

LIVING LORD LUTHERAN CHURCH

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est. 1986

Our Mission Statement

“Living Lord Lutheran Church is a family of believers, renewed through the Holy Spirit, to be the real presence of the Risen Christ in this place, our community, and the world.”

PASTOR

The Rev. Gregory Shreaves, ELCA

MINISTER OF MUSIC

Adria Ryan

MUSICIAN EMERITUS

Pamela Wilcox

SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION - 10:00 AM

Living Lord Lutheran Church is a church of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (www.elca.org.) With over 9,100 congregations and 4 million members throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands, we are the church that shares a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. We are church. We are Lutheran. We are church together. We are church for the sake of the world.

We believe and teach that Christ’s body and blood are truly present and are really given in, with, and under the bread and wine of the Holy Eucharist. Communion at present is given in one kind – that is, the consecrated Body of Christ. It is given, along with the words spoken by the Presiding Minister, “The Body of Christ, the Blood of Christ.” Children and adults are invited to come forward to receive a blessing if you do not wish to receive the Sacrament.

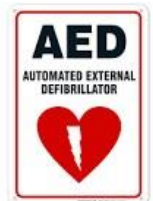
Our parish family extends a warm welcome to all newcomers, as well as those returning home to Living Lord today. We do not consider newcomers to be visitors. This is the church of Jesus Christ, and there is a place for you here. We invite you to join the conversation, participate fully in the spiritual life of this community, and proclaim with us the Good News to all the world. Again, welcome to Living Lord Lutheran Church. If you are visiting today, please inform an usher or the Pastor. Restrooms are located in the hallway off the lobby of the church.

Pastor Greg’s contact information

email: gbsbuckeye1@gmail.com

mobile phone: 610.295.9774

In the event of emergency, an AED device is located in the lobby/narthex of the church. You will find it on the wall leading to the restrooms



Sunday, March 5th, 2023
Service of Holy Communion
LENT 2



WELCOME TO ALL WHO WORSHIP HERE TODAY

As the music begins please silence your phones and end your conversation with your neighbor and begin your conversation with the LORD.

+ *Indicates that the congregation is invited to stand as you are able.*

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

ALL SING *“O How He Loves You and Me”*
see back of bulletin

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins. The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...



+ CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

The presiding minister addresses the assembly.

+ P: In the name of the Father, and of

the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Holy One, source of our renewal,

C: we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

**we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;
 we spoil rather than steward your creation;
 we cause hurt though you call us to heal;
 we choose fear over compassion.
 Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
 as we seek to follow in your way of life.
 Amen.**

P: Hear the good news:
 God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
 so that all may receive life.
 This promise is for you!
 God embraces you with divine mercy,
 + forgives you in Christ’s name,
 and revives you in the Spirit’s power.

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

+ENTRANCE HYMN *“Open the Eyes of My Heart Lord ”
 see back of bulletin*

+ APOSTOLIC GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

L: 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

Kyrie

Mass of Remembrance

Marty Haugen

Dm A7 Dm Gm Dm A7 Dm

Ky-ri-e e - le-i-son, Chri - ste e - le-i-son, Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son.

9 F C Gm7 Asus4 A A7

Je - sus Christ, have mer - cy: we ask for your for - giv - ness.

14 Dm A7 Dm Gm Dm A7 Dm

Ky-ri-e e - le-i-son, Chri - ste e - le-i-son, Ky-ri-e e - le - i - son.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. (*The assembly prays together. A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*)

C: **O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

The assembly is invited to be seated...

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.



FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

The reading is announced:

L: A reading from Genesis.

The reading may be concluded:

L: The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord. (Ps. 121:1, 2)

¹I lift up my eyes ¹to the hills;
from where is my ¹help to come?

²**My help comes ¹from the Lord,
the maker of heav- ¹en and earth.**

³The Lord will not let your ¹foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you ¹fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keep- ¹er of Israel
will neither slum- ¹ber nor sleep;**

⁵the Lord watches ¹over you;
the Lord is your shade at ¹your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike ¹you by day,
nor the ¹moon by night.**

⁷The Lord will preserve you ¹from all evil
and will ¹keep your life.

⁸**The Lord will watch over your going out and your ¹coming in,
from this time forth for- ¹evermore.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

The reading is announced:

L: A reading from Romans.

The reading may be concluded:

L: The word of the Lord.

The assembly responds:

C: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able as we welcome the gospel among us.

+ GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -
slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

+ GOSPEL: 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

The gospel is announced...

P: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew, the 4th Chapter.

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

The reading may be concluded:

P: The gospel of the Lord

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

The assembly is seated.

SERMON

The Rev. Gregory Shreaves

Silence for reflection follows the sermon. The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ **HYMN OF THE DAY** *“I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light”*
ELW # 815

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

The prayers are said responsively. The worship leader follows each petition with these or similar words: “God of grace”. The assembly follows with “Hear our prayer”.

A: Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
A brief silence.

During the prayers, other intercessions may be offered. The Presiding Minister concludes the prayers with these or similar words...

P: In your mercy, O God, respond to these prayers, and renew us by your life-giving Spirit; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: **Amen.**

The service continues with the sharing of the peace.

+THE PEACE

P: The Lord Jesus prayed for the unity of his disciples.
We look for the day when the church will shine forth
in unity at his holy supper.
The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

*The ministers and the assembly may greet one another with a gesture of Christ's peace.
The service continues with the Offering.*

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.



THE OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

The Offering is received as the Lord's table is prepared. All are invited to place their offering in the offering plates as they are passed among the assembly. All are invited into quiet reflection as the Offertory is played.

OFFERTORY

*“Borning Cry”
ELW #732*

The assembly is invited to stand as you are able...

+ OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. **C: Amen.**

+ THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The presiding minister offers the Words of Institution over the bread and wine...

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.

+ PREFACE

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:

+SANCTUS

Holy, Holy, Holy *Great Thanksgiving*

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full, full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est, 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.

Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
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The Presiding Minister continues...

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.

O God, you are Breath: send your Spirit on this meal.
O God, you are Bread: feed us with yourself.
O God, you are Wine: warm our hearts and make us one.
O God, you are Fire: transform us with hope.

O God most majestic, O God most motherly,
O God our strength and our song,
you show us a vision of a tree of life
with fruits for all and leaves that heal the nations.

Grant us such life,
the life of the Father to the Son,
the life of the Spirit of our risen Savior,
life in you, now and forever. **Amen.**

P: And now we pray boldly as our LORD Christ taught us to pray:

+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

P: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

The assembly is seated...

LAMB OF GOD

The musical score is written in G minor (three flats) and 4/4 time. It consists of four staves. The first staff is for the Cantor, with the lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,'. The second staff is for the All, with the lyrics 'have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.'. The third staff is for the Cantor, with the lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the world,'. The fourth staff is for the All, with the lyrics 'grant us peace, grant us peace.'.

J. Michael Joncas
Music © 1989, WLP

The Sacrament is distributed.

As the Presiding Minister offers these words, "The body of Christ, given for you", and the Assisting Minister offers these words, "The blood of Christ, shed for you" each is invited to respond with "Amen."

COMMUNION HYMN/S

"With These Ashes"
See back of bulletin

After the distribution of the Sacrament is completed, all are invited to stand as you are able...

+ P: The body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: **Amen.**

+ POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A: Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors

and touch the world with your love. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.



+BLESSING AND BENEDICTION

P: God, the giver of love,
✚ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey. **C: Amen.**

The assembly is invited to be seated for Ministry Announcements...

MINISTRY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The assembly is invited to stand for the Sending Hymn, as you are able. ...

SENDING HYMN *“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee”*
 ELW #836

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve in love.
C: Thanks be to God.

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GOSPEL MESSAGE **SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT**

Windy People

What does it mean to be born of the Spirit? Jesus tells Nicodemus those who are born of the Spirit are like the wind: you can hear it but cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. What does it mean to be people of the wind? Are we to be heard, but unpredictable in our actions? Maybe.

Nicodemus is curious, working hard to reason out who Jesus is and what Jesus is saying. The trouble is that the eternal life Jesus is bringing into the world is not logical. Rebirth in the Spirit does not fit our framework of experience. The resurrection that follows the cross is not a scientific principle but a new work of God, received by faith rather than reason. The work of God is unpredictable.

Generally, we as people prefer predictability and order to uncertainty and chaos. There are reasons for this: people can be unpredictable in ways that bring pain and trauma into our lives. But there is a difference between this sort of volatility and the unpredictable ways God's grace lands in the world. God's grace always brings new life.

To be good stewards of our resources, congregations should have orderly financial processes, clear policies, and well-thought-out mission and ministry. At the same time, we can plan the Spirit right out of our work if we are more dedicated to order than we are to discernment. The Spirit blows as she will. Is there room in our worship for some improvisation when the Spirit shows up in a new way? Is there flexibility in our ministry to pivot to a new opportunity as the Spirit blows by?

Born of the Spirit, may we windy people be surprised by God's grace and be blessed to carry that gift to a world that is not expecting it.