

And as Moses lifted up the serpent  
in the wilderness, even so must the  
Son of Man be lifted up, that  
whoever BELIEVES in Him should  
not perish but have eternal life.  
John 3:14

## Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2024

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*Setting Three*

*The fourth of the Old Testament promises providing a baptismal lens this Lent is the promise God makes to Moses: those who look on the bronze serpent will live. In today's gospel Jesus says he will be lifted up on the cross like the serpent, so that those who look to him in faith will live. When we receive the sign of the cross in baptism, that cross becomes the sign we can look to in faith for healing, for restored relationship to God, for hope when we are dying.*

**Confession and Forgiveness**

**P.** Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.

**C. Amen**

**P.** Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P.** Holy God,

**C.** we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.

**P.** Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through ☩ Jesus Christ.

**C. Amen**

**The Peace**

**P.** Jesus said: Peace I leave with you;  
my peace I give to you.  
Do not let your hearts be troubled.  
May His peace be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**

**Gathering Hymn**

*Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love*

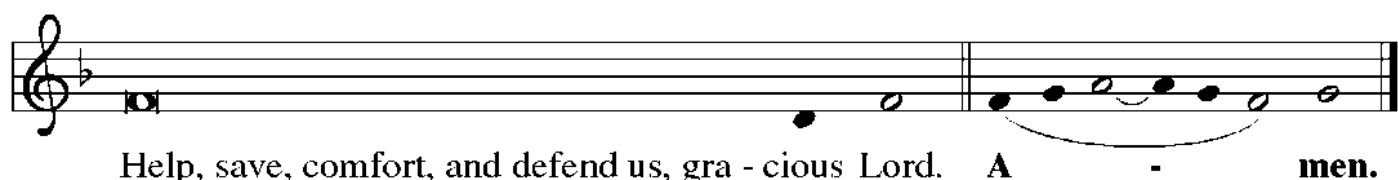
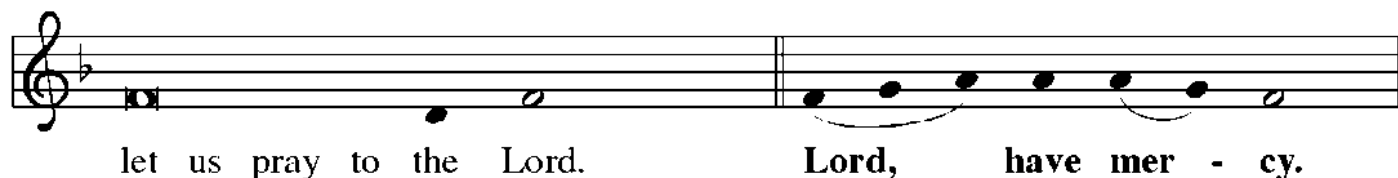
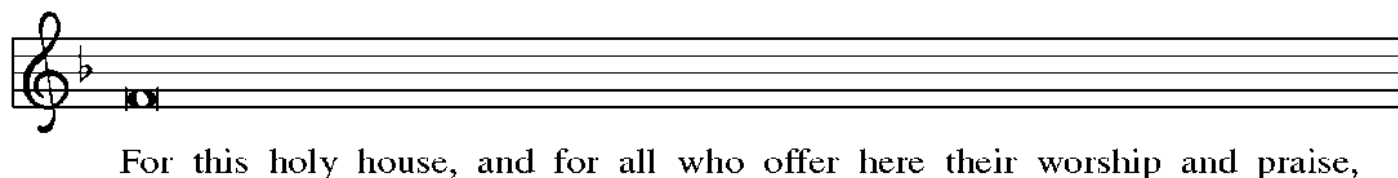
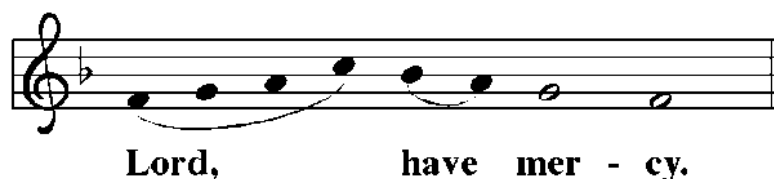
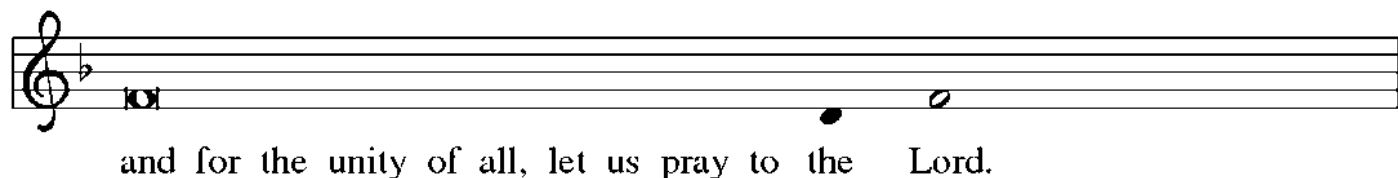
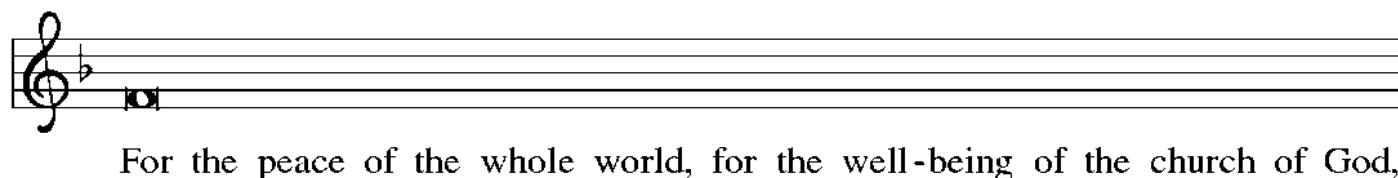
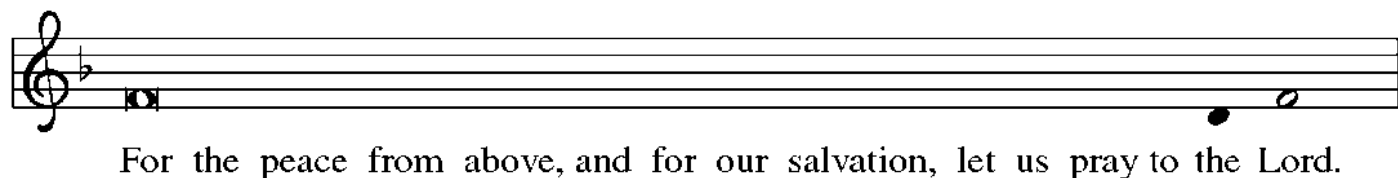
ELW 708

**Greeting**

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

**C. And also with you.**

# Kyrie



*This is the feast . . .*

**Women vs. 1, 3; Men vs. 2, 4**

*Refrain*



**All:** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. I Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb

**Women:**



who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



**All:** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich - es, wis - dom, and

**Men:**

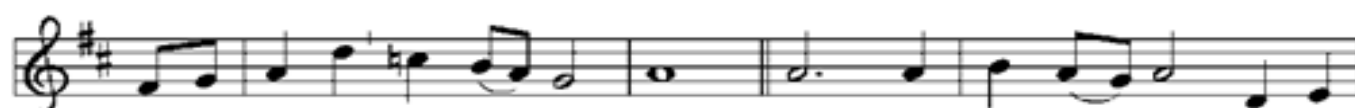


strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

*Refrain*

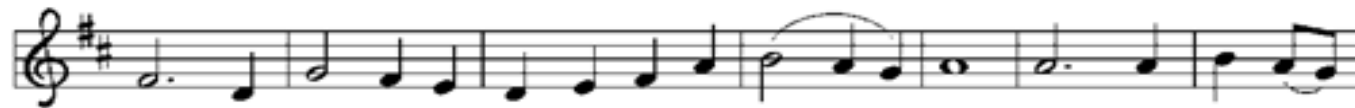


**All:** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia.



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of

**Women:**



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon - or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

### *This is the feast . . .*

*Refrain*



**All:** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was

**Men**



slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

*Final refrain*



**All:** This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.



Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

### **Prayer of the Day**

- A. Let us pray . . . O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C. Amen.

### **First Reading**

#### **Numbers 21:4-9**

*Though God provides food and water for the Israelites in the wilderness, they whine and grumble. They forget about the salvation they experienced in the exodus. God punishes them for their sin, but when they repent God also provides a means of healing: a bronze serpent lifted up on a pole.*



<sup>4</sup>From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. <sup>5</sup>The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” <sup>6</sup>Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. <sup>7</sup>The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” <sup>9</sup>So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

**L. Word of God, word of life.**

**C. Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

Spoken Responsively

<sup>1</sup>Give thanks to the LORD, for the LORD is good,  
for God’s mercy endures forever.

<sup>2</sup>**Let the redeemed of the LORD proclaim  
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**

<sup>3</sup>gathering them in from the lands;  
from the east and from the west,  
from the north and from the south.

<sup>17</sup>Some were fools and took rebellious paths;  
through their sins they were afflicted.

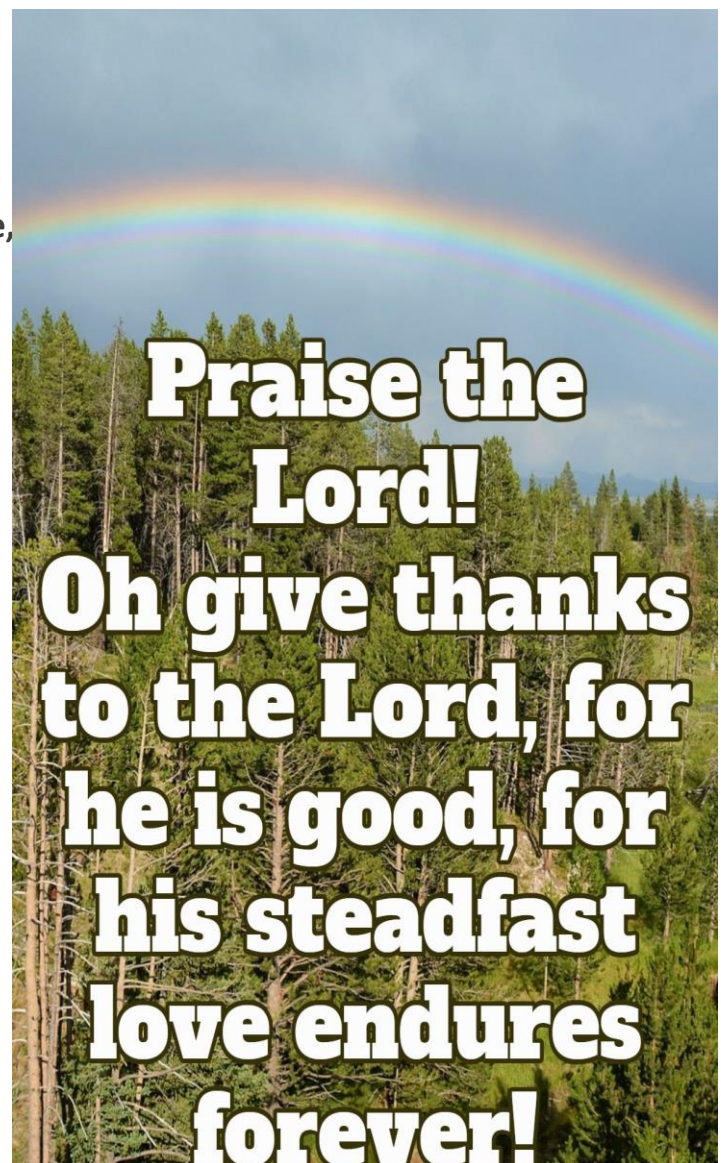
<sup>18</sup>They loathed all manner of food  
and drew near to death’s door.

<sup>19</sup>**Then in their trouble they cried to the LORD  
and you delivered them from their distress.**

<sup>20</sup>You sent forth your word and healed them  
and rescued them from the grave.

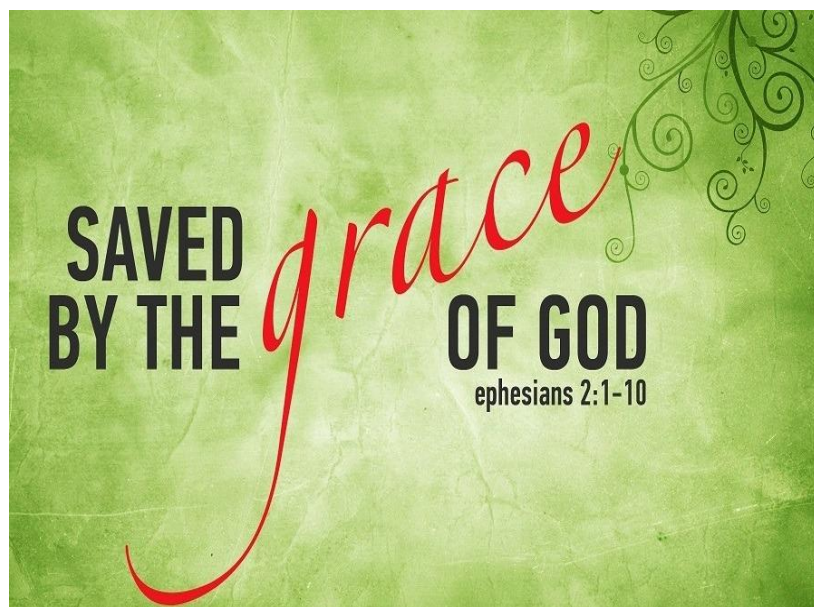
<sup>21</sup>**Let them give thanks to you, LORD,  
for your steadfast love and your wonderful  
works for all people.**

<sup>22</sup>Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving  
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.



## Second Reading

*While we were dead in our sinfulness, God acted to make us alive as a gift of grace in Christ Jesus. We are saved not by what we do but by grace through faith. Thus our good works are really a reflection of God's grace at work in our lives.*



<sup>1</sup>You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup>in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup>All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup>But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup>even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ—by grace you have been saved—<sup>6</sup>and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup>so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup>For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God—<sup>9</sup>not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup>For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

**L. Word of God, word of life.**

**C. 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, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**P.** The holy gospel according to John, the third chapter.

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

*To explain the salvation of God to the religious leader, Nicodemus, Jesus refers to the scripture passage quoted in today's first reading. Just as those who looked upon the bronze serpent were healed, so people will be saved when they behold Christ lifted up on the cross.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>14</sup>“Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup>that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup>“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup>“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup>Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. <sup>19</sup>And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup>For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup>But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

**P.** The gospel of the Lord.

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



# Children's Message

**The Sermon**

**“God So Loved”**

**Pastor Wolfgang**

**Hymn of the Day**

*Great Is Thy Faithfulness*

**ELW 733**



# The Apostles' Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit  
and born of the Virgin Mary,  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven,  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

- A.** Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.

- C. Your mercy is great.**

- A.** Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth's fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.

- C. Your mercy is great.**

*Other prayers*

- P.** Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

- C. Amen.**

*Let the Vineyards...*

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. Grace our ta-ble  
with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**Offertory Prayer**

- A. Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.
- C. Amen.

**The Great Thanksgiving**

- P. The Lord be with you.  
C. And also with you.
- P. Lift up your hearts.  
C. We lift them to the Lord.
- P. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
C. It is right to give our thanks and praise.



P. It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

### The Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

### Eucharistic 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

**P.** Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come! Everyone is invited, no exceptions.

**C.** Amen

### *Jesus, 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.**

### Communion Hymns

*You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*  
*We've Come This Far by Faith*  
*You Are Holy*

ELW 817  
 ELW 633  
 ELW 525

## Post Communion Cantic

*Lord, Listen to Your children Praying* (sing 3 times)



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;

Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

## Post Communion Prayer

A. Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life.

C. Amen



## Blessing

P. Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed. God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage, and ☩ give you peace.

C. Amen

## Sending Hymn

*On Our Way Rejoicing*

ELW 537

## Dismissal

A. Go in peace. Share your bread.

C. Thanks be to God.

## Postlude

*Canon*

~J Pachelbel



**Servers for Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>:**

Assisting Minister..... Alecia Harrison  
Reader ..... Sylvia Lambert  
Altar Guild ..... Ginny King  
Greeters / Counters ..... Linda Hash/Shannon Thomsen  
Acolyte ..... Antonio Smith  
Guest Musician ..... Conrad Lentz, piano  
Guest Musician ..... Lori Bosco, violin

**Candles** this month are provided by Sheryl Albert in thanksgiving for her husband Harry.

Sign-up sheets for the various worship assistant slots are on the board in the hallway. Please consider spending time giving glory to God by filling one of these positions on a Sunday, or providing flowers or candles to beautify our church.



## Lent & Holy Week Schedule

Midweek Lenten Worship at 7 pm

Holden Evening Prayer

February 21, 28, March 6, 13, & 20

### Lent

First Sunday in Lent - February 18  
Second Sunday in Lent - February 25  
Third Sunday in Lent - March 3  
Fourth Sunday in Lent - March 10  
Fifth Sunday in Lent - March 17

### Holy Week

Palm Sunday - March 24  
Maundy Thursday - March 28  
Good Friday - March 29  
Easter - March 31