



St. Mary's Lutheran Church ~ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Sunday, March 15, 2026 ~ 9:00am
THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



*Please respect the beauty of reverence and quiet reflection as we prepare for worship.
Turn off phones or silence them.
Also know that St. Mary's Lutheran Church celebrates Holy Communion for ALL! This is Christ's table and His invitation. You do not need to be a Lutheran, or a member of our church to participate. Also, if you wish to come up for only a blessing, please tell us when you approach, and we will bless you! If you are unable to come up for communion, tell the usher that you would like to receive communion at your seat, and someone will bring it to you.*

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INTRODUCTION

Guest Speaker, Jennifer Williamson, LSS

Please stand in body or spirit.

GATHERING SONG Hymn #807 "Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing"

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

Amen.

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

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace. **Amen**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (see yellow insert)

PLEASE BE SEATED

WORD (see yellow insert)

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23 (read responsively)

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Please stand in body or spirit.

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.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to St. John the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The gospel of our Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

PLEASE BE SEATED

MESSAGE—LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES (LSS)

Please stand in body or spirit.

HYMN OF THE DAY *Hymn #779 "Amazing Grace"*

APOSTLES' CREED

With the whole church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,

who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,

born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;

he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father,

and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

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

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Receive our prayer, O God.

Your mercy is great.

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

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

PLEASE BE SEATED

MEAL

MUSICAL OFFERING

Women's Choir

"Meditation for Lent" - ARR. MICHAEL BEDFORD

*There is a green hill far away, outside a city wall,
where our dear Lord was crucified, who died to save us all.
O dearly, dearly has he loved! And we must love him too,
and trust in his redeeming love, and try his will to do.
Ah, holy Jesus, how have you offended,
that we to judge you have in hate pretended?
By foes derided, by your own rejected, O most afflicted.*

Please stand in body or spirit

OFFERING Hymn #696 "Jesus Calls Us; o'er the Tumult", vs. 1, 5

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

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 It is indeed right ...join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (HOLY, HOLY, HOLY)

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

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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

**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.**

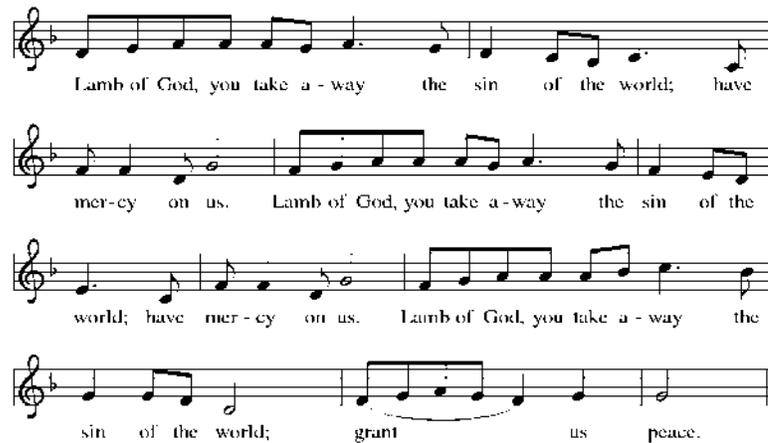
INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

PLEASE BE SEATED

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG



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.

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC *Hymn #337 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"*

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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.

Amen.

BLESSING

God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

Amen.

SENDING SONG *Hymn #673 "God, Whose Almighty Word"*

DISMISSAL

We are God's people. Followers of Jesus Christ.

Gifted by the Spirit. Go Pray. Go Love. Go Serve. Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS000850. New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition. Copyright © 2021 National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States of America. Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. Revised Common Lectionary. Copyright © 1992 Consultation on Common Texts, admin Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission.