

The Social Ministry Committee invites **YOU** to participate in our **\$1,000 Challenge for World Hunger**. The bulletin board in the Narthex explains our challenge and gives examples of various ways for you to participate.

Throughout Lent in our Sunday bulletins, we will be sharing stories like the one below describing how the ELCA works to end world hunger around the world .

Thank you for taking the **CHALLENGE!**



St. Matthew's Lutheran Church's Lanchtime Ministry offers a warm meal, hospitality and community to neighbors in Hahloken, N.Y.

The ministry serves about 10 people per day. In addition to meals, they offer free hair cuts, manicure and a sense of community. Stanley Einzwiler, the program manager, said while different things bring people there, the only requirement is respect for the space and the people around them.

"We'll give you a warm meal, a fresh pair of socks, and a listening ear no matter what you did last year or last night," Stanley said. "Whatever your story is, we will welcome you."

The values of the ministry include respect, hospitality and forgiveness.

"Even if you break the rules of Lanchtime Ministry and have to leave our community for a few days, we will always welcome you back," Stanley said. "Everyone moves up a little or two but no one is beyond forgiveness. We are sure someone that never goes away."

One guest, Lou, attended for several social activities before getting deployed to California to work as a forklift driver for the U.S. Air Force. After his inevitable discharge, he

stayed in California until his father died, and then he returned to New Jersey to take care of his mother. She died in 2011 leaving him with nowhere to go. Although he stayed at other charity shelters, a few bad demons got him kicked out of those facilities.

Lou came to Lanchtime Ministry as a last resort. Although it's not an overnight shelter, he is able to get a few hours of sleep on the benches or floor during open hours. Like many guests, he helps out when needed by cleaning tables, taking out the garbage and posting event flyers. He also attends church services, Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and Bible study. Most of all, he is known for encouraging volunteers.

This ministry is powered by volunteer and financial support that includes an ELCA World Hunger Domestic Hunger Grant. Thanks to your gifts, Lanchtime Ministry can continue to distribute delicious and filling meals served with respect every day.



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737
Join our family, share God's love.

The people of Schwarzwald - Ministers
The Rev. Donald C. Simmons - Interim Pastor
Mrs. Patricia A. Weiser - Director of Music
Ms. Diane V. Hafer - Office Administrator
Mrs. Crystal Jordan - Christian Ed. Director
Mrs. Rochelle Chelius - Youth Minister Leader
Mrs. Melissa Kerber - Sexton

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 31, 2019



WELCOME!

**In the name of our Savior Jesus Christ,
welcome to worship this morning!**

If you are a visitor, a special welcome to you, and if you are without a church home, we invite you to join our fellowship. Please fill out the guest card in the pew rack and pick up a welcome packet from the stand in the foyer. If you do not have a Bible at home, please take one from the welcome table. Visitors who are communing members of other Christian congregations are cordially invited to receive the Sacrament with us. Welcome to the Lord's table where we are one with Christ!

For your assistance, comfort and safety, we have ushers on duty before, during and after worship today. Should you need any help, please look for any of the men and women with an "usher" badge. There will be at least one in the lobby during worship. Our ushers are also instructed to offer help to anyone who appears in distress. Restrooms can be found through the door on the left at the front of the church; either proceed downstairs or to the left into the Fellowship Hall. **Large print bulletins and hearing receivers** are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance. Please be sure to turn off the hearing receivers after the worship service.

For parents with small children: We are blessed to have so many children in our congregation. Our church family knows that teaching children to worship is simply one of our most important ministries. If there is a need, please take advantage of our nursery room available during worship with a changing table, plenty of toys and audio of our service. Please ask any usher in the foyer to help you find the nursery room. **Children's bulletins** for readers and pre-readers are provided each week. They can be found on clipboards in the marked milk crates in the narthex and vestibule. Storybooks are also provided there for children to enjoy.

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Assisting Minister Barry Hoover
Usher Team Captain Jim Kohler
Carillonneur Judy Ney
Acolytes. Jenna Russo and Tony D'Angelo
Communion Assistants Barry Hoover, Ginni Frey, Russ Frey, Peg Gumpert
Nursery Attendant Heather Claus

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The **bulletins** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Russ and Joan Smith in appreciation for all God's blessings.

The **communion wine** is sponsored by Ellen Weaver.

NEEDED! Bulletin sponsors (\$14) are needed for all of April. **Altar flower sponsors** (*\$25) are needed for April 28. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex. *Due to a change in florists (our previous florist is no longer providing fresh flowers), there is an increase in the altar flower sponsorship to \$25. Also, please return the vases to the church office, if possible.

CASH FOR CAUSES—The Redner's and Giant gift cards will be available for purchase in the Narthex after worship today. Please see Diane Hafer.

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP BOOK

As we prepare for the coming of a new pastor, it is imperative that we use the worship book that our candidate may be using in his or her parish. You can obtain an envelope in the Narthex or vestibule to make a contribution of one or more hymnals in honor of or in memory of a loved one. The cost is \$25.00 per hymnal. Please mark your envelope as to how you wish the book plate to be printed in the hymnal(s) that you sponsor.

There are 4 exercise classes offered at SLC in Fellowship Hall:

- Mondays 5:20 PM - Tone 'n Tighten
- Mondays 6:20 PM - Exercise Ball
- Wednesdays, 5:40 PM - Yoga
- Saturdays, 8:00 AM - Cardio Tone

For additional information, please contact Mary Mountcastle, 610-334-9287.



2nd Sunday Coffee House
Worship Service

Sunday, April 14

IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Coffee 'n Chat starts at 6:00 PM

EASTER FLOWERS



Sponsor Easter flowers to beautify the Sanctuary

The cost is \$7:00 per plant

The dates to order are March 31, Apr. 7 and 14 Use the Special Envelope or a pew envelope (check seasonal flowers) and drop in the offering plate or send it to the church office. Please indicate your name on the envelope as you wish it to appear in the bulletin or use the form below.

FLOWER SPONSOR

NAME _____ Env. # _____

(As you wish it to appear in the bulletin)

LILLIES \$ _____

MUMS \$ _____

TULIPS \$ _____

DAFFODILS \$ _____

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Delegates are needed to attend the WBMD Spring Assembly on Tuesday, May 14, at 7:00 PM at Bern Lutheran Church OR the one-day Synod Assembly on Saturday, June 1, at Genetti Inn and Suites in Hazleton. All fees will be paid by SLC. If you are interested in attending, please call the church office.

THE WHITE CAPS OF PEARL HARBOR

On Sunday, May 5th at 9:15 AM in Fellowship Hall, Winnifred Woll will present a visual program in slides and memorabilia from World War II. Winnie is a member at our sister church down the hill, Schwarzwald UCC. Her mother was an Army Nurse who served on Oahu at the time of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. Her story will focus on the nurses of Pearl Harbor and many of the stories that these nurses shared with Winnie. The program will end with everyone singing "Remember Pearl Harbor" while waving American flags. Do invite friends and family to join us for this special event.



EASTER CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST

April 21, 2019

9-10 A.M. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL

Please help by selecting any of the items listed below. Bakes goods may be placed in the breezeway on Saturday April 20, or delivered early Easter morning, April 21.

Complete the bottom half of the form and return to the church office or drop in the offering plate on the Sundays of March 31, April 7 and 14.

BAKED GOODS

Bagels & Cream Cheese _____
Muffins _____
Coffee Cake _____

Fruit _____

Cookies _____
Danish _____
Donuts _____



Schwarzwald Egg Hunt 2019

The Egg Hunt will take place on Saturday, April 20, at 10:00 AM. **We are in need of candy!** All candy donations should be small enough to fit in plastic eggs. Donations can be dropped off in the church office or given to Crystal Jordan or Linda Strain on a Sunday morning. Also, **we are looking for volunteers to run the flower activity and other craft areas at the egg hunt.** Please let Diane or Crystal know if you are able to help.

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE CALENDAR

Wednesdays - April 3, 10

7:00 PM Weekday Evening Lenten Services
Holden Evening Prayer Service

Sunday, April 7

5th Sunday of Lent
10:30 AM Worship Service

HOLY WEEK CALENDAR

Sunday, April 14

Palm Sunday

10:30 AM Worship Service with Holy Communion
6:30 PM Second Sunday Coffee House Worship Service
(Coffee at 6:00 PM)

Thursday, April 18

Maundy Thursday

7:30 PM Holy Communion Service
Stripping of the Altar

Friday, April 19

Good Friday

7:30 PM Worship Service

EASTER

Alleluia!

He is Risen!

Sunday, April 21

Easter Sunday Festival Worship

8:00 AM Early Service with Holy Communion
9:00 to 10:00 AM Breakfast in Fellowship Hall
10:30 AM Festival Worship with Holy Communion

MARCH 31 through APRIL 7

Sun 3/31 5:00 PM Girl Scout troop #1779
8:00 PM AA meeting

Mon 4/1 5:00 PM Sanctuary in use
5:30 PM Exercise class
6:30 PM Exercise class
7:00 PM Exeter Community Chorus rehearsal
8:00 PM AA meeting

Tue 4/2 10:00 AM Bible Fellowship / Action Team

Wed 4/3 5:30 PM Exercise class
6:00 PM Weight Watchers meeting
7:00 PM Lenten Service
7:45 PM Social Ministry Committee meeting

Thu 4/4 6:00 PM Girl Scout Troop #1909
6:10 PM Cherub Choir rehearsal
6:30 PM Junior Choir rehearsal
7:00 PM NA Meeting
7:30 PM Senior Choir rehearsal

Sat 4/6 8:00 AM Exercise class

Sun 4/7 9:15 AM Sunday School
10:30 AM Worship Service
5:00 PM Girl Scout troop #1779
8:00 PM AA Meeting

LOOKING AHEAD - Mark your calendar!!

(Please watch upcoming newsletters and bulletins for additional information.)

April 10 Lenten Service, 7:00 PM

April 14 Palm Sunday, 10:30 AM; Second Sunday service, 6:30 PM

April 18 Maundy Thursday, 7:30 PM

April 19 Good Friday, 7:30 PM

April 21 Easter, 8:00 and 10:30 AM; Continental Breakfast served between services from 9:00-10:00 AM in Fellowship Hall

May 27 Memorial Day (Church Office closed)

June 9 Confirmation, 10:30 AM

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church
250 Church Lane Road
Reading, PA 19606
Church Office Phone 610-779-3480
Church Office Fax 610-779-2777
Website www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org
E-mail administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org
Emergency 610-914-8257

**SCHWARZWALD LUTHERAN CHURCH
SCHOLARSHIP**

Schwarzwald Lutheran Church will award two \$500 scholarships to applicants (high school seniors only) planning on continuing their education beyond high school. Special consideration will be given to applicants whose faith and service to others has influenced their life and their plans for the future.

The applicant must be a member of Schwarzwald Lutheran Church and may attend any school district or be home-schooled.

Please pick-up an application in the church office. The application, along with your transcript, must be returned by Monday, April 22, 2019, either by dropping it off at the church office, Attention: Scholarship Committee, or e-mailing it to: administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org and placing "Scholarship Application" in the subject line.

If you have any questions, please call the church office, 610-779-3480.



SLC Scholarship Fund

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Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Mission Statement:

We are a family of faith called to do God's will by inspiring Christian life through teaching and sharing His unconditional love for all.

Vision Statement:

To encourage growth of our faith family through community outreach and engaging youth to serve God.

WEST BERKS MISSION DISTRICT Annual Lenten Prayer Breakfast at 8:00 AM

Wednesday, April 17 at The Inn at Reading
1040 Park Road Wyomissing PA 19610

The Inn at Reading offers easy parking and is handicap accessible.

Cost is **\$18** for a breakfast buffet including:
breakfast pastries and biscuits, fresh fruit, scrambled eggs,
cinnamon French toast, red potatoes, bacon, coffee, tea and juice

**Our guest speaker will be The Rev. Steven Shussett on the topic:
"Spiritual Well-being: Becoming Who We Were Meant to Be"**

Join Marian and Pastor as we reserve a table of 8 for Schwarzwald.
Reservation money should be given to Diane
in the church office no later than April 7th.

WORSHIP SERVICE

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE, *Antiphonal Chorus* from *The Third Motet* J. S. Bach

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us,
anoint us, and make us new.

C **Amen.**

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P God at the margins,

C **We have wandered far from your home;
again and again, we lose our way.
We turn inward, afraid of the world around us.
We forget that you have saved your people before
and promise to do so again.
Do not remember the deeds of our past,
but turn our faces toward the future,
where your forgiveness is sure,
your welcome is clear,
and your love overflows. Amen.**

P Like a hen who gathers her chicks,
God embraces you in tender care.
Like manna in the desert,
God feeds you with surprising mercy.
Like a loving parent,
God runs to meet you again this day,
forgiving your sins for the sake of ☩ Christ,
leading you from death into life.

C **Amen.**

HYMN, *What Wondrous Love Is This*
LBW #385 (please use green hymnal)

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

Leader

Offe nebesky, Spoutel'iv sveta. Bo že, mi hij so nad na ut
1 O God, Father in heav-en, have mer-cy up-on us
2 O Son of God, redeemer of the world, have mer-cy up-on us
3 O God, Holy Spir-it, have mer-cy up-on us

All

Vie me to, Pa ne Bo že mi, že so na
Your heart. O God, is grieved, we know, by ev-ry
Your arms ex-tend, O Christ, to save from sting of
O liv-ish liv-er, come to aid the chil-dren

mis break my heart, shed it from our
c-vil, ev-ry-where, up-on your cross for
death and grasp of grave: your seats be fore the
that you word has made Now make us grow and

ne mi na Evj ho je de ne ho Sv ut.
silk en Son our death is laid, and peace is won.
fa-ther move his heart to mer-cy at such love.
help us pray: bring joy and com-fort. come to stay.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray...God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

Please be seated.

When given the bread, the Pastor will say:

The body of Christ, given for you.

Each person may respond: Amen.

Then proceed to the communion assistant, staying on the same side as you are seated in the church, to receive the wine. For those who would prefer not to have wine, pre-filled cups of grape juice are available at the top of the steps on each side in silver trays.

When given the cup, the communion assistant will say:

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Each person may respond: Amen.

If you wish to stay and reflect at the Altar, please move down the altar rail to allow others to receive Communion. Please return to your seat by way of the side aisle.

Please stand.

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

C **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P Tender and merciful one,
at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing,
turning our emptiness into joy.
Filled with your abundant grace,
send us now to be ministers of reconciliation,
mending broken hearts, working for justice,
and striving for peace among all people,
in the name of Jesus Christ.

C **Amen.**

BLESSING

P God, who fills the creation with abundance,
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,
✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

C **Amen.**

SENDING SONG, My Live Flows On in Endless Song - WOV #781 (blue hymnal)

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Remember the poor.

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE, Air from "Saul" Händel

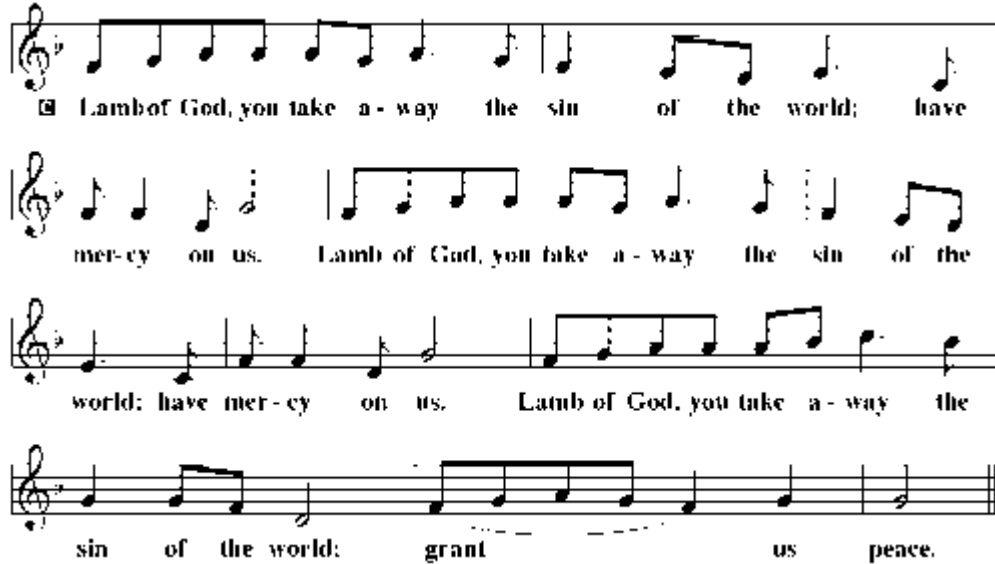
THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen

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.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

(Continuous Communion)

We invite all baptized Christians to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Those not communing are invited to come forward for a blessing. Please come forward by way of the center aisle and take a cup from the tray. Approach the Pastor to receive the bread. Gluten-free wafers are available from the communion assistant who is standing behind the Pastor. If you are unable to come to the altar for communion, the Pastor will bring communion to you in your pew.

JUNIOR CHOIR ANTHEM, *He Is the Son of God* Walker

CHILDREN'S CIRCLE

FIRST READING, Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 32 (read responsively)

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

²**Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore let all who are faithful
offer prayer to you;
at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.**

⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁸**I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰**Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

SECOND READING, 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 15th chapter.

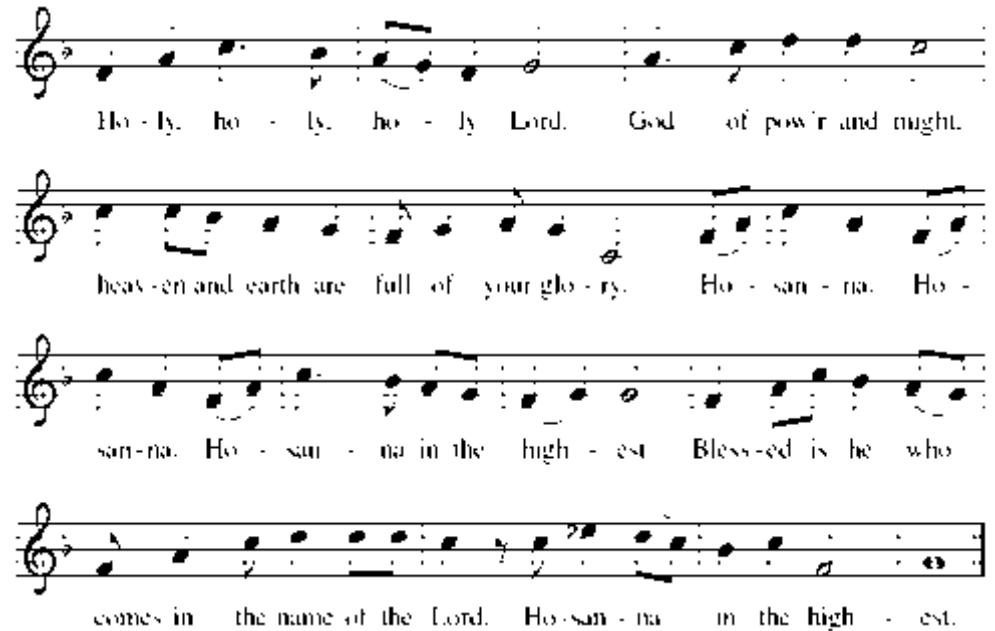
C **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

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

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” ³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get

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:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san - na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Blessed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son,
that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life.
We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us
through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts,
that we may receive our Lord with a living faith
as he comes to us in his holy supper.

C **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

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

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gath-er the hopes and the dreams of all; u - nite them with the
 prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your
 pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERING PRAYER

A Generous God,
 you feed us with the harvest of the land,
 and you provide for our every need.
 Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
 and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
 in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.

C Amen.

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,

up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.” ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But the father said to his slaves, ‘Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate. ²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, ‘Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.’”

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

VERSE

Lord, let my heart be good soil, o - pen to the seed of your word.
 Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un - der - stood.
 When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,
 warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.
 Lord, let my heart. Lord, let my heart. Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Please be seated.

SERMON

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY, *Amazing Grace* — LBW #448 (please use green hymnal)

APOSTLES' CREED

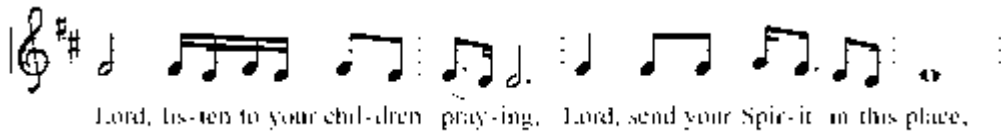
**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER INTRODUCTION

P Let us pray...



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God,
we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need,
and for all of creation.

A brief silence.

After each petition of the prayers:

A Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

Members:

Connie Brewer

Delores Conrad

Janet Griesemer

Cynthia Lott

Greg Pomian

Noelle Rutherford

Ron Slepecki

Zena Burkert

Diane Dinkelocker

Marcia Holbrook

Steve Marquard

Joann Rosales

Jeremy Schaeffer

Geraldine Wagner

June Collison

Emmy Faber

Penny Kroznuski

Judi Merkel

Katie Rosales

Bob Schmehl

Family, friends and loved ones:

Julianne Arnold

Jeannie Crass

Bob Dries

Pearl Garman

Wilbur Herb

Joe Plank

Bob Rutherford

Joan Sehl

Justin Baylor

Linda Dean

Breanna Elison

Donald Gotshall

Elaine Lutz

Lucile Reynolds

Dick Sassaman

Joseph Smith

Marilyn Becker

Jon Dillon

Larry Galloway

Emma Herb

Patsy Pierce

Lou Rothermel

Elisabeth Scollick

The prayers conclude:

P Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of our Lord be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The minister and congregation greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these words: Peace be with you.

Please be seated.

OFFERING / SR. CHOIR ANTHEM, *Like As A Father . . .* Cherubini/Lovlace

Please stand.

OFFERTORY

