

# ST. STEPHEN LUTHERAN CHURCH

## SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT



SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2022

10 A.M.

# First Sunday in Lent

## INTRODUCTION

*Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."*

## PRELUDE



## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

**Congregation (C) Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P Holy One,

**C we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.**

P Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In ✠ Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

**C Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN 793 *Be Thou My Vision*



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord,  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

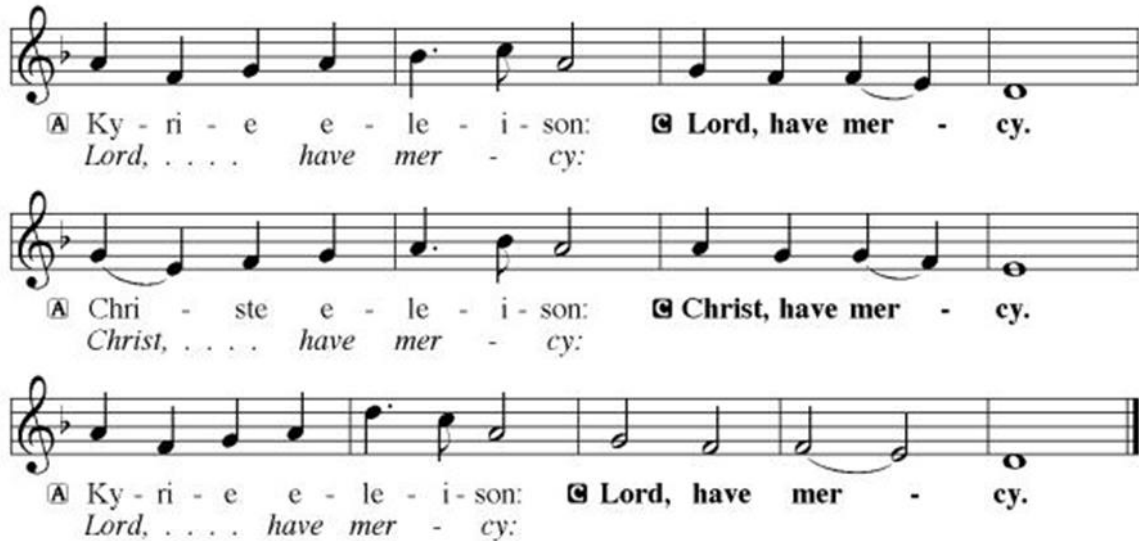
Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

GREETING

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

C And also with you.

## KYRIE



Three staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes, with Latin text in italics.

Staff 1: **A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*

Staff 2: **A** Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **G** Christ, have mer - cy.  
*Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:*

Staff 3: **A** Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **G** Lord, have mer - cy.  
*Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:*



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

**P** Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C** Amen.

## CHILDREN'S SERMON



+ WORD +

**FIRST READING: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

*God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.*

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup>And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup>As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup>When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup>On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

Reader            The word of the Lord.

**C**                **Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM: Psalm 27**    *We sing the psalm responsively.*



Leader 'The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then | shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I | be afraid?

**C**    ²When evildoers close in against me to de- | vour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stum- | ble and fall.

L    ³Though an army encamp against me, my heart | will not fear.  
Though war rise up against me, my trust will | not be shaken.

**C**    ⁴One thing I ask of the LORD; one | thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to  
gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God | in the temple.

L    ⁵For in the day of trouble God will | give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high up- | on a  
rock.

**C**    ⁶Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies | who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing;  
I will sing and make music | to the LORD.

L    ⁷Hear my voice, O LORD, | when I call;  
have mercy on me and | answer me.

**C**    ⁸My heart speaks your message— | “Seek my face.”  
Your face, O LORD, | I will seek.

L    ⁹Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your ser- | vant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God  
of | my salvation.

**C**    ¹⁰Though my father and my moth- | er forsake me,  
the LORD will | take me in.

L       <sup>11</sup>Teach me your | way, O LORD;  
          lead me on a level path, because of | my oppressors.

C       <sup>12</sup>**Subject me not to the will | of my foes,**  
          **for they rise up against me, false witnesses | breathing violence.**

L       <sup>13</sup>This I believe—that I will see the goodness | of the LORD  
          in the land | of the living!

C       <sup>14</sup>**Wait for the LORD| and be strong.**  
          **Take heart and wait | for the LORD!**

*Spoken after the psalm is sung:*

C       **Amen.**

## **SECOND READING: Philippians 3:17--4:1**

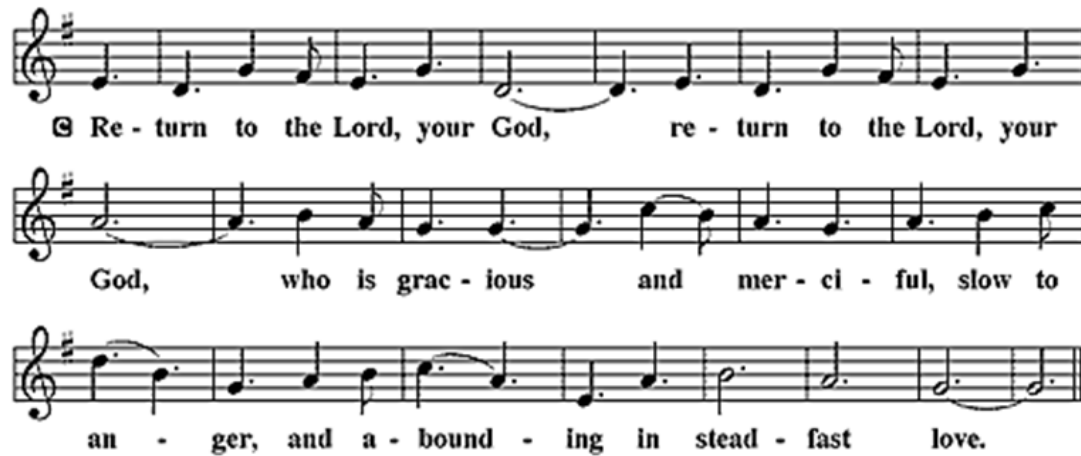
*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*

<sup>17</sup>Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup>For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup>Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup>But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup>He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup>Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Reader       The word of the Lord.

C             **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



## GOSPEL: Luke 13:31-35

*Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.*

**P** The holy gospel according to Luke, the thirteenth chapter.

**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup>At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup>He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup>Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup>Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup>See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

**P** The gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON** *We encounter the living word of God in the preaching.*



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright  
 2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing  
 3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of

morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry  
 me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of  
 pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and

breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
 love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.  
 grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342–c. 1413  
 Music: NORWICH, Carolyn Jennings, b. 1936  
 Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
 Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

## APOSTLES' CREED

A Let us confess our faith.

C 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 petition ends: Merciful God,*

***Congregational response: receive our prayer.***

## **PEACE**

**P** The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C** And also with you.

*We greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.*

## **OFFERING**

*An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.*

**ANTHEM** "Center of My Life" - Inwood

## OFFERING HYMN



**C** Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were  
sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.  
Gath - er the hopes and dreams of all; u - nite them with the prayers we  
of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,  
Lord, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P** Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.
- C** 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.

**+ SENDING +**

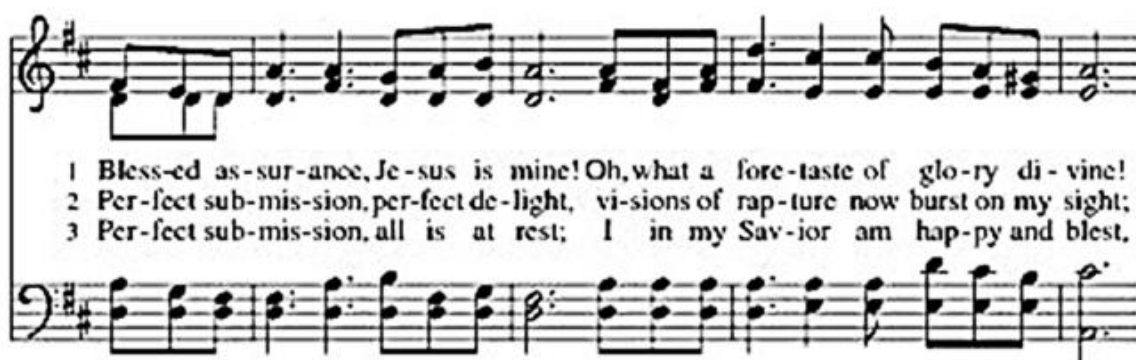
**BLESSING** *We receive the blessings of the triune God.*

**P** You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ☩ bless you this day and always.

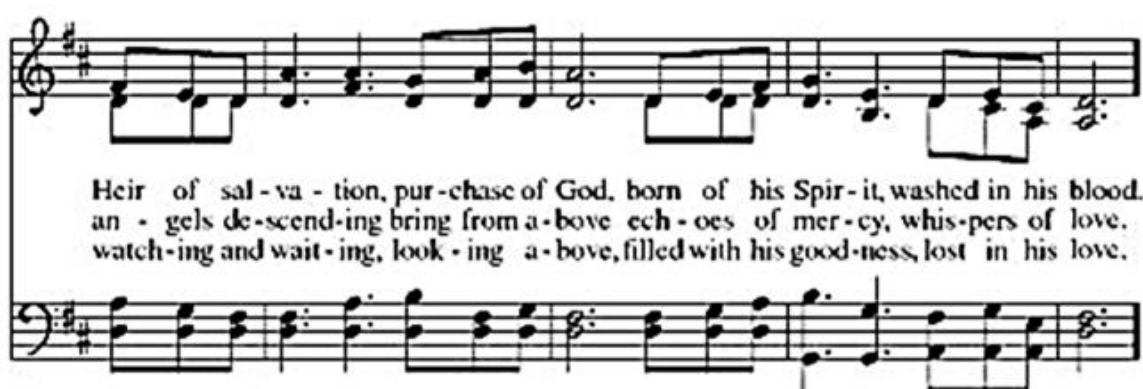
**C** **Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**SENDING HYMN** 638 *Blessed Assurance*

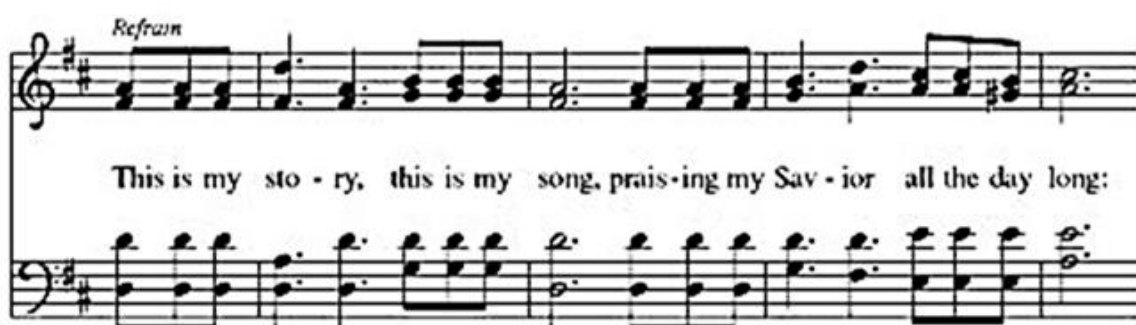


1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!  
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;  
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest.



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood,  
 an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love,  
 watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

## DISMISSAL

P We believe out loud that God's mission for us is:

C **to be an active community that welcomes all people to nurture and share their faith and gifts with everyone, according to God's call.**

P Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C **Thanks be to God.**

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*Sundays and Seasons v.20220805.1416*

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### Calendar for March 13 - 20

|       |    |      |          |                                |
|-------|----|------|----------|--------------------------------|
| March | 13 | Sun. | 10:00 am | Worship, Second Sunday in Lent |
|       | 16 | Wed. | 7:00 pm  | Choir practice                 |
|       | 20 | Sun. | 10:00 am | Worship, Third Sunday in Lent  |

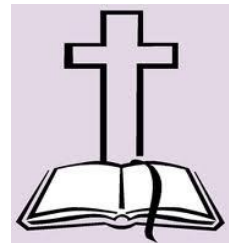
### Next Sunday's Readings, Third Sunday in Lent:

[Isaiah 55:1-9](#)

[Psalms 63:1-8](#)

[1 Corinthians 10:1-13](#)

[Luke 13:1-9](#)



## SERVING TABLE

| Serving            | March 13                        | March 20                      |
|--------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Presiding          | Pastor Tom                      | Pastor Tom                    |
| Preaching          | Pastor Tom                      | Pastor Tom                    |
| Assisting Minister | Jennifer Dritt                  | Kirsten Ebbesen               |
| Cup Minister       | N/A                             | N/A                           |
| Lector             | Jennifer Buchanan               | Martin Guttenplan             |
| Altar Guild        | Erin Kenney<br>Billie Reardon   | Beth Alexander                |
| Counters           | Margaret Bowers<br>Susan Warren | Audrey Post<br>Billie Reardon |
| Announcements      | Pastor Tom                      | Pastor Tom                    |

## PRAYER REQUESTS

***New concerns:*** Gordon Fleischer, diagnosed with throat cancer; Jon; Becky Button (cousin of Audrey Post), in critical condition after a car accident; Isaac (son of Terri Schmitt) for healing (both physical and emotional).

***For the sick:*** Val Sullivan; Margarete Decker (mother of Caroline Collins); Don Dowd; Isabelle Taylor (granddaughter of Bill & Connie Taylor), being treated for rheumatoid arthritis and Primary Immunodeficiency; Theresa Martin (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Dan Graney (friend of Cheryl Stuart); Sarah (friend of Cassandra White).

***In treatment for cancer:*** Stephanie Barber; Cathie Nitti (niece of Sharon Simmons); Jenny (niece of Laura Sullivan & Colin Hackley); Rosalinda Wright; Maggie Soff (friend of Sandy Sampson); James Sablan (brother of Donna Schiffer); Isabell Cintron (friend of Sharon Simmons); Sarah Lucas (friend of Cassandra White); Bruce Blubaum (cousin of Sharon Simmons); Chris Dickman (synod council member), child of Pr. Katrina Foster (friend of Cheryl).

***For health and protection:*** For all affected by coronavirus: those experiencing mental health difficulties due to isolation; those with the disease struggling to recover; those on the front lines fighting, researching and treating the disease (doctors, nurses, medical personnel,

EMTs, the millions of unemployed people, etc.; for the unaccompanied children entering the US, including those “unaccounted for”.

***For prisoners:*** Femi and Eddie; all those on death row.

***Other concerns:*** Karen Olson; Blanche White (Melissa Barton).

***Church concerns:*** St. Stephen’s Congregational Council; The Florida-Bahamas Synod Council, all congregations searching for ways to stay connected and proclaim the Good News; Reconciling Works; Grace Lutheran Church; Bishop Pedro Suarez; Bishop Elizabeth Eaton; Our Savior Lutheran Church in Freeport, Bahamas; the ELCA Advocacy offices and ministry; St. Paul Lutheran Church, Pensacola.

***World concerns:*** For all recovering in the Florida Panhandle from Hurricane Michael, including Messiah Lutheran Church; the people of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands continuing to recover from hurricanes; migrants fleeing violence in Central America; all those migrants and asylum seekers imprisoned by the US government; the people of Venezuela (birthplace of Bp. Suarez) and Hong Kong; for the Supreme Court as it considers cases involving the LGBTQ community.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**FLOWER CHART FOR 2022:** Do you have an anniversary, birthday or special memory you would like to honor? Celebrate the occasion by sponsoring the flowers for our service and signing up for the 2022 Flower Chart located in the narthex. The cost is \$35, and you can place that in the offering plate.