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Third Sunday in Lent

March 7/8, 2026

6:00 pm | 8:45 am

Holy Communion

First Lutheran Church, Kearney, NE

Announcements and Welcome

Prelude “*The Power of the Cross*”, arr: James Koerts
Betty Heggemeyer, 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 confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor
you: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

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

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: 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

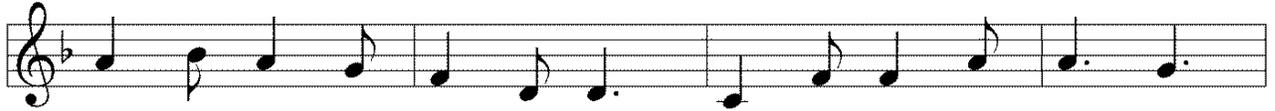
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

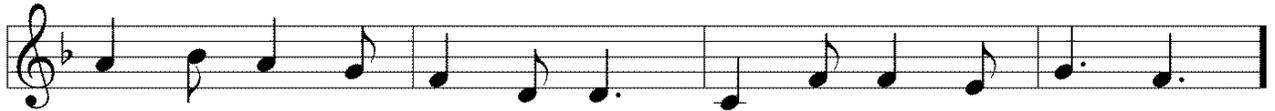
C: Amen.

Processional Hymn

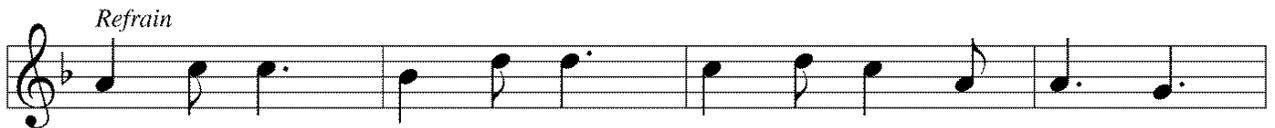
“Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross” ELW 335



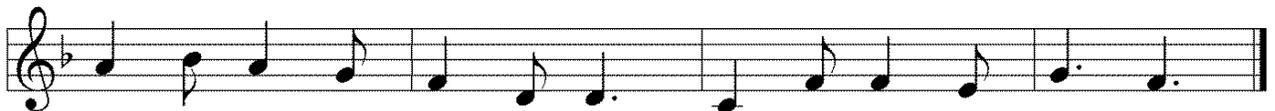
1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
there the bright and Morn - ing Star sheds its beams a - round me.
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ows o'er me.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

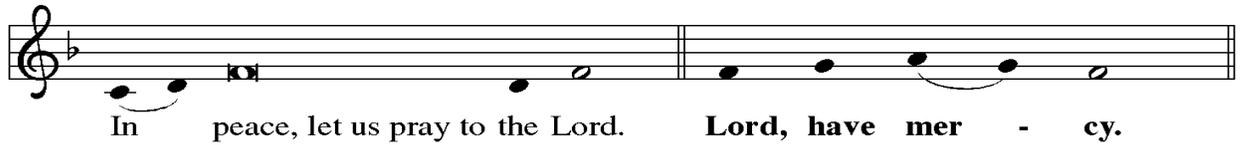
Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915. Music: William H. Doane, 1832-1915. Text and Music Public Domain

Greeting

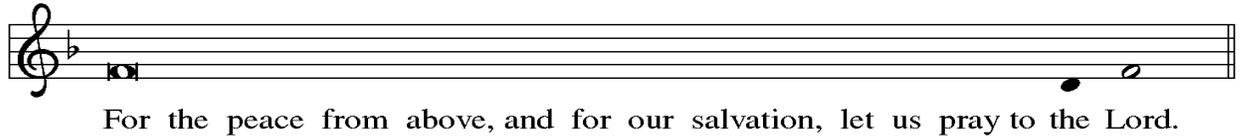
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

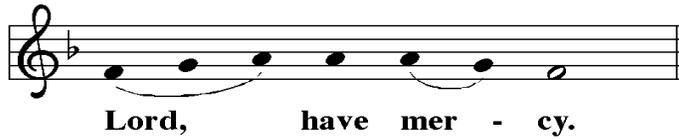
Kyrie



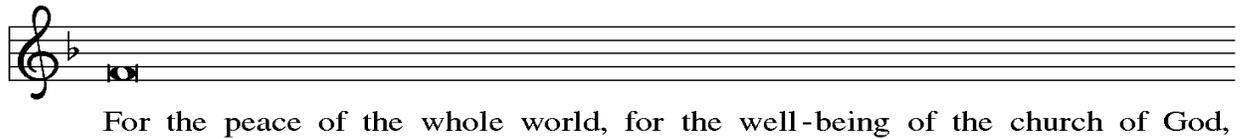
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



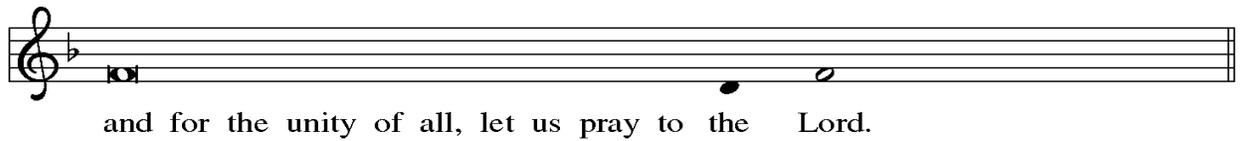
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



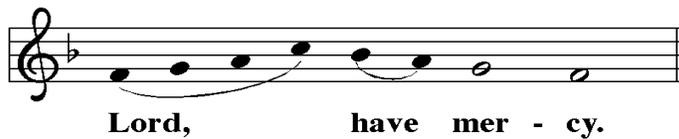
Lord, have mer - cy.



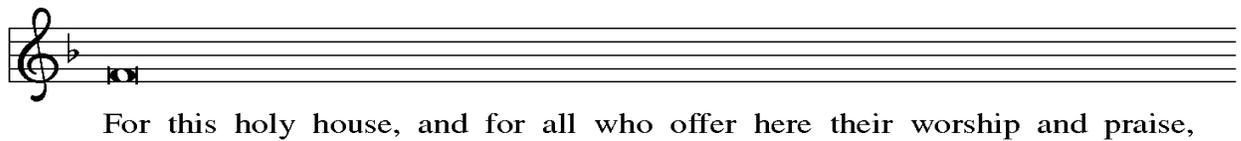
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



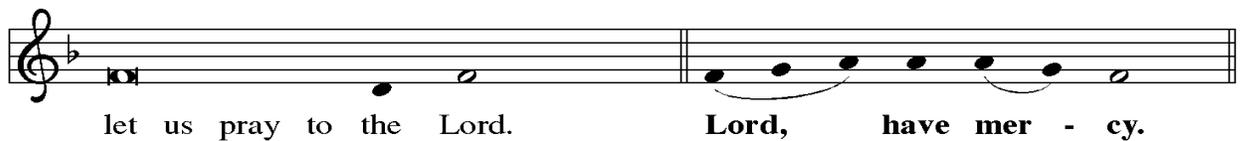
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



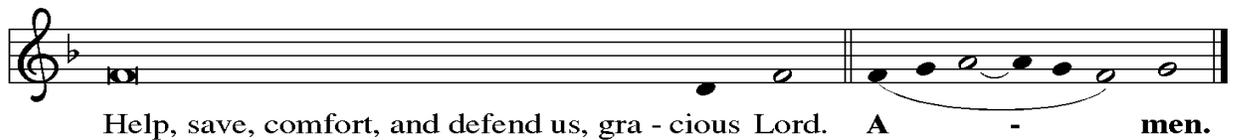
Lord, have mer - cy.



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 defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Prayer of the Day

L: Let us pray.

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth 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.

8:45 am ANTHEM *“Trust in the Lord”*,
by Mary McDonald **Chancel Choir**

The Gospel Reading is being presented as a conversation between a Samaritan Woman and Jesus based on John 4:5-42.

Children’s Message and “Noisy” Offering
(Children’s offering goes towards ELCA North Carolina Disaster Relief Fund)

Sermon Pastor Rick Carlson

Please stand as you are able.

Hymn of the Day "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" ELW 611



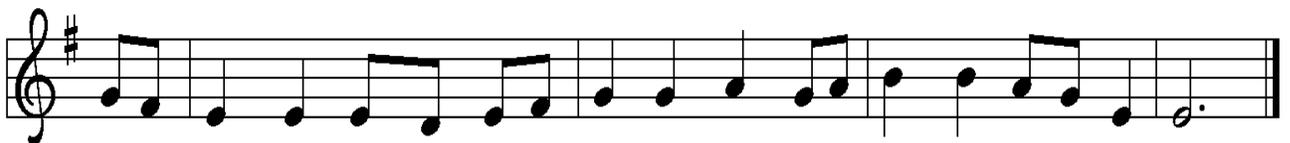
1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



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.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889. Music: English folk tune. Text and Tune Public Domain. All Rights Reserved. Used by Permission of OneLicense #A-705218

6:00 pm –

Sacrament of Holy Baptism for Matthew Gary Gebel

Introduction

Pastor: In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberates us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; in the waters of Baptism we are reborn children of God and inheritors of eternal life. By water and the Holy Spirit we are made members of the Church which is the body of Christ. As we live with him and with his people, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

Presentation

Pastor: Who presents this child for Holy Baptism?

Sponsors: We present *Matthew Gary Gebel* to receive the Sacrament of Holy Baptism.

Pastor: As you bring *Matthew* to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with responsibilities:

To live with *him* among God's faithful people,
bring *him* to the word of God and the holy supper,
teach *him* the Lord's Prayer, the Creed, and the Ten
Commandments, place in *him* hands the holy scriptures,
and nurture *him* in faith and prayer,
so that your *he* may learn to trust God,
proclaim Christ through word and deed,
care for others and the world God made,
and work for justice and peace.

Parents, do you promise to help *Matthew* grow in the Christian faith and life?

Parents: We do.

Pastor: Sponsors, do you promise to nurture Matthew in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and help *him* live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

Sponsors: We do.

Profession

Pastor: Let us profess the faith in which we baptize today:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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.

Thanksgiving at the Font

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word, that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given

new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.
C: Amen.

Baptism

Pastor: *Matthew Gary Gebel* is baptized in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Laying on of Hands

Pastor: God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we give you thanks for freeing your sons and daughters from the power of sin and for raising them up to a new life through this holy sacrament. Pour your Holy Spirit upon *Matthew*; the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence. Amen.

Signing with the Cross

Pastor: *Matthew*, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. Amen.

Presentation of the Gifts

Prayer for Parents

Pastor: O God, the giver of all life, look with kindness upon *Brandon and Jessica*. Let them ever rejoice in the gift you have given them. Make them teachers and examples of righteousness for their child. Strengthen them in their own Baptism so they may share eternally with their child the salvation you have given them, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Welcome

Pastor: Members of First Lutheran, you have witnessed the Baptism of *Matthew*. Will you pray for *him* and share your faith with *him*? Will you remind *him* that he belongs to Christ and that as Christ's people we all belong to each other?

Congregation: We will.

Pastor: Then, welcome your new *brother* in the name of Jesus.

Congregation: We welcome you into the body of Christ and into the mission we share; join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.

8:45 am Apostles' Creed

L: With the whole church, let us profess 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 Intercession

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

A brief silence for reflection.

L: O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles.

Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. We pray especially for:

Jim Anderson	Mary Henning	Debbie Steinbrecher
Doug Bierman	Jerry Ibsen	Carrie Stithem
Bertha Boyer	Patty Ibsen	Joanne Suing
Vicki Buschelman	Tami Jobman	Tony Tauer
Pastor John Carlson	Derek Johnson	Martha Tiede
Gregory Carrico	Laura Morton	Alicia Tracy
Rich Ferris	Russell Radcliffe	Misty White
Corinne Fischer	Mary Renshaw	Dean Wiese
Leonard Fowler	Daniel Rheome	Miranda Wright
Randy Fritson	Eileen Richter	Paula Yoachim
Larry Giddings	Kristen Richter	James Ziebarth
Keith Halliwell	Daryl Rodgers	Midge Zimmer
	Garth Scism	

Prayers of comfort and peace for:

- *Todd & Susan Athy and family on the death of Todd's uncle, Doug Bliss.*
- *Marvel Hueke's family and friends on her death.*

L: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

L: O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

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

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.

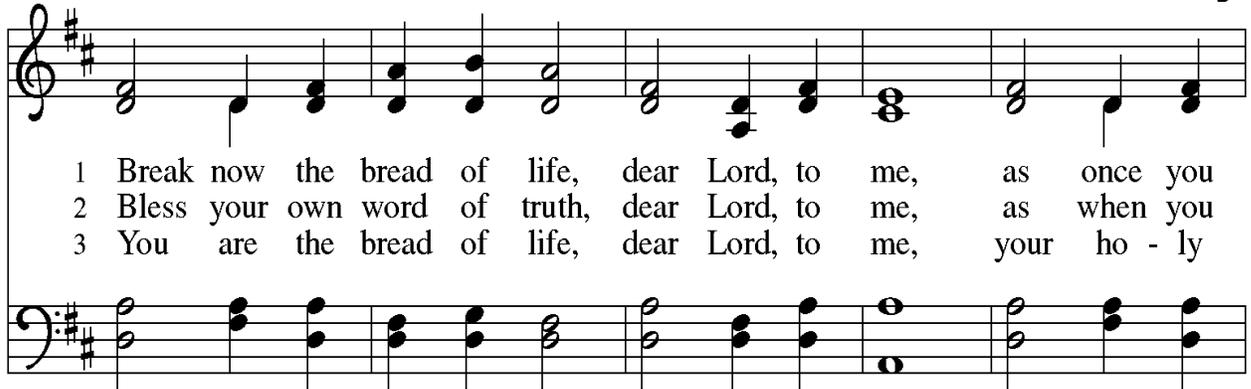
Meal

Offering *“As The Deer”* by Martin Nystrom
Betty Heggemeyer, organist

Communion Servers: Please come forward at this time.

Offertory Response

“Break Now the Bread of Life” ELW 515, Verse One only



1 Break now the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, as once you
2 Bless your own word of truth, dear Lord, to me, as when you
3 You are the bread of life, dear Lord, to me, your ho - ly



broke the loaves be - side the sea. Be - yond the sa - cred page
blessed the bread by Gal - i - lee. Then shall all bond-age cease,
word the truth that res - cues me. Give me to eat and live



I seek you, Lord; my spir - it waits for you, O liv - ing Word.
all fet - ters fall; and I shall find my peace, my All - in - All!
with you a - bove; teach me to love your truth, for you are love.

Text: Mary A. Lathbury, 1841-1913, alt., Music: William F. Sherwin, 1826-1888 Text and Music: Public Domain

Offertory Prayer

L: 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.

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



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.

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.

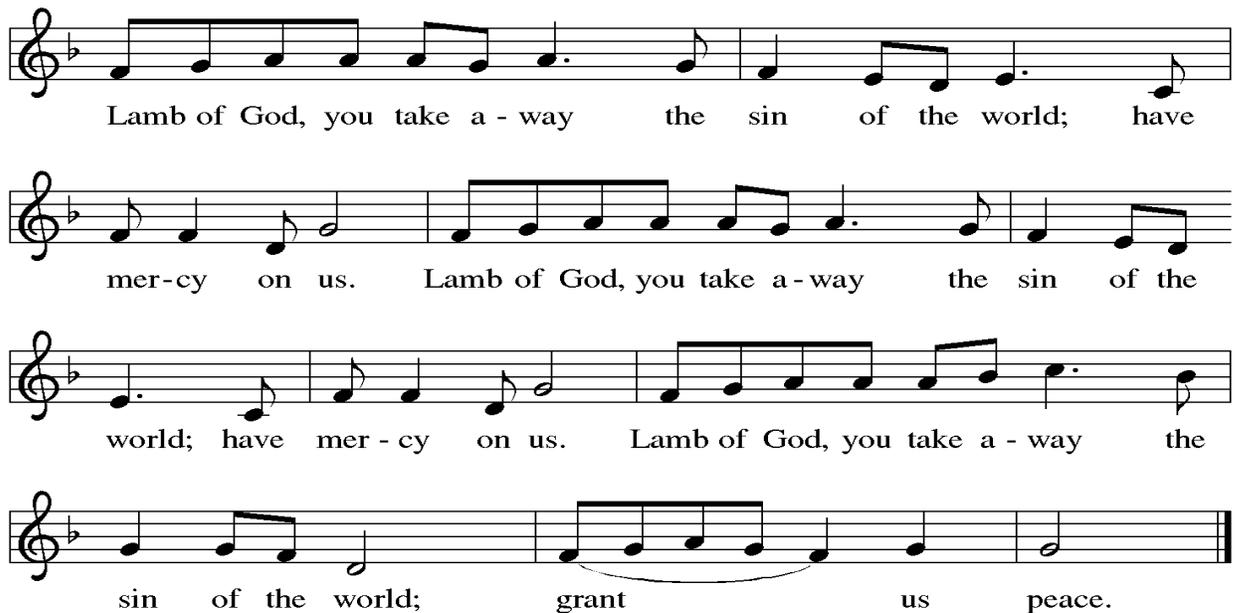
Amen.

Invitation To Communion

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

We practice open communion at First Lutheran. All are welcome to receive the elements. 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.

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Communion Music “A Communion Medley”, by Rex Koury Betty Heggemeyer, 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.

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.

Blessing

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
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.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn

“Spirit of God, Descend Upon My Heart” ELW 800

1 Spir - it of God, de - scend up - on my heart;
2 I ask no dream, no proph - et ec - sta - sies,
3 Have you not bid me love you, God and King;
4 Teach me to love you as your an - gels love,

wean it from earth, through all its puls - es move;
no sud - den rend - ing of the veil of clay,
all, all your own, soul, heart, and strength, and mind?
one ho - ly pas - sion fill - ing all my frame:

stoop to my weak - ness, strength to me im - part,
no an - gel vis - i - tant, no op - 'ning skies;
I see your cross; there teach my heart to cling.
the bap - tism of the heav'n - de - scend - ed dove,

and make me love you as I ought to love.
but take the dim - ness of my soul a - way.
Oh, let me seek you and, oh, let me find!
my heart an al - tar, and your love the flame.

Text: George Croly, 1780-1860. Music: Frederick C. Atkinson, 1841-1897 Text and Music Public Domain

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude *“I’ve Got Peace Like a River”*,
arr by Cindy Berry **Betty Heggemeyer, organist**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Worship Schedule**—Saturday 6:00pm, Sunday 8:45am & 11:00am
- **Church Office Hours**—Monday-Friday, 8:30 am to 4:00 pm.
- **Brookstone Garden Services: First Sunday** monthly / 2:00pm
- **Prayer Chapel**—across from Centennial Hall.
- **For the hard of hearing FLC offers a loop system** for wearers with a “T” (t-coil) setting.
- **S.A.F.E. Center donation** - for March: Q-Tips, Cotton Balls and Band-Aids.
- **Volunteers of the Month:** We’re excited to recognize Vicki Conn, Dennis Gorr, and Myron Riddle as our Volunteers of the Month! They have completed training to serve as Stephen Ministers, providing compassionate care and support to individuals walking through life’s transitions and difficult seasons. Thank you for being such a blessing to our church family.
- **STUFF THE CART** – Non-perishable food items for the Jubilee Food Pantry can be set inside the grocery cart in the Narthex.
- **Communion registration**—Please register annually to maintain membership.
- **Visitors**—please complete a visitor card, found in the pews.
- **Our Nursery** is located next to the Café area. It is available for anyone to use with services livestreamed inside. A toddler restroom is located inside.
- **Sundays in March** – 9:50am | Adult Bible Study w/Pastor Rick, Centennial Hall
- **Mon. March 9** – Easter Lily and Tulip orders due to the office.
- **Tuesdays** – 5:30pm | Chancel Bells – Sanctuary
- **Wednesdays** – 5:30 pm – Feeding the Flock
- 5:45 pm – First Communion Class
- 6:30 pm – Lenten Service
- **Thurs. March 12 & 26** – Jubilee Meals served at First Lutheran Church.
- **Thurs. March 19** – 1:00pm Women’s ELCA Board Mtg – Fellowship Hall
- **Thurs. April 2** – 6:30pm | Maundy Thursday Service
- **Fri. April 3** – 6:30pm | Good Friday Service
- **Sat. April 4** – 6:00pm | Holy Saturday Service
- **Sun. April 5** – 7am, 8:45am & 11am – Easter Services
- **Sun. April 19** – 3pm – Natalie & Friends Concert
- **Sun. Apr. 26** – Unity Sunday: One Sunday Service 11am. Potluck Luncheon
Sat/Sun Apr. 25/26 - Spring Cantata Sat. 6pm & Sun. 11am.



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, Presiding
Rev. Dr. Rick Carlson, Preaching**

**Assisting Ministers:
8:45 am – Amanda Lewis
11:00 am – Lori McArthur**

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"The Power of the Cross", arr: James Koerts Words and music by Keith Getty and Stuart Townend 2005

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Communion: "A Communion Medley", by Rex Koury Based on Woodworth Compiled by Kris Kropff
Lorenz Publishing Company 1999

Postlude: "I've Got Peace Like a River", Spiritual arr by Cindy Berry Alfred Music copyright 2015

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