



# THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

March 30, 2025

*The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of one lost son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for our Lord's sake. Rejoice!*

Prelude

*Sometimes I Feel Like a Motherless Child*

Spiritual  
arr. Dennis Janzer (b. 1954)

Order for Confession and Forgiveness

*(The confession is led from the baptismal font as a reminder that repentance is a return to baptism.)*

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*silence for reflection*

P: God of steadfast love,

C: **we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed. We have wandered from your ways. We have not loved you with our whole heart. We have failed to forgive those who have sinned against us. Have mercy on us, create in us new hearts, and restore to us the joy of your salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

P: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to life everlasting.

C: **Amen**

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## ENTRANCE RITE

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Hymn

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
 Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;  
 Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.  
 he, to res - cue me from dan-ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood.  
 Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

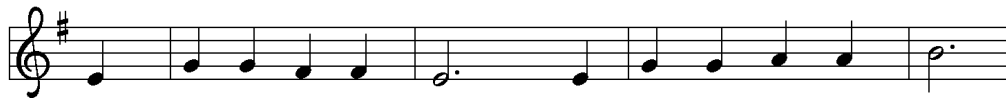
Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.  
 Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

### Apostolic Greeting

**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



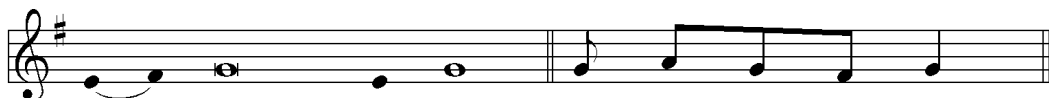
1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.  
 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.  
 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
 Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
 Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

*(The Hymn of Praise is omitted during Lent because of the penitential nature of the season.)*

### Salutation and Prayer of the Day



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

**P:** Let us pray.

**ALL:** **God of compassion, you welcome the wayward and embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism, clothe us with garments of your grace and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen**

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# LITURGY OF THE WORD

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## First Lesson - Joshua 5:9–12

*By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.*

<sup>9</sup>The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup>While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. <sup>11</sup>On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. <sup>12</sup>The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 32

(sung in unison)

*This is a psalm of thanksgiving for the forgiveness of sin.*

**<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,\*  
and whose sin is | put away!**

**<sup>2</sup>Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,\*  
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

**<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,\*  
because of my groaning | all day long.**

**<sup>4</sup>For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;\*  
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer.**

**<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my | sin to you,\*  
and did not con- | ceal my guilt.**

**<sup>6</sup>I said, "I will confess my transgressions | to the Lord."\*  
Then you forgave me the guilt | of my sin.**

**<sup>7</sup>Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;\*  
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**

**<sup>8</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;\*  
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.**

**<sup>9</sup>"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;\*  
I will guide you | with my eye.**

**<sup>10</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;\*  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you."**

**<sup>11</sup>Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;\*  
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**

**<sup>12</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;\*  
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.**

## Second Lesson - 2 Corinthians 5:16–21

*One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness.  
All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection.  
This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.*

<sup>16</sup>From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. <sup>17</sup>So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! <sup>18</sup>All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; <sup>19</sup>that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their

trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. <sup>20</sup>So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. <sup>21</sup>For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

L: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

### Lenten Verse



*I will arise and go to my father and say,  
I have sinned against heaven and before you. (R)*

### Holy Gospel - Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fifteenth chapter.



*Jesus of Nazareth tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it.  
The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother  
who believed it was his obedience that earned his place in the father's home.*

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. <sup>2</sup>And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

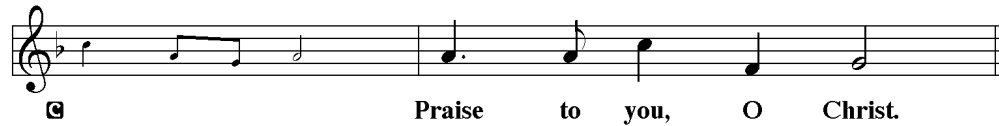
<sup>3</sup>So he told them this parable: <sup>11b</sup>"There was a man who had two sons. <sup>12</sup>The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. <sup>13</sup>A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. <sup>14</sup>When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. <sup>15</sup>So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. <sup>16</sup>He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. <sup>17</sup>But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger!

<sup>18</sup>I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; <sup>19</sup>I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' <sup>20</sup>So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. <sup>21</sup>Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' <sup>22</sup>But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe — the best one — and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. <sup>23</sup>And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; <sup>24</sup>for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.



<sup>25</sup>Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. <sup>26</sup>He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. <sup>27</sup>He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' <sup>28</sup>Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. <sup>29</sup>But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. <sup>30</sup>But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' <sup>31</sup>Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. <sup>32</sup>But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.



Sermon

Pastor Roberts

silence for reflection

Hymn

### Our Father, We Have Wandered



1 Our Fa - ther, we have wan - dered and hid - den from your face;  
2 And now at length dis - cern - ing the e - vil that we do,  
3 O Lord of all the liv - ing, both ban - ished and re - stored,



in fool - ish - ness have squan - dered your leg - a - cy of grace.  
be - hold us, Lord, re - turn - ing with hope and trust to you.  
com - pas - sion - ate, for - giv - ing, and ev - er - car - ing Lord,



But now, in ex - ile dwell - ing, we rise with fear and shame,  
In haste you come to meet us and home re - joic - ing bring,  
grant now that our trans - gress - ing, our faith - less - ness may cease.



as, dis - tant but com - pel - ling, we hear you call our name.  
in glad - ness there to greet us with calf and robe and ring.  
Stretch out your hand in bless - ing, in par - don, and in peace.

Text: Kevin Nichols, 1929–2006

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612

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### The Creed

P: Using the words of our ancestors in the faith as expressed in the Apostles' Creed, we proclaim the triune God whom we believe:

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.**

**He descended into hell.**

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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**

## The Prayers

- A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, and for all people according to their needs.
- A: God of faithful promise, make your Church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your Church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God of new beginnings, may balance be restored to the earth. May rain fall in places of drought and sunshine in places of flooding, that the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God of boundless love, help us receive with open arms any in need of compassion. May we embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God of radical inclusion, work through us to widen human circles of hospitality to all who are excluded. Bless the work of specialized ministries, that the welcome of Jesus the Christ be extended to all. God, in your mercy,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- A: God of resurrection life, you welcome home all who have died. We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,
- C: receive our prayer.**
- P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
- ALL: Amen**

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## LITURGY OF THE MEAL

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### The Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

### Offering

### Offertory Anthem

*I Will Arise and Go*

Samuel Sebastian Wesley  
(1810-1876)

*I will arise, and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven  
and before thee, and am no more worthy to be called thy son.*

(Text: Luke 15:18-19)

## Offertory

*Unison*



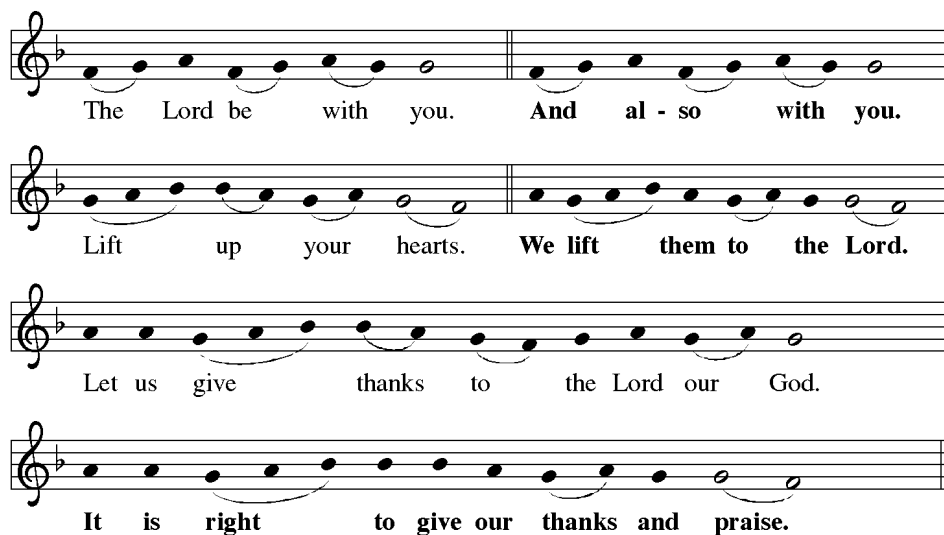
Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God: and re -  
new a right spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres-ence: and take not your Ho - ly  
Spir - it from me. Re - store un - to  
me the joy of your sal - va - tion:  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## Offertory Prayer

A: Let us pray. God of all creation,

C: **all you have made is good and your love endures forever. You bring forth bread from the earth and fruit from the vine. Nourish us with these gifts, that we might be for the world signs of your gracious presence in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen**

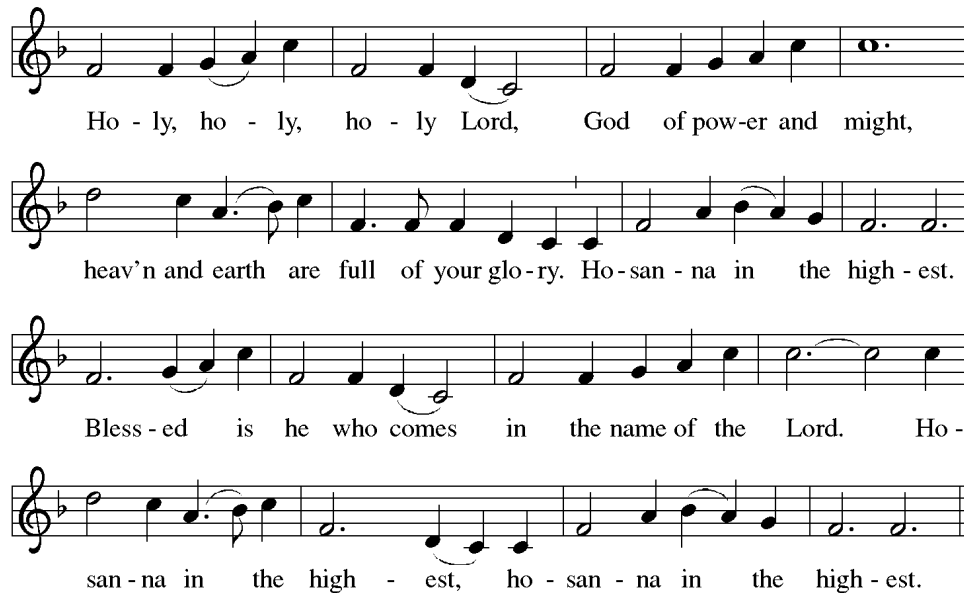
## Great Thanksgiving



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.

## Proper Preface

## Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,  
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## Eucharistic Prayer

### Lord's Prayer



Our Fa-ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,  
your king- dom come, your will be done, on earth as in  
heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread.  
For - give us our sins as we for- give those who sin a- gainst us.  
Save us from the time of tri - al and de- liv - er us from e - vil.  
For the king - dom, the pow'r, and the glo - ry are  
yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men



## Communion with our Risen Lord

### Agnus Dei



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

### Hymns

#### What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, sink-ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink-ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace, how sweet the sound, that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807  
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

### Post-Communion Blessing

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

### Post-Communion Hymn

*On My Heart Imprint Your Image*

***On my heart imprint your image,  
 Blessed Jesus, king of grace,  
 That life's troubles nor its pleasures  
 Ever may your work erase;  
 Let the clear inscription be:  
 Jesus crucified for me,  
 Is my life, my hope's foundation,  
 All my glory and salvation!***

### Post-Communion Prayer

**A:** Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**C: Amen**

### Benediction



Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now . . . and for - ever. **A - men**

Hymn

My Life Flows On in Endless Song



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.  
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

*Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899  
Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

Dismissal

A: Our service now begins. Marked with the cross of Christ, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

*Free at Last*

Spiritual  
arr. Dennis Janzer



The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Shawne Farmer  
in memory of her mother.

The candles are given to the glory of God by Miriam Taylor  
in honor of Julie's birthday.

## THIS WEEK AT HOLY TRINITY

<b>Sunday, March 30</b>	8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube 2:00 p.m. Jewish-Christian Text Study 4:00 p.m. Junior and Senior Youth (grades six - twelve) 6:00 p.m. Confirmation Class (grades six - eight)
<b>Monday, March 31</b>	9:00 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise Class 9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Class 7:00 p.m. Connecting with God (via Zoom) - <i>An Enneagram Study</i>
<b>Tuesday, April 1</b>	5:40 p.m. Handbell Choir Rehearsal 7:00 p.m. Table Talk - <i>Signs of Belonging</i>
<b>Wednesday, April 2</b>	12:10 p.m. Service of Holy Communion 7:00 p.m. Lenten Vespers 7:30 p.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
<b>Thursday, April 3</b>	9:00 a.m. Parish Nurse in office (until 10:00 a.m.) 11:00 a.m. Discussion Group - <i>Living the Questions</i>
<b>Friday, April 4</b>	9:00 a.m. Strength and Balance Exercise Class 9:30 a.m. Chair Yoga Class 11:00 a.m. Book Discussion Group - <i>Decolonizing Palestine</i>
<b>Saturday, April 5</b>	10:00 a.m. Altar Guild
<b>Sunday, April 6</b>	8:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion 9:30 a.m. Sunday Church School 10:30 a.m. Service of Holy Communion with Livestream via YouTube 12:00 p.m. Brunch Bunch (Oliver's; Rivermont Avenue) 3:30 p.m. Holy Trinity Youth 4:30 p.m. Easter Egg Hunt

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**Our Mission: "To care actively in the name of Jesus Christ."**

**Holy Trinity Lutheran Church  
1000 Langhorne Road  
Lynchburg, Virginia 24503**

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**President:** Eric R. Kenny  
**Organist-Choirmaster:** J. William Greene  
**Parish Administrator:** Carol Dee Robertson  
**Parish Nurse:** Gail Midkiff

**Pastor:** Dennis S. Roberts  
**Director of Youth and Campus Ministries:**  
Susan H. Williams  
**Sextons:** Linda Woody and Patricia Wiggington

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