



**Lutheran Church of the Covenant
Maple Heights, OH**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

The Lutheran Church of the Covenant welcomes you to worship!
Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life together!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary.

We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns!

Portions marked with * are when we invite you to stand as you are able to do so. There will not be a separate time for an offering, so a basket is placed in the back for those who wish to support our local ministry as well as the wider church.

A children’s table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you’ll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

Our Worship Leaders & Staff

| | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| Presiding Minister | Rev. Andrea McDonough |
| Organist | Gerry Mass |
| Lector | Bert Zahn |
| Reader | Mary Kaye Bernardo |
| Parish Administrator | Jennifer Lasher-Dobush |
| Custodian | Vince Besednjak |

Postlude

Praying Together

... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:
Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Joan Clarke, Bruce Constant, Chuck Dickey, Olive Evanofski, Barbara Fossa, Ken Frajter, Donna Franz, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Jean Rusher, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

Last Week
General Fund receipts for week ending 3/23/2025:\$800.00

*Sending Hymn: Jesus the Very Thought ELW #754



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;
2 No voice can sing, no heart can frame, nor can the mind re - call
3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
4 O Je - sus, be our joy to - day; help us to prize your love;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.
a sweet-er sound than your blest name, O Sav - ior of us all!
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!
grant us at last to hear you say: "Come, share my home a - bove."

Text: attr. Bernard of Clairvaux, 1091–1153; tr. Edward Caswall, 1814–1878
Music: ST. AGNES, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

*Dismissal

These Lenten days will take us to the cross of Christ. On this fourth Sunday of Lent, go forth as followers of Jesus, in whom we have new life. **Thanks be to God.**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00 a.m. March 30th, 2025

Prelude

Welcome and Announcements

*Confession & Forgiveness

Trusting the grace promised to us in Jesus Christ,
let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Merciful God,
we confess that we have strayed from your ways. You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth's resources and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love, but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law and forsake your love. Forgive us our sin and bring us to repentance. Draw our wandering hearts back to you that we may find freedom in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

As a parent welcomes home a wayward child,
so God embraces all who return in true repentance.

✙ In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen**

***Gathering Song: God is Here ELW# 526 verses 1, 3 & 4**

1 God is here! As we your peo - ple meet to of - fer
3 Here our chil - dren find a wel - come in the Shep - herd's
4 Lord of all, of church and king - dom, in an age of

praise and prayer, may we find in full - er mea - sure
flock and fold; here as bread and wine are tak - en,
change and doubt, keep us faith - ful to the gos - pel;

what it is in Christ we share. Here, as in the
Christ sus - tains us as of old. Here the ser - vants
help us work your pur - pose out. Here, in this day's

world a - round us, all our var - ied skills and arts
of the Ser - vant seek in wor - ship to ex - plore
ded - i - ca - tion, all we have to give, re - ceive;

wait the com - ing of the Spir - it in - to o - pen minds and hearts.
what it means in dai - ly liv - ing to be - lieve and to a - dore.
we, who can - not live with - out you, we a - dore you! We be - lieve!

***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.

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, grant us peace.

***Post-Communion Prayer**

God of abundance, we give you thanks that you have refreshed us
through the healing power of the gift of life given to us in the
bread and the wine. In your mercy, strengthen us for faith in you
and love toward one another, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.
Amen.

***Blessing**

The God of reconciliation bless you,
the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you,
and the power of the Holy Spirit strengthen you
✠ this day and forevermore. **Amen.**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

***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.**

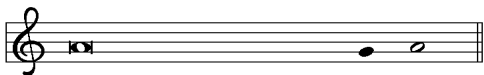
**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**


***Invitation to Communion**

Communion Hymn (next page)


***Kyrie**




In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



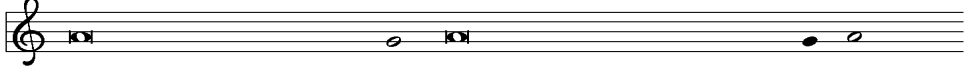
Lord, have mer - cy.




For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.




Lord, have mer - cy.



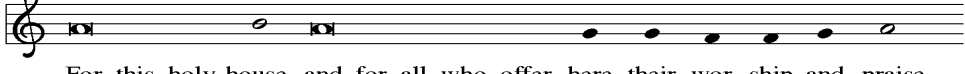
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,




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



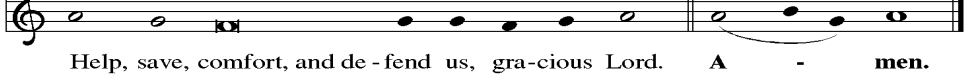
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



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

***Prayer of the Day**

Gracious God, seeker of the lost:
draw your children back to your loving embrace,
restore us to our inheritance as daughters and sons,
and reconcile our hearts to you,
that we may become ambassadors
of your reconciling love to all the world.
Through Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit we pray. **Amen.**

Holy Baptism of Adrian Joseph Bernardo

Presentation

God is full of love and kindness. Through baptism, God gives us a fresh start and fills us with hope. When we are baptized with water and God's word, God forgives our sins and brings us into a brand-new life with Jesus.

We become part of a big family—everyone who has ever been baptized. God gives us the Holy Spirit to help us and invites us to help with God's mission: to share love, healing, and hope with the church and the whole world.

The presiding minister addresses the candidate:

Adrian, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting that God loves you no matter what, do you want to be baptized into Jesus? If so, say I do.

We give you thanks and praise for Jesus,
our way in the wilderness, our companion in the deserts and valleys.
He knows our hunger and thirst; he gives us the bread of life to eat
and living water to drink. He
leads us beside still waters and prepares this table for us, even in the
presence of our enemies.

On the night he was betrayed,
Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, This is my
body, given for you. Take and eat, in remembrance of me.
On that same night he took the cup, saying,
This is the new covenant, sealed in my blood, for forgiveness for all
people. Drink this in
remembrance of me.
When we eat this bread and drink this cup
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Holy One, pour out your Holy Spirit
upon this bread, this cup, this dry land and weary time. By the power
of your Spirit, breathe life
into our dust and hope into our bones.
As we receive this bread and cup,
make us one flesh and one blood, one in the body of Christ. Let us
live to sing your praise and
show your love to all, until our wilderness wandering is over, and we
feast with you forever in
the land that you have promised.
Through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory
is yours, O God, now and always. Amen.

*Great Thanksgiving

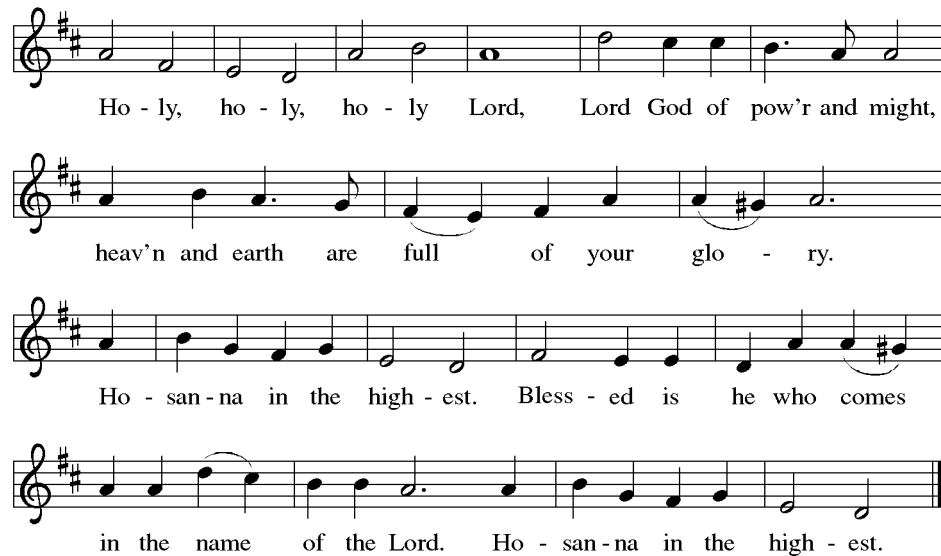
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.**

Holy One, in this dry land and weary time we you thanks and praise.
You provide for us in our need; you set a table for us in the desert
places. Even when we despair and complain against you, you feed us
with bread from heaven. Even when we quarrel and question your
grace, you give us water from a stone.
How can we keep silent? Even dry bones in the valley of death stand
to sing your praise:

*Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

The presiding minister addresses sponsors:

Sponsors, do you promise to help Adrian grow in the Christian faith,
to encourage him as he learns about and follows Jesus, and to help
him stay connected to his baptism, to Jesus, and to the whole church
family—with the help of God's Spirit? If so, say I do.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly:

People of God, do you promise to support Adrian and pray
for him in his new life in Christ? If so say, we do. **We do.**

Profession of Faith

The presiding minister addresses the candidate:

Adrian, I ask you to declare your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and
confess the faith of the church.

Do you reject the devil and all the forces that go against God,
the powers of this world that rebel against God,
and the ways of sin that move you away from God? If so say I reject
them.

The presiding minister addresses the candidate and the assembly:

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Thanksgiving at the Font

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from

Prayers of the People

Sharing of the Peace

Music Interlude

The Offertory Hymn: *We Give Thee but Thine Own*

ELW #686 verses 1-2

1 We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
2 May we thy boun - ties thus as stew - ards true re - ceive,
all that we have is thine a - lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.
and glad - ly, as thou bless - est us, to thee our first - fruits give.

*Offering Prayer

O God, all that we have comes from you.

Receive this offering and with it the offering of our lives,

for we return to you only what you have so graciously given.

Use us for the sake of Christ,

in whose name we pray. **Amen.**

Sermon

*Hymn of the Day: Jesus Calls Us, Over the Tumult



1 Je - sus calls us; o'er the tu - mult of our
2 As of old Saint An - drew heard it by the
3 Je - sus calls us from the wor - ship of the
4 In our joys and in our sor - rows, days of
5 Je - sus calls us! By your mer - cy, Sav - ior,



life's wild, rest - less sea, day by day his clear voice
Gal - i - le - an lake, turned from home and toil and
vain world's gold - en store, from each i - dol that would
toil and hours of ease, still he calls, in cares and
may we hear your call, give our hearts to your o -



sound - ing, say - ing, "Chris - tian, fol - low me."
kin - dred, leav - ing all for Je - sus' sake.
keep us, say - ing, "Chris - tian, love me more."
plea - sures, "Chris - tian, love me more than these."
be - dience, serve and love you best of all.

the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you.
Pour out your Holy Spirit here, the power of your living Word, that
those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new
life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Baptism

Adrian Joseph, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the
Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

The assembly responds:
**You belong to Christ, in whom you have been baptized. Thanks be to
God.**

Let us pray.
We give you thanks, O God,
that through water and the Holy Spirit
you give your children new birth,
cleansing them from sin, and raise them to eternal life.

Support and strengthen Adrian with the gift of your Holy Spirit:
the spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the spirit of good advice and courage,
the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord,
the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.
Amen.

Adrian Joseph, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. **Amen.**

Welcome

Jesus said, I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will have the light of life.

Adrian, let your special light shine so brightly before others
that they see all of the good things you do
and know that God is amazing.


Pastor leads the assembly in the welcome:

Let us welcome the newly baptized.
We welcome you into God’s big and beautiful family. You are now part of the body of Christ—a group of people learning to love like Jesus. We are so glad you are here!
Together, we will praise God, celebrate the good things God is doing, and share God’s love and kindness with the world.
Let’s go on this adventure together, because the world needs your light, your voice, and your heart. Welcome!!!

leaders in public, showing by the scriptures that the Messiah is Jesus.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**



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.

***Gospel: Luke 10:38-42**

The holy gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you O Lord.**

³⁸ Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village where a woman named Martha welcomed him. ³⁹ She had a sister named Mary, who sat at Jesus’s feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by her many tasks, so she came to him and asked, “Holy One, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her, then, to help me.” ⁴¹ But the Holy One answered her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—indeed only one. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

and my feet from falling,
so that I may walk before God
in the light of life.

Second Reading: Acts 18:1-3, 18-20, 24-28

1 After this Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 There he found a Jewish man named Aquila from Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jewish people to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, 3 and, because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them, and they worked together—by trade they were tentmakers.

18 After staying there for a considerable time, Paul said farewell to the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. At Cenchreae he had his hair cut, for he was under a vow. 19 When they reached Ephesus, he left them there, but first he himself went into the synagogue and had a discussion with the Jewish leaders. 20 When they asked him to stay longer, he declined,

24 Now there came to Ephesus a Jewish man named Apollos from Alexandria. He was an eloquent man, well-versed in the scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the Way of the Holy One, and he spoke with burning enthusiasm and taught accurately the things concerning Jesus, though he knew only the baptism of John. 26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue, but when Priscilla and Aquila heard him they took him aside and explained the Way of God to him more accurately. 27 And when he wished to cross over to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him. On his arrival he greatly helped those who through grace had become believers, 28 for he powerfully refuted the Jewish

Baptismal Hymn: *Baptized and Set Free* ELW # 453



1 We are peo - ple cre - at - ed, cho - sen by God.
2 We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and re - freshed.
3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv - ing things,
4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.

Then we're washed, ev - er gent - ly, in mer - cy and love.
Then our hun - ger re - turns and a - gain we are blessed.
and by life that the Spir - it a - bun - dant - ly brings.
All are wel - come! We gath - er to sing loud and strong.

Sin has pow - er no more. Je - sus o - pened the door
For what - ev - er the need, God is great - er in - deed:
As we jour - ney toward home, may your pres - ence be known:
Not en - slaved, but set free! From now on, all will be

to a foun - tain bring - ing heal - ing, and whole - ness and more.
end - less o - cean, al - ways deep - er than all of our need.
pre - cious riv - er, ev - er - flow - ing, now car - ry us home.
one in Je - sus, one in wa - ter, bap - tized and set free!

Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956
Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner
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Children's Moment

First Reading: Numbers 27:1-11

¹ Then the daughters of Zelophehad came forward. Zelophehad was son of Hephher son of Gilead son of Machir son of Manasseh, of the clans of Manasseh, son of Joseph. The names of his daughters were Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah. ² They stood before Moses, Eleazar the priest, the leaders, and all the congregation, at the entrance of the tent of meeting, saying, ³ “Our father died in the wilderness; he was not among the congregation of those who gathered themselves together against the HOLY ONE in the congregation of Korah but died for his own sin, and he had no sons. ⁴ Why should the name of our father be taken away from his clan because he had no son? Give to us a possession among our father’s brothers.”

⁵ Moses brought their case before the HOLY ONE. ⁶ And the HOLY ONE spoke to Moses, saying, ⁷ “The daughters of Zelophehad are right in what they are saying; you shall indeed let them possess an inheritance among their father’s brothers and pass the inheritance of their father on to them. ⁸ You shall also speak to the Israelites, saying: If a man dies and has no son, then you shall pass his inheritance on to his daughter. ⁹ If he has no daughter, then you shall give his inheritance to his brothers. ¹⁰ If he has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to his father’s brothers. ¹¹ And if his father has no brothers, then you shall give his inheritance to the nearest kinsman of his clan, and he shall possess it. It shall be for the Israelites a statute and ordinance, as the HOLY ONE commanded Moses.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 56:1-13

Be gracious to me, O God, for people trample on me;
all day long foes oppress me;
my enemies trample on me all day long,
for many fight against me.

**O Most High, when I am afraid,
I put my trust in you.**

**In God, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I am not afraid;
what can flesh do to me?**

All day long they seek to injure my cause;
all their thoughts are against me for evil.
They stir up strife; they lurk;
they watch my steps,
as they hoped to take my life.

**Do not deliver them for any reason;
in wrath cast down the peoples, O God!
You have kept count of my tossings;
put my tears in your bottle.
Are they not in your record?**

Then my enemies will retreat
in the day when I call.
This I know, that God is for me.

**In God, whose word I praise,
in the Holy One, whose word I praise,
in God I trust; I am not afraid.**

What can a mere mortal do to me?
My vows to you I must perform, O God;
I will render thank offerings to you.
For you have delivered my soul from death