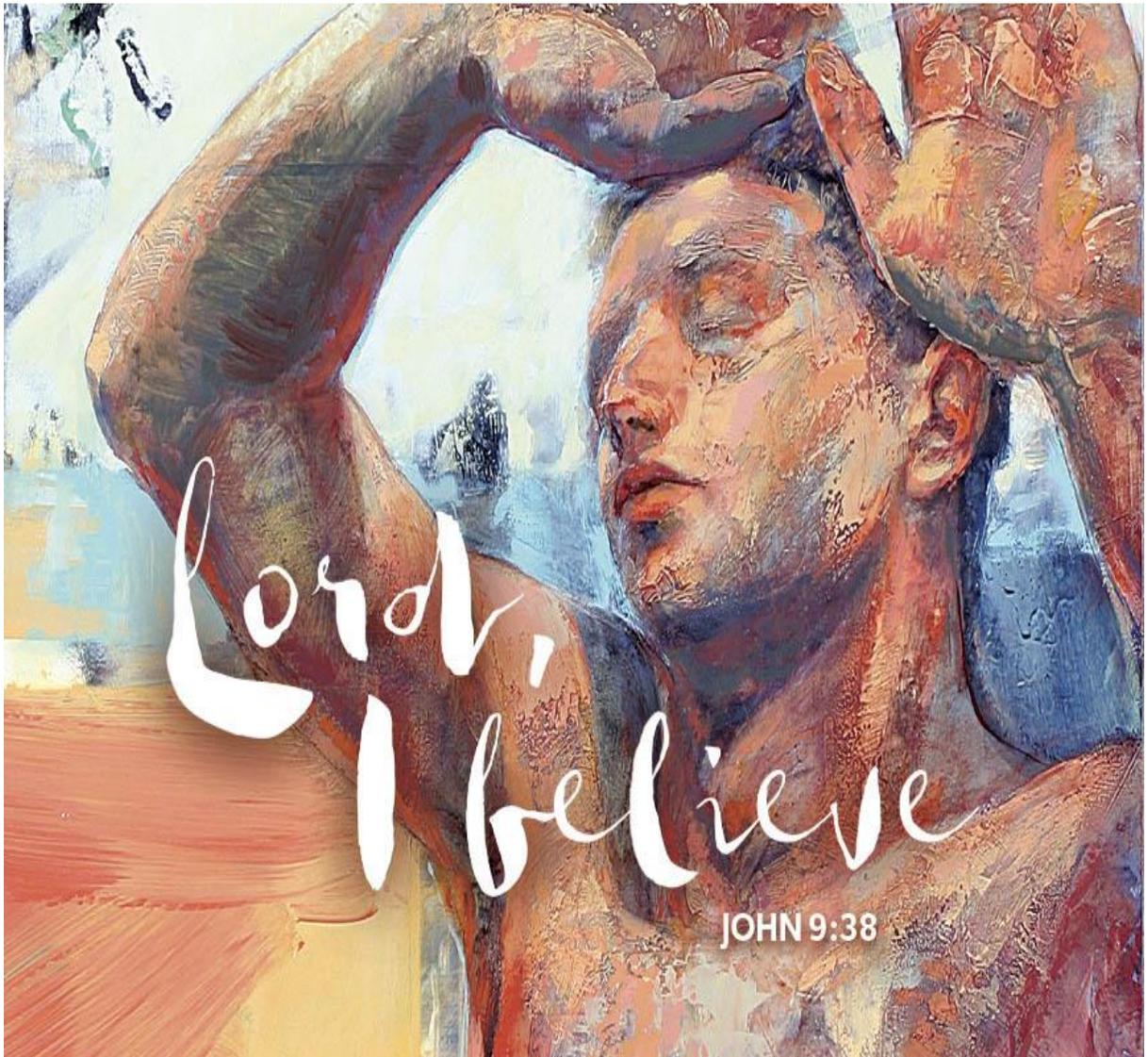


THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT
March 19, 2023
Communion Service 11:00 AM



GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

MAKING CHRIST KNOWN

Lauren W. Blatt, Pastor

MISSION STATEMENT
Building the Kingdom of God
In our Community

You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

The Bulletins for today are presented by Barbara Huegler to the Glory of God
The reader today is Daniel Houck

Bell Ringing

Announcements

*Denotes Congregation Stands, if you are able

GREETING:

P: Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

PRELUDE The Lord's My Shepherd – Brother James Air

*CALL TO WORSHIP

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Holy God,

C: we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

*DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

P: Hear the good news: God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, ✝ forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: Amen.

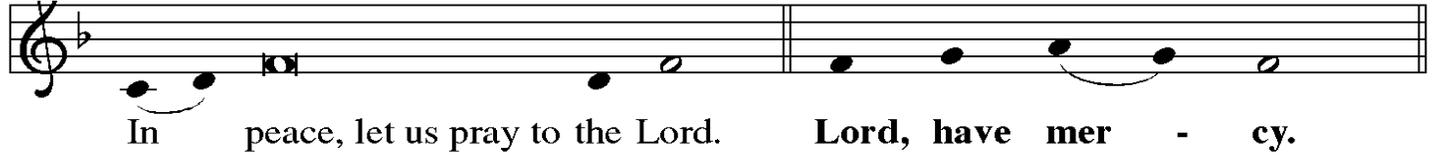
*GATHERING HYMN # 673 God, Whose Almighty Word

***GATHERING**

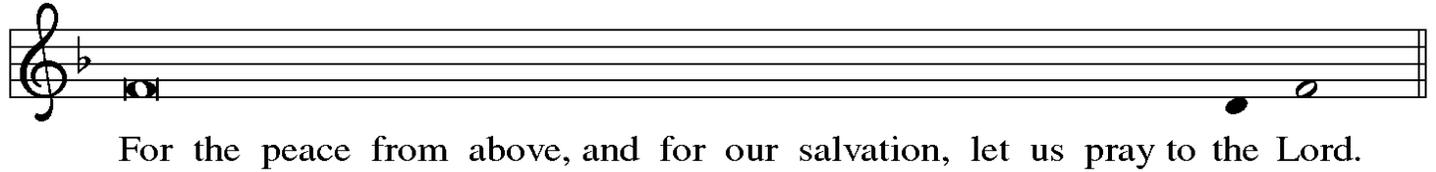
P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

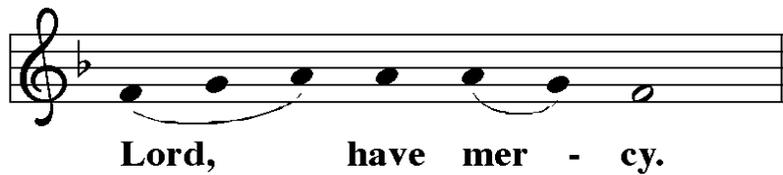
***KYRIE**



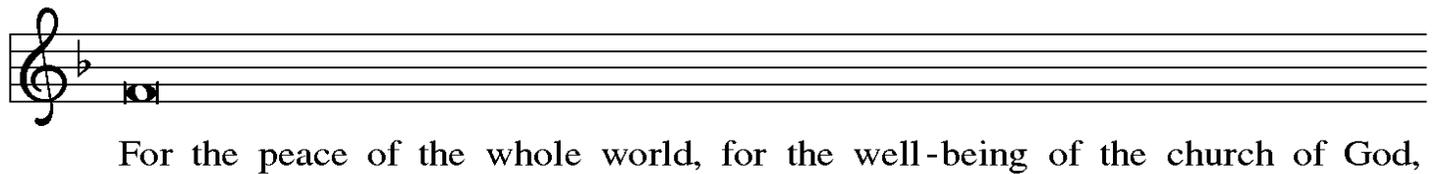
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



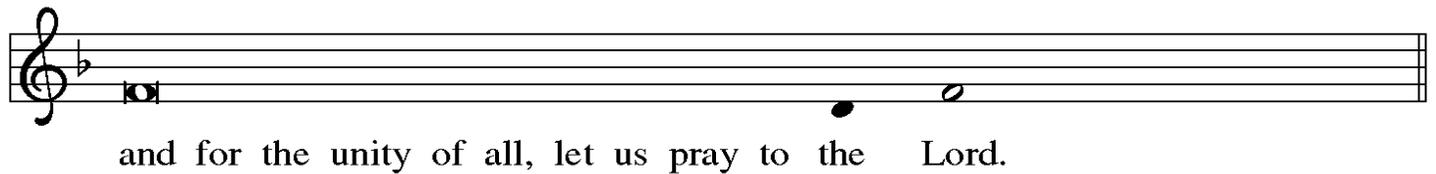
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



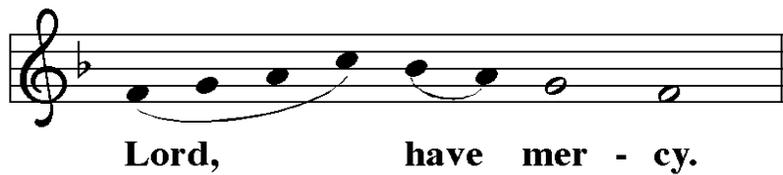
Lord, have mer - cy.



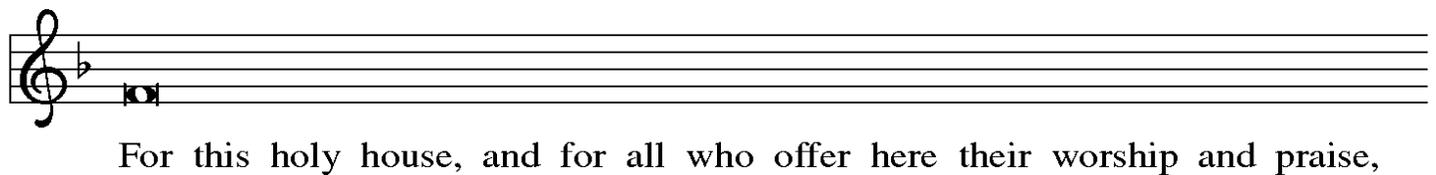
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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.**

*HYMN OF PRAISE – “Glory Be to God in Heaven

1 Glo-ry be to God in heav - en; peace, good-will to all the earth.
 2 Glo-ry be to Christ for - ev - er, Lamb of God and Lord of love.
 3 Ho - ly One we now ac-claim you; Lord a - lone, to you we call;

Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth:
 Son of God and gra-cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove;
 Ho - ly One in faith we name you, throned on high, yet near to all:

we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
 on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand.
 Je - sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa - ther's splen - dor bright.

Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise.
 Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand.
 For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

Text: Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951, based on “Gloria in excelsis Deo”
 Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Text © 1998 Augsburg Fortress

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

PSALMODY: Psalm 23

¹The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

²**The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

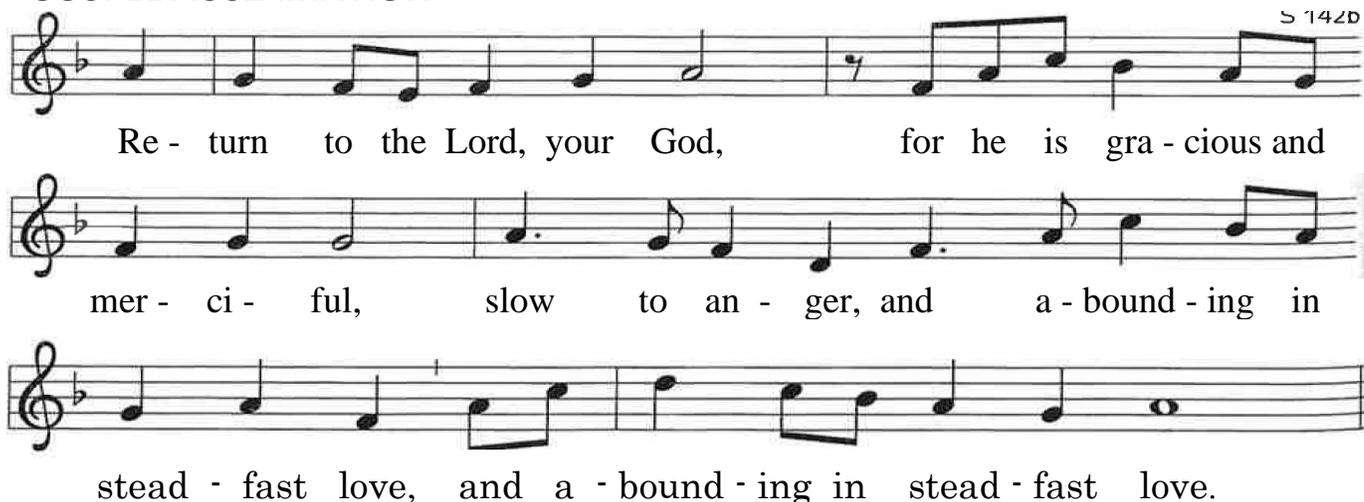
³You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

***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**

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the 9th Chapter

C: Glory to you, O Lord

¹As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹²They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵He

answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." ³⁷Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." ³⁸He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.

³⁹Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY # 779 Amazing Grace

* APOSTLE'S CREED

P: Please stand as we confess together our faith using the Apostle's Creed.

**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**

P: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church,
the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

P: Eternal God, you seal us by the Holy Spirit and mark us with the cross
of Christ forever in baptism. Inspire us by your love as together we
strive for justice and peace in all the earth. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Creating God, by your word you have made all things, and you hate
nothing you have made. Teach us to perceive the beauty of the
breadth of your creation, from the grandest mountain range to the
smallest springtime bud. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Powerful God, you anoint kings and establish rulers. Guide the work of
heads of state and elected officials. Encourage them to lead with
justice and to remove barriers that impede the well-being of all.
Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Shepherding God, you lead us beside still waters and restore our souls. Keep watch over those who weep; tend all who are sick and comfort those who grieve as we name those dear to us, either aloud or silently in our hearts . . . Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God our host, you fill us at your table with more than we could ever ask. Feed us with hunger for justice. Equip the feeding ministries of this congregation and community. Bless the work of the West Berks Mission District as they feed, cloth, and assist in sheltering those in need in the community. Nourish us so we can nourish our neighbors. We pray today for Christ Lutheran Church in Reading and Pastor Bruce Osterhout. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: God of history, with thanksgiving we remember our ancestors in faith who cared for your people, *especially Joseph, Guardian of Jesus*. We praise you for the ways they formed the faith of others and continue to inspire us. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

*SHARING THE PEACE OF GOD

OFFERING

*OFFERING PRAYER

P: God of good gifts,

C: receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen

*GREAT THANKSGIVING



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

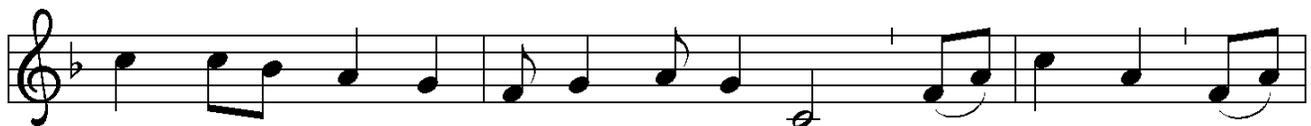


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, 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.

P: 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.

***THE LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray

**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**

COMMUNION INVITATION

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness. This is the gift of God for the people of God.

C: Thanks be to God.

Communion Hymns (to sing while you are in your seats) # 789, 328

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

C: Amen.

*SENDING BLESSING:

P: God, the giver of love, ✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: Amen.

*SENDING HYMN # 793 Be Thou My Vision

*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Today's Podcast/Streaming was broadcast under Good Shepherd's Augsburg Fortress Liturgies License #SB121391 and the account with ONE LICENSE, License #739070-A

We extend a hearty welcome to our visitors. Please fill out a Pew card with your contact information. If there is any way we can be of service to you, please inform us. There are also Visitor Packets available. Please see someone at the Gathering Table if you are interested in more information.

CHANGE IN SERVICE TIME - our worship time is at 11 AM.

MARCH WORSHIP SCHEDULE

March 22 – Wednesday Calvary Lenten Service at 7 PM, Supper at 6 PM

March 26 – Lent 5 Worship/Healing Service Good Shepherd 11 AM

March 29 - Wednesday Good Shepherd Lenten Service 7 PM, Supper at 6 PM

APRIL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 2 - Community Breakfast 9 AM – 10:30 AM – Good Shepherd
cost per person \$10, children 12 and younger \$5

Sunday School / Pre-School Easter Egg Hunt 10 AM

April 2 – PALM SUNDAY Service 11:00 AM Good Shepherd

April 6 – Maundy Thursday Good Shepherd Communion at 7 PM

April 7 – Good Friday 7 PM at Calvary Lutheran

April 9 – EASTER Communion 11:00 AM at Good Shepherd

April 16 – Easter 2 11:00 AM Good Shepherd

April 23 – Easter 3 Communion / Welcome Pastor 11 AM Good Shepherd
Dinner following the Service.



EASTER PLANTS

Please see the forms on the table in the Gathering Area for orders to be placed. Return completed forms to the office. Enter the memorial or dedication information on the back of the form. Thanks.

Council please note the March meeting Tuesday the 21st at 7:00 PM

2023 Council Members

President – Lynn Shollenberger **Vice President – Gary O’Brien**
Secretary – Cathy Meck **(Treasurer – John Wanner)**
Officers – James Culley Rodney Haupt Helenna Lutz
Duane Mauer Betty Nelson Allyn Swavely Harry Walters

Prayer Chain Information

Please remember the following in your prayers:

(Names omitted due to placement on a public site.)

Food Pantry Thursday April 20

The Muhlenberg Churches collaborative food distribution ministry is held here at Good Shepherd Lutheran on the 3rd Thursday of the month. In addition to the food that is received from Helping Harvest are the dry goods and canned food that are collected at the local churches and civic organizations. If you would like to support this collaborative ministry, bring in your donations and place them on the white stand in the Gathering Area. Thank you for responding to God’s call to “feed my sheep.”

MARCH is a special month for in-gathering of cans and non-perishable foods for the Muhlenberg Food Pantry. The donations will come to Good Shepherd to be sorted and given out for April/Easter in all of the churches participating in the Pantry.



Good Shepherd Preschool is now registering for the 2023/2024 school year. If you or anyone you know is interested or if you would like more information please contact Rebecca Watson 610-926-4201 ext. 212 or email beckywatson1997@gmail.com

Muhlenberg Summer Day Camp is currently looking for camp counselors for the summer of 2023. To qualify to be a counselor you must be at least 18 years of age, have a high school diploma and clearances. If you are, or anyone you know is interested; or, if you have any other questions please contact Rebecca Watson 610-926-4201 ext. 207 or email beckywatson1997@gmail.com



GOOD SHEPHERD EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

4201 Stoudt's Ferry Bridge Road

Reading, Pa. 19605

Church Office 610-926-4201

Email: gselc4201@gmail.com

Website: goodshepherdelc.org