



Sunday, March 9, 2025

9:00 am

# ***GATHERING***

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## **PRELUDE**

## **WELCOME**

## **CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

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

**Amen.**

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

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

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 squander the gifts entrusted to us.**

**Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

**Amen.**

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.**

## GATHERING HYMN: ACS 922 – WHEN WE ARE TESTED



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,  
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,  
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,  
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,  
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,  
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,  
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,  
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,  
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,  
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.  
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.  
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.  
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

## 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.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## **WORD**

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### **FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

*The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.*

<sup>1</sup> When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup> you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup> You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us." <sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, <sup>5</sup> you shall make this response before the Lord your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. <sup>8</sup> The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders;

<sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me." You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. <sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13**

*Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.*

<sup>8b</sup> "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" that is, the word of faith that we proclaim; <sup>9</sup> because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. <sup>10</sup> For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. <sup>11</sup> The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." <sup>12</sup> For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. <sup>13</sup> For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13**

The Holy Gospel According to Luke.

**Glory to You, O Lord.**

*After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."*

<sup>1</sup> Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup> where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." <sup>4</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup> And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup> If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." <sup>8</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>9</sup> Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, <sup>10</sup> for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' <sup>11</sup> and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" <sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" <sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

## **APOSTLES' 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 INTERCESSION**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A brief silence.*

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and community leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Guard all people in perilous journeys, that they find protection and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill (*especially*). God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life (*especially*). Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## **MEAL**

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### **OFFERING**

Please place offering in offering plates as they are passed, utilize our online giving tools ([www.hlc.church](http://www.hlc.church)), or scan the QR code to remain current in your generosity. Checks can be sent to: Hope Lutheran Church, 8070 Rowan Road, Cranberry Twp. PA 16066.



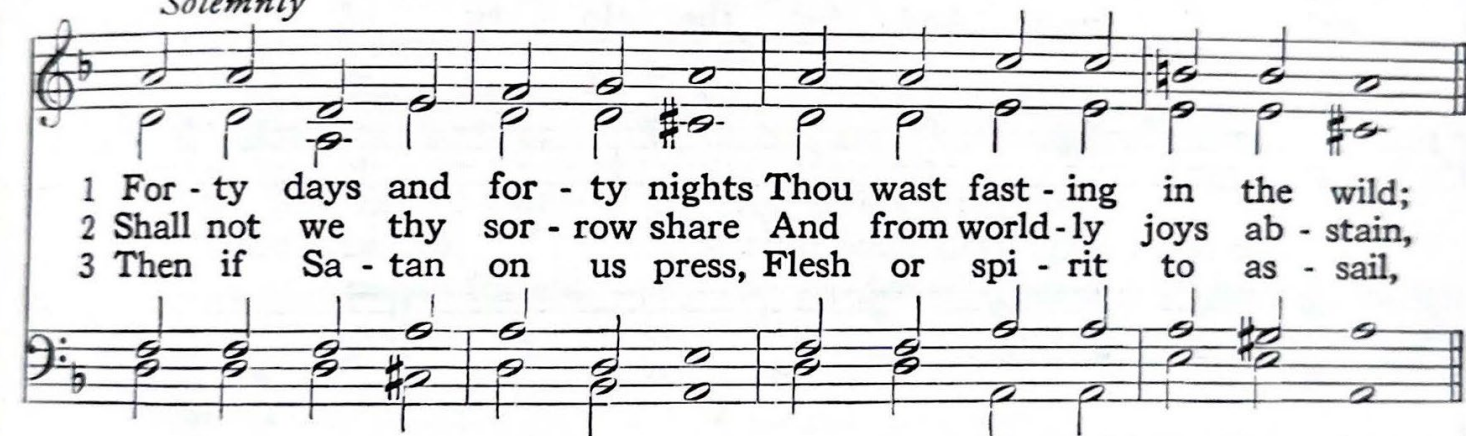
### **SPECIAL MUSIC: "HOW BEAUTIFUL"**

OFFERED BY BETH WEHR AND NATE GOODRICH

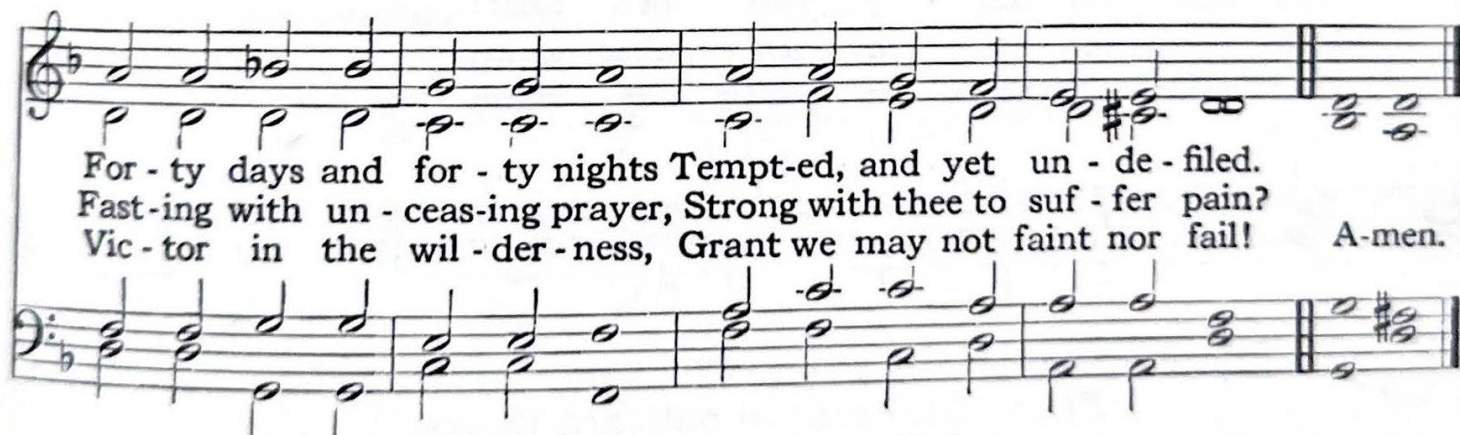


## OFFERTORY: HEINLEIN

*Solemnly*



1 For - ty days and for - ty nights Thou wast fast - ing in the wild;  
2 Shall not we thy sor - row share And from world - ly joys ab - stain,  
3 Then if Sa - tan on us press, Flesh or spi - rit to as - sail,



For - ty days and for - ty nights Tempt - ed, and yet un - de - filed.  
Fast - ing with un - ceas - ing prayer, Strong with thee to suf - fer pain?  
Vic - tor in the wil - der - ness, Grant we may not faint nor fail! A - men.

4 So shall we have peace divine:  
Holier gladness ours shall be;  
Round us, too, shall angels shine,  
Such as ministered to thee.

5 Keep, O keep us, Saviour dear,  
Ever constant by thy side;  
That with thee we may appear  
At the eternal Eastertide. Amen.

GEORGE HUNT SMYTTAN, 1856, alt.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray.

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.**

## **THE 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.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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 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. **Amen.**

## **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**

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

# DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

**All are welcome to share in communion.** Proceed forward by way of the center aisle. After receiving your wafer (please let us know if you require gluten-free), commune by **intinction** (dipping the bread into the wine and then eating it). Return to your seat by way of the side aisles. If you do not want to commune, but would like a blessing, please approach with your arms crossed and you will receive a blessing.

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond:* **Amen.**

## COMMUNION HYMNS: ACS 967 – THIS IS CHRIST’S BODY (SING 3 TIMES)

This is Christ's bod - y, bro - ken and blest. Feed us with

mer-cy and love. We are Christ's bod - y,  
with mer - cy and love.

bro-ken and blest. Heal us and make us one.

## 336 – LAMB OF GOD



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have  
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and  
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y  
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a  
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.  
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of  
rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Generous Host,

you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**CHILDREN AGES 3 TO 6<sup>TH</sup> GRADE ARE DISMISSED FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL**

# HYMN OF THE DAY: 787 – ON EAGLES WINGS

## SERMON

### ***SENDING***

#### **SENDING HYMN: : TFF 183 – I MUST TELL JESUS**

The image displays a musical score for the hymn "I Must Tell Jesus". It is written in a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). The score is arranged in three systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains four lines of lyrics. The second system contains four lines of lyrics. The third system contains four lines of lyrics. The music consists of simple chords and melodic lines, typical of a hymn tune.

1 I must tell Je - sus all of my tri - als; I can - not  
2 I must tell Je - sus all of my trou - bles; he is a  
3 Tempt-ed and tried, I need a great Sav - ior, one who can  
4 Oh, how the world to e - vil al - lures me! oh, how my

bear these bur - dens a - lone; in my dis - tress he kind - ly will  
kind, com - pas - sion - ate friend; if I but ask him, he will de -  
help my bur - dens to bear; I must tell Je - sus, I must tell  
heart is tempt - ed to sin; I must tell Je - sus, and he will

help me, he ev - er loves and cares for his own.  
liv - er, make of my trou - bles quick - ly an end.  
Je - sus; he all my cares and sor - rows will share.  
help me o - ver the world the vic - t'ry to win.

*Refrain*

I must tell Je - sus, I must tell Je - sus! I can-not bear my bur-dens a - lone.

I must tell Je - sus, I must tell Je - sus! Je-sus can help me, Je-sus a - lone.

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first system consists of a treble staff with a melody and a bass staff with a harmonic accompaniment. The second system is similar but ends with a double bar line. The lyrics are placed below the corresponding staves.

## **BENEDICTION**

God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
✠ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

## **CONGREGATION MEETING**

### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God!**