

# Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

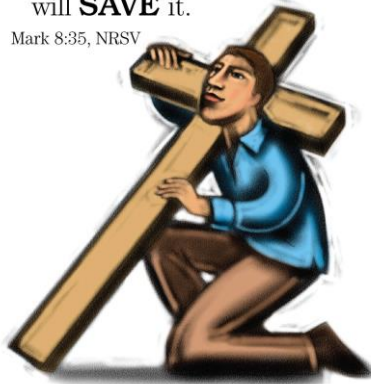
An ELCA Reconciling in Christ and Rejoicing Spirits Congregation

3461 Cedar Crest Blvd.  
Emmaus, PA 18049-1599  
PHONE 610.967.2220  
FAX 610.966.3021

email [info@holyspirit-emmaus.org](mailto:info@holyspirit-emmaus.org)  
[www.lchsemmaus.org](http://www.lchsemmaus.org)  
[www.facebook.com/lchsemmaus](https://www.facebook.com/lchsemmaus)

Those who want to  
**SAVE** their life will **lose** it,  
and those who **lose**  
their life for my sake,  
and for the sake of the gospel,  
will **SAVE** it.

Mark 8:35, NRSV



Second Sunday in Lent  
Sunday, February 25, 2024  
10:30 am

## The Holy Spirit Empowers Us for Ministry in Daily Life

Gathered by God's grace and empowered by the Holy Spirit,  
we invite and welcome all people to join us on our journey  
to become more faithful ministers of Jesus Christ  
in our homes, our communities, and the world.

**We welcome all who worship with us today.**

Visitors are invited to sign the guest register located in the lobby.

If you are interested in joining our family of faith,  
please talk with one of our Pastors or call the church office.

**Children are welcome and celebrated!**

The “Children’s Ministry” table and basket in the lobby contains a variety of items for children’s use during worship. Stop by to borrow a book, pick up some coloring sheets and crayons or take along a copy of this week’s children’s bulletin.

Please silence all communication devices.

Our services are live streamed and recorded. In-person attendance implies consent to be included in the live streamed and recorded worship service.

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**HOLY COMMUNION**

All who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in Holy Communion are welcome to receive the Sacrament. To facilitate flow, the ushers invite people to come forward starting with the back rows and working forward. You should come forward using the center aisle to receive the elements in a continuous style from pastor and worship assistant. Afterward you may choose to kneel or stand at the altar rail for a brief moment of prayer or return to your seat up the side aisle, depositing your empty cup in the receptacle on your way. Gluten free wafers are available. Our wine is grape juice so that all may freely receive.

Children may receive the sacrament if they have completed instruction with a pastor.

Children who do not commune may come forward for a blessing. Communion kits are available at the usher stands for those who prefer to remain in their seats, and they will be communed along with our Zoom worshippers at the beginning of distribution.

# GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

**Gathering Music**

*A Lenten Psalm*

Craig Penfield

## **Welcome and Announcements**

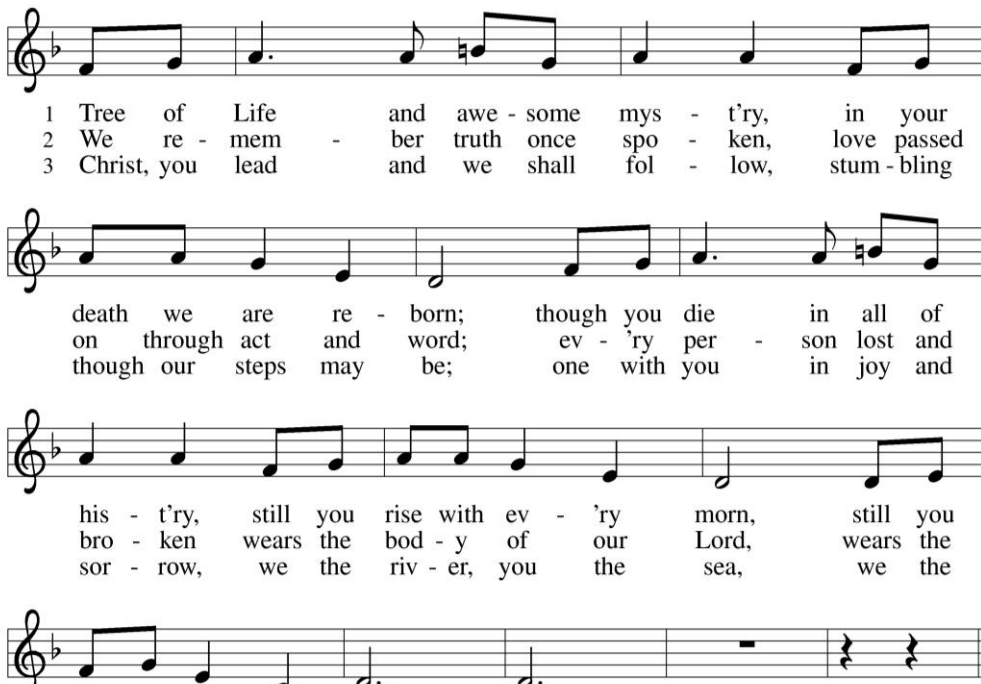
*Please stand as you are able.*

## **Confession**

Faithful One, we want to believe.  
Help our unbelief.

**We yearn to follow faithfully.  
Forgive our hesitant, stumbling steps.  
Hold us by the hand, guide us with your love,  
and cover us with your mercy and grace.  
Help us answer your call, trust your promises,  
and walk in your ways all the days of our lives.**

Christ's goodness has become our goodness.  
God's merciful love is enough to save us.  
All is forgiven.  
All is restored.  
God's beloved are made good in Christ's grace.  
**Amen**



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your  
 2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed  
 3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling

death we are re - born; though you die in all of  
 on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and  
 though our steps may be; one with you in joy and

his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you  
 bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the  
 sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the

rise with ev - 'ry morn.  
 bod - y of our Lord.  
 riv - er, you the sea.

*One of the following may be sung as a final stanza at the appropriate time.*

*General*

Light of life beyond conceiving,  
 mighty Spirit of our Lord;  
 give new strength to our believing,  
 give us faith to live your word

*Lent 1*

From the dawning of creation  
 you have loved us as your own;  
 stay with us through all temptation,  
 make us turn to you alone.

*Lent 2*

In our call to be a blessing,  
 may we be a blessing true;  
 may we live and die confessing  
 Christ as Lord of all we do.

*Lent 3*

Living Water of salvation,  
 be the fountain of each soul;  
 springing up in new creation,  
 flow in us and make us whole.

*Lent 4*

Give us eyes to see you clearly;  
 make us children of your light.  
 Give us hearts to live more nearly  
 as your gospel shining bright.

*Lent 5*

God of all our fear and sorrow,  
 God who lives beyond our death,  
 hold us close through each tomorrow,  
 love as near as every breath.

## Greeting and Prayer of the Day

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.**

Let us pray.

Ancient of days, bring your future hope into our world.

Bring your love into our lives. Bring your presence into our midst.

Open our hearts and minds to your message, that we may respond with hope and trust. With our ancestors of old, may we walk in the lineage of faithful discipleship.

**Amen**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture readings, preaching and song.*

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading** Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Translation: NRSV-UE

A reading from Genesis.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram and said to him, “I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you and will make you exceedingly numerous.” Then Abram fell on his face, and God said to him, “As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham, for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful, and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, “As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her and also give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her.”

Word of God, Word of Hope.

**Thanks be to God!**

A reading from Romans.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void.

For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So shall your descendants be." He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah's womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore "it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Word of God, Word of Hope.

**Thanks be to God!**

*Please stand as you are able to welcome the gospel.*

## Gospel Acclamation

Return to the Lord

Tree of Life Setting

Re - turn to the Lord, your

God, who 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 Mark 8:31-38

Translation: NRSV-UE

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

**Save us as you promised; we will trust in your Word.**

Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it.

For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Inspired by your Word, we offer you our praise.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**Sermon**

Pastor Mark Wimmer

*Please stand as you are able.*

**Hymn of the Day**

*You Satisfy the Hungry Heart*

ELW Hymn #484



- 1 As when the shep-herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out-poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,



so when you call your fam - ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.  
that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.  
Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?  
whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.  
to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.



## Apostles' Creed

Let us profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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.**

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

**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**

Almighty God,  
we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith  
with all who have been baptized into your name.  
Keep us faithful to our baptism,  
and so make us ready for that day  
when the whole creation shall be made perfect  
in your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ.  
**Amen**

## Prayers of the People

*Invitation to prayer:*

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things,  
let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*After each petition:*

God of Abraham and Sarah,  
**hear our prayer.**

*Pastor's closing prayer:*

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace,  
and receive the prayers of our hearts,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen**

## Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace by saying,  
"Peace be with you."*

*The assembly is seated.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## Response to God's gifts

The assembly responds to the Word of God by gathering an offering for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. Please place your offering in the offering plates on the tables in the rear of the worship center.

The table is set.

## Musical Offering

*When Peace, Like a River*

It Is Well  
setting Dave A. White

*Please stand as you are able.*

## Great Thanksgiving

May the Lord of the journey be with you.

**And also with you.**

Pilgrims of God, lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Sing songs of thanksgiving to the God who is faithful in keeping promises.

**We offer glad anthems of joy to the One who calls us by name.**

## Sanctus

*Holy, Holy, Holy*

Tree of Life  
Setting by M. Haugen

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, ho - san-na, ho - san-na in the  
high - est. Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na, ho - san-na, ho -  
san-na in the high - est, ho - san-na in the high - est.

## **Words of Institution**

### **Word in Meal**

As we come to the Table prepared for us,  
we declare that in Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection  
we find that mystery we call faith:  
**Christ died to bring forth life;**  
**Christ was raised to declare 'God has done it';**  
**Christ will come again in glory.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.  
**Our Father in heaven,**  
**hallowed be your name,**  
**your kingdom come,**  
**your will be done,**  
**on earth as in heaven.**  
**Give us today our daily bread.**  
**Forgive us our sins**  
**as we forgive those**  
**who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial**  
**and deliver us from evil.**  
**For the kingdom, the power,**  
**and the glory are yours,**  
**now and forever. Amen**

### **Invitation to the table**

This is bread for the journey.  
This is a feast for hungry hearts.  
Come and eat.

*The assembly is seated.*

## **Distribution of communion**

The body of Christ given for you.  
The blood of Christ shed for you.

## **Agnus Dei**

*Lamb of God*

Tree of Life  
Setting by M. Haugen



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 your peace, grant us your peace.

## Verses



1. By your hand you feed your peo - ple food of  
 2. In this meal we taste your sweet - ness, bread for  
 3. Send us now with faith and cour - age to the



an - gels, heav - en's bread. For these gifts we did not  
 hun - ger, wine of peace. Ho - ly word and Ho - ly  
 hun - gry, lost, be - reaved. In our liv - ing and our



la - bor; by your grace have we been fed.  
 wis - dom, sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.  
 dy - ing we be - come what we re - ceive:

## Refrain



Christ's own bod - y, blest and bro - ken, Cup o'er -



flow - ing, life out - poured, giv - en as a liv - ing



to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

*Please stand as you are able.*

### **Prayer after communion**

Let us pray.

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.

As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,

now make us one loaf to feed the world;

in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

**Amen**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **Blessing**

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.

God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy,

fill you with courage, and ✠ give you peace.

**Amen**

**Sending Hymn** *Please see next page.*

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace.

Christ is with you on your journey.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

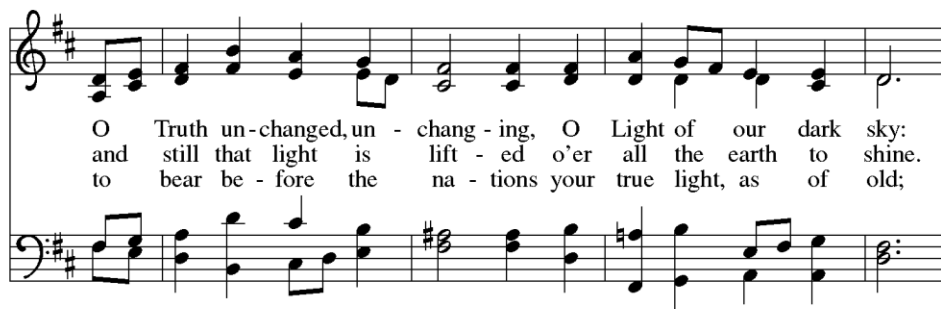
**Sending Solo**

*Song of Farewell*

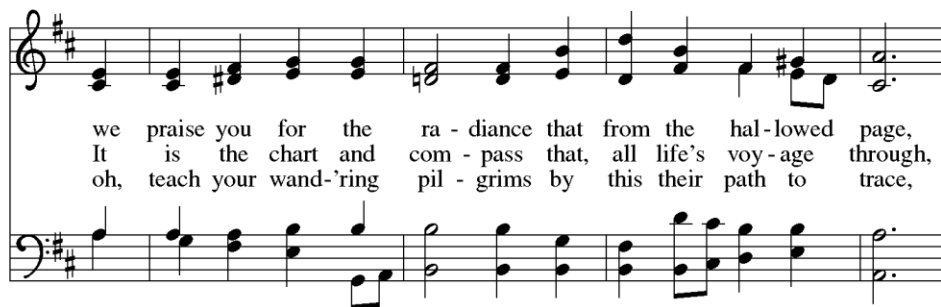
Ernest Sands



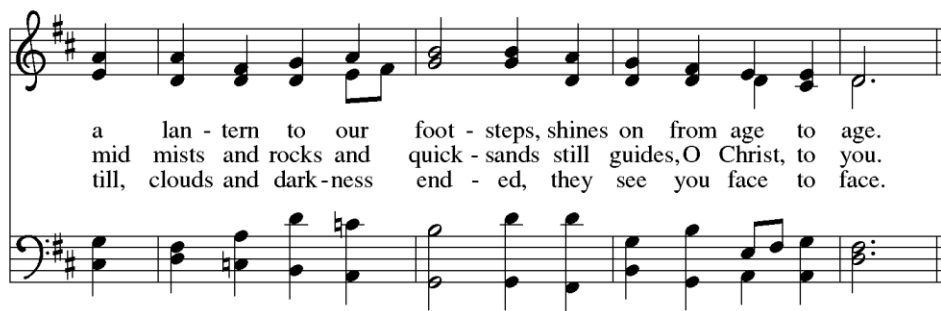
1 O Word of God in - car - nate, O Wis - dom from on high,  
 2 The church from you, dear Mas - ter, re - ceived the gift di - vine;  
 3 Oh, make your church, dear Sav - ior, a lamp of bur - nished gold



O Truth un - changed, un - chang - ing, O Light of our dark sky:  
 and still that light is lift - ed o'er all the earth to shine.  
 to bear be - fore the na - tions your true light, as of old;



we praise you for the ra - diance that from the hal - lowed page,  
 It is the chart and com - pass that, all life's voy - age through,  
 oh, teach your wand - ring pil - grims by this their path to trace,



a lan - tern to our foot - steps, shines on from age to age.  
 mid mists and rocks and quick - sands still guides, O Christ, to you.  
 till, clouds and dark - ness end - ed, they see you face to face.



**Please join in supporting our church's ministries using your preferred method of giving:**

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- Use your credit or debit card at the Giving Kiosk;
- Text your offering to 610-981-1312;
- Download our mobile app for recurring or one-time gifts;
- Establish automatic contributions to the church using your bank's bill pay service.

Additional information is located in the Stewardship section of the church's website at: [lchsemmaus.org](http://lchsemmaus.org).

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Gathering Hymn: OneLicense

Return to the Lord; Sanctus, Lamb of God: OneLicense

Musical Offering: OneLicense

Hymn of the Day: OneLicense

Communion Hymn: OneLicense

Sending Hymn: Public Domain

Sending Solo: OneLicense

Musical Participants: Nancy Pfeffer, soloist; members of the Adult Choir



## **WORSHIP LEADERS**

Pastor Mark Wimmer, Interim Senior Pastor  
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor  
Pastor Cindy Camp, Interim Associate Pastor  
Sharon B. MacCabe, Director of Music  
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy  
Karin Kahler, Director, Faith Formation for Children

## **WORSHIP HELPERS**

### **Assisting Minister**

Carole Wetherhold

### **Reader**

Dale Malcolm

### **Communion Assistants**

Robert Neitz, Terri Hinderliter

### **Greeter**

Marian Harrison

### **Usher**

Dean Black

### **Production/Technology Team**

Chuck Coe, Glenn Hinderliter, Eric Kahler, Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Tom Moessner,  
Bob Neitz, Bill Newill, Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta,  
Diana Sorrentino, Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

### **Altar Care**

Jen Wetzel, Terri Hinderliter, Marian Harrison, Deb Stevens, Linda Letts, Julie Timmcke,  
Robbie Flynn, Nancy Pfeffer, Lynn Snyder, Mary Vink and Laura Fetzer

