



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

March 22/23, 2025

6:00 pm / 8:45 am

Holy Communion

First Lutheran Church, Kearney, NE

ANNOUNCEMENTS And WELCOME

Prelude Reed Wagner, organist

Please stand as you are able.

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 return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of
God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate One,

**C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for
the world. We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the
radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress
others, even though you have set us free again and again.
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform
our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.
Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

Processional Hymn

"Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" ELW 618

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717-1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722-1796, alt.
Music: John Hughes, 1873-1932 Text and Music Public Domain

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.

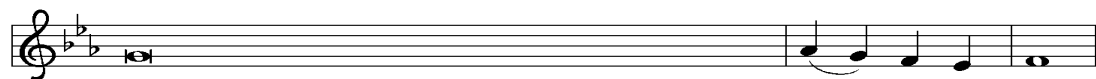
Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



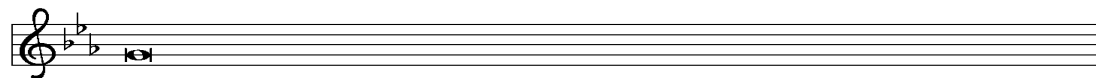
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



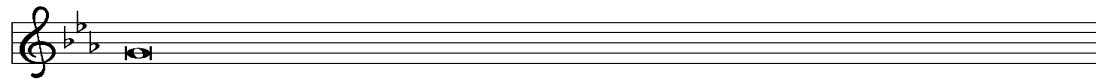
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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

L: Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

8:45 am Anthem “Remember, Words”

by Pamela Martin, Music by Larry Shackley

Chancel Choir

Word

L: A Reading from 1 Corinthians the tenth chapter.

L: ¹ I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, “The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play.” ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents.

¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

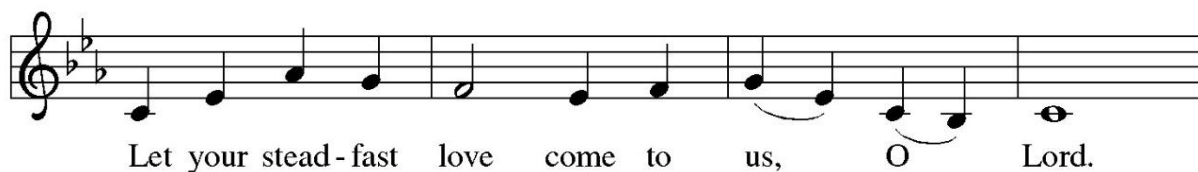
(1 Corinthians 10:1-13)

L: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able for the Gospel Acclamation.

Gospel Acclamation



Gospel

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the thirteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: ¹ At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² Jesus asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?” ³ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵ No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶ Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

(Luke 13:1-9)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Message And “Noisy” Offering

Sermon Pastor Michelle Holley Carlson

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day

“Eternal Father, Strong to Save” ELW 756

1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in

rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -

own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall

cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.
rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

Text: William Whiting, 1825-1878, alt. Music: John B. Dykes, 1823-1876. Text and Music Public Domain

Nicene Creed

L: With the whole church, let us profess our faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

C: **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

L: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence for reflection.

L: We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all people. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst.

God, in your mercy,

C: receive our prayer.

L: We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion. Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. We pray especially for...

Skyler Marie Adams	Larry & Jane Giddings	Garth Scism
Jim Anderson	Chuck Gilson	Kyle Smidt
Bertha Boyer	Linda Sue Jensen	Addison Sullivan
Vicki Buschelman	Betty Kempf	Tony Tauer
Gregory Carrico	Ron Kruse	Dave Vest
Jim Catterson	Bob Lammers	Eunice Warner
Wayne Deterding	Emily McArthur	Carl Weber
Terry Eirich	Bob Placzek	Misty White
Leonard Fowler	Eileen Richter	Dean Wiese
Tyler Freeland	Brent Roemmich	Miranda Wright
Randy Fritson	Tricia Samuelson	

L: God, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

L: We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,
C: receive our prayer.

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
C: Amen.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share a sign of peace with one another.

Please be seated.

Meal

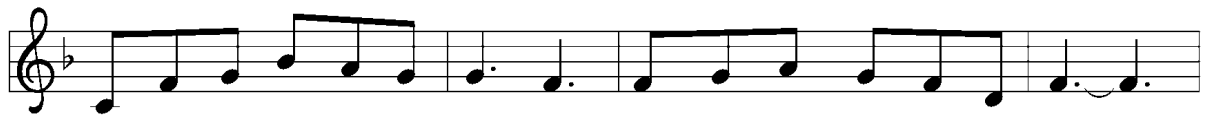
Offering Organist: Reed Wagner

Offertory Response

"Come to the Table" ELW 481



Come to the ta - ble of mer - cy, pre - pared with the wine and the bread.



All who are hun - gry and thirst - y, come, and your souls will be fed.



Come at the Lord's in - vi - ta - tion; re - ceive from his nail - scarred hand.



Eat of the bread of sal - va - tion; drink of the blood of the Lamb.

Text: Claire Cloninger, b. 1942. Music: Martin J. Nystrom, b. 1956. Text and music © 1991 Integrity's Hosanna! Music; Juniper Landing Music, admin. Word Music. All Rights Reserved. Used by permission of CCLI License #1093735

Offertory Prayer

L: Let us pray.

Gracious Provider,

you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

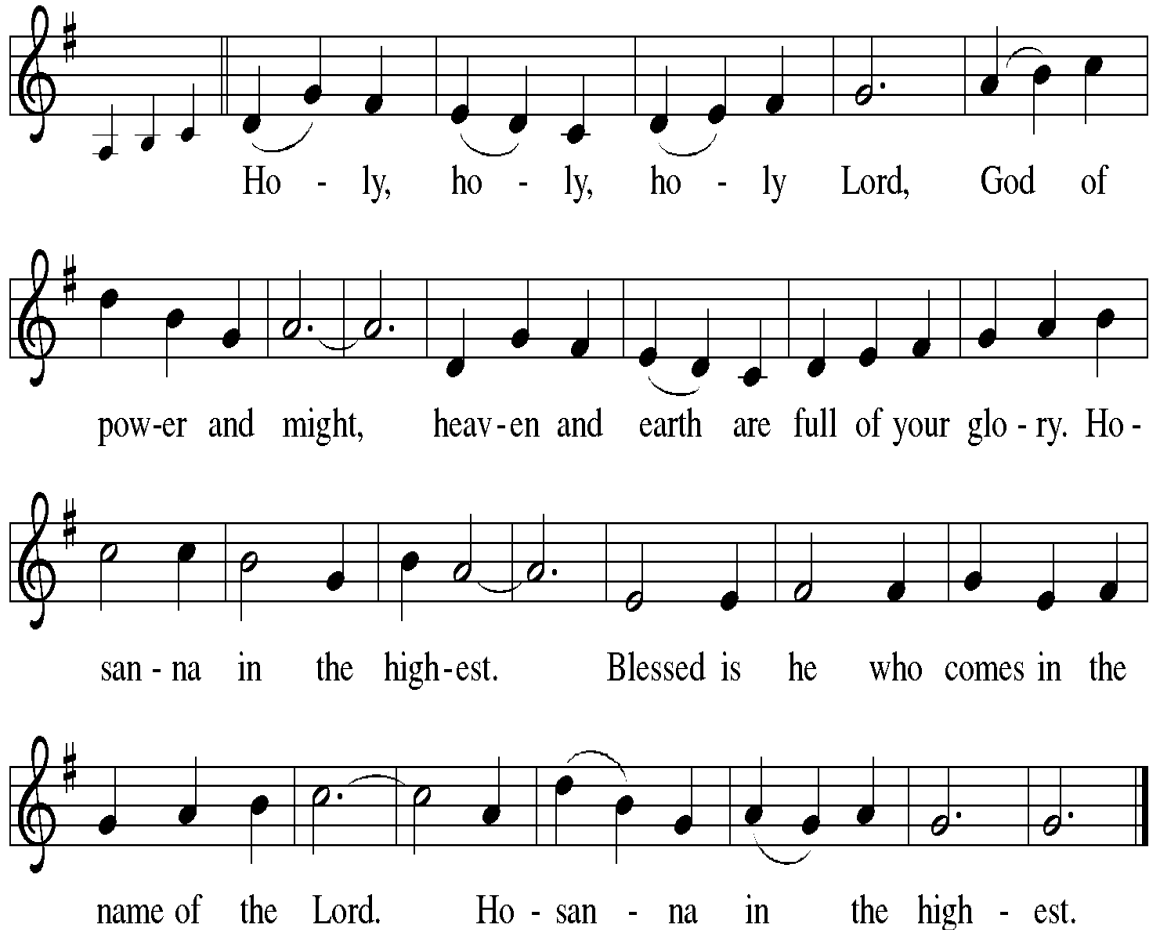
C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

Sanctus

"Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord"



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.

Thomas Pavlechko, b. 1962 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission of OneLicense #A-705218

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was handed over, 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.

P: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The 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.

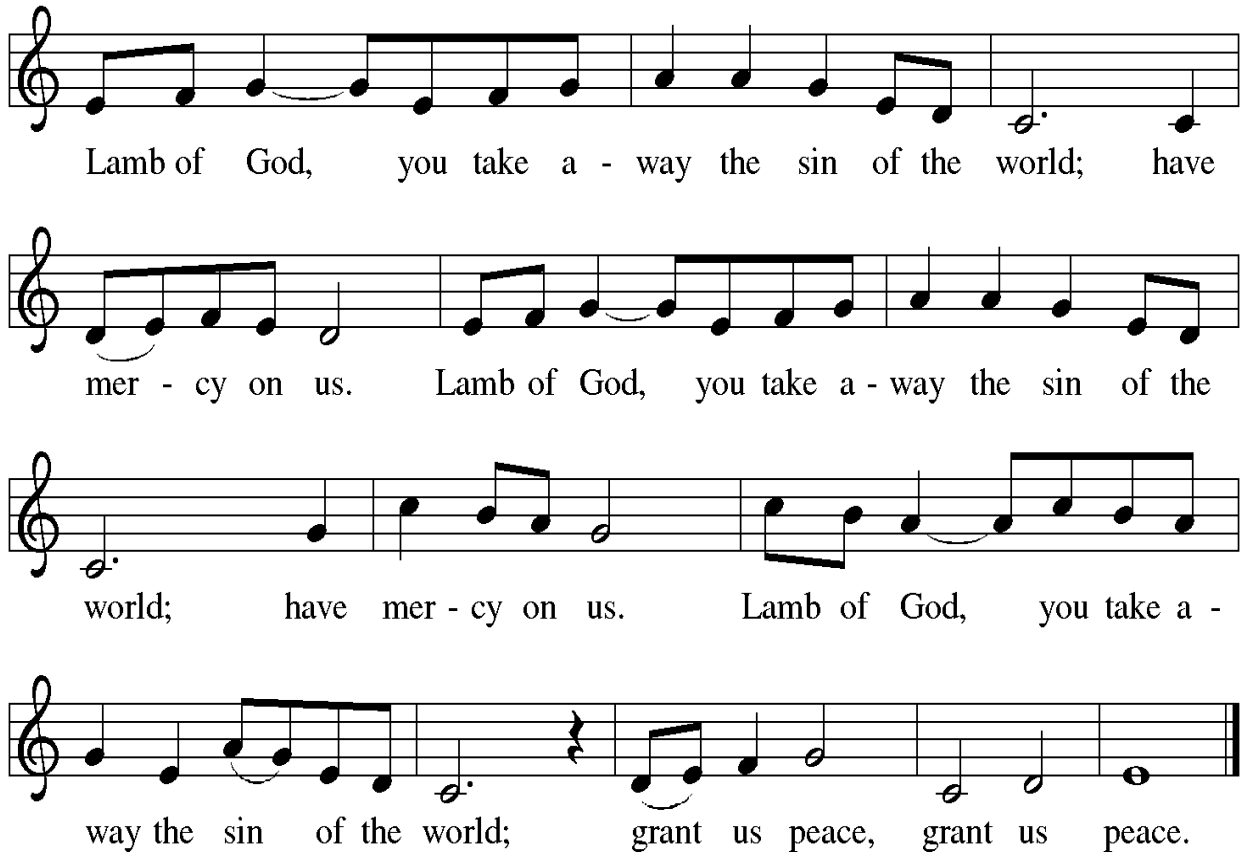
Amen.

Invitation To Communion

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

We practice open communion at First Lutheran. All are welcome to receive the elements at the altar rail. Gluten-free wafers are available. In addition to the cups filled with wine (red) in the tray, there are cups containing grape juice (clear) in the center.

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.

Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950 © 2006 Augsburg Fortress All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission of OneLicense #A-705218

Communion Music

Reed Wagner, organist

Please stand as you are able.

Table Grace

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

C: Amen.

Prayer after Communion

L: Let us pray.

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

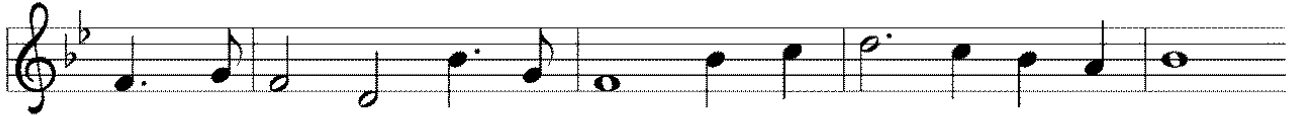
Blessing

P: God our tender caregiver,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✠ bless you now and forever.

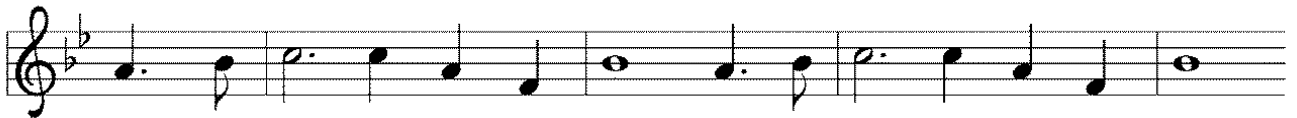
C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me" ELW 623



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740-1778. Music: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872 Text & Music: Public Domain

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude Organist: Reed Wagner

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Worship Schedule**—Saturday 6:00 pm, Sunday 8:45 am & 11:00 am
- **Church Office Hours**—Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- **Brookestone Garden Services: First Sunday** monthly at 2:00 pm
- **For the hard of hearing FLC offers a loop system** for wearers with a “T” (t-coil) setting; the coverage works **best** on the main floor in the **center** aisles. (It is not available in the balcony.)
- **Prayer Chapel**—across from Centennial Hall, a place for quiet prayer
- **S.A.F.E. Center donations** - for March are household cleaning products! Please put donations on the sharing shelf in the Narthex.
- **Volunteers of the Month** – for March is the Assistant Ministry Team
- **Communion registration**—Please register annually to maintain membership. Registration cards in pew racks & on Welcome Stations.
- **Visitors**—please complete a visitor card, found in the pews.
- **First Lutheran Church Preschool Registration:**
 - **Registration is open to the public** – for 2025/2026
- **Sundays: Sunday School** – Pre-K through 8th grade 9:50 am - 10:50 am.
- **Sundays, March 23 and 30** – Adult Sunday School with Pastor Rick. 9:50 am – Centennial Hall.
- **Wednesdays** - March 26, April 2 & 9 –
 - 5:15 pm – Praiser Bells
 - 5:30 pm - Feeding The Flock
 - 5:45 pm - First Communion Class
 - 6:10 pm - Heavenly Treblemakers
 - 6:30 pm - Lenten Services
 - 7:00 pm - Chancel Choir
- **Sunday, April 6** – Troop 339 Waffle and Bake Sale Fundraiser. Centennial Hall. 9:45 am – 12:30 pm.
- **Sunday, April 6** – Natalie and Friends Concert – 3:00 pm
- **Sunday, April 13** – Palm Sunday
- **Thursday, April 17** – Maundy Thursday Service – 6:30 pm
- **Friday, April 18** – Good Friday Service – 6:30 pm.
- **Saturday, April 19** – Holy Saturday Service – 6:00 pm
- **Sunday, April 20** – Easter SONrise Service: 7:00 am
- **Sunday, April 20** – Easter Services: 8:45 am and 11:00 am
- **Sunday, April 27th** – Together for Joy and Thanksgiving Unity service.
 - 9:45 am – Sunday School
 - 11:00 am ONE Service– Traditional with the Cantata
 - 12:00 noon – Open House to view the new office area.
 - 12:15 pm – Pot luck luncheon.
 - Members with last names A-L bring a salad, side or dessert
 - Members with last names M-Z bring a main dish.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

**First Lutheran Church ~ 3315 G Avenue ~ Kearney, NE 68847
308-237-5544 ~ office@firstlutherankearney.org**

**Rev/ Dr. Michelle Holley Carlson, Preaching Pastor
Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson, Presiding Pastor**

**Assisting Ministers:
6:00 pm – Jamie Banzhaf
8:45 am – Amy Behrhorst
11:00 am – Sarah Schweitzer**

Organist: Reed Wagner

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Prelude:

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Lamb of God - Twila Paris, arr. Lloyd Larson © 1985 Straight Way Music/Mountain Spring Music (ASACP) (Admin EMI Christian Music Pub. Sole Selling Agent of this 2001 arrangement: Hope Pub. Co. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission of CCLI #1093735

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Offertory:

Communion:

Postlude:

