

The Lutheran Church of the Holy Spirit

An ELCA, Reconciling in Christ, and Rejoicing Spirits congregation

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Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026
8:30 am and 10:45 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 or pick up some coloring sheets and crayons.

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.

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 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

We'll Build A World

Lohman

8:30 am Diane Evans, solo, Glenn Hinderliter, percussion

10:45 am Spirit Voices

Welcome and Announcements

Please rise in body or spirit.

Invitation to Worship

The good news is . . . protection and care for the vulnerable.

God gathers us to hear that good news and to join together in worship.

Confession

Family of Faith,

every week we pray the Prayer of Confession, because every week we need to be reminded of God's abundant grace. Every week we need to be reminded of God's love.

Every week we need to be reminded that we too can grow and change.

So join me in this moment of honesty as we seek transformation. Friends, we pray:

God said, "When a foreigner resides among you in your land, do not mistreat them."

Holy God, we confess, we have mistreated the immigrants in our land.

Jesus said, "Blessed are the peacemakers,
for they will be called children of God."

**We confess, we have clung to guns
and war more than we have pursued peace.**

God said, "When you gather the grapes of your vineyard,
do not glean what is left;
it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow."

**We confess,
we have hoarded our resources and failed to care for our neighbors.**

Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them."

**We confess,
we have gatekept the good news in unfair ways.**

Fortunately for all of us, God also said,
"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name; you are mine."

**By God's grace,
despite our sin and shortcomings,
we are redeemed,
claimed, forgiven, and loved.**

May this good news change our lives!
Amen



1 God, we gath - er as your peo - ple to raise our song a -
 2 Oh, we sing for all the chil - dren, that one day they be
 3 Oh, we pray for all the young lives cut short by fear and
 4 God, we're work - ing for the fu - ture when chil - dren far and



bove, and we dare to claim the prom - ise of your love.
 free; and we sing for gen - er - a - tions yet to be,
 shame, so a - fraid of who they are and whom they love.
 wide can . . . live their lives with dig - ni - ty and pride.



Though the day may not yet be here, we
 that they nev - er have a rea - son to
 May the mes - sage now be ban - ished that your
 As they grow in strength and stat - ure, may they



trust it soon will be, when your chil - dren will be free.
 doubt that they are blest. May they, in your love, find rest.
 love is for the few; may their faith in you re - new.
 join us hand in hand, as a - gainst all hate we stand.



Oh, may our hearts and minds be o - pened, fling the church doors o - pen



wide. May there be room e - nough for ev - 'ry - one in - side.



For in God there is a wel - come, in God we all be -



long. May that wel - come be our song.

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.

We pray, Holy One,

sometimes the simplest of your commands are the hardest for us to hear.

You say, “Love your enemy.” “Turn the other cheek.”

“Care for the widow and the orphan.”

And we want to know: How? When? Where?

Today as we turn to your word, open up space in us to simply hear your truth for what it is. Open up space in our hearts to dream new dreams, to imagine new realities, to draw closer to you and closer to love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we listen, we pray.

Amen

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

Deuteronomy 24:17-22

Translation: NRSVue

A reading from Deuteronomy.

“You shall not deprive a resident alien or an orphan of justice; you shall not take a widow’s garment in pledge. Remember that you were a slave in Egypt and the Lord your God redeemed you from there; therefore I command you to do this.

“When you reap your harvest in your field and forget a sheaf in the field, you shall not go back to get it; it shall be left for the alien, the orphan, and the widow, so that the Lord your God may bless you in all your undertakings. When you beat your olive trees, do not strip what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow.

“When you gather the grapes of your vineyard, do not glean what is left; it shall be for the alien, the orphan, and the widow. Remember that you were a slave in the land of Egypt; therefore I am commanding you to do this.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 8 (read responsively)

Translation: NRSVue

A reading from the Book of Psalms.

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!
You have set your glory above the heavens.
Out of the mouths of babes and infants
you have founded a bulwark because of your foes,
to silence the enemy and the avenger.

When I look at your heavens, the work of your fingers,
the moon and the stars that you have established;
what are humans that you are mindful of them,
mortals that you care for them?

Yet you have made them a little lower than God
and crowned them with glory and honor.
You have given them dominion over the works of your hands;
you have put all things under their feet,

all sheep and oxen,
and also the beasts of the field,
the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea,
whatever passes along the paths of the seas.

O Lord, our Sovereign,
how majestic is your name in all the earth!

Please rise in body or spirit to welcome the gospel.

Gospel: Matthew 19:13-15

Translation: NRSVue

The Good News from Matthew, the 5th chapter.

Open our hearts, Lord.

Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs." And he laid his hands on them and went on his way.

This is the Good News.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Pastor Cindy Camp

We rise in body or spirit.

Word in Song

See the Precious Children



See the pre-cious chil-dren seat-ed on the lap of Christ our Lord
See the pre-cious wi-dowed wo-men glean-ing har-vests from the field
See the pre-cious for-eign stran-gers as they car-ry all they own
See the pre-cious dis-poss-essed ones ask-ing for some food to eat
See the pre-cious world im-pov-erished by our ma-lice and our greed



Called the great-est in the king-dom, held so gent-ly and a-dored They
Then re-turn-ing to their kit-chen to pre-pare their dai-ly meal They
To a land that's full of dan-gers for the pow-er-less and prone They
Sleep-ing un-der star-ry heav-ens, dai-ly liv-ing on the streets They
Hu-mans, a-ni-mals, and pla-net cry-ing out for some re-lief We're



are pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ti-ny toe In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who holds their bro-ken hearts In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who made their home-land, too In their
are pre-cious in the sight of God who loves them as a child In their
all pre-cious in the sight of God who made each ho-ly thing In our



weak-ness they're held by love as each day they learn and grow
sor-row they're held by love that re-deems each fra-gile part
jour-ney they're held by love as they start each day a-new
hun-ger they're held by love as they guard their hu-man pride
liv-ing we're held by love as we care for ev-ery being

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
It sounds like welcome and feels like home.
It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.
It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,
so we believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.
We have seen it alive in the world.
And even when our hearts ache, even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,
we remember the one who welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.
We remember the one who cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.
We remember that the good news really is good news,
for we have seen it alive in the world.
Thanks be to God!
Amen

Prayers of the People

Friends, as we gather in this space, let us seek a moment of peace and guidance.
Let us find a posture of reverence as we enter into a time of prayer together.

Following the words, "Lord, hear our prayer," we sing:

The image shows two musical staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff is a simple melody with two first endings. The second staff is a more melodic version with a fermata over the final note. The lyrics are: "Be still and know that I am God."

1* 2

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Pastor's closing prayer.

We thank you, God, for your good, good news.

We lift our prayers to you certain of your peace and presence in our lives.

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.

During the Offering, the gifts will be brought forward. You may remain seated.

If you wish you may leave your offering in the additional offering plates located on the tables in the back of the sanctuary as you leave.

Verse 1



1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crat-ing to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

Offering Prayer

We pray.

Gracious God, you have told us that your kingdom belongs to those who are like children. We bring these gifts today as an act of childlike trust in your provision. Bless these offerings and use them to extend your hand of blessing to all people, just as Jesus laid his hands upon the children to pray for them.

Amen

We rise in body or spirit.

Great Thanksgiving

God loves the field mouse.

God loves the crows that take flight when church bells ring.

God loves the baby, cooing in the back pew.

God loves the child who rocks and claps.

God loves the one with wrinkled hands and soft eyes.

God loves the bumblebees and the tabby cats.

God loves those who walk, crawl, and roll.

God loves the giant oaks and the evergreens, standing strong over all of us.

God loves the young, the impressionable, and the earnest.

There is no bit of creation that God does not love.

So let us come to the table of our good-news God!

Amen

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Until that promised day, when we will once again find ourselves dancing until our feet are sore and gathering around the table with our neighbors, we will pray the prayer your Son taught us to pray, saying:

**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

Pull up a seat at God's table.
There is good news to be shared here.

The assembly is seated.

Distribution of Communion

Communion Song

Christ, You Spoke to Us of Children

Tune: Polish Melody ("Infant Holy, Infant Lowly")

Christ, you spoke to us of children:

"Let the children come to me.

**Do not stop them, for the kingdom
Is for little ones like these."**

**God, we grieve now as our nation
Fails its moral obligation
To receive the refugees.**

Christ, you spoke of God's intention:

"Do not cause my children harm!"

**Yet we place them in detention,
Far from loved ones, scared and worn.
Children, huddled close together,
Grieve for families that are severed;
God of love, what have we done?**

**Christ, you taught us to give water
And to help the ones who thirst.
Yet in places near the border,
We confess we've done our worst.
Those who walk must now walk farther.
We have made their journey harder;
We dump water in the dirt.**

**God of immigrant and stranger,
God who welcomes those in need,
When your children are in danger,
Will we love them or concede?
May we not seek cheap forgiveness
Till we dare to work for justice —
Till your little ones are freed.**

Communion Song

Children of the Heavenly Father

ELW 781



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
 1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa-ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
 2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
 3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
 4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
 nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
 From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
 un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
 his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

Communion Song

In This Feast of Love

ACS 962



Täs - sä pöy - däs - sä, täs - sä
 1 In this feast of love, in this
 2 In this bread and wine, in this
 3 Grant us peace, O Lord, grant us



pöy - däs - sä syn - ti - sil - le
 feast of love, Lord, you share your
 bread and wine, you have prom - ised,
 peace, O Lord; fill us with the



it - se - si an - nat, Ju - ma - lan Ka - rit - sa!
 blood and your bod - y, Je - sus, Lamb of God.
 Lord, to be with us, Lamb . . of God div - ine.
 joy of your Spir - it, ev - er - liv - ing Word.

We rise in body or spirit.

Prayer after Communion

We pray.

Lord, you took the children in your arms and blessed them. Now that you have fed us with your very self, keep us small in our own eyes but great in your grace. May we live this week as true children of the kingdom, following wherever you lead.

Amen

SENDING

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

Blessing

God bless us, and direct our days and our actions in peace,
living the good news as we protect and care for the vulnerable.

Amen

Sending Song *Please see next page.*

Dismissal

As you leave this place,
when you meet anger, **speak with love.**
When you meet fear, **speak with hope.**
When you meet pain, **speak with gentleness.**
But no matter what, **speak this good news.**
For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all.
It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms.
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking.
Thanks be to God for this good, good news.

Sending Music (10:45)

What Wondrous Love Is This

setting: Childs



1 "Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, nev - er a - lone.
 2 "Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure.
 3 "Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, clos - er to me.



Wak - ing, sleep - ing, I am with you, you are my own.
 Here you learned how much I love you, what I can cure.
 Grow in love and love by serv - ing, joy - ful and free.



In my love's bap - tis - mal riv - er I have made you mine for - ev - er.
 Here you heard my dear Son's sto - ry, here you touched him, saw his glo - ry.
 Here my Spir - it's pow - er filled you, here my ten - der com - fort stilled you.



Go, my chil - dren, with my bless - ing, you are my own."
 Go, my chil - dren, sins for - giv - en, at peace and pure."
 Go, my chil - dren, fed and nour - ished, joy - ful and free."

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



venmo

- Enroll in our on-line giving program, Simply Giving (recommended);
- Mail your offering check to the church;
- 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.

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WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Shari Duminy, Senior Pastor
Pastor Tami K. Reichley, Associate Pastor
Pastor Cindy Camp, Associate Pastor
Deacon Melanie Werley, Director of Liturgy
Deacon Reylene Starego, Director of Music
Karin Kahler, Director Faith Formation for Children

WORSHIP HELPERS

Assisting Ministers

8:30 – Carole Wetherhold
10:45 – Marian Snyder

Readers

8:30 – Beth Fatzinger
10:45 – Marian Snyder

Communion Assistants

8:30 – Carol Walrod, Don Walrod
10:45 – Sheila Huff, Deb Smith

Greeters

8:30 – Barb Roba, Beth Fatzinger
10:45 – Nancy Slimmer

Ushers

8:30 – Gerry Masteller
10:45 – Rick Slimmer

Production/Technology Team

Al Bauernschmidt, Chuck Coe, Lexi H., Max H., XJ H., Glenn Hinderliter, Jeff Gross,
Eric Kahler, Craig Kauffman, Bill Keane, Paige Mathieu, Tom Moessner, Bob Neitz,
Bill Newill, Kristen Newill, Carol Osenbach, John Osenbach, Chris Pirrotta, Ev Reggie,
Bob Stevens, and Jimmy Lee Werley

Altar Care

Donna Bhagat, Barb Roba, Julie Timmcke, Brenda Brookover, Linda Letts, Marian Harrison,
Terri Hinderliter, Nancy Shoemaker, Deb Stevens, Cindy Clark, Robert Rice, Carolyn Rice