

COMMUNION SONG (ELW p. 146)
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
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. **Amen.**

BLESSING
God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG “GUIDE ME EVER, GREAT REDEEMER” ELW 618

DISMISSAL (ELW p. 146)
Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Saint Luke’s Lutheran Church

3200 Park Road
Charlotte, NC 28209
(704) 523-7981

Third Sunday in Lent

March 23, 2025

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ELW p. 94)
Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**
Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Compassionate One, **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.**

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. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG “JESUS SHALL SAVE” ELW 434

GREETING (ELW p. 138)
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

KYRIE (ELW p. 138)
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

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

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 mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY (ELW p. 142)
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. **Amen.**

CHILDRENS CHURCH & NOISY OFFERING FOR DRESS FOR SUCCESS
A narrative book series called “The Story” by Max Lucado, Randy Frazee and Karen Hill.

The Mission of Dress for Success is to empower women to achieve economic independence by providing a network of support, professional attire, and development tools to help women thrive in work and in life.

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS

The Rev. Dr. Keith Copeland
Mike Hix, Organ button pusher

Assisting Minister:

Greeter: Rhonda Crisp

Reader:

Communion

Assistants:

Audio/Video: Ami-Luise Vucovich

Ushers: Patrick Lemons

Altar Guild: Judy Hall

Friendship Room: Elgart family

Altar Flowers:

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FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9 (NRSV OT p.838)
¹ Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 (NRSV NT p.209)
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 spir- itual 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 exam- ples 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 be- yond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)
Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9 (NRSV NT p.92)
The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**
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 suf- fered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?” ³ No, I tell you; but unless you re- pent, 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.’”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON
HYMN OF THE DAY “JESUS, STILL LEAD ON” ELW 624
CREED (ELW p. 105)
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
...God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

...in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

PEACE
OFFERING ORGAN ANTHEM

OFFERING RESPONSE ELW 186
Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and uphold me with your free Spirit.

OFFERING PRAYER
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. **Amen.**

DIALOGUE (ELW p. 144)
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 (ELW p. 144)
HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 144)
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow’r and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (ELW p. 145)
LORD’S PRAYER (ELW p. 145)
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
All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

COMMUNION
All are welcome to God’s table of Grace! Gluten free wafers are available . For those with severe allergies, individually wrapped wafers are in a basket with ingredient card. Ask your server.