

# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

When the Holy One speaks  
your truest name,  
the tempter comes  
to dispute the claim.  
**Resist!**

*This is my Son,  
my beloved.*

Matthew 3:17

*As if you are  
God's Son*

#earlysermonseeds

Matthew 4:3, 6

*February 26, 2023*  
*10:00am*

# GATHERING

## Prelude

Meditation on BEECH SPRING  
Prelude on BEECHER

Jaebon Hwang  
Jaebon Hwang

## Welcome

### Introduction

On Ash Wednesday we begin our forty-day journey toward Easter with a day of fasting and repentance. Marking our foreheads with dust, we acknowledge that we die and return to the earth. At the same time, the dust traces the life-giving cross indelibly marked on our foreheads at baptism. While we journey through Lent to return to God, we have already been reconciled to God through Christ. We humbly pray for God to make our hearts clean while we rejoice that “now is the day of salvation.” Returning to our baptismal call, we more intentionally bear the fruits of mercy and justice in the world.

### Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of God,  
who makes a way in the wilderness,  
walks with us,  
and guides us in our pilgrimage.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy One,

**we confess that we have wandered far from you:  
we have not trusted your promises,  
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,  
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,  
we have failed to recognize you in our midst.  
Have mercy on us!  
Forgive us and turn us again to you.  
Teach us to follow in your ways,  
assure us again of your love,  
and help us to love our neighbor.  
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
the Word draws near to you,  
and all who call out to God shall be saved.  
In Jesus, God comes to you again and again  
and gathers you under wings of love.  
In † Jesus’ name, your sins are forgiven.  
God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.  
**Amen.**

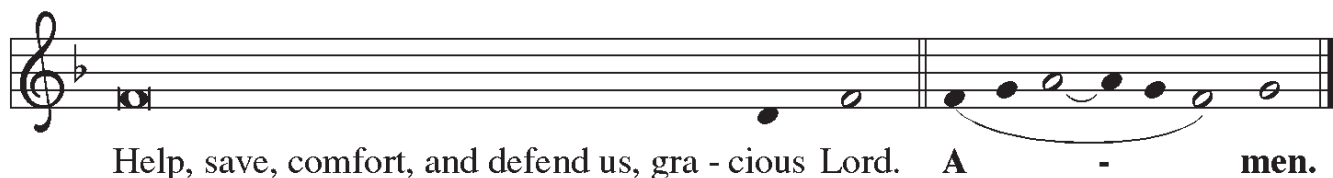
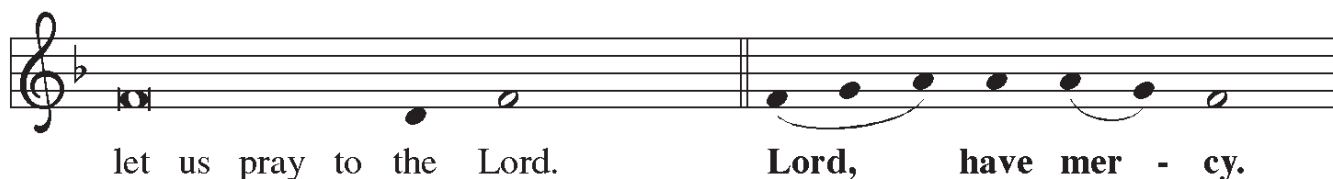
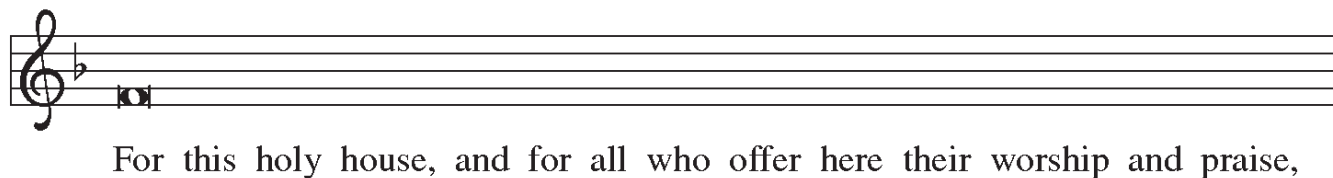
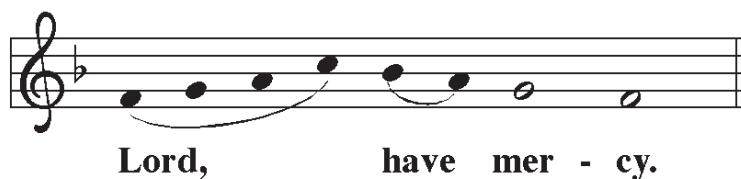
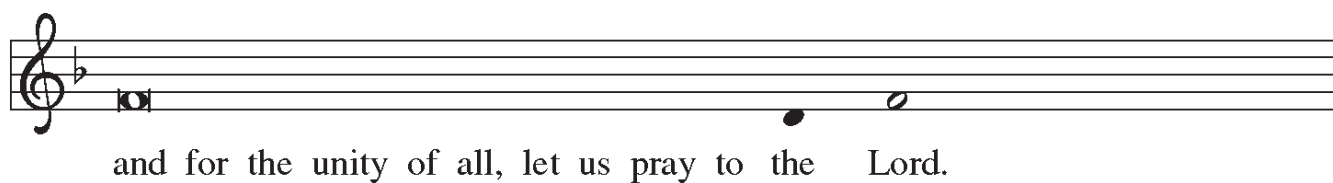
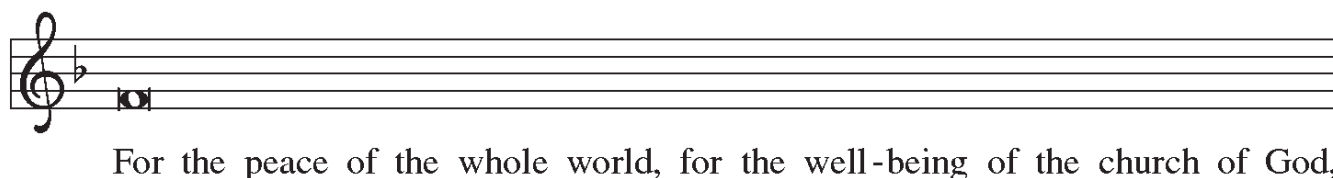
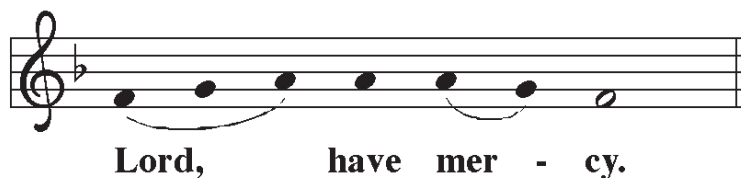
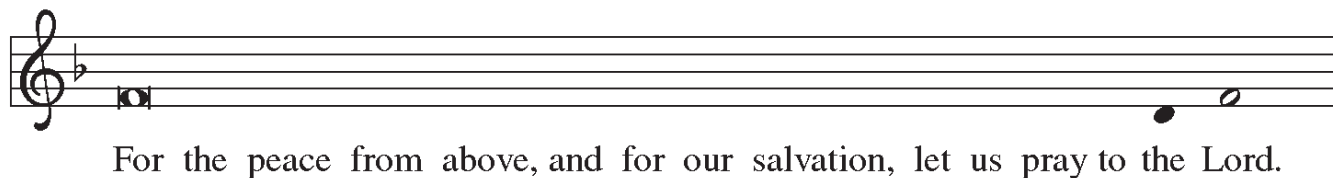
## Hymn

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days (CONSOLATION)

#319

## Apostolic Greeting

# Kyrie



## Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

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## WORD

### Children's Message

#### First Reading: Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7

<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

#### Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10

<sup>20</sup>We entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

<sup>6:1</sup>As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. <sup>2</sup>For he says, “At an acceptable time I have listened to you, and on a day of salvation I have helped you.”

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! <sup>3</sup>We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, <sup>4</sup>but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, <sup>5</sup>beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; <sup>6</sup>by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, <sup>7</sup>truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; <sup>8</sup>in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; <sup>9</sup>as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; <sup>10</sup>as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Anthem

Lamb of God, What Wondrous Love      Gabriel Faure, Arr. Allan Robert Petker

Lamb of God, what wondrous love,  
what wondrous love, O my soul.

Here, O Lord, am I, fearful, sinful,  
guilty and condemned,  
Thy death is surely mine.

Love, such love, that Thou shouldst die,  
that Thou for me should'st die

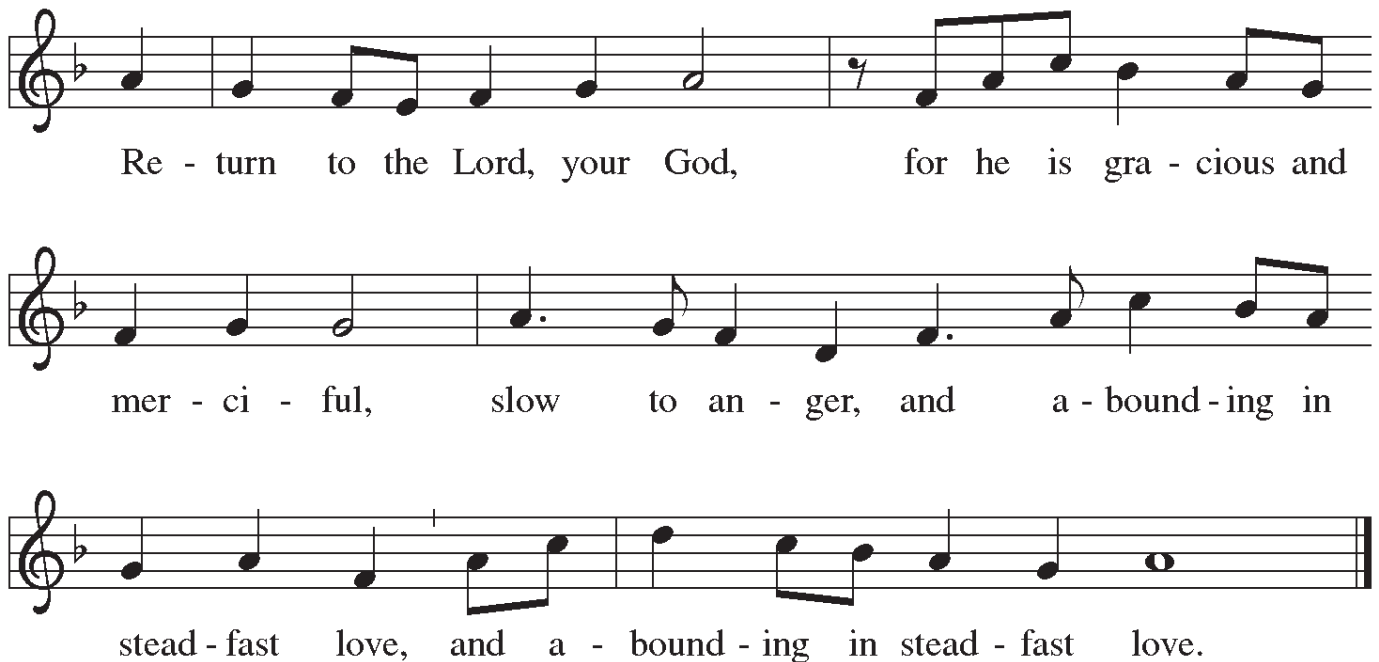
Cross of God, I would to turn away,  
yet Love it bids me stay, O my soul.

Lord of Grace, what matchless love,  
What matchless love, O my soul.

Can it be the very death I fear  
is that which draws me near, Lord to Thee?  
Lamb of God, Thou died for me.

Son of God, Thou loving sacrifice,  
Thou loving sacrifice for me.

## 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.

The Gospel for today is from Matthew the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. <sup>2</sup>He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup>But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth  
of God.'

<sup>5</sup>Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup>saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'  
and 'On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'

<sup>7</sup>Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>8</sup>Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; <sup>9</sup>and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup>Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”  
<sup>11</sup>Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon** Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

**Hymn** Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery (verses 1, 2, 3, & Lent 1) #334

**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 the Church**

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*A brief silence.*

... Merciful God,  
**receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

**Amen.**

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MEAL

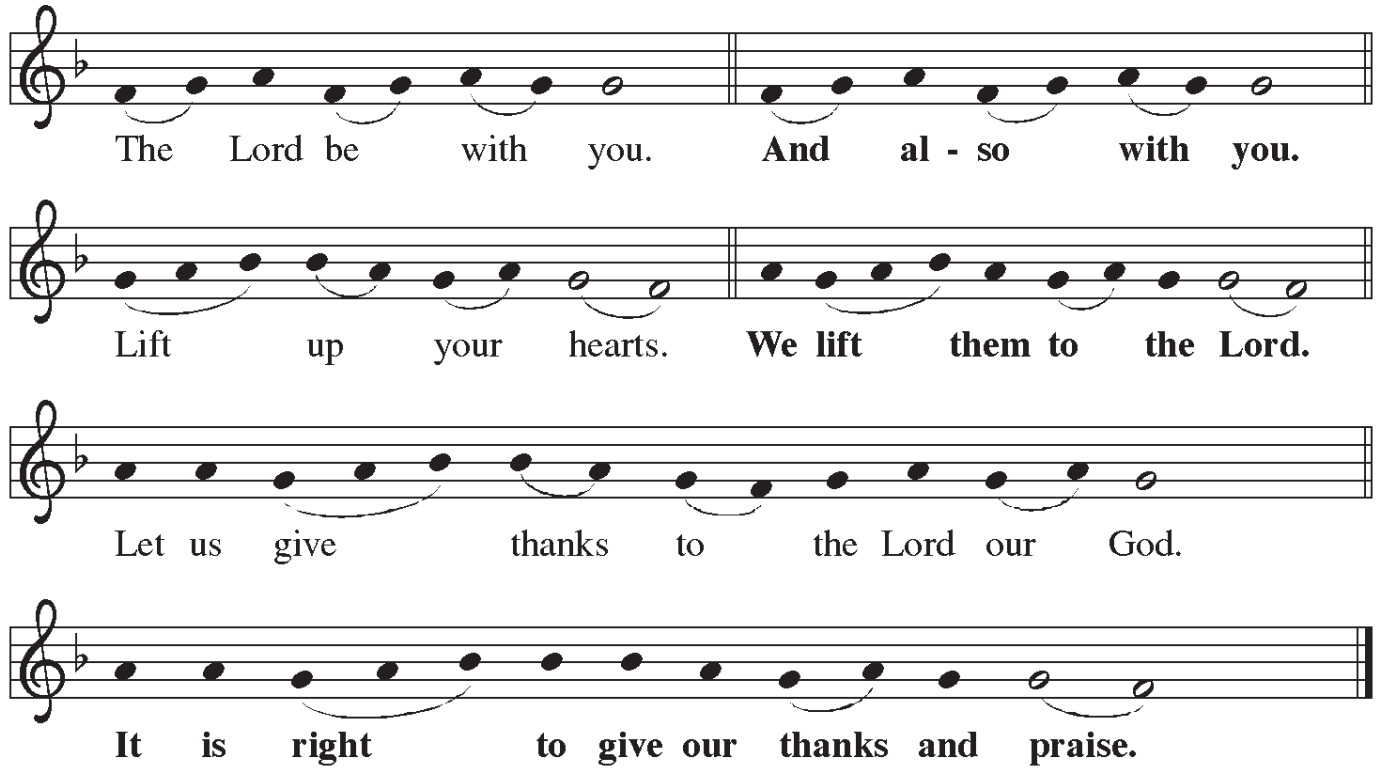
**Offering**

## Offertory Prayer

God of good gifts,  
receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel.  
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus,  
the wellspring of eternal life.

**Amen.**

## Great Thanksgiving



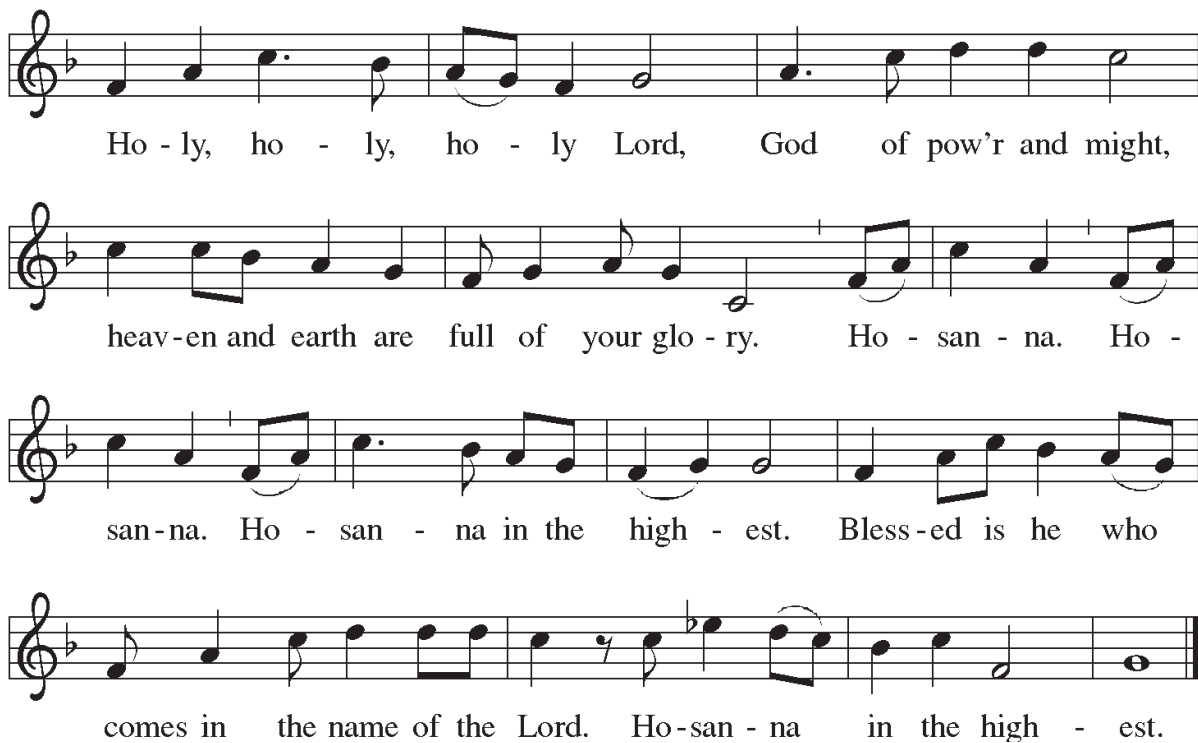
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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.

It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ... 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

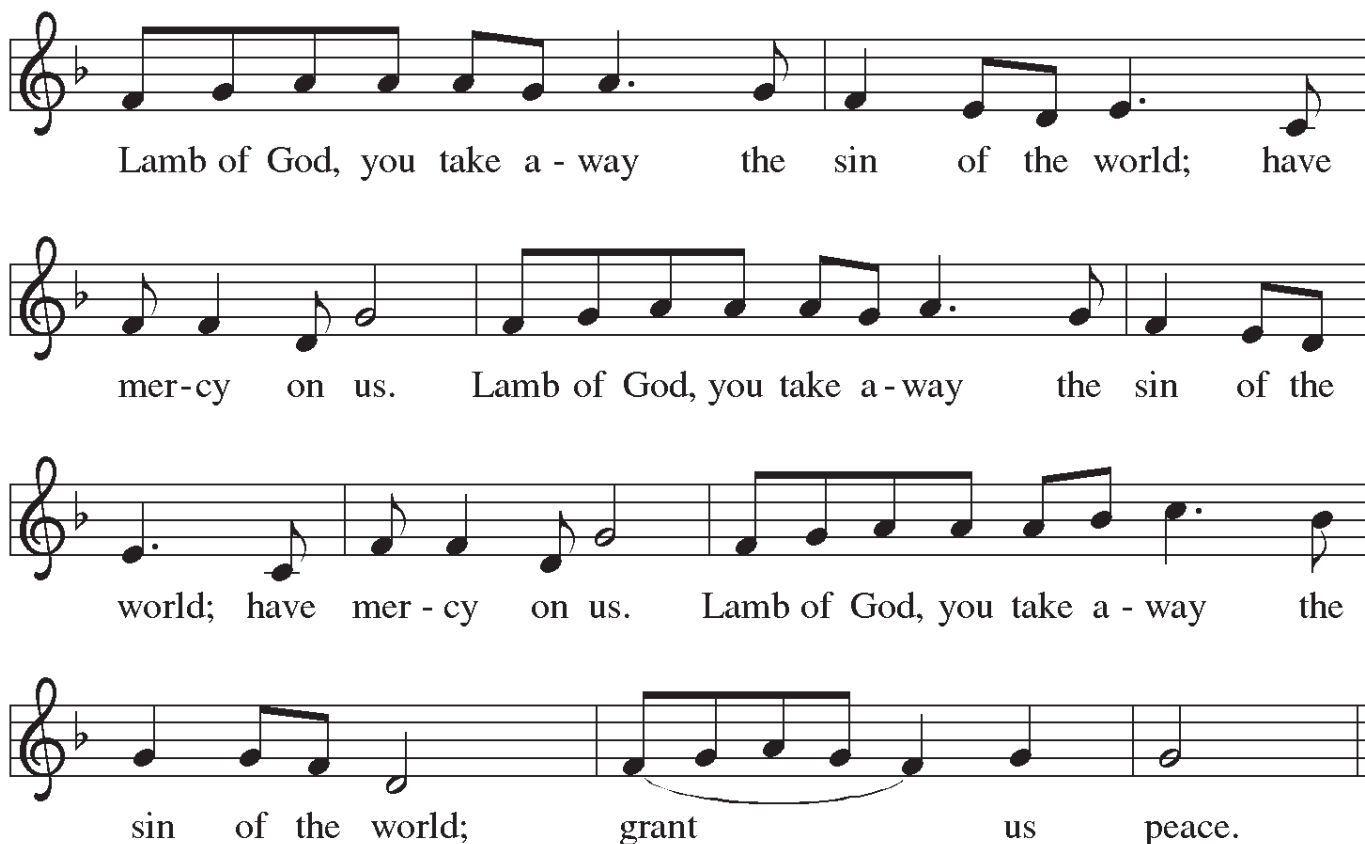
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

### Lord's Prayer

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.

### Communion



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.

Solo: Guide My Feet  
Diana Cataldi, soprano

Jacqueline Hairston



## Prayer After Communion

Embodied God,

at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

**Amen.**

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## SENDING

### Blessing

God, the giver of love,

† Christ, the resurrection and the life,

and the Holy Spirit of rebirth

bless you in this Lenten journey.

**Amen.**

### Sending Hymn

When Peace like a River

#785

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Postlude

A Mighty Fortress

J.S. Bach

*You are welcome to come up and receive ashes during the postlude if you desire.*

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**Minister:** Rev. Phil Ruge-Jones

**Assisting Minister:** Molly Wilson

**Reader:** Nora Gerber

**Organist:** Elaine Mann

**Choir Director:** Diana Cataldi

**Flutist:** Sarah Jacobs



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## Weekly Calendar

SUNDAY (26<sup>th</sup>)  
Coffee Hour – 9am

WEDNESDAY  
Crafters – 10am

Text Study – 12pm  
Lenten Service – 6pm  
Choir Rehearsal – 7pm

THURSDAY  
Pacibells Rehearsal – 6pm

SUNDAY (5<sup>th</sup>)  
Coffee Hour – 9am  
Worship – 10am

Other groups using the building this week: Quakers, Northwest Synod, Scouts, Equid Dance, JONAH Affordable Housing, Randall Park Neighborhood Association

## Please Help Us Replenish the Blessing Box

Our Blessing Box, located at the front entrance of Grace Church, provides nonperishable food as well as hygiene items to our neighbors in need. Our Blessing Box is extremely low! Please help up fill the basket in the Narthex with nonperishable and personal hygiene items for collection.

We will not be collecting canned goods or liquid items during the winter since they may freeze and explode.



### Suggested Items

- |                   |              |
|-------------------|--------------|
| Cereal            | Soap         |
| Packaged Soup     | Toothpaste   |
| Tuna Pouches      | Scarves      |
| Granola Bars      | Gloves       |
| Crackers          | Hats         |
| Packaged Noodles  | Hand warmers |
| Packaged Potatoes | Socks        |
| Peanut Butter     |              |

You are always welcome to put your items directly in the Blessing Box at any time. Thank you for your continued support!

## Sunday School

Sunday school will take place during the service right after the Children's Message on the following days.

- March 5
- March 19

## Nine-to-Dine

Life and Growth Ministry will start the sign-up for Nine-to-Dine after Easter, with get-togethers in late Spring or early Summer, when the weather will be nicer. We need host/hostesses to offer their home for a meal. The guests will share in bringing the food.



# Needs List

It is COLD out there!  
Please help us to keep  
our brothers and sisters safe by  
donating!

We accept clean, gently used items.  
Please check for working zippers,  
buttons, etc. We appreciate you!

Donations can be dropped off Mon-  
Thurs, 830a-1230p:

**Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd**  
**1120 Cedar Street**  
**Eau Claire, WI 54703**

Monetary gifts can be mailed to:

**Chippewa Valley Street Ministry**  
**P.O. Box 51**  
**Eau Claire, WI 54702**

- or -

Online via PayPal by going to our Facebook pag  
or website:

**Facebook.com/chippewavalleystreetministry**  
**chippewavalleystreetministry.org**

## Current Needs:

Sweatpants, especially Large and Extra Large

Gloves and Mittens, XI and larger -- please, no dress-type  
items

Heavy stocking caps

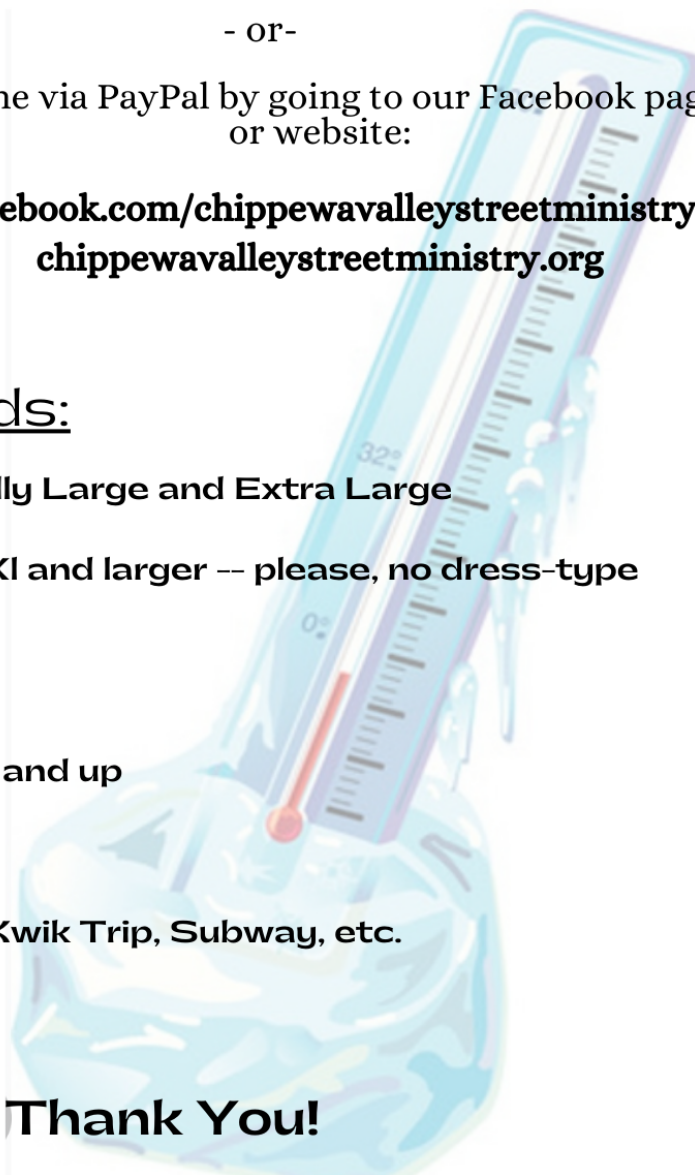
Thermal tops - Large and up

Monetary donations

Gift cards - Holiday, Kwik Trip, Subway, etc.

Handwarmers

**Thank You!**



If you are willing to host, please let Barb Piper know (in person or 715-529-6900 or [bpiper2007@yahoo.com](mailto:bpiper2007@yahoo.com)).

## Offering Envelopes

Unfortunately the company we ordered our offering envelopes from is experiencing a paper shortage and will not be able to fulfill our order until the end of February. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause. Feel free to use any envelope you have to send us your offerings. If you attend worship, there will be a stack of envelopes in the back of the church you can use for your contributions.

### FREE Foot and Nail Care

CLINIC FOR THE COMMUNITY

Do you struggle to care for your own feet and nails? Don't miss this FREE clinic!

**April 24-28** | Grace Lutheran Church, Eau Claire  
**Registration opens April 10, call 715-836-3636**

Continuing Education | University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire



## Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org)

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: [pastorphil@grace-church.org](mailto:pastorphil@grace-church.org)

Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org> go to "Our Ministry."

*Bulletins can also be found at <https://grace-church.org/> under the "Our Ministry."*

Recordings of worship services are also broadcast on:

- Televised on Sundays 10:30am WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)
- Radio Service Sunday 8:30am WAYY 790 AM

If you missed one of our services, they are posted at "Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin" YouTube page <https://www.youtube.com/channel/Uck3CdLQ1sDO6esaa3zUMKCQ>

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Thursday by 12:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org) or by calling the office at 715-832-9713