Sunday, March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent
10:30am

St. Luke's Lutheran Church

7595 Center Parkway
Sacramento, CA 95823
(916)421-5039
office@slelca.org

Visit our website at
www.slelca.org

Pastor Rob Williamson
pastorrob@slelca.org

Jane Fanucci, Choir Director/Organist
jef100bicen@yahoo.com

HOLY COMMUNION

Please Silence Your Phones & Devices

PRELUDE Jacob Wilson

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

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

You are invited to stand as able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

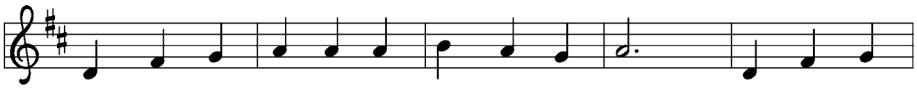
For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

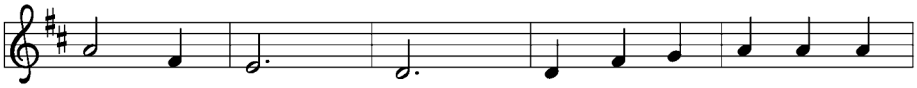
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

GATHERING SONG ELW #815

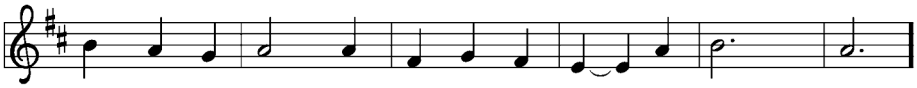
I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look-ing for . . . the com-ing of Christ. I want to

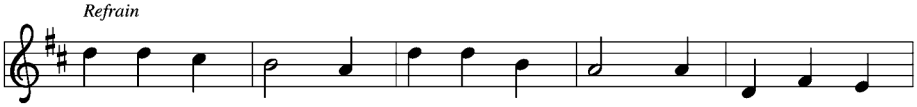


fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ-teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . . with

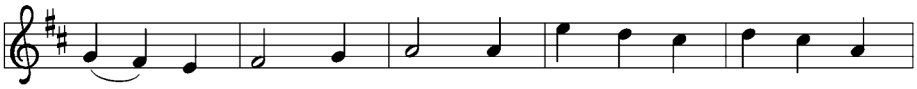


light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa-tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

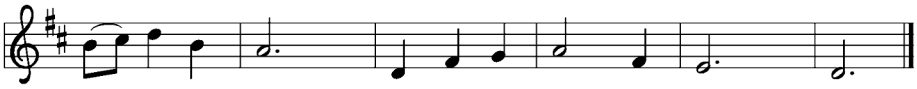
Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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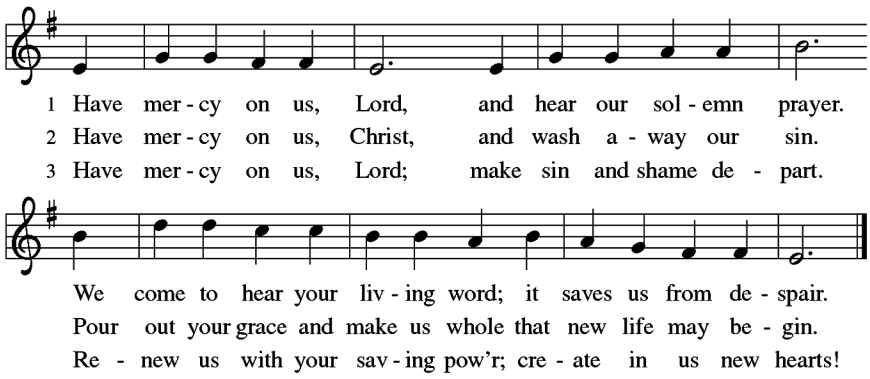
GREETING
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

KYRIE



PRAYER OF THE DAY
Let us pray.
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.
Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING 1 Samuel 16:1-13

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 23

1 The 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.
3 You 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.
5 You 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.

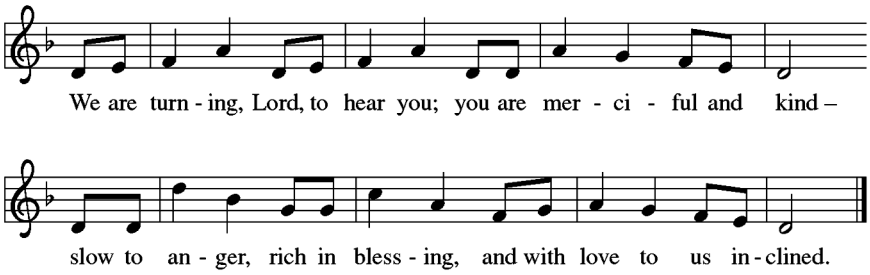
SECOND READING Ephesians 5:8-14

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

CHOIR ANTHEM Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us

CHILDREN'S TIME

You are invited to stand as able
GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL John 9:1-41

The holy gospel according to John, the 9th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.
The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

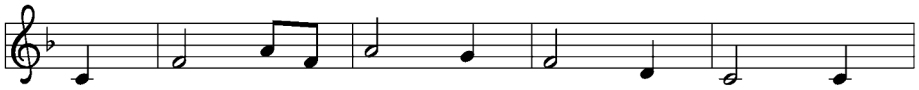
Please be seated.

SERMON

You are invited to stand as able.

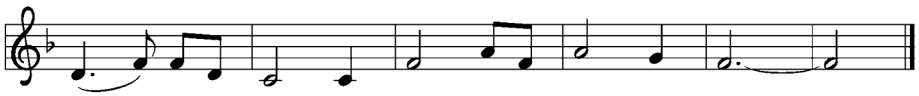
HYMN OF THE DAY ELW#779

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
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

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
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



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.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony,* 1835

APOSTLES' CREED

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

Each portion of the prayers ends:
Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:
Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say "peace be with you," or similar words.
Please be seated.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

An offering is received for the mission of the church.

MUSIC Jacob Wilson

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.
O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.

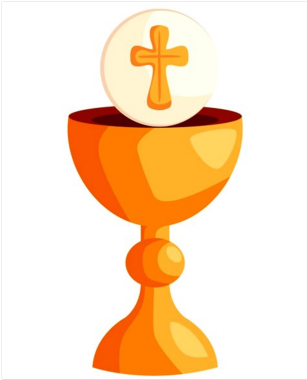
GREAT THANKSGIVING

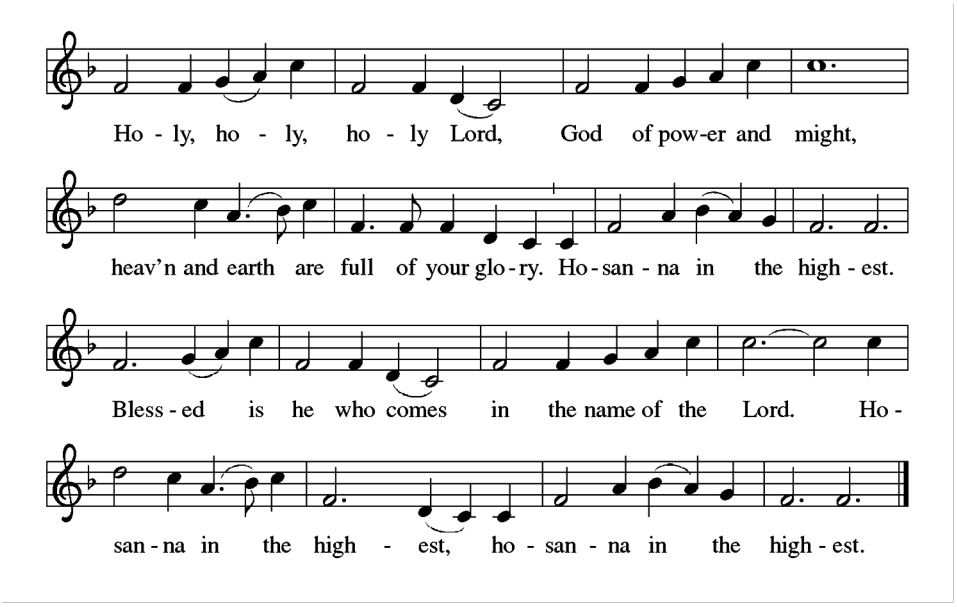
The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

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:





God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
you have brought us this far along the way.

In times of bitterness you did not abandon us,
but guided us into the path of love and light.
In every age you sent prophets
to make known your loving will for all humanity.
The cry of the poor has become your own cry;
our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire.
In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant
to preach good news to the afflicted,
to break bread with the outcast and despised,
and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

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.

Again, 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 all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection,
we await the day when Jesus shall return
to free all the earth from the bonds of slavery and death.
Come, Lord Jesus! And let the church say, Amen.
Amen.

Send your Holy Spirit, our advocate,
to fill the hearts of all who share this bread and cup
with courage and wisdom to pursue love and justice in all
the world. Come, Spirit of freedom! And let the church say,
Amen.
Amen.

Join our prayers and praise with your prophets and
martyrs of every age, that, rejoicing in the hope of the
resurrection, we might live in the freedom and hope of
your Son. Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the
Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.
Amen.

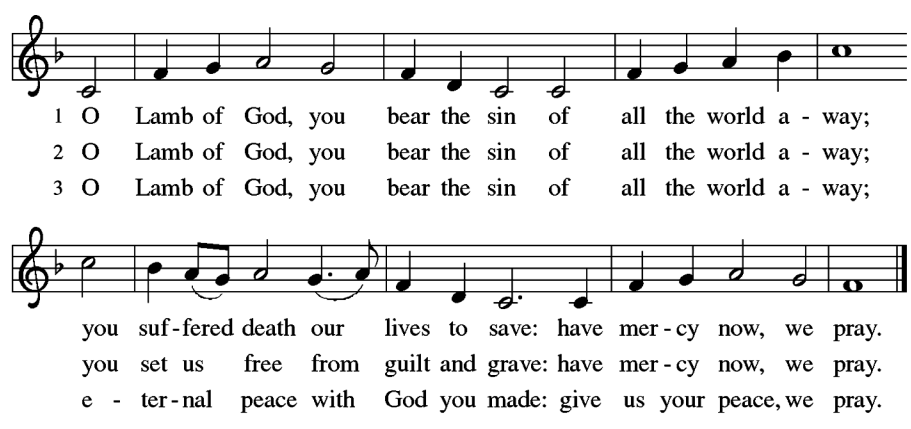
LORD'S PRAYER

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 forever. Amen.

COMMUNION

All are welcome at Christ's table. Come forward at the usher's invitation. Those not yet communing will receive a blessing. Bread will be placed in your open hands. Grape juice is in the pink glasses in the center of the tray. Please let the server know if you would like grape juice. Individual communion packets are available near the entrance for those who prefer them.

COMMUNION SONG



PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION
Let us pray.
God of our salvation,
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
Amen.

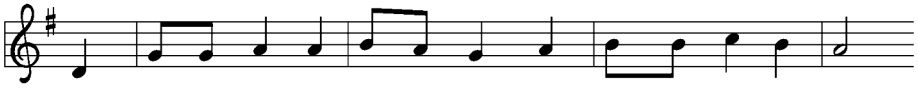
SENDING

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

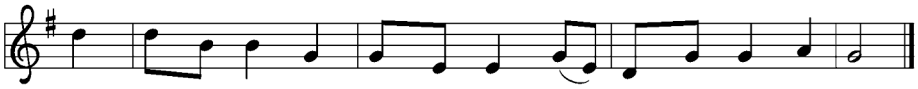
BLESSING
Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
☩ bless you now and always.
Amen.

SENDING SONG ELW#452

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895–1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784–1829
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DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE Jane Fanucci

Worship Assistants

Altar Care:	Shirley Prouty
Announcements:	Peggy Moser
Communion Servers:	Karen Linfor, Kirsten Ireton, & Connie Reule
Reader:	Shirley Prouty
Prayer Leader:	Sarah Madison
Refreshments:	Cathy Davis & Gaylen Everett
Song Leader:	Karen Linfor
Ushers:	Linda Duffek and Phil Peterson

ALTAR FLOWERS

Flowers Today Provided by:

Bruce & Karen Kiser
In Celebration of their 51st Anniversary

THIS WEEK AT ST. LUKE'S
March 15–21, 2026

Today	Choir Practice	9:30a.m.– 10:15a.m.
	Holy Communion	10:30a.m.
Monday	Soul Sisters—Room 4	12:00p.m.
Tuesday	Bible Study—Zoom	10:30a.m
	Church Council	6:00p.m.
Wednesday	Soup Supper	6:00p.m.

Worship and Music News

On *Maundy Thursday, April 2, 2026*, worship service will be held at *7:00 pm* and will include stripping the Altar. Please consider taking part in this incredibly significant and solemn ritual. A Signup sheet is available in the Narthex.

Good Friday service on *April 3, 2026*, will be held at *7:00 pm*.

Easter Sunday service, April 5, 2026, will be at 10:30 am.

Just a reminder, it is **NEVER TOO LATE** to join the Choir! Please see Jane Fanucci, Choir Director, if you are interested.

We are collecting Easter candy and plastic eggs for our annual Easter egg hunt. Donations can be dropped off in the narthex.

Thank you,
Evangelism Board

Each board will be hosting weekly Wednesday Lenten Soup Suppers at 6:00pm. Followed by a brief sermon from Pastor Rob in Schultz Hall at 6:45pm. All are Welcome.

March 18 – Property and Finance

March 25 – Congregation

*Sign-up sheets are in the narthex for donations of soup, bread and desserts.

Please mark your calendar, a Workday will be held on Saturday, ***March 28, 2026, at 9:00 am***, to dust the pews and clean and polish all the elements used during worship services. We will also be placing Palm branches around the church in preparation for *Palm Sunday, March 29, 2026*.

BIBLE STUDY
James

You are cordially invited to participate in a Bible study on the Book of James, commencing March 24th, 2026, via Zoom. The group will convene for nine weeks, beginning March 24th for five consecutive weeks (March 24 through April 21), followed by a two-week intermission, and concluding with sessions from May 12 through June 2. The discussion will utilize N.T. Wright's "For Everyone Bible Study Guides" focusing on "James." If you wish to join and have not attended previously, please email *marlenek8626@outlook.com* so that you may be added to the class mailing list and receive the weekly Zoom link starting in March 2026.

Marlene Kiser
Bible Study Leader