

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

BREAKFAST SERVICE

March 30, 2025

Holy Spirit Lutheran Church

And Nursery School

2545 Franklin Ave.

Secane, PA 19018

Office: 610-544-2707

Interim Pastor Teresa McNamara

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ORDER OF WORSHIP

+GATHERING+

WELCOME AND WORSHIP NOTES

HYMN

ELW 666

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.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

HYMN

ELW 807

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

***CALL TO WORSHIP AND CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection

C: Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
 but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.
 We do not show others the tender compassion
 you have shown to us.
 We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
 you grant to all people.
 We oppress others,
 even though you have set us free again and again.
 We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.
 Transform our lives
 and guide us again in the way of the cross.
 Amen**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever. **Amen.**
(Please be seated)

GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

C: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you 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 Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

+ THE WORD+

PSALM: 32 (*read responsively*)

¹Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

²**Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴**For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave
the guilt of my sin.

⁶**Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of
distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

⁷You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

⁸**I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

⁹Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper
must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

¹⁰**Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.**

¹¹Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From 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. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BLESSING: We Gather (Sung to: “My Bonnie”)

We gather to ask for your blessing.
We gather to thank you in prayer
Please bless all this food we are sharing
And keep us in your tender care.

Amen. Amen. – Oh keep us in your
Tender care. (repeat)

BREAKFAST

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*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.

*THE HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 15:1-3; 11b-32

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

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

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}“There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The 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. ¹³A 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. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But 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! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ ²⁰So 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. ²¹Then the son said to

him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’ ²²But 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. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!’ And they began to celebrate.

²⁵“Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.’ ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But 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. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!’ ³¹Then the father said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But 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.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

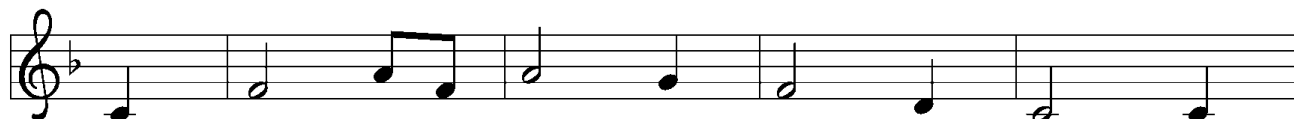
MEDITATION/SERMON

Pastor Teresa McNamara

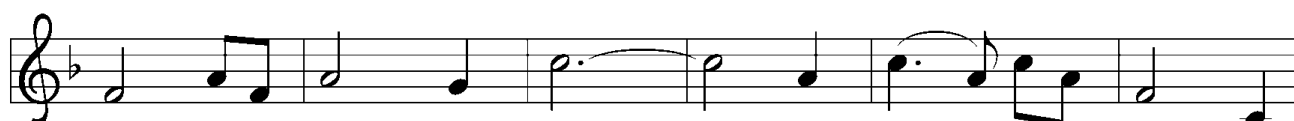
*HYMN OF THE DAY

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

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR LENT

**We believe in one God who created us and loves us, still and all.
We believe in Jesus Christ who leads us and calls us to follow.
We believe in the Holy Spirit, present to us in our challenges and changes.**

**We believe we are the church, called to bring solace to the troubled,
hope to the hopeless and love to the lonely.**

**We believe in the power of prayer, which enables us to live a life of
love and service in the grace of God.**

Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

(response after Hear us, O God.:)

C: Your mercy is great.

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

“LET THERE BE PEACE ON EARTH”

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

Let there be peace on earth, the peace that was meant to be.

With God as our Father, brothers all are we

Let me walk with my brother in perfect harmony.

Let peace begin with me, let this be the moment now

With every step I take, let this be my solemn vow,

To take each moment and live each moment in peace eternally.

Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

+MEAL+

OFFERING

OFFERTORY HYMN

ELW 460

Now the Silence



Now the si - lence Now the peace Now the emp - ty hands up - lift - ed



Now the kneel - ing Now the plea Now the Fa - ther's arms in wel - come



Now the hear - ing Now the pow'r Now the ves - sel brimmed for pour - ing



Now the bod - y Now the blood Now the joy - ful cel - e - bra - tion



Now the wed - ding Now the songs Now the heart for - giv - en leap - ing



Now the Spir - it's vis - i - ta - tion Now the Son's e - piph - a - ny



Now the Fa - ther's bless - ing Now Now Now

Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919

Music: NOW, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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OFFERING PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

A: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places.....

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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 in 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.*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us say the prayer our Lord taught us...

LORD'S PRAYER

**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

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.



COMMUNION HYMN

ELW 608

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

Refrain

watch - ing for you and for me.
 mer - cies for you and for me? "Come home, come home!"
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home." Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, "O sin - ner, come home!"

Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

P: May the body and blood of the Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

(Please stand as you are able)

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

Let us pray:

A: Nourishing God,

at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink.

Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

C: Amen.

+SENDING+

BLESSING & BENEDICTION

P: God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, ✠ bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

Amen.



SENDING HYMN*ELW 763****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

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

Feb's Income: \$13,916

Average Attendance: 20

Feb's Expense: \$18,764

THE ALTAR FLOWERS are dedicated to the Glory of God in loving memory of Gary and Mike Kline's birthdays by Pat and Denis Colahan and in honor of Christopher's birthday by Pat and Denis Colahan.

MINISTERS – ALL BAPTIZED PEOPLE OF GOD

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Scheduled to serve 3/30

Scheduled to serve 4/6

Donna G. – Assisting Minister

Kathy D. – Assisting Minister

Alan S./Alan D. – Ushers

Gary P. - Usher

Downey/Deemer – Counters

Pysher/Devine - Counters

Meghan G. – Altar

Kathy D. - Altar

*******WEEKLY CALENDAR*******

Mon, Mar 31

6:30pm – Girl Scouts (Mtg Rm)

Tues, Apr 1

6:00pm – Nursery School Mtg (Mtg Rm)

Wed, Apr 2

5:30pm – Lenten Service/Dinner (St. Matthew's Woodlyn)

7:30pm - AA (Hall)

Thu, Apr 3

7:00pm – AA (Hall)

7:00pm – DA (Mtg Rm)

Sat, Apr 5

10:00am – AA (Hall) Breakfast

11:00am – DA (Mtg Rm)

Sun, Apr 6

10:15am–Worship

12:30pm – Song of Praise (Sanctuary)

*****PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS*****

Healing:

Mike Longo

Rob Hahn

Lisa McDonough

Hugh Mullarkey

Jean Brown

Betty Lake

Anne Rainsford

Judy McGrane

Kelly Conaghan

Scott Smith

Cliff Kellett

Lois Saunders

Eileen Maloney

Linda Martin

Jackie Bernduer White

Jackie Dewitt

Maureen Colahan

Ann Ferguson

Sonya Baxter

Ed Shoup

Jean Cilurso

Phyllis Horton

Lou Vallies

Geralyn Gerakaris

Kathy Shoup

Lynn McGrane

John Hoyt

(If you would like to add someone to the prayer list for Apr., please call the office).

Also please remember in your prayers homebound members: Ruth Dell'Orefice, Jane Croghan, Diane Kuhn, Hank Kuhn, Ruth Dukes, Janet Kline, Dudley Henriques, Bob Kerns, and Debra Ulmer.

Men & women in our armed forces, firefighters, police officers and emergency services personnel.

Announcements and Upcoming Events

FILL EASTER EGGS – Please join us on **Monday April 7th at 6:30pm** in the social hall to help us fill Easter eggs with toys and candy in preparation for the Easter Egg Hunt. Thank you for your assistance"

COUNCIL MEETING – **Tuesday, Apr 8th at 7:00pm** in the meeting room.

MID-WEEK LENTEN GATHERING

BREAD OF LIFE LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICES WITH MEAL WEDNESDAY EVENINGS AT 5:30PM

April 2 - host: St. Matthew's, Woodlyn - preacher: Pr. Terri

April 9 - host: St. John's, Folcroft- preacher: Pr. Terri

EASTER FLOWERS – Please help beautify the worship space for Easter Sunday by ordering potted plants. Take home afterwards or leave to beautify our gardens outside the church. Orders are due back by **April 7th**.



MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE – The Interboro Ministerium will be hosting Maundy Thursday Service at Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norwood **April 17th at 7:00pm**

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE - The Interboro Ministerium will be hosting Good Friday Service **April 18** at Ridley Lake at **12:00noon** for the Stations of the Cross.

EASTER SERVICE – One service on **Easter Sunday, Apr 20th at 10:15am.**

NEW DIRECTORIES -. Please look on the back table in the Social Hall for copies. If you would like one emailed to you, let the office know.

ALTAR FLOWERS - THANK YOU everyone who signed up to sponsor altar flowers throughout the year. Please take a dedication form when you sign up and return to office. **Flowers are now \$20 per vase.**

BOTTLE CAPS - Plastic caps of any sort are now being collected and shipped to a manufacturer to make Buddy Benches for schools so children can connect and share in friendship together. On behalf of those who will benefit from your donations, thank you.

PRE-K REQUEST – Looking for empty 1 lb. tin coffee cans for a craft project. Just leave in the office.



Teacher's Teammates

This year during Lent we will be having a collection for a charity we have not donated to previously, Teacher's

Teammates. Teachers' Teammates is a non-profit organization that provides resources for K-12 students and teachers in Delaware County to help them succeed in their education. They distribute free school supplies to students and teachers in public, charter and parochial schools where at least 65% of the students qualify for the National Student Lunch Program.

What makes this different from the backpack collection is that they also accept used items. These used items must be in good working order, readily usable without assembly, and free of dirt, mold, water damage or pet hair. Reusing these items reduces waste and helps our environment.

They also accept items other than school supplies like toys, puzzles, arts and craft supplies, reusable shopping bags, office supplies and more. Please see the enclosed list for acceptable donations.

At the present time there is a special need for school supplies for the 2nd semester: markers- dry erase and highlighters, filler paper, pens, crayons and colored pencils, pencil sharpeners- hand held barrel type erasers, wedge rulers, pencil pouches 3 hole with grommets, 2 pocket folders and glue sticks.

The collection will run **from March 1- April 6th**. The collected items will be taken to their warehouse in Folcroft. You can also donate money on their website: teachersteamates.org or donate to their Amazon Wishlist. I hope the members of Holy Spirit will support this worthwhile outreach program.

EASTER EGG HUNT



Holy Spirit is sponsoring its 19th Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 12, 2025. The Egg Hunt will begin at 12 noon.

WE NEED EVERYONE'S HELP

DONATIONS NEEDED:

- Bags of candy to fill the Plastic Easter Eggs. **ALL CANDY MUST BE INDIVIDUALLY WRAPPED** (please send in candy that will fit in a one inch egg). There is a container in the Narthex for you to leave the candy in. Please bring in the candy as soon as possible so we can plan ahead. No hard candy please.
- For the food – needed are hotdogs and water. See the signup sheets in the front hallway. Please give the hotdogs to Bill or Cyndi Kline, Nancy Harris or Gary Pysher. The water can be left under the table when you first enter the social hall.
-
- HELP on the day of the hunt. We can use volunteers to help with the hunt, craft table, registration and just being on hand to greet our community and join in the fun.
-

ALL SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE ON THE TABLE IN THE FRONT HALL.

Thank you!

HOLY SPIRIT LUTHERAN CHURCH
2545 Franklin Avenue, Secane, PA –
(Ridley Township)

19th ANNUAL COMMUNITY
EASTER EGG HUNT
for kids ages 2-10

Saturday, April 12, 2025

11:30 a.m. – registration

12:00 noon – Easter Egg Hunt 2 & 3 Year olds

12:15ish p.m. – Easter Egg Hunt for 4-10 year olds

Hotdogs * Drinks * Prizes * Craft for kids

Reservations are required!

**Go to: holyspiritevents2545@gmail.com
to make reservations or if you have questions.**



GOSPEL MESSAGE

Less Grumbling, More Humbling

Grumbling! The crowd around Jesus—the “in” crowd, that is—was grumbling. Grumbling because Jesus welcomed those who traditionally had been set apart: tax collectors and sinners. Who are those who cause us to grumble? Whose seemingly undeserved handout or unearned status change filled our hearts with resentment this week? Jesus speaks to us today because we too often see life as a game with winners and losers, points and playbooks, offense and defense. Can we open our hearts and minds to hear today’s humbling good news? God’s love is freely shared with all: we cannot earn it, we cannot deserve it. When we attend worship, we do so out of thanksgiving and praise for God’s glory, hunger and thirst for God’s word and sacrament. We do not attend worship to achieve some status within God’s kingdom. When we help a neighbor, share with a stranger, assist the afflicted, or acknowledge the overlooked we do so because Christ first did the same for us. We respond to God’s grace and mercy with our own feeble attempts to emulate God’s perfect love. It is challenging, exhausting, never-ending, perspective-altering, radically humbling work. It’s work that is impossible to do without the inspiration of Christ, the nourishment of wine and bread, and the strength of the saints who have gone before us and with whom we walk Christ’s path today. Let us find those in our world who teach us about Christ’s unending reconciliation, so that we can all celebrate and rejoice as the family of God.