

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.

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
The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG “THE GLORY OF THESE FORTY DAYS” ELW 320

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

POSTLUDE

Saint Luke’s Lutheran Church

3200 Park Road Fifth Sunday in Lent
Charlotte, NC 28209
(704) 523-7981 April 6, 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.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another. Gracious God, **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG “AS WE GATHER AT YOUR TABLE” ELW 522

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. Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDRENS CHURCH
A narrative book series called “The Story” by Max Lucado, Randy Frazee and Karen Hill.

TODAY’S WORSHIP LEADERS	
The Rev. Dr. Keith Copeland	
Tony Lee, Organ button pusher	
Assisting Minister:	
Greeter:	
Reader:	Rebekah Woodard
Communion	Rebekah Woodward &
Assistants:	Cheris Copeland
Audio/Video:	Behm family
Ushers:	Dale Bartlett
Altar Guild:	Diana Brooks
Friendship Room:	McKee Family
Altar Flowers:	

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Mailing Address: St. Luke’s Lutheran Church P.O. Box 11063 Charlotte, NC 28220-1063

FIRST READING: Isaiah 43:16-21 (NRSV OT p.823)
¹⁶ Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters, ¹⁷ who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸ Do not remember the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹ I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert. ²⁰ The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, ²¹ the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

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

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14 (NRSV NT p.242)
[Paul writes:] ^{4b} If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵ circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶ as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless. ⁷ Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸ More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹ and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰ I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹ if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. ¹² Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³ Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

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: John 12:1-8 (NRSV NT p.129)
The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ² There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³ Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus’ feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴ But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵ “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” ⁶ (He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷ Jesus said, “Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸ You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me.”

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY “MY HOPE IS BUILDING ON NOTHING LESS” ELW 597

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 - “ Lamb of God “ by Twila Paris

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)
...With this bread and cup we remember our Lord’s passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

...Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. **Come, Holy Spirit.**
...we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever. **Amen.**

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.**