



ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH
Fifth Sunday in Lent March 26, 2023

Welcome, All, In the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord!

We are glad you have joined us today!

If you are new to Ascension, we would love for you to
introduce yourself to our pastor.

Please join us each Sunday morning for adult Bible study at
10:00 and worship at 11:00.

One Hundredth Year Anniversary Celebration Day!

[P] Pastor/Bishop [C] Congregation [A] Assisting Minister [R] Reader
*Congregation stands

In today's gospel Jesus reveals his power over death by raising Lazarus from the dead. The prophet Ezekiel prophesies God breathing new life into dry bones. To those in exile or living in the shadows of death, these stories proclaim God's promise of resurrection. In baptism we die with Christ that we might also be raised with him to new life. At the Easter Vigil we will welcome the newly baptized as we remember God's unfailing promise in our baptism.

PRELUDE

Processional Hymn # 762

Holy, Holy, Holy

CALL TO WORSHIP

[P] We have been in the wilderness—

[C] Discerning and working, seeking and dreaming.

[P] We have been in the wilderness—

[C] Grieving and wondering, praying and hoping.

[P] We have been in the wilderness—

[C] Longing and running, creating and waiting.

[P] We have been in the wilderness, but we have not been alone; for God walks with us, every step of the way.

[C] So let us worship the God of our darkest nights and our brightest days.

[P] Let us worship Holy God.

(Please stand as you are able. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.)

*CONFESSON AND FORGIVENESS

[P] Blessed be the holy Trinity, $\text{\textt{T}}$ one God,
who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us,
anoint us, and make us new.

[C] Amen.

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin,
and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence for reflection.

[P] Gracious God,

[C] have mercy on us.

We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly.

We have wandered from your resurrection life.

We have strayed from your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God.

Give us new hearts and right spirits,

that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever.

Amen.

[P] Receive good news: God turns to you in love.

“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.

All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,

who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

[C] Amen.

***GREETING**

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

[C] And also with you.

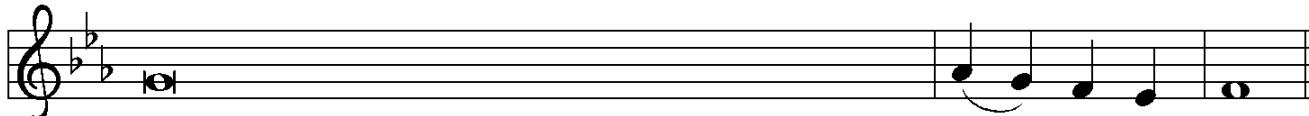
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



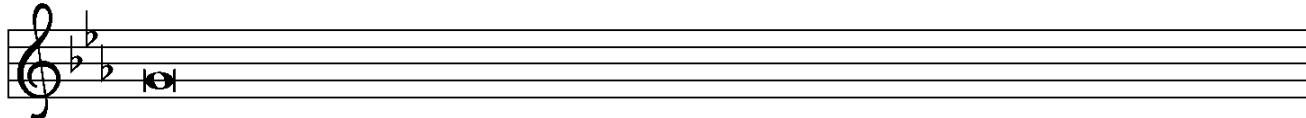
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



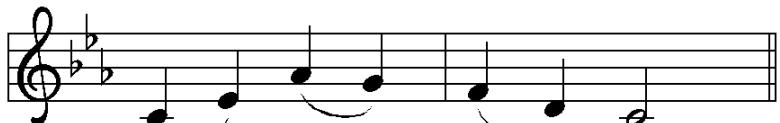
Lord, have mer - cy.



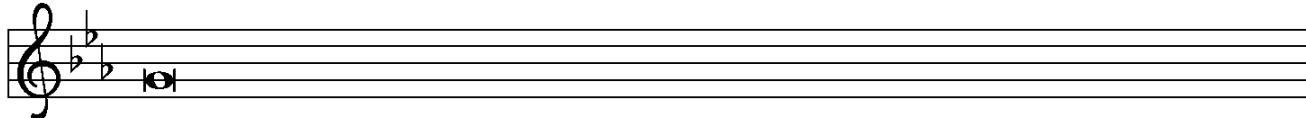
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

[P] Let us pray.

[C] 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.

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] A reading from Ezekiel.

¹The 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. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I 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."

⁷So 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. ⁸I 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. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, 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." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then 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.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, 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. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open

your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I 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.

[C] Thanks be to God.

Psalm 130

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²O LORD, hear my voice!

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

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴Yet with you is forgiveness,

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

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

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

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

with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸For 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] A reading from Romans.

⁶To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. **⁷For 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,** **⁸and those who are in the flesh cannot please God.**

⁹But 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.

¹⁰But if Christ is in you, though the body is dead because of sin, the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in you.

[P]The Word of the Lord.

[C] Thanks be to God.

***GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

***GOSPEL: John 11:1-45**

[P] The holy gospel according to John, the eleventh chapter.

[C] Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, “Lord, he whom you love is ill.” ⁴But 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.” ⁵Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, “Let us go to Judea again.” ⁸The disciples said to him, “Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?” ⁹Jesus 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. ¹⁰But those who walk at night stumble, because the light is not in them.”

¹¹After saying this, he told them, “Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him.” ¹²The disciples said to him, “Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right.” ¹³Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, “Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him.” ¹⁶Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, “Let us also go, that we may die with him.”

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

²⁸When 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.” ²⁹And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹The 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. ³²When 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.” ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴He said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” ³⁵Jesus began to weep. ³⁶So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!” ³⁷But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

³⁸Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹Jesus 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.” ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believed, you

would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴²I 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." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴The 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."

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

[P] The Gospel of the Lord.

[C] Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON:

Bishop Tim Smith

***HYMN: LYRICS FOUND INSIDE THE BACK COVER OF THE HYMNALS**
Sung to the tune of "A Mighty Fortress"

100th Anniversary Hymn
(Words written by Ludy Wilkie)

***APOSTLES CREED**

[P] God has made us his people through our Baptism into Christ.
Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

[C] 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 into hell.**

**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] Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence before the petitions are prayed.

Each petition of the prayer ends with these words:

[A] Hear us, O God, [C] Your mercy is great.

Our continuing prayer concerns are included in our petitions today.

After each name is read, please repeat the person's first name.

[P] According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

[C] Amen.

THE PEACE

Welcome and Presentations.

THE OFFERING

Offertory Voluntary

PRESENTATIONS

Quilts For Hospice

Paschal Candle

New Gospel Book

New Banner For the Church

Presentation of New Members

***THE OFFERTORY HYMN 686**

*We give thee but thine own,
whate'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine alone,
a trust, O Lord, from thee.*

Text: William W. How, 1823-1897, alt.

"We Give Thee but Thine Own", verse 1

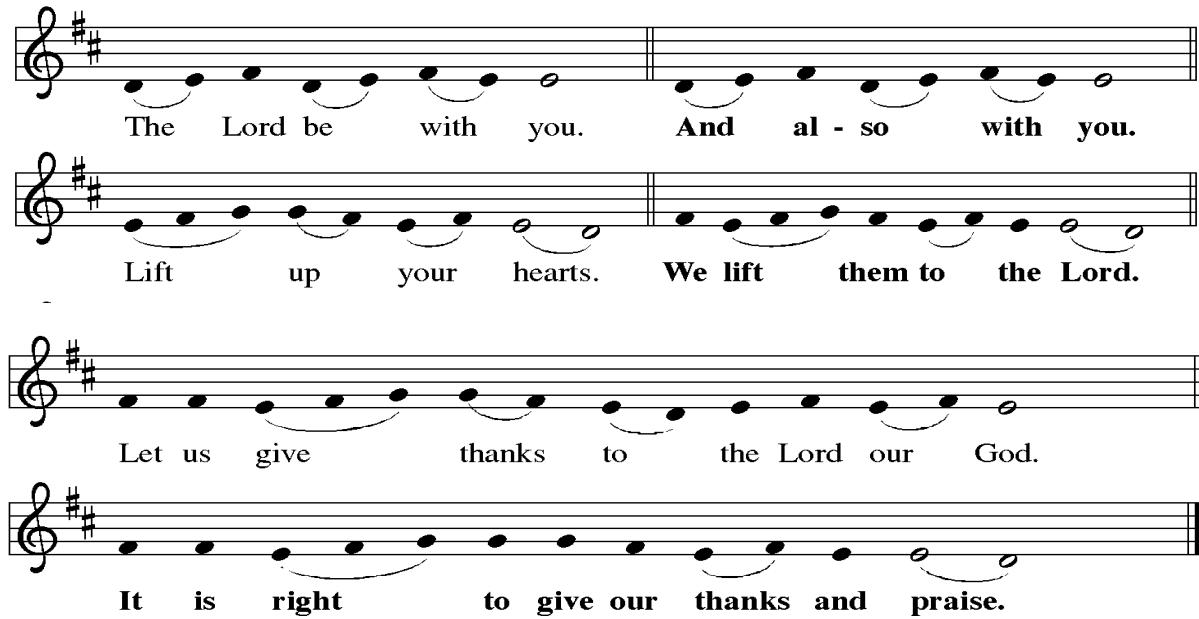
***OFFERING PRAYER**

[A] Let us pray.

Holy and generous host,
you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

[C] Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And also with you.

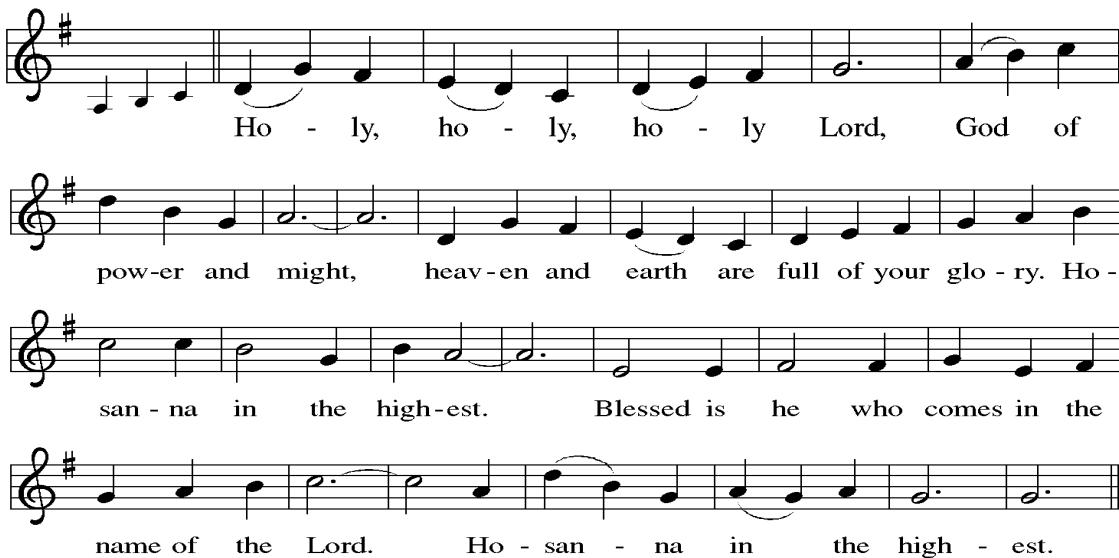
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

***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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of

pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -

san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the

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

***THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

[P] You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world
to fulfill for us your holy will
and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

[C] Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command,
his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension,
and the promise of his coming again,
we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty,
not as we ought but as we are able;
we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving
and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants,
and these your own gifts of bread and wine,
so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ
may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace,
and, receiving the forgiveness of sin,

may be formed to live as your holy people
and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

[C] Amen, Amen, Amen.

***LORD'S PRAYER**

[P] Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

[C] 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.

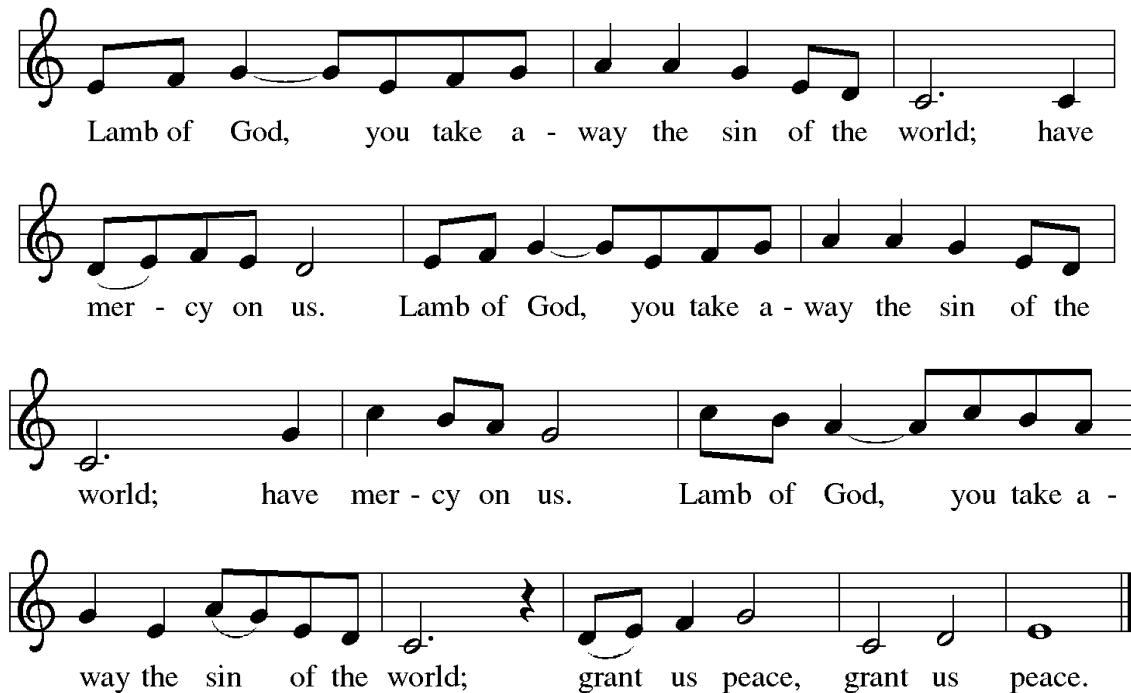
Amen.

(Please be seated.)

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

[P] God's love is poured out in Christ for you. Open yourselves to receive it.

"LAMB OF GOD"



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC #496

“One Bread, One Body”

COMMUNION MUSIC # 471

“Let Us Break Bread Together”

(Please stand.)

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

[C] Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

[A] Let us pray.

We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike.

As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors.

In Jesus' name we pray.

[C] Amen.

PRESENTATION OF A GIFT TO BISHOP TIM

***BLESSING**

[P] Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.

Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, \ddagger bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

[C] Amen.

***HYMN #660**

“Lift High The Cross”

***DISMISSAL**

[P] Go in peace. Share the good news.

[C] Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE



You are welcome to join us in the fellowship hall immediately following the service as our celebration continues.

Don't Forget to Order Your Easter Lilies Today!!!

Lenten Program For The Churches together in Shelby 2023

The **NOON** services are brief (about 30 minutes) and are followed by a light lunch (sandwich, side, and dessert) at a small charge.

DATES **SPEAKER** **(All Services Hosted by Aldersgate UMC)**

March 29 Carolyn Briggs (Bishop of Living Waters Christian Ministries)
 Menu: Pasta E Fagioli with ham and cheese wraps

April 5 Kris Kramer (Interim Pastor of Ascension Lutheran
 Menu: Loaded Potato Soup and chicken salad

LENT 2023 "Tischreden"

"If you don't show up, you can't share the experience."

March 29th, 2023 6:00pm

John 11:32-35

"Tears & Grief"

- Why are we told about Jesus weeping
- Share a time when you have experienced grief
- 100-year-old churches carry pain and grief. Deaths and disappointments...how does God transform our weeping into JOY at Ascension as we move into year 101



SMOKY MOUNTAIN BRASS BAND

A BRITISH STYLE BRASS BAND FORMED IN 1982

26

MARCH 2023 - 5PM

ADMISSION FREE LOVE OFFERING GRATEFULLY ACCEPTED

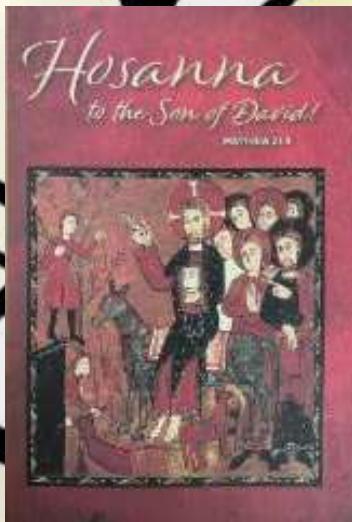
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE REDEEMER
502 W. SUMTER STREET, SHELBY, NC 28150

REDEEMERSHELBY.COM

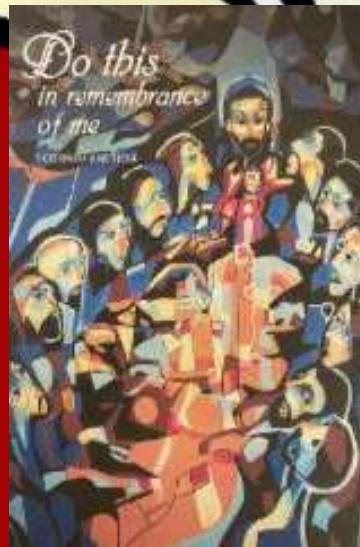


Holy Week Services

Ascension Lutheran Church



PALM SUNDAY
April 2nd, 2023 11:00 a.m.
*Palm Sunday Service
w/reading of the Passion
(With Blessing of the Palms and
short procession)*



MAUNDY THURSDAY
April 6th, 2023
5:30 p.m. Maundy Thursday
(A quiet service with a telling of the story of
the Last Supper in the upper room)



GOOD FRIDAY
April 7th, 2023
7:00pm Tenebrae Service
(We remember Jesus' final hours
and extinguish candles as we
consider the cross)



April 9th, 2023
7:00am Sunrise Service with the Easter
Fire
8:00am Easter Breakfast
11:00 Easter Family Communion
Service