

MARCH 22

ST JOHN LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE WEEKLY UPDATE

2026

Welcome to St. John Lutheran Church! **Today is the Fifth and final Sunday in Lent.** We are delighted to have you worship with us. All who have come to worship are heartily welcomed. Let us joyfully open our hearts to God and one another. If you'd like to connect with us, share a prayer request, or learn more about St. John, please complete a yellow communication card located on the back of the pews and place it in the offering plate.

PRAYER REQUESTS

When we pray for each other, we demonstrate Christ's love for each of us

For **Scott Arnett**, son-in-law of Jonette Christy, in the hospital dealing with mini strokes and a mass in his lungs

For **Logan Rutter**, grandson of Ed and Freda Rutter, home from the hospital, recovering at home

For **Bill Meyer**, in Clear Sky Rehabilitation Hospital in Lancaster, with continued health issues

For **Heather Moore**, daughter-in-law of Mike & Willie Moore, dealing with a health issue

For **Alan Ott**, grandson of Michele (Mike) Moore, diagnosed with a tumor at the base of the brain

For **Karma Wisecarver**, daughter of Lee & Peggy Smith, is doing another new treatment in her cancer journey

For **Brian Fowler**, as he slowly recovers from West Nile Virus

Continued prayers for **Jim Fogle**, **Jon & Linda Leist**, and **Linda Miller**

If you have a prayer request, please reach out to Sue Mason, who will email our church members. She can be reached at: 614-260-1107 or at susiemase3@hotmail.com.



The altar flowers are given by great grandparents Jerrilynn and Roger Ripley to the glory of God and in honor of the baptism of Lincoln James Allen Ripley

The **\$750 quarterly monetary donation that church council approved from the St John MEF** was used to shop for the Bloom-Carroll Pantry Mission. Shoppers and/or deliveries included Sue & Gary Mason, Gina Meyers, Bob Nelson, and Neva Hornbeck. This donation will certainly help local families in need.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS



Maddie Dillon

March 23

Judy Storts

March 25

Amy Anderson

April 9





THE INSIDE STORY BY SALLY ACTON

Today's Opening Hymn, "**Borning Cry**", is a popular 1985 baptismal hymn written by John Ylvisaker for a Lutheran video series on baptism. It was created to depict God's constant presence, from birth to old age, focusing on a "covenant of presence" rather than just the human act of baptism. The song was originally meant to be a fast paced piece for the video but was later rewritten to fit a more personal, gentle tone. The hymn is celebrated for its ability to speak directly to the journey of life, making it a powerful hymn of life, making it a powerful hymn of promise.

REMINDER: On **March 29th**, during our "**5th Sunday Special**", you are invited to make a monetary donation to support Gunner "Larry" West. Larry, a confirmed member of St John and a student at Ohio University, is hoping to go into the seminary. He is currently participating in the Christian Campus ministry program (known as Cru) in Ocean City, NJ, and has asked for donations to help with his expenses. If you would like to contribute, please place your donation in an envelope, write Larry's name on the outside, and place it in the offering plate on **March 29th**. Church Council has agreed that the congregation's contributions will be matched by the church. Larry thanks you so much for your generosity.



Please place your food donation for the **Food Pantry** in the shopping cart. Thank you, everything is appreciated.



NOTE: items in our grocery cart that members donate are given to Lutheran Social Services in Lancaster. This is different from the quarterly donation from our MEF that is given to the Bloom-Carroll Pantry Mission.

CALLING ALL SHOPPERS! Did you know that **Kroger has a Community Rewards Program**? They will send monies to St John every time you shop at any of their stores. Instructions for signing up are in a blue folder on the bulletin board in the back of the sanctuary. Please consider enrolling in this easy way to earn money for our church while doing your grocery shopping!



The **Altar Flower** chart is in the Narthex where you may sign up to place flowers on the altar. Flowers are \$35.



You may leave the money in the envelope under the chart for Linda Leist. Please be sure to indicate if the flowers are for a special occasion, and let Don Hornbeck know if you would like it posted in the Bulletin.



The Universal Church Directory app is down—it has been reported to the company.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES - Join us for our Holy Week services as we reflect on Christ's love and sacrifice:

Maundy Thursday – April 2nd - 7:00 pm

Good Friday – April 3rd - 7:00 pm



EASTER BREAKFAST – Our Easter breakfast will be held April 5th from 9:00-10:00 am in our church basement. We invite you to please sign up to help prepare the food and/or bring a food item to complete the menu. Meat and pancakes will be provided. Sign-up sheets are in the narthex. Thank you for helping us enjoy a wonderful time of fellowship while we celebrate Easter!



SUMMARY OF COUNCIL MEETING NOTES MARCH 15, 2026

ATTENDEES: Sally Acton, Deb Canini, Jerry Canini, Mike Drodofsky, Alan Fisher, Briana Hart, Neil Jarvis, Diana Johnson, Amy Lytle (SAM), Sue Mason, and Charlotte Meyer

ABSENT: Jonette Christy & Jon Leist (attending Baptism luncheon)

Alan opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes of last meeting were approved as presented. He reviewed current financials which were in good standing.

OLD BUSINESS

- New Bibles: Jonette Christy is still working on obtaining new Bibles for Sunday School.
- Easter Breakfast: Sue will place sign-up sheets in narthex for helpers and for items to be donated for completion of menu (Jon to provide meat & pancakes).
- Committee Assignments: Jerry was assigned to the Trustees Committee; Neil was provided with an overview of Committee roles; he will review the options and let us know his preference.
- 5th Sunday-Larry West donation: Sue will inform Don to add a reminder that on Sunday, March 29, donations will be taken for Larry for his "Youth For Christ" program expenses.

NEW BUSINESS

- Social Media: Amy suggested we look into online Zoom meetings; this app-driven program would provide virtual church services if in-person services were canceled due to bad weather. We will reach out to members who have IT knowledge and look into this.
- Alan suggested we use Facebook more than we have in the past. Administrators were reviewed; some no longer regularly attend and they will be removed. It was determined that current administrators who regularly attend were Jon Leist & Don Hornbeck. Briana Hart was given access as an additional administrator and she agreed to be our Social Media Administrator and will post church news when they become available.
- Alan commented that problems with our website have been resolved and it is now up and running.
- Sue commented that our online church directory app is not working; she has contacted the company and they are working to resolve the issue.
- Idea Sharing: Sue was approached by Peggy Smith who suggested we hold a meeting for all members to share ideas for increasing our attendance. After discussion, it was agreed that this is a good idea and we will have a potluck on May 31st (5th Sunday) for everyone to share their ideas.
- Food Pantry: Sally commented that we need to clarify that the food donations made by our members and placed in our grocery cart are given to Lutheran Social Services (Lancaster Branch). This is different from the quarterly \$750 donation from our MEF that is given to the Bloom-Carroll Pantry Mission. Sue will advise Don to make this clarification in the next Weekly Update. Amy suggested that for the LSS grocery cart donations, we designate two items monthly that can be contributed; it was agreed to do this.
- MEF: Our Vanguard MEF Fund at Vinton County Bank was discussed. Jerry suggested we meet with our bank rep to ensure that our funds are getting the best investment results. It was agreed and Alan and Mike will look into this.
- Administrator of Church Accounts/Apps: After discussion, it was decided that it's important for more than one member to have access to church accounts and apps so that the accounts can still be managed if someone is unavailable. Alan and Mike will research our bank accounts; Sue will work to add a second admin to our online church directory and also our church email account.
- Upcoming Meetings for Amy: Amy informed the council of two upcoming meetings.
 - Synod Assembly Meeting – early June – this is an important meeting to get our name out in the Synod community; constitution voting also will take place. Amy will get more information regarding attendance and report back.
 - Synod Workshop – April 25 in Fairborn, OH – this is a very informative meeting for Lay Leaders and other SAM's where their questions are answered and Synod news is provided. Amy would like to attend; Sue made the motion for our church to pay the \$25 registration fee and sponsor her attendance; Sally seconded the motion; motion carried.
- Status of Amy's SAM classes: Amy has a class in March and another in May, then all of her SAM classes will be completed and she will officially be a SAM (Synod Authorized Minister).

PENDING ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS COUNCIL MEETINGS:

1. Replace back door that leads into the back of the sanctuary
2. Carpet in narthex (clean or replace)
3. Memorial Day Bake Sale & Parade

With no further business, the meeting was closed with council members reciting the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Mason, Council Secretary

Sunday, March 22, 2026

5th Sunday in Lent

ELW Service of the Word

GATHERING & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who creates us and forms us,
who redeems us and calls us,
who unites us and sends us.

Amen.

Gathered in God's presence, let us confess our sin.

Mighty and loving God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free
ourselves. We seek our own way.**

We divide the body of Christ.

In your mercy, cleanse us and heal us.

**Let the words of our mouths, the thoughts of our hearts,
and everything that we do be filled with faith, hope, and love.**

Amen.

Hear the voice of Jesus:

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me
to proclaim release to the captives."

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,

I proclaim to you

that your sins are forgiven and you are released.

The joy of the Lord is your strength,

and the gifts of the Holy Spirit are yours forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG (ELW 732) *Borning Cry*

1 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold.
I was there when you were but a child,
With a faith to suit you well;
In a blaze of light you wandered off to find where demons dwell."

2 "When you heard the wonder of the Word
I was there to cheer you on;
You were raised to praise the living Lord,
To whom you now belong.
If you find someone to share your time
And you join your hearts as one,
I'll be there to make your verses rhyme from dusk till rising sun."

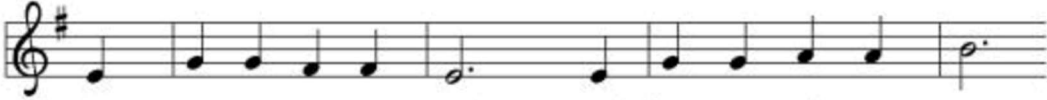
3 "In the middle ages of your life,
Not too old, no longer young,
I'll be there to guide you through the night,
Complete what I've begun.
When the evening gently closes in
And you shut your weary eyes,
I'll be there as I have always been, with just one more surprise."

4 "I was there to hear your borning cry,
I'll be there when you are old.
I rejoiced the day you were baptized to see your life unfold."

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



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

THE BAPTISM OF LINCOLN JAMES ALLEN RIPLEY

Joseph, Aliyah, Lincoln, Jaden, and Ni-ja, I invite you to gather at the font.

In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God. We are blessed today to be present at this baptism.

Jaden and Ni-ja, will you present Lincoln?

Ni-ja and Jaden: We present Lincoln James Allen Ripley for baptism.

Aliyah and Joseph, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Lincoln baptized into Christ?

Aliyah and Joseph: I do.

As you bring Lincoln to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

to live with him among God's faithful people,
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed,
and the Ten Commandments,
place in his hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture him in faith and prayer,
so that Lincoln may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Do you promise to help Lincoln grow in the Christian faith and life?

Joseph and Aliyah: I do.

Ni-ja and Jaden, do you promise to nurture Lincoln in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Ni-ja and Jaden: I do.

People of God, do you promise to support Lincoln and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

People of St. John: We do.

Please stand as you are able.

Let us all profess our faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin,
and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you from God?

All: I renounce them.

Do you believe in God the Father?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**All: 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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**All: 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.**

The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood, you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

Amen.

(Please be seated.)

Lincoln James Allen Ripley, I baptize you
in the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Lincoln, you belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized.
Praise be to God.

Let us pray.

We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your daughters and sons new birth, cleanse them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Lincoln with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

All: Amen.

Lincoln James Allen Ripley, child of God, ✝ you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

All: Amen.

Jesus said, I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

This candle should be lit each year on the anniversary of Lincoln's baptismal birthday – have a cake, celebrate, and share with him the joy of this day when he was welcomed into the family of Christ. Celebrate with him the promise of God, which we have in Jeremiah 29:11. "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Let us welcome Lincoln into the fellowship of Christ.

All: We welcome you into the body of Christ

and into the mission we share:

join us in giving thanks and praise to God

**and bearing God's creative and redeeming word
to all the world.**

Choir please come forward to sing a welcome to Lincoln.

FIRST READING: Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

A reading from Ezekiel.

¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He said to me, “Mortal, can these bones live?” I answered, “O Lord GOD, you know.” ⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD.”

⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.” ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹ Then he said to me, “Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.’ ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people.

¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 130

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

² **O LORD, hear my voice!**

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³ If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸ **For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

SECOND READING: Romans 8:6-11

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

A reading from Romans.

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. ⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you. Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: John 11:1-45

Jesus is moved to sorrow when his friend Lazarus falls ill and dies. Then, in a dramatic scene, he calls his friend out of the tomb and restores him to life.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

⁸ The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹ Jesus answered, “Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them.” ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹² The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him.” ²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” ²⁴ Martha said to him, “I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day.” ²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?” ²⁷ She said to him, “Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world.”

²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, “The Teacher is here and is calling for you.” ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him.

³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: THE WORD OF GOD IS LIFE AND BREATH

HYMN OF THE DAY (ELW 781)

Children of the Heavenly Father

- 1 Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in his bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.
- 2 God his own doth tend and nourish,
In his holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things he spares them,
In his mighty arms he bears them.
- 3 Neither life nor death shall ever.
From the Lord his children sever;
Unto them his grace he showeth,
And their sorrows all he knoweth.
- 4 Though he giveth or he taketh,
God his children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Amy: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

Reader 1: We pray for the church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

Reader 2: We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters, and sustain places where biodiversity thrives. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reader 3: We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees and asylum seekers to safety. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reader 4: We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Amy: We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Be with Lincoln, his parents, godparents and family as they celebrate this day. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Reader 5: We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Amy: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

WE SHARE THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share the peace of God with one another.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

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.

BLESSING

May the God of glory dwell in you richly,
name you beloved,
and shine brightly on your path;
And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✝ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG (ELW 744) *Lord, Be Glorified*

- 1 In my life, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In my life, Lord, be glorified today.
- 2 In our song, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In our song, Lord, be glorified today.
- 3 In your church, Lord, be glorified, be glorified;
In your church, Lord, be glorified today.
- 4 In your world, Lord, be glorified, be glorified.
In your world, Lord, be glorified today.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.
Thanks be to God.

CONGREGATION JOINS IN SINGING:

God be with you 'til we meet again, By his counsel's guide, uphold
you, With his sheep securely fold you, God be with you 'til we
meet again. Amen.

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