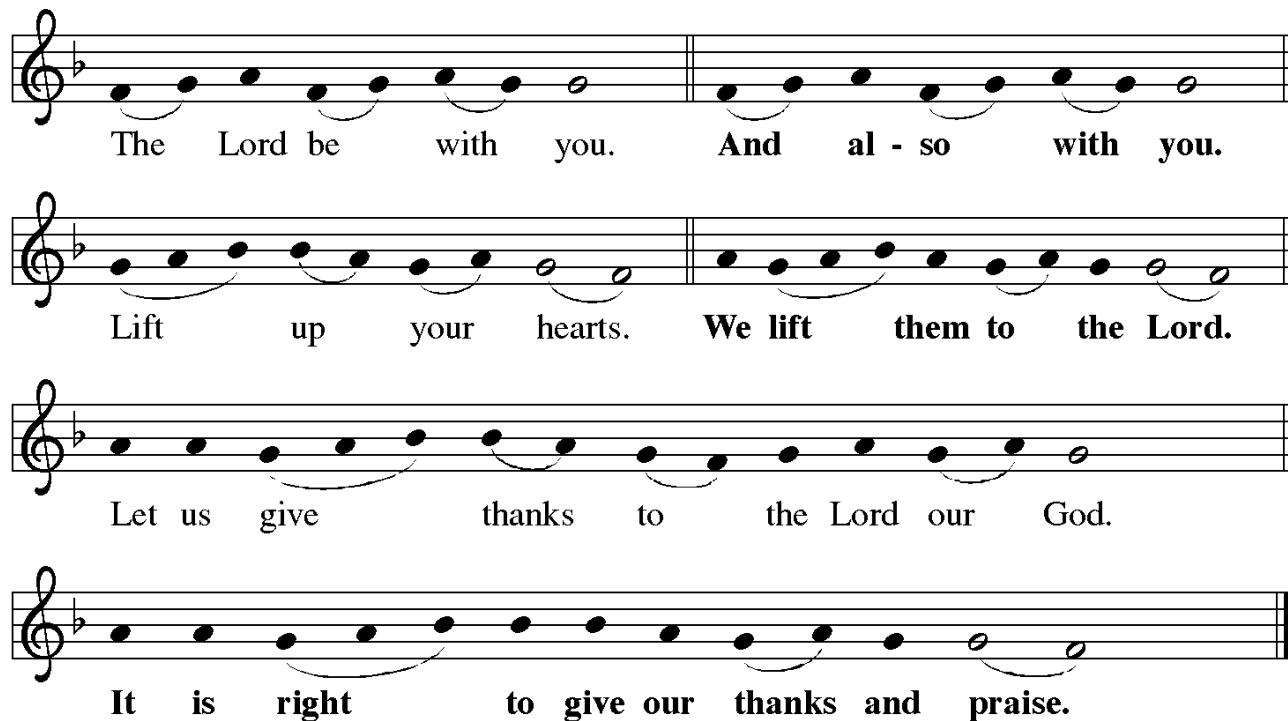
OFFERTORY – TRAVIS LAIRSON

OFFERING PRAYER

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.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



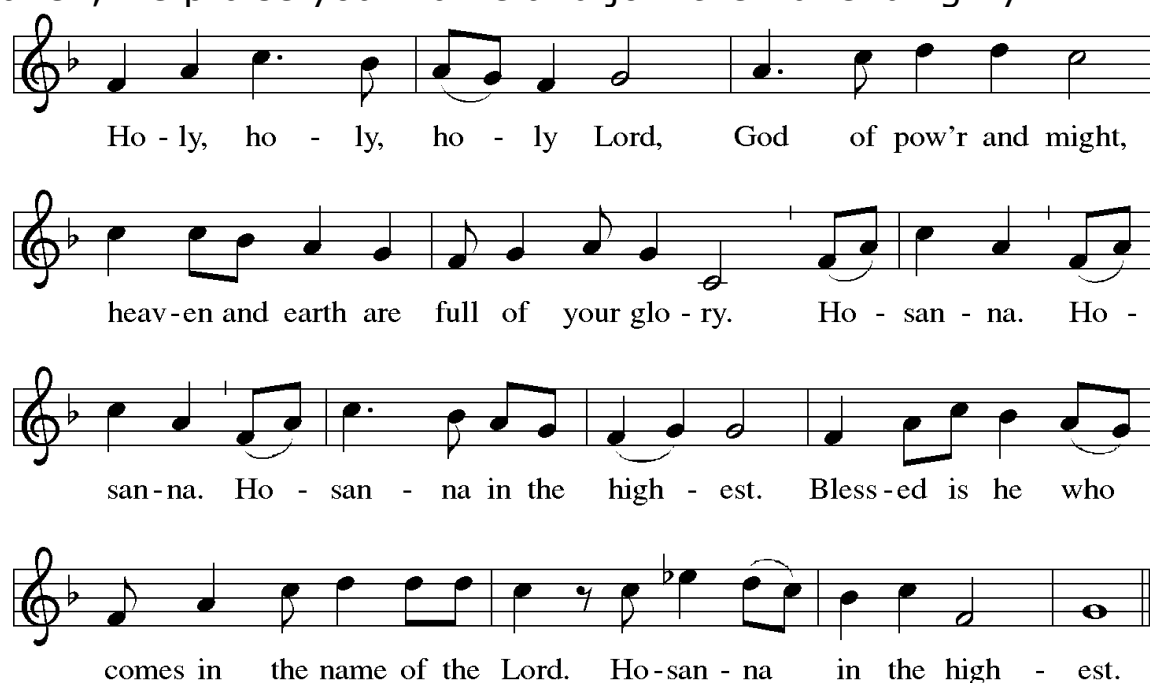
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

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:



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

heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -

san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

P: 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.

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

All: 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.

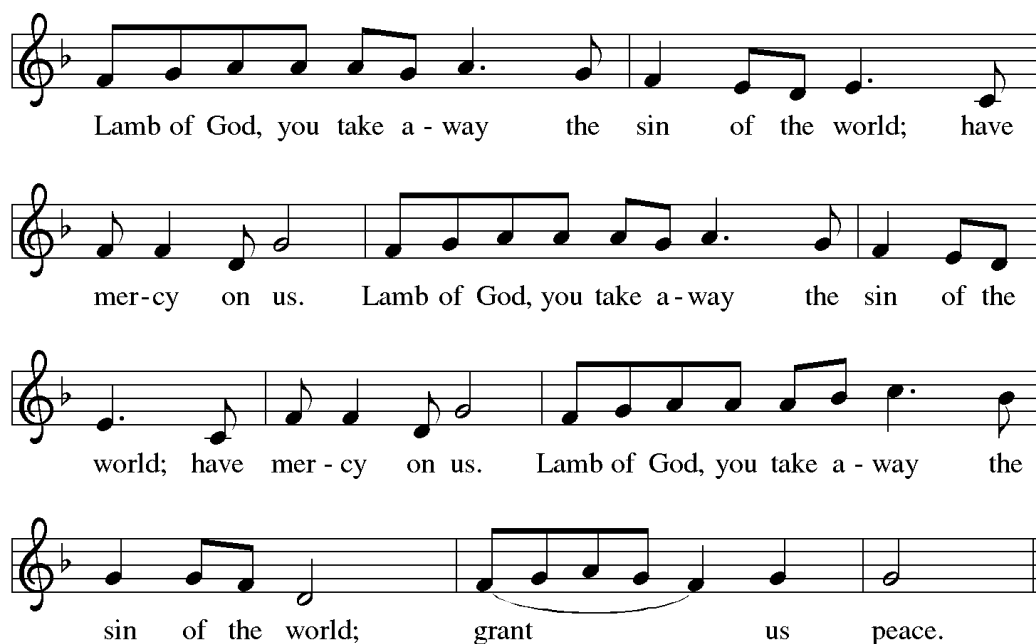
P: All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

All: Amen. Thanks be to God.

SHARING THE MEAL

Everyone is welcome to receive Jesus in bread and wine. This is Jesus' table and he welcomes all. Pre-filled communion packets are available in the Narthex if you would prefer to receive communion that way. Everyone else is invited to come down the center aisle maintaining two continuous lines. You will receive a piece of bread with the words, "The body of Christ given for you," and you can respond with, "Amen." Remain on the side of the section of pews you are sitting in. You will receive an individual cup of either wine (red) or grape juice (clear) with the words, "The blood of Christ shed for you," and you can respond with, "Amen." There is a basket available for your empty cup. You will then return to your pew from the side aisle.

LAMB OF GOD



COMMUNION HYMN *Now the Silence (ELW 460)*

Now the silence
Now the peace
Now the empty hands uplifted
Now the kneeling
Now the plea
Now the Father's arms in welcome

Now the hearing
Now the pow'r
Now the vessel brimmed for pouring
Now the body
Now the blood
Now the joyful celebration

Now the wedding
Now the songs
Now the heart forgiven leaping
Now the Spirit's visitation
Now the Son's epiphany
Now the Father's blessing
Now
Now
Now

COMMUNION HYMN *Just a Closer Walk with Thee (ELW 697)*

Refrain

Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it, Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.

¹ I am weak but thou art strong:
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I'll be satisfied as long
as I walk, let me walk close to thee. **Refrain**

² Through this world of toil and snares,
if I falter, Lord, who cares?
Who with me my burden shares?
None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee. **Refrain**

³ When my feeble life is o'er,
time for me will be no more;
guide me gently, safely o'er
to thy kingdom shore, to thy shore. **Refrain**

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

P: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bless
you, strengthen you, and keep you in God's grace.

All: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven.
Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for
justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of
grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit, ☩ bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG *My Life Flows On in Endless Song (ELW 763)*

¹ My life flows on in endless song;
above earth's lamentation,
I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn
that hails a new creation.

Refrain: No storm can shake my inmost calm
while to that Rock I'm clinging.
Since Christ is Lord of heaven and earth,
how can I keep from singing?

² Through all the tumult and the strife,
I hear that music ringing.
It finds an echo in my soul.
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

³ What though my joys and comforts die?
The Lord my Savior liveth.
What though the darkness gather round?
Songs in the night he giveth. **Refrain**

⁴ The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart,
a fountain ever springing!
All things are mine since I am his!
How can I keep from singing? **Refrain**

DISMISSAL

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

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today is the Fourth Sunday in Lent: March 30, 2025

Worship: 9:30 AM

Sunday School: 10:30 AM

Sunday School for Everyone: Sunday School is at 10:30 AM. We have room for everyone, and you are welcome. Class options include: •Godly Play Class (Kindergarten through 6th grade) – downstairs Fellowship Hall classrooms, •Confirmation Class (7th through 8th grade and parents) – conference room in office building, •High School Class (9th through 12th grade) – library in office building, •Adult Sunday School – Video Class (Fellowship Hall with Nolan and Donna Patschke and Merideth Oliver)

Midweek Worship During Lent: Every Wednesday evening (ending April 9th) gather for a community meal and fellowship followed by worship. Join us for Soup Suppers at 5:30 PM (until 6:45) in the Fellowship Hall (sign-up sheets are in the narthex). At 7:00 PM we gather in the Sanctuary for worship.

Candy Donations: Church office is accepting candy donations for the Easter Egg Hunt. Candy must be individually wrapped (no candy with sticks).

First Communion Class: If your child is ready to begin receiving holy communion, please contact Pastor Kim Little Brooks, at email (pastor@newlifelutheran.com).

April Dates:

Palm Sunday: Join us to worship with palms, April 13th, 2025, 9:30 AM

Maundy Thursday: April 17th, 2025, Service at 7:00PM

Good Friday Fish Fry: April 18th, 2025, Dinner 5:30 Fish Fry and Service at 7:00PM

Easter Sunday: April 20th, Breakfast at 8AM, Egg Hunt at 9AM, Service at 9:30AM

Sign-up for Candy donations, Easter Lilies and Easter Breakfast Dishes.

Today's Worship Leaders (9:30 AM)

Assisting Minister
Communion Assistant
Usher
Technology

Cheryl Robinson
Linda Hudgens, Barbara Flowers
Vince Gottlieb
Ryan Strickland

*The flowers were given by Nancy and Roland Bryars in memory of
Nancy's parents, Betty and Virgil Peterson.
Altar Flowers Sign-up Sheet is located in the Narthex.*