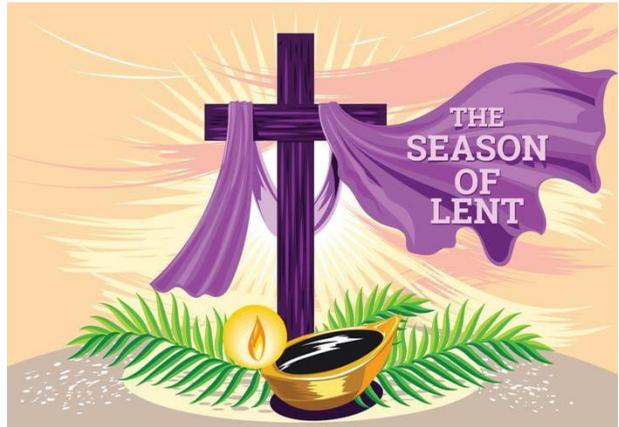




© Grzegorz Dawidowicz

*Saint Michael's Lutheran Church*



## Third Sunday of Lent

ELW setting 3

March 8, 2026

10:00 a.m.

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### GATHERING

PRELUDE

*When I Survey the Wondrous Cross*

Eugene Bradford

Tune: HAMBURG by Lowell Masin (1792-1872)

\* *Please stand.*

### \* INVOCATION

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.**

\* OPENING HYMN #534

SAVIOR AGAIN TO WORK DEAR NAME

1 Sav - ior, a - gain to your dear name we raise  
 2 Grant us your peace up - on our home - ward way;  
 3 Grant us your peace, Lord, through the com - ing night;  
 4 Grant us your peace through - out our earth - ly life,

with one ac - cord our part - ing hymn of praise;  
 with you be - gan, with you shall end the day;  
 for us trans - form its dark - ness in - to light;  
 our balm in sor - row, and our stay in strife;

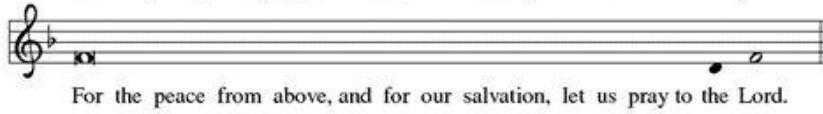
once more we bless you ere our wor - ship cease,  
 guard all the lips from sin, the hearts from shame,  
 Keep us from harm and dan - ger till the dawn;  
 then, when your voice shall bid our con - flict cease,

then, low - ly bend - ing, wait your word of peace.  
 that in this house have called up - on your name.  
 your eve - ning pres - ence prom - ise to your own.  
 us, O Lord, to your e - ter - nal peace.

\* KYRIE



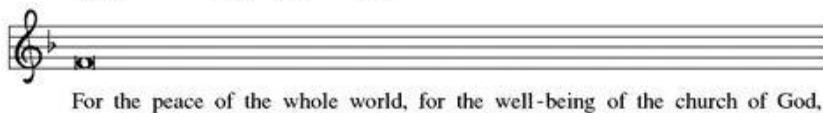
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



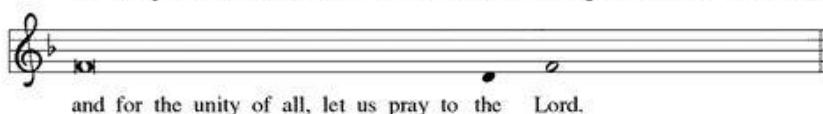
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



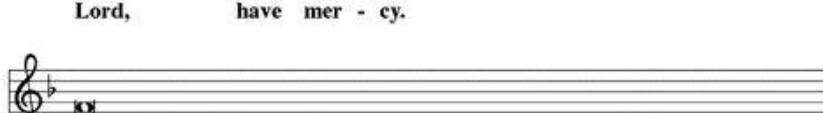
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



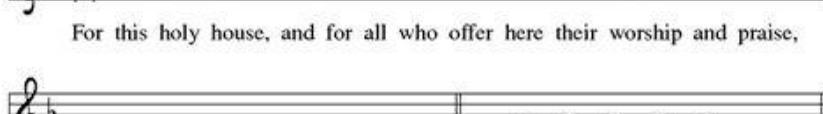
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



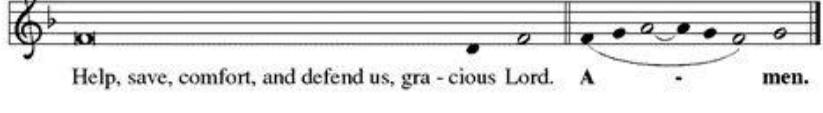
For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

\* PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**WORD**

**LESSON**

Romans 5:1-11

**S**ince we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,<sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God.<sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance,<sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope,<sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.<sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.<sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us.<sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.<sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life.<sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 95

*Sing responsively*

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing <sup>1</sup> to the LORD;  
let us shout for joy to the rock of <sup>1</sup> our salvation.

<sup>2</sup> **Let us come before God's presence <sup>1</sup> with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the <sup>1</sup> LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup> For you, LORD, <sup>1</sup> are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- <sup>1</sup>bove all gods.

<sup>4</sup> **In your hand are the caverns <sup>1</sup> of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are <sup>1</sup> also yours.**

<sup>5</sup> The sea is yours, <sup>1</sup> for you made it,  
and your hands have molded <sup>1</sup> the dry land.

<sup>6</sup> **Come, let us worship <sup>1</sup> and bow down,  
let us kneel before the <sup>1</sup> LORD our maker. R**

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the  
sheep <sup>1</sup> of God's hand.

Oh, that today you would <sup>1</sup> hear God's voice!

<sup>8</sup> **"Harden <sup>1</sup> not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah <sup>1</sup> in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup> There your ancestors <sup>1</sup> tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had <sup>1</sup> seen my works.

<sup>10</sup> **Forty years I loathed that gener- <sup>1</sup>ation, saying,  
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not <sup>1</sup> know my ways.'**

<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore <sup>1</sup> in my anger,  
'They shall never come <sup>1</sup> to my rest.'" **R**

**\* GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

S 142b

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.

**The Holy Gospel according to John.**

Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet."<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and

truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work.<sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting.<sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together.<sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’<sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.”<sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

\* HYMN #335

JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

## \* APOSTLE'S 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 THE CHURCH

*Each portion of the prayers ends with one of these responses:*

Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

(The prayers conclude:)

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Bless we the Lord

**Thanks be to God!**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## \* PEACE

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

## Anthem

## Anthem

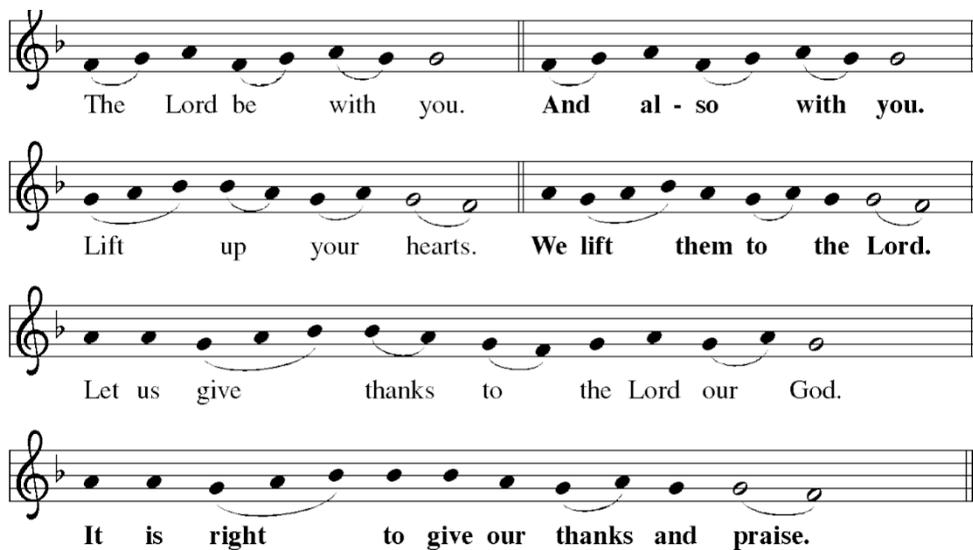
*Blessed Lamb, On Calvary's Mountain*

K.Lee Scott  
Tune: BEACH SPRING

### \*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Risen One,  
you call us to believe and bear fruit.  
May the gifts that we offer here  
be signs of your abiding love.  
Form us to be your witnesses in the world,  
through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

### \* PREFACE DIALOGUE



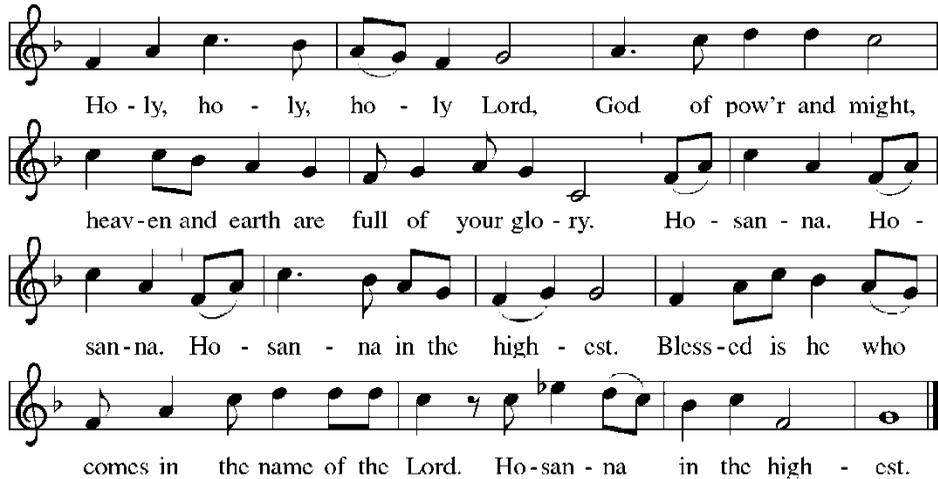
The Lord be with you. **And al - so with you.**

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.**

\* PREFACE FOR SEASON OF LENT



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.

\* WORDS OF INSTITUTION

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took break, 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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

\* **THE 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 ever.

Amen.

\* INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

God feeds us with tender mercy.  
Come to the table.

**LAMB OF GOD**

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; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

*Please bring your offering with you as you come forward to receive Holy Communion. Communion distribution is by intinction. The communion bread or gluten-free wafer will be placed in your hand. Take the bread or wafer and dip it into the chalice of wine. Do not have your fingers touch the wine*

## LET US BREAK BREAD TOGETHER

P 471

Let us break bread together on our knees,  
Let us break bread together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun.

O Lord, have mercy on me.  
Let us drink wine together on our knees,  
Let us drink wine together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

Let us praise God together on our knees,  
Let us praise God together on our knees.  
When I fall on my knees with my face to the rising sun,  
O Lord, have mercy on me.

## \*COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and always keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

LET US PRAY.

## \* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Shepherding God,  
you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love.  
Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness  
and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen**

## SENDING

## \* BLESSING

May God who comes among us,  
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,  
grant you patience in waiting, peace in the darkness,  
and good news to share today and always.  
**Amen.**

\*HYMN #658

O JESUS, JOY OF LOVING HEARTS

1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of  
 2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to  
 3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our  
 4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our

life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -  
 feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -  
 chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you  
 mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -

parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.  
 head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.  
 turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.  
 way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

*Largo and Fugue*

Peter Prellieur (1705-1741)

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## **IN OUR PRAYERS**

Prayer Request books can be found at each entryway. Requests written in the Prayer books will be included in today's prayers; someone is added to the Prayer List by a note to Pastor or the church office, and will run for **four consecutive Sundays**. Requests may be renewed.

**PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING** are offered for all those celebrating birthdays this week including Elizabeth Corney (March 8), Dan Offerman (March 10), and Cynthia Brown-Basile (March 11).

**CARE AND HEALING:** Heather Bakios, Stephen Bakios, Ken Bielemeier, Joe Boehm, Shari Bruner, Robert Carpenter, Angela Castillo, Rosanna Dumbus, Althea Ericsson, Eric Ericsson, Phil Evensen, Jill Ferenc, Michael Guhl, April Gurciullo, Rita Hausdorff, Jack Koch, Mark Kramm, Riley Johansen, Liam Ledbetter-Dunn, Pam Lowell, Baylor (Boomer) Manchuck, Claire Miethke, Richard Miller Jr., Judy Mirczak, Ann Moores, Jim Moores, Benton Morse, Doris Ann Peter, Joey Peter, Jan and Harv Weitzel, and Jen Wolfe.

**MISSION PARTNERS:** in the Gulf States, Martin Luther Church, (ELCA) Mobile, Alabama, and our NEW ENGLAND SYNOD PARTNERS, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Palestine and the Holy Land, and the Lutheran church in Honduras

## **WORSHIP ASSISTANTS – WE NEED YOUR HELP**

We recently announced a new way to sign up for worship assistant assignments. Go to the weekly newsletter under Worship Assistants – We Need Your Help and sign up. If you need some instruction for some of the roles, please reach out to the office and we will make sure it happens. Thank you.

## SERVING TODAY

Greeter	Agneta Aspinwall
Assisting Minister	Kyle Runestad
Reader	Melba Grieshaber
Altar Guild	Diana VanDam
Cookies & Conversations	
Counters	Melba Grieshaber, Roger Heine
Interim Pastor	Pastor Mark Grorud
Organist	Dr. Alla Borzova

## SERVING NEXT WEEK

Greeter	Paul Laubscher
Assisting Minister	Roger Heine
Reader	Esme Laubscher
Altar Guild	Diana VanDam
Cookies & Conversations	
Counters	Joanne Corney, Ken D'Arinzo
Interim Pastor	Pastor Mark Grorud
Organist	Dr. Alla Borzova

### Indoor Worship Protocol

We are still careful of one another's health in the post Covid time and encourage you to keep following safe protocols.

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Pastor Mark Grorud, Interim Pastor  
Church Office (203) 966-3913  
Nancy Rowe, Admin (203) 966-3913  
Alla Borzova, Director of Music  
Ken D'Arinzo, Council President  
Website (Stephen Galyas; webmaster)

[mgrorud@gmail.com](mailto:mgrorud@gmail.com)  
[saintmichaelsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:saintmichaelsoffice@gmail.com)  
[saintmichaelsoffice@gmail.com](mailto:saintmichaelsoffice@gmail.com)  
[music@StMichaelsLutheran.org](mailto:music@StMichaelsLutheran.org)  
[president@StMichaelsLutheran.org](mailto:president@StMichaelsLutheran.org)

ST. MICHAEL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH WEEKLY NEWS

March 9 - March 15

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**ONLINE? KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING...**

Please use #stmichaelsnewcanaan as your hashtag on social media during the week. "Like" our Facebook Page: St. Michael's Lutheran Church, New Canaan, CT.

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**OFFERING ENVELOPES:** Please use the offering envelopes in the pew rack if you make a cash donation, and write your name on the front of the envelope. This allows us to ensure we are keeping track of members' cash contributions placed in the offering plate without their numbered envelope.

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**COMMUNION CARDS:** To remain on the active member voting list you must submit at least one communion card per year and one financial contribution per year. If you have not filled out a communion card yet this year, please do so soon. They are located in the pew card holder and you can just drop it in the offering plate on your way up to communion.

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**DEADLINE FOR WEDNESDAY'S CONSTANT CONTACT EMAIL**

The deadline for submissions for the weekly constant contact email is Tuesday at 9:00 AM. Any submissions received after the deadline will appear in the following week's CC email.

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**Summary of Receipts & Expenses: January 2026**

	<b>January 31, 2026</b>	<b>Total 2026 YTD</b>
	Actual	Actual
Receipts	8,940	8,940
Expenses	17,191	17,191
Surplus/ (Deficit)	(8,251)	(8,251)

**24 IN ATTENDANCE ON SUNDAY, MARCH 1**

## **This Week: March 8 - March 15**

### **Sunday, March 8**

9:00 am & 11:15 am Choir Practice

9:00 am Confirmation Class

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Cookies & Conversation

### **Wednesday, March 11**

4:00 pm Holden Evening Prayer

### **Next Sunday, March 15**

9:00 am & 11:15 am Choir Practice

9:00 am Confirmation Class

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Cookies & Conversation

## **FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**For pastoral services,** Pastor Grorud can be reached at (402) 620-8032 or via his **new** email address **mgorud@gmail.com**. He is in the church office Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

**Need access to the church?** Please plan on coming during office hours: Tuesday and Thursday afternoons.

### **New Canaan Historical Society:**

Normal hours of operation are Tuesday-Saturday 10 am - 4 pm. They are closed on Sundays and Mondays.



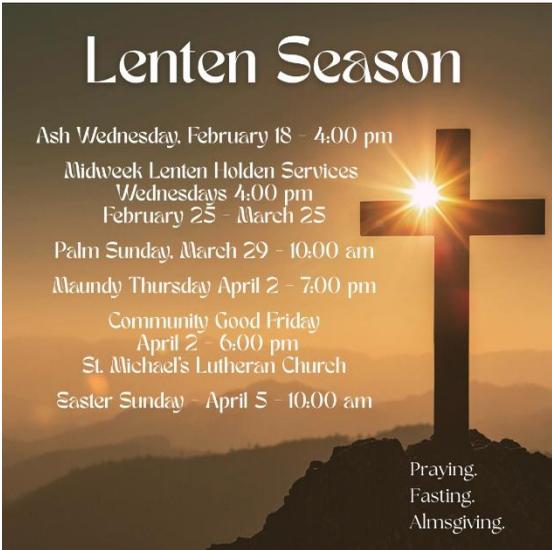
Join Us For  
Holden Evening Prayer

*A Service By Marty Hlaugen*

Wednesdays 4:00 - 4:30 pm  
Through March 25

St. Michael's Luthern Church  
5 Oenoke Ridge, New Canaan

Service of Meditation &  
Contemplation for your  
Lenten Journey



# Lenten Season

Ash Wednesday, February 18 - 4:00 pm

Midweek Lenten Holden Services

Wednesdays 4:00 pm  
February 25 - March 25

Palm Sunday, March 29 - 10:00 am

Maundy Thursday April 2 - 7:00 pm

Community Good Friday  
April 2 - 6:00 pm

St. Michael's Lutheran Church

Easter Sunday - April 5 - 10:00 am

Praying.  
Fasting.  
Almsgiving.