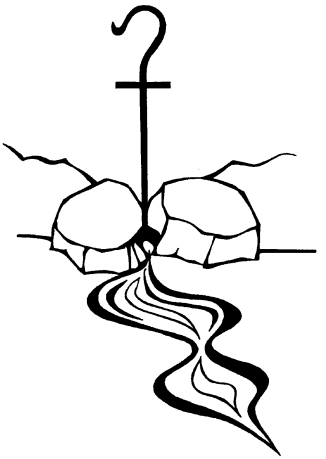
Apostles Lutheran Church

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061 | 804-693-9098 | www.apostles-elca.org



2023 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays During Lent | 7:00 PM

Our Mission is to be a Caring Inclusive Christian Community responding to God's grace through Worship, Service, and Sharing the Gospel.

RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Week 1 — March 1

First Reading	Genesis 3: 1-13
Second Reading	Genesis 1: 14-24
Gospel	Matthew 11: 25-30
Reflection	Pastor Jay Serafin
Gathering Hymn	ELW #767
	"Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me"
Hymn of the Day	ELW #719
	"Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life"
Sending Hymn	ELW #785
	"When Peace like a River

Week 2 — March 8

First Reading	Exodus 3: 11-14
Second Reading	John 12: 28b-32
Gospel	John 14: 1-7
Reflection	Pete Liljeberg
Gathering Hymn	ELW #631
	"Love Divine, All Loves Excelling"
Hymn of the Day	ELW #650
	"In Christ There Is No East or West"
Sending Hymn	ELW #836
	"Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

Week 3 — March 15

First Reading	Exodus 17: 1-8
Second Reading	1 Kings 19: 9-18
Gospel	Matthew 4: 1-111
Reflection	Ingrid Peterson
Gathering Hymn	ELW #737
	"He Comes to Us as One Unknown"
Hymn of the Day	ELW #331
	"As the Deer Runs to the River"
Sending Hymn	ACS #922
	"When We Are Tested"

Week 4 — March 22

First Reading	Jeremiah 31: 27-28
Second Reading	Romans 3: 21-28
Gospel	Mark 4: 1-8
Reflection	Pastor Jay Serafin
Gathering Hymn	ELW #714
	"O God of Mercy, God of Light"
Hymn of the Day	ELW #715
	"Christ, Be Our Light"
Sending Hymn	ELW #793
	"Be Thou My Vision"

Week 5 — March 29

First Reading	Ephesians 2: 4-10
Second Reading	James 2: 14-24
Gospel	John 3: 16-17
Reflection	Pastor Jay Serafin
Gathering Hymn	ELW #705
	"God of Grace and God of Glory"
Hymn of the Day	ELW #597
	"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"
Sending Hymn	ELW #779
	"Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound"

GATHERING

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

Prelude and Silent Prayer

Martin Luther said of music: "Next to the Word of God, the noble art of music is the greatest treasure in the world." Please take a moment to ***silence all cell phones.***

Welcome and Announcements

Please rise in body or in spirit. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

Amen.

Gathering Hymn

Kyrie

Kyrie eleison
Lord, have mercy

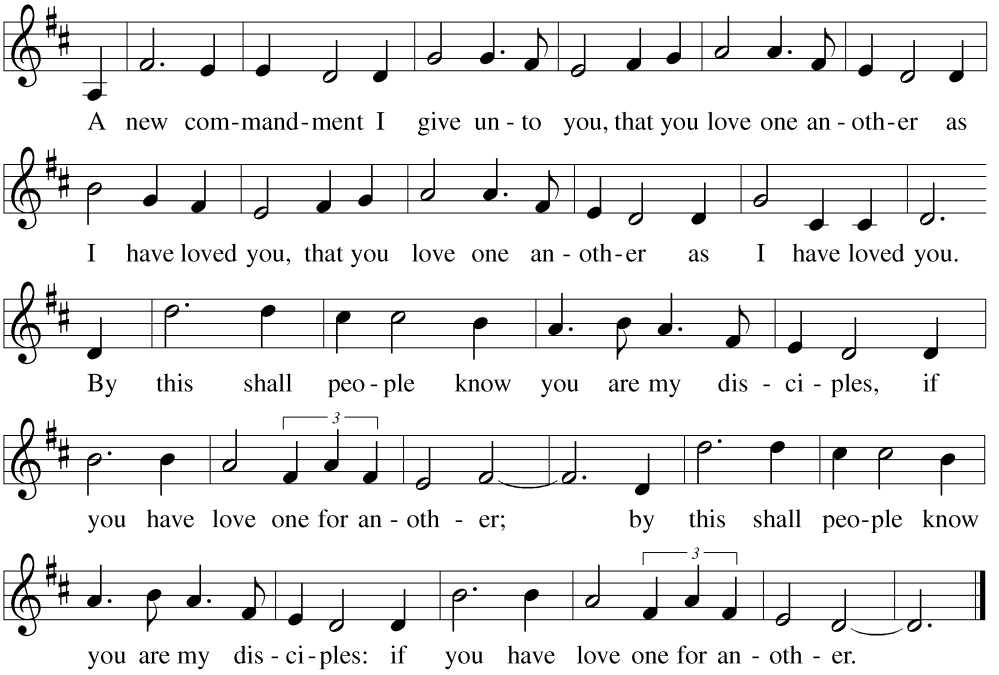
Christe eleison
Christ, have mercy

Kyrie eleison
Lord, have mercy.

Canticle of Thanksgiving

With One Voice #664

"A New Commandment"



Text: John 13:34–35
Music: NEW COMMANDMENT, anonymous

Prayer of the Day

WORD

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

Sit

First Reading

Response after the First Reading
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Response after the Second Lesson
Word of God, word of life.
Thanks be to God.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Gospel Acclamation

Return to the Lord, your God,
return to the Lord, your God,
who is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

The gospel is announced.
The Holy Gospel according to …
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel

The gospel concludes:
The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.
Sit

Reflection

Reverent silence is kept for reflection.

Please rise in body or in spirit.

Hymn of the Day

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

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:
Lord, in your mercy,

Hear our prayer.

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share a distanced sign of Peace with our neighbors saying ***Peace be with you*** *to which we respond* ***And also with you****.*

THANKSGIVING

Sit

OFFERING

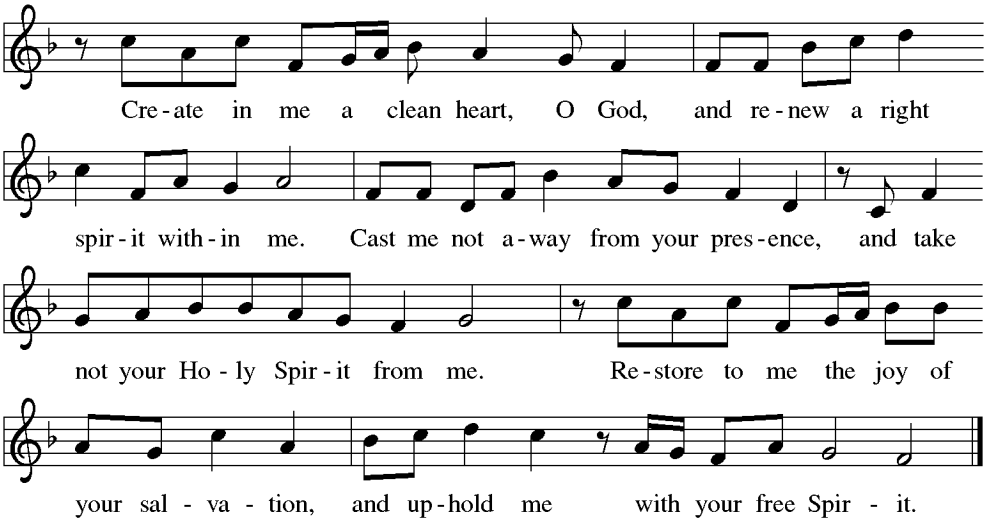
ELW #186

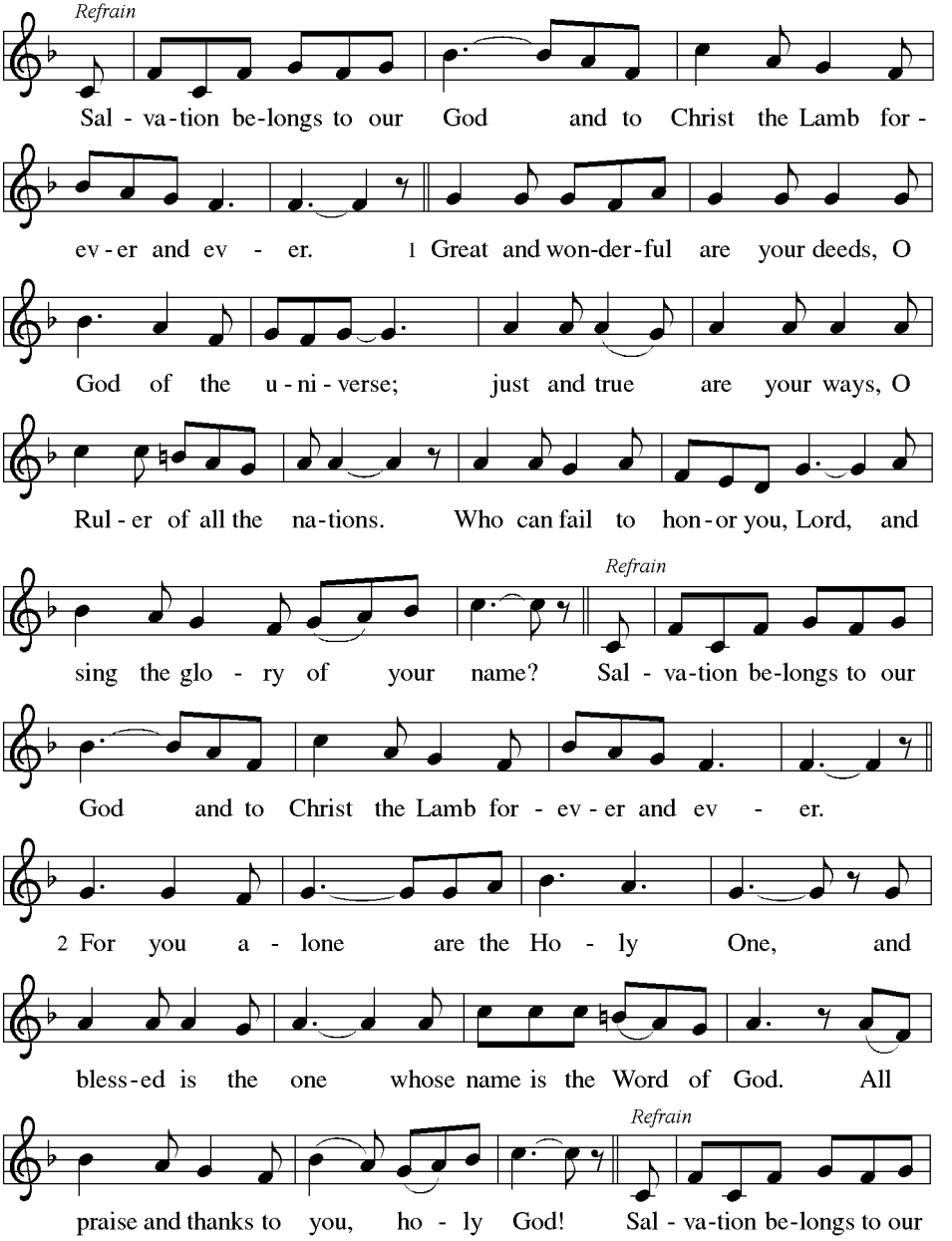
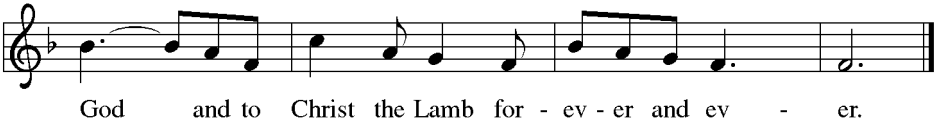
"Create in Me a Clean Heart"

Offering received during the midweek Lenten services has been designated for Lutheran Disaster Response to provide aid to the people affected by the earthquakes in Turkey and Syria

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. To give online:

- **Visit apostles-elca.org/contributions**
- **From your mobile phone, text the word GIVE to 844-215-5453**



CANTICLE OF THANKSGIVING



Thanksgiving for the Word

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission back into the world.

Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

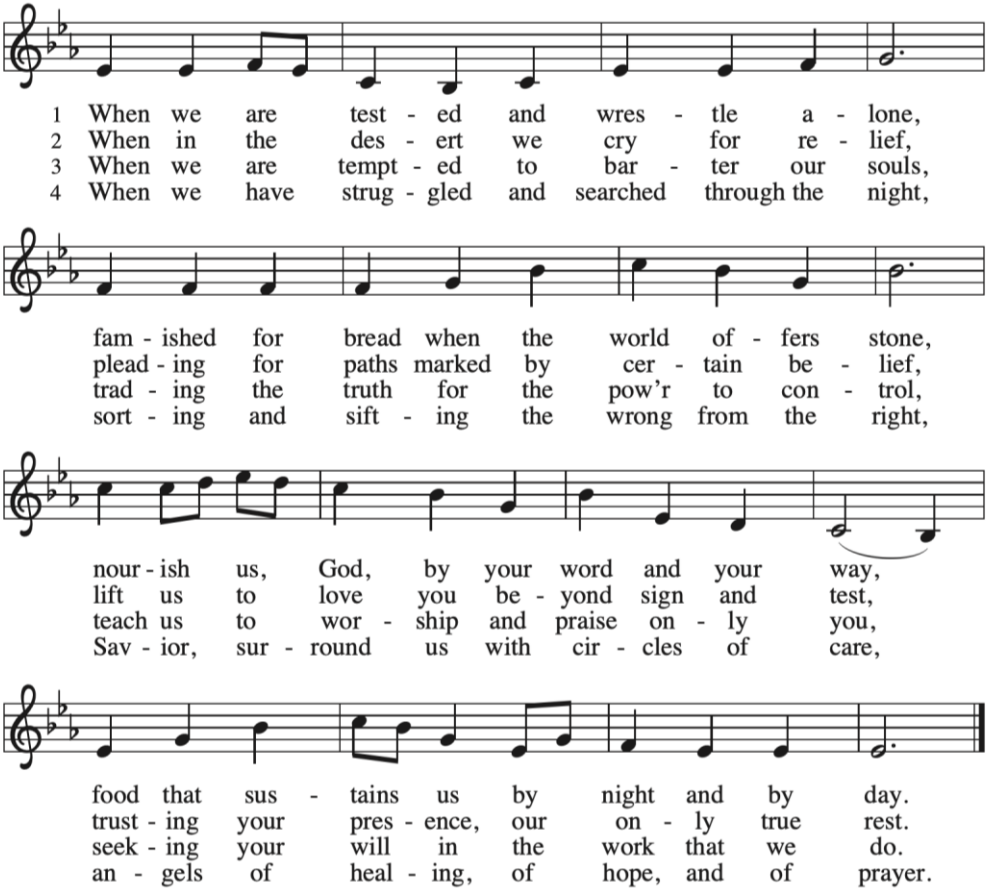
Postlude

****

Week 3 | Sending Hymn

March 15

ACS #922

"When We Are Tested"

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional
Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

Duplication in any form prohibited without securing permission from copyright administrator or reporting usage under valid license.

SITUATION REPORT

TÜRKIYE & SYRIA EARTHQUAKE

FEBRUARY 18, 2022

SITUATION

On Feb. 6 two powerful earthquakes hit Türkiye and significantly impacted neighboring Syria. The first was a magnitude 7.8 earthquake in south central Türkiye, followed hours later by a magnitude 7.5 quake in the southeastern part of the country. The two quakes have devastated Türkiye and Syria, collapsing thousands of buildings and damaging infrastructure. Over 41,000 people have been killed, with the count expected to continue rising drastically.

Photo: GOPA-DERD

RESPONSE

Lutheran Disaster Response is contributing to ACT Alliance to address the devastation from the earthquakes. There are several ACT Alliance members already active in the region that are providing immediate aid. These organizations are supplying blankets, mattresses, hot meals and hygiene kits to earthquake survivors. As needs are assessed, the organizations will establish further actions.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Pray
Let us pray for the people in Türkiye and Syria who have been affected by the earthquakes.
May God's healing presence give them comfort and hope in their time of need.

Give