

**Third Sunday in Lent**

**March 8, 2026**

## **We hope you feel welcome here.**

St. Thomas Lutheran Church is a Christ-centered community that lives, shares, and celebrates God's grace with all people!

As disciples of Christ who value the faith, gifts, and ministry of all God's people, and who seek justice, racial equity, and reconciliation, we welcome all God's children to an inclusive community. This welcome is extended without exception and regardless of sex, race, national origin, educational background, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, physical and mental ability, age, or economic condition.

## **We hope you can participate fully in worship.**

Today's worship service is printed in this bulletin; the hymns are found in the back third of the red *Evangelical Lutheran Worship* (ELW) or purple *All Creation Sings* (ACS) found under the seat in front of you. Places to stand are marked with \* and to respond are indicated with bold type. Please sit, stand, and move as you need to be comfortable. Use a blue chair with arms or move orange chairs to accommodate mobility needs. Assisted hearing devices and large-print worship aids are available on the Worship Aids column in the narthex.

Our youngest worshipers may appreciate the Prayer Pond in the worship space or listening to the service from our unstaffed nursery. Activity bags and children's bulletins are available on the Worship Aids column in the narthex.

**We hope you know Holy Communion is for you.**

At communion, everyone is welcome. This includes doubters, young children, and folks who have yearned for this feast. Come forward at the direction of an usher and receive hand-torn bread or gluten-free wafers and pink wine or red grape juice. If you have mobility limitations, please take the closest available place at the altar, or ask an usher for Communion to be brought to you at your seat.

**We hope you know our welcome extends beyond our building.**

Gifts placed in the offering plate during the worship service contribute to this mission. Today's 8:30 a.m. service is livestreamed. By attending this service, you are giving permission to be in the video we produce.

**We hope you know we pray for you.**

We would love to pray for the concerns of your heart during this service. Prayer request slips are located on the table near the main doors.

## + GATHERING +

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

*In moments of silence, or if you find yourself distracted, consider using this breath prayer to center yourself: (inhale) Where there is despair; (exhale) let me sow hope. You can carry this prayer with you throughout the week to come.*

\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: We pray,

**C: make us instruments of your peace.**

P: We confess the ways we give in to hatred and permit discord to flourish; and so we pray,

**C: make us instruments of your peace.**

P: We confess the things we have done that harm our neighbor, our neighborhood, or our world; and so we pray,

**C: make us instruments of your peace.**

P: We confess that, too often, we put our hope and our faith in despair; and so we pray,

**C: make us instruments of your peace.**

P: We confess that we hide from you, cutting ourselves off from the joy you alone give; and so we pray,

**C: make us instruments of your peace.**

P: We confess we seek to console only ourselves, understand only ourselves, love only ourselves; and so we pray,

**C: make us instruments of your peace.**

P: God gives new life in abundance. God gives grace in abundance. In the name of † Jesus Christ, receive the forgiveness of all your sins, trusting that the One who raised Christ from the dead, gives, in abundance, life and peace, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\*ENTRANCE HYMN

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

ELW#611



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



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



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



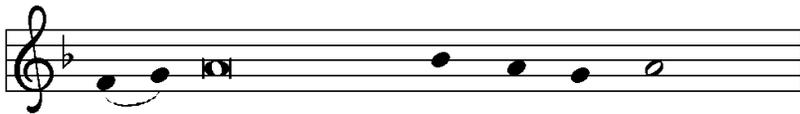
I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - ling days are done.

# \*GREETING

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

**C: And also with you.**

# \*KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



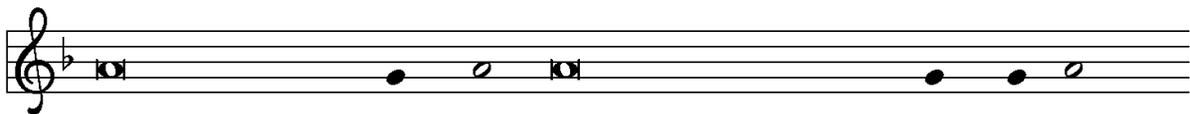
Lord, have mer - cy.



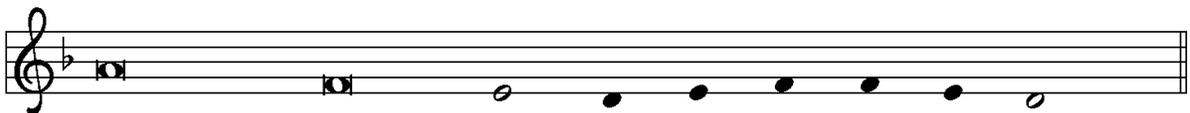
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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.



## **+WORD+**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Pr. Adrienne Meier

FIRST READING

Exodus 17:1-7

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses

did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 95

Come, let us sing to the Lord;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of our  
salvation.

**Let us come before God's presence with  
thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the Lord with  
psalms.**

For you, Lord, are a great God,  
and a great ruler above all gods.

**In your hand are the caverns of the  
earth;**

**the heights of the hills are also yours.**

The sea is yours, for you made it,  
and your hands have molded the dry land.

**Come, let us worship and bow down,  
let us kneel before the Lord our maker.**

For the Lord is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

**"Harden not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at  
Massah in the desert.**

There your ancestors tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they  
had seen my works.

**Forty years I loathed that generation,  
saying,**

**'The heart of this people goes astray;  
they do not know my ways.'**

Indeed I swore in my anger,

**'They shall never come to my rest.'**"

## SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character,

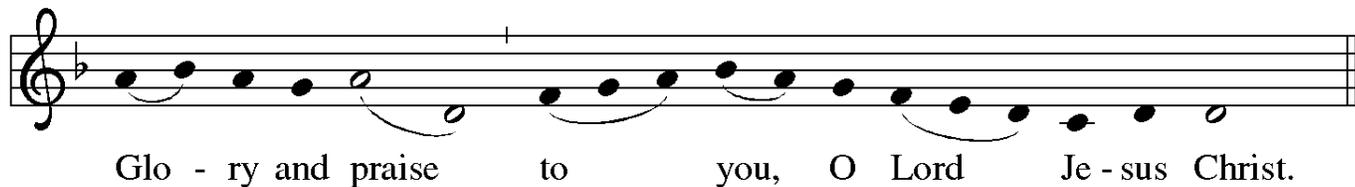
and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves God's love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of the Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

L: Word of God, word of life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## \*HOLY GOSPEL

John 4:5-42

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

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

So Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a man of Judea, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to

him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in

Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship God must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see someone who told me everything I have ever done! Can this be the Messiah?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no

one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and accommodate the work of that one. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in Jesus because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and Jesus stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

P: The Gospel of Our Lord!

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

\*HYMN OF THE DAY

Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty

ELW#777

1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.  
 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.  
 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh-ment in this place.  
 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.

If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."  
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."  
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."  
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

*Refrain*

Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.

In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

- 5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;  
I would be your trusted friend.  
Come and seek the gift I offer,  
come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*
- 6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;  
lonely ways no longer roam.  
Come and take the gift I offer,  
let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

**\*APOSTLES' CREED**

**A:** With the whole church, let us 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 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

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

*A brief silence.*

A: Jesus, our brother, our teacher, our Savior, you taught your disciples that with faith the size of a mustard seed they could command mountains to move: give your churches this faith today. Help us minister to this broken world as peacemakers and advocates for your justice. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Jesus, our brother, our teacher, our Savior, you walked the hills and fields of Galilee with a wise and patient heart: deepen our love for this place. Give us tenderness for its trees and wildflowers, for its foxes and spring peepers, for all its beauty and richness, here and now, ours to bless and cherish. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Jesus, our brother, our teacher, our Savior, you taught your disciples to forgive, not seven times, but seventy times seven: grant to the leaders of the nations this patient, fervent love for reconciliation. Be present to people enmeshed in armed conflict, to immigrants and refugees, to prisoners and detainees. Strengthen the hands of those who work for peace and, across every human divide, show us our shared humanity. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Jesus, healer of bodies, minds, and communities: give us your compassion. We pray especially today for Scott, Carol, Helen, Bob, Ethelyene, David, Gloria, John, Leslie, Lynn, Dallis, Doug, Yvonne, Kent, and Mark. Be near to those in constant pain and those who stand at the gateway of death. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Jesus, with five loaves and two fish you fed five thousand men, besides women and children: bless Pantry 279, the Hoosier Hills Food Bank, and all in our community who feed the hungry. Help us to trust that, in your generous abundance, there will be enough for everyone. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

A: Jesus our brother, our teacher, our Savior, we entrust to you all our beloved dead. On the anniversary of her death we remember Harriet Tubman and ask for a mustard seed's share of her faith and boldness so that, like her, we may lead others to freedom. Hear us, O God.

**C: Your mercy is great.**

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

**C: Amen.**

\*SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Share the peace with a wave, a bow, or maybe an elbow, checking in with your neighbor for whatever feels safe and conveys the spirit of peace and reconciliation this ritual intends.*

## OFFERING

*Please sign and pass the **Together In Community pads**. Make note of the names of your neighbors so you can introduce yourself after the service.*



*An offering is collected as a grateful response for all of God's gifts. Gifts support St. Thomas's mission of living, sharing, and celebrating God's grace with all people. A portion of our offerings support Lutheran Campus Ministries at IU/Rose House and many local, national, and international ministry partners. **You may place gifts in the offering plate as it reaches you or give on our website, [stlconline.org](http://stlconline.org) (the QR code above on the right will direct you).***



*Use the QR code on the left to add your volunteer hours to our 5000-hour challenge.*

8:30 a.m. only  
ORGAN OFFERTORY

Matthew Benkert

11 a.m. only  
CHOIR ANTHEM  
Wondrous Love

Paul J. Christiansen

# \*OFFERTORY HYMN

## Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW #188

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

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

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

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

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

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

A: Let us pray. God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

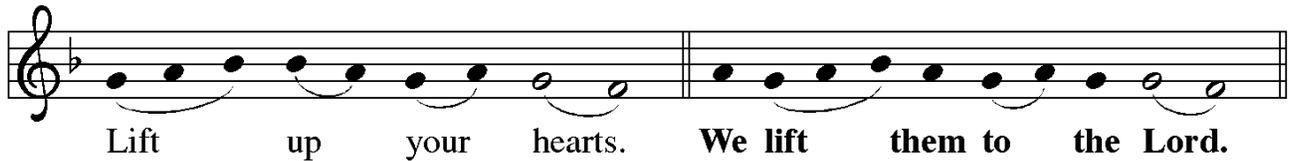
**C: Amen.**

**+ MEAL +**

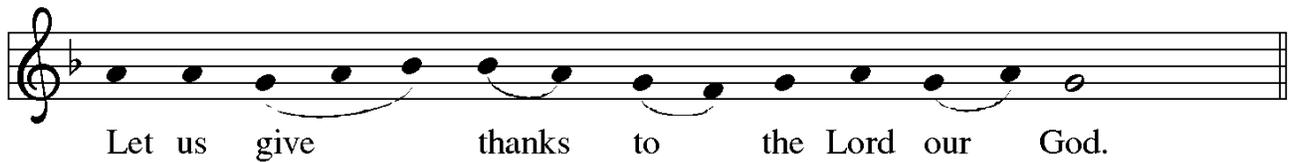
**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**



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



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

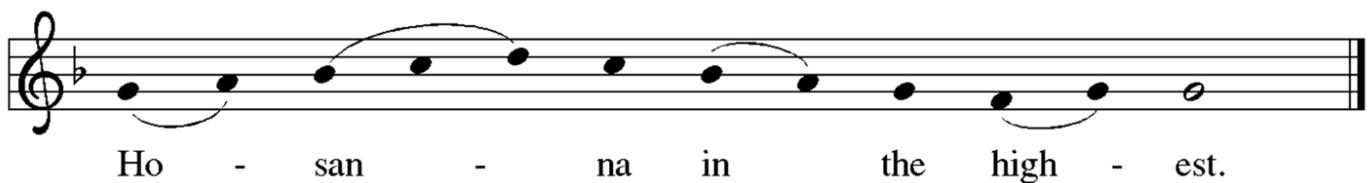
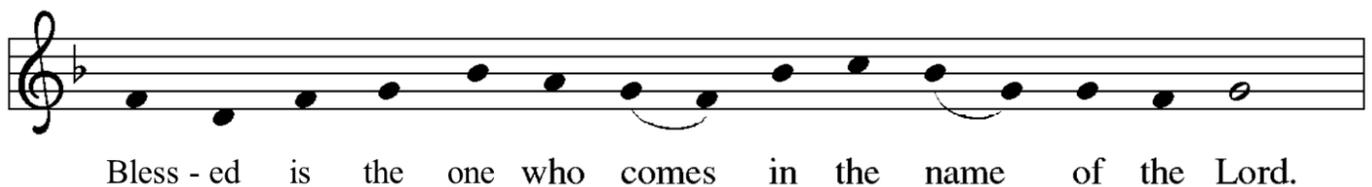
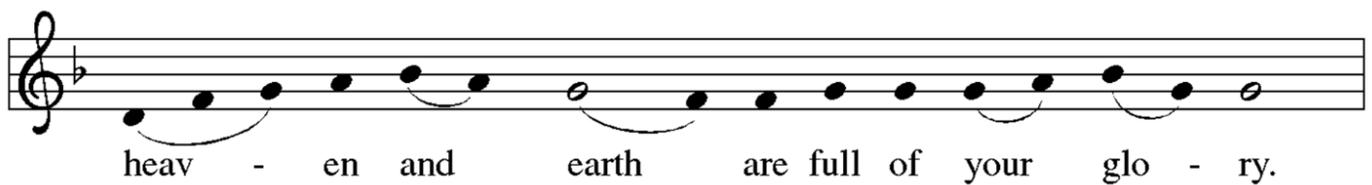
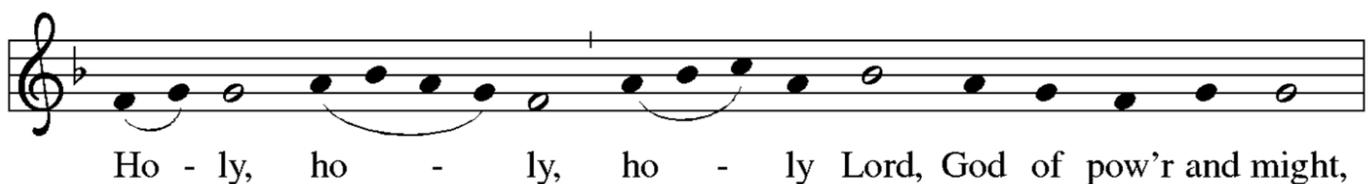


Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



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:



## \*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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

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

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

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

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

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

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

**C: Come, Holy Spirit.**

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

**C: Amen.**

\*LORD'S PRAYER

*Speak this prayer in your preferred language. The pastor will continue when all versions are complete. Kreyòl Ayisyen is provided on the next page.*

**C: Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done,  
on Earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

Papa nou ki nan syèl la,  
Nou mande pou yo toujou respekte  
non ou.

Vin tabli gouvènman ou,  
pou yo fè volonte ou sou latè, tankou  
yo fè li nan syèl la.

Pen nou bezwen an, ban nou li jòdi a.  
Padonnen tou sa nou fè ki mal,  
menm jan nou padonnen moun ki fè nou mal.  
Pa kite nou nan pozisyon pou nou  
tonbe nan tantasyon,  
men, delivre nou anba Satan.  
Paske, se pou ou tout otorite, tout  
pouvwa ak tout louwanj, depi  
tout tan ak pou tout tan. Amèn.

#### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's  
goodness and mercy.

*We believe that God is our host and that all  
people are welcome to this feast of grace,  
community, and forgiveness. Come forward at  
the direction of an usher, and receive bread or  
gluten-free wafer and wine in a common  
chalice or pink wine and red grape juice in  
individual cups. If you wish to receive a  
blessing, cross your arms over your chest.*

# AGNUS DEI

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you  
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy  
on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace. A - men.

# COMMUNION HYMNS

## My Song is Love Unknown

ELW #343



1 My song is love un - known, my Sav - ior's love to  
2 He came from his blest throne sal - va - tion to be -  
3 Some - times we strew his way and his sweet prais - es  
4 We cry out, we will have our dear Lord made a -



me, love to the love - less shown that they might  
stow; the world that was his own would not its  
sing; re - sound - ing all the day ho - san - nas  
way, a mur - der - er to save, the prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I that  
Sav - ior know. But, oh, my friend, my  
to our king. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" is  
life to slay. Yet cheer - ful he to



for my sake my Lord should take frail flesh and die?  
friend in - deed, who at my need his life did spend!  
all our breath, and for his death we thirst and cry.  
suf - f'ring goes that he his foes from thence might free.

- 5 In life no house, no home  
my Lord on earth might have;  
in death no friendly tomb  
but what a stranger gave.  
What may I say? Heav'n was his home  
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.
- 6 Here might I stay and sing—  
no story so divine!  
Never was love, dear King,  
never was grief like thine.  
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise  
I all my days could gladly spend!

Text: Samuel Crossman, 1624–1683, alt.

Music: John Ireland, 1879–1962

Music © 1924 John Ireland, admin. The John Ireland Trust

LOVE UNKNOWN

6666448

Alternate tune: RHOSYMEDRE

# Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church ELW#321

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in God.  
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

**\*EUCCHARISTIC BLESSING**

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

**C: Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

A: Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**C: Amen.**

**+ SENDING +**

**\*BENEDICTION**

P: The God of peace, who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, make you complete in everything good so that you may do God's will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in God's sight; through Jesus Christ †, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

**C: Amen.**

# \*SENDING HYMN

## For All the Faithful Women



1 For all the faith-ful wom - en who served in days of old,  
2 Re - call the out - cast wom - an with whom our Lord con-versed:  
3 All praise to God the Fa - ther! All praise to Christ the Son!



to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their stor - y told.  
Christ gave her liv - ing wa - ter to quench her deep - est thirst.  
All praise to God the Spir - it, who binds the church as one!



They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.  
Like hers, our hearts are yearn - ing; Christ of - fers us his word.  
With saints who went be - fore us, with saints who wit - ness still,



To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro-claimed your pow'r to save.  
Then may our lips be burn - ing to wit - ness to our Lord.  
we sing your praise for - ev - er and strive to do your will.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune

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\*DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

*We depart in peace to continue our worship  
in lives of witness to Christ's love  
in work, play, service, and care for creation.*

\*\*\*

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Today's readings are selected from the Revised Common Lectionary. The texts for the scripture readings are from the *New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition*, emendations are provided by the pastoral staff of St. Thomas in consultation with emendations provided for Augsburg Fortress by Gordon Lathrop and Gail Ramshaw.

## **At A Glance: This Week at St. Thomas**

### **Sunday March 8**

#### **Daylight Saving Time Begins**

- 8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship
- 9:30 a.m. LuMin Grab & Go Lunch
- 9:45 a.m. Sunday School
- 9:45 a.m. Adult Forum
- 9:45 a.m. GPS Grief Support Group
- 11 a.m. Worship
- 12 p.m. LuMin Grab & Go Lunch
- 12:15 pm. Council Meeting

### **Monday March 9**

- 10:15 a.m. Worship at Redbud Hills
- 1 p.m. Pastors Bible Study
- 7 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting

### **Wednesday March 11**

- 6 p.m. Soup Supper
- 7 p.m. Lenten Midweek Service

### **Thursday March 12**

- 5:30 p.m. Brown Bag Dinner
- 7 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal

### **Saturday March 14**

- 10 a.m. Property Committee Work Day
- 10 a.m. St. Thomas Piecemakers

### **Sunday March 15**

- 8:30 a.m. Worship/Livestream Worship
- 11 a.m. Worship
- 2:30 p.m. Bach Cantata Project

## ***Next Steps***

Looking for a way to get involved at STLC? Try this next step:

### **Acolytes**

Assist the pastors and assisting minister throughout the service by lighting and extinguishing candles, and helping with communion. This role is best for children and tweens in grades 2-8.

Sign up on the bulletin board next to the west bathrooms if you have been trained for this role. Contact the church office if you are interested in receiving training.

[parishadmin@stlconline.org](mailto:parishadmin@stlconline.org)

### **LuMin Grab and Go Lunch Today!**

Free grab and go lunches are available for students **after each service today** in the library. Students are invited to fill a bag with snacks and treats of your choice and stick around as long as you like for conversation.

## **Community Soup Suppers during Lent**

On **Wednesdays** during Lent, share a simple supper of soup and bread at **6 p.m.** These suppers will be free and open to anyone who could use a warm meal and friendly company. After the supper, anyone can choose to attend Holden Evening Prayer at 7 p.m. Sign up on the Welcome Desk to set up, clean up, or to bring soup, bread, or dessert.

## **Lenten Midweek Services**

On Wednesdays in the seasons of Lent, gather in the evenings in prayer and song. Poems and scripture readings on prayer and being instruments of God's peace will anchor Holden Evening Prayer. **Worship begins at 7 p.m. in Heritage Hall.**

## **Order Easter Lilies to decorate our Worship Space**

You are invited to purchase a lily for adding beauty to the sanctuary on Easter Sunday (April 5). Lilies will be available to take home following the 11 a.m. worship service, or in the days following Easter. 15 lilies are available for purchase at a cost of \$15 each. Please sign up at the Welcome Desk.

## **Easter Vigil Service of Joy**

Be immersed in the story of the church in our

### **Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 4 at 7**

**p.m.** The Easter Vigil includes many stories spanning the Old Testament and we would like your help to tell them! You can tell a story, gather some friends or family members to act it out, sing a song or more. Your story telling is limited only by your creativity (and 6 minutes)! View the list of stories and sign up here:

<https://bit.ly/4shDIKC>.

## **Easter Breakfast—HELP NEEDED**

Celebrate Easter with a free **Easter breakfast in Community Hall between services on Sunday, April 5**. Enjoy fellowship, share good food, and strengthen friendships. Bring your family and friends to this special event so we can celebrate together. **Sign up on the poster in the Narthex** to bring egg casseroles, coffee cake, fruit, or drinks and to help with preparing, serving, and cleaning up. Long-term, this ministry needs a champion. If hospitality or volunteer organization is among your spiritual gifts, please contact Pr. Adrienne.

## **Worship and the Arts Concert Series: Bloomington Bach Cantata Project**

Members of the St. Thomas community are warmly invited to the sixteenth season's performances by the Bloomington Bach Cantata Project. They present cantatas by Johann Sebastian Bach in performances modeled on his own; each concert includes a performance, a short talk about the day's cantata, and a second performance in which everyone can hear new and different things. Performances take place on **Sundays at 2:30 p.m. The next one is March 15**, "Ich habe meine Zuversicht" BWV 188. Anastasia Chin will director. This is the last BBCP of the 25-26 season.

## **Every Odd Month Event: Save the Date for Tacos and Trivia Night! Saturday, March 21, 5:30 p.m.**

Rance Fawbush is returning as our trivia master for an evening of food and some friendly competition. Join us for tacos at 5:30 and trivia around 6. Watch for a sign-up sheet on the Welcome Desk.

## **The Easter Bunny Needs Helpers!**

The Mission Committee at St. Thomas Lutheran and the Outreach Committee at Trinity Episcopal Church are once again working together to provide Easter baskets for 100 children living in Middle Way, New Hope for Families, and Crawford shelters. The baskets are for children (ages 0 – 17) whose families have experienced homelessness or housing instability and who are currently living in supported housing. During Lent there will be a collection box in the narthex for small new items like toys, coloring books, card games, and stuffed bunnies to fill the baskets. The baskets and candy will be purchased separately. We especially need items for babies and teens. Parishioners can shop locally or online from our Amazon wish list here <https://amzn.to/4aru5TK>. Items will be collected throughout Lent. We will gather for an all-ages basket assembly project on the afternoon of **Palm Sunday, March 29!**

## **Holy Week at St. Thomas**

### **Stations of the Cross, Throughout Holy Week**

The Stations of the Cross are a visual representation of Jesus's passion. Beginning on Passion Sunday, stations based on events during the past year and special connections to St. Thomas will be available to pray in Heritage Hall. Visit before or after any of the week's services or during office hours on weekdays, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

### **Sunday of the Passion, March 29, 8:30 and 11 a.m.**

Wave your palm branches and cheer alongside the crowds before walking with Jesus to the cross. Hear the Passion Narrative from Matthew's gospel. To remind us of the burden Christ willingly took upon himself, the choir will offer Gilbert Martin's uplifting arrangement of "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross." Pr. Lecia will offer a children's message, and Pr. Adrienne will preach at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

## **Wednesday in Holy Week Healing Service, April 1, 7 p.m.**

As we continue to ponder our Lord's passion, our own brokenness and need for healing is often exposed. At this gentle service, prayer and the laying on of hands are offered to all who are in pain, bereaved, feeling hopeless, needing forgiveness, or wanting to show mercy. Pr. Adrienne will preach at 7 p.m. in Heritage Hall.

## **Maundy Thursday, April 2, 7 p.m.**

As Jesus gathered with his disciples on the evening before his death, we gather to wash feet and hands, share the Holy Meal, strip the altar, and so begin the Great Three Days that lead through the cross to the empty tomb. The choir will sing Ethan McGrath's "Prayer of St. Patrick," in which we acknowledge Christ's presence in all aspects of our lives. Pr. Adrienne will offer a children's message and Pr. Lecia will preach at 7 p.m. in the Worship Space.

## **A Love Supreme: The Gospel According to John Coltrane, Midday Good Friday, April 3, noon**

When John Coltrane recorded A Love Supreme in 1964, it was immediately recognized as a masterpiece. The album—its four pieces—is emotional, full of both lament and hope.

Weaving through the pieces will be readings from the Passion according to John, poems and passages, and reflections by Pr. Adrienne Meier at noon in Heritage Hall.

## **Good Friday, As Darkness Falls, April 3, 7 p.m.**

On this day, we look to the cross, where Jesus draws all people to himself. In the evening, readings from the Passion according to John are complimented by songs and growing darkness. The service includes prayers of ever widening circles as we pray for the world for which Christ died and the solemn reproaches, where we confront our failure to live in ways that honor Jesus's sacrifice. The service concludes as we honor the cross as the sign of forgiveness, healing, and salvation. The choral anthem, "When Jesus Wept" by William Billings, a solemn *a cappella* round, reminds us of Christ's humanity and ultimate sacrifice on the cross. Pr. Adrienne will preach, and the choir will sing at 7 p.m. in the Worship Space.

## **Easter Vigil Service of Joy, April 4, 7 p.m.**

Be immersed in the story of the church in our Easter Vigil on Saturday, April 19 at 7 p.m. At this most fun, unique, and unexpected worship service of the year, we gather around fire, water, bread and wine to tell the story of salvation. We proclaim the stories of God's faithfulness and salvation throughout history as we proclaim Christ, the one who brings life out of death. Worship will begin as we light the new fire and then move into Heritage Hall for a time of storytelling and Holy Communion.

## **Resurrection of our Lord, April 5, 8:30 and 11 a.m.**

With shouts of joy we proclaim the crucified Christ, risen from the dead, which secures our own victory over death. Together we look for signs of new life which emerges even when things appear uncertain. Pr. Lecia Beck will offer a children's message, Pr. Adrienne will preach, the choir will sing "Easter Anthem" by William Billings—one of the oldest and most joyful American anthems, and brass will accompany our worship. Between services, enjoy an Easter breakfast. Join us at 8:30 a.m. or 11 a.m.

## **Prayers for those with health and safety concerns**

Scott O'Reilly, Carol Little, Helen Kane, Bob Osborn, Ethelyene Thomason, David Ellies, Gloria Hitchcock, John Kinzer, Leslie Main, Lynn Weddle, Dallis Fox-Nagal, Doug Bauder, Yvonne Leber, Kent Unger, and Mark Wilkes.

Contact the church office for inclusion in this list of concerns and to be included in the Sunday prayers.

A separate, confidential prayer chain is also available. Contact **Susan Colston** at [skcolston@aol.com](mailto:skcolston@aol.com) to join the prayer chain or make a request for prayer.

## **Today's Worship Leaders**

Altar Care: Ute Coyne, Susan Colston

Coffee Crew: Casey Main, Marcus Hershberger,  
Vicki Polansky

Prayer Writer: Pamela Smith

A/V Tech: Johnathan Frank

## **8:30 a.m. Service**

Assisting Minister: Ashley Ahlbrand

Lectors: David Ellies, Carol Seaman

Ushers: Lynn & Ute Coyne

Communion Steward: Ian Bensberg

Greeters: Del & Letty Newkirk

Council Coordinator: Ashley Ahlbrand

## **11 a.m. Service**

Assisting Minister: Kathleen Boggess

Lectors: Janine Drake, Julianna Drake

Acolyte: Lucy Meier

Ushers: Brock DeMark

& Savannah Hadley-DeMark

Communion Steward: Sharon Fawbush

Greeters: Susan Colston, Gail Seegert

Council Coordinator: Dean Arnold

## **ST. THOMAS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

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Parish of San Pedro, El Estor,  
Izabal, Guatemala

*In covenant with*  
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Melissa de Graaf  
Children's Choir Director

**St. Thomas Lutheran Church and LCM-IU  
are Reconciling in Christ Ministries**

**We are a Christ-centered community that lives,  
shares and celebrates God's grace with all people!**