



# APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

**THE REVEREND JAY SERAFIN**

7092 Main Street, Gloucester, VA 23061

(804) 693-9098 | [apostles-elca.org](http://apostles-elca.org) | [facebook.com/ApostlesELCA](https://facebook.com/ApostlesELCA)



## **SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2025 | 10:00 AM**

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.

# WELCOME TO APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH!

It is an honor to worship God with you this morning. We pray you experience the Spirit's loving presence as we share our words, our actions, and the Holy Meal.

**If this is your first time worshipping with us, please fill out a card in the pew rack with your contact info.** A restroom can be found by exiting the rear door of the worship space. It is directly in front of you to the right. Additional restrooms can be found in the back corner of the fellowship area, near the Pastor's office.

## RECONCILING *in* CHRIST

We, the people of Apostles Lutheran Church, follow Paul's message to the Galatians (3:28): "There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female; for all of you are one in Christ Jesus." Believing that because we are all one in Christ, and created in God's image, all are welcome as beloved children of God. We welcome into the full life of the church all those whom God sends us. **Rejoicing in God's amazing diversity, we welcome people of all ages, races, gender identities and expressions, sexual orientations, and physical and mental abilities.** Centered in Christ, we commit ourselves to racial equity, breaking down dividing walls and building a community where all are beloved.

## FOR PASTORAL CARE

The Reverend Jay Serafin is our pastor. Pastor Jay's **schedule is noted in the calendar on the back of this bulletin.** Call Pastor Jay at 570-205-7506 or email him at [j80j84@msn.com](mailto:j80j84@msn.com) (preferred) or [pastor.apostles@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.apostles@gmail.com). Messages can also be left on the Apostles answering machine 804-693-9098.

## PRAYGROUND

Welcome to our youngest members! The area in the front of our sanctuary is for families and young children. There are quiet toys, books and drawing materials. **We ask two things: 1) sit in the front pews near your children and 2) please sit with your children in the pews during the sermon.** They may return immediately after. Thank you and welcome!

## NAME TAGS

**Please wear your nametag!** Guests: please fill out and put on a name tag before worship today. Blank nametags are in the baskets located in the pews.

# GATHERING

*The promise and its fulfillment may not look at all alike, even though they are intimately connected. Paul speaks about seeds and plants as he tries to picture resurrection life. Joseph's brothers never thought they would see him alive again, so how shocking he must have appeared to them as an Egyptian leader! Jesus invites us to sow seeds of new life by loving enemies.*

## 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, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

**Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

**you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

**Amen.**

# GATHERING HYMN

# ELW #835, VERSES 1-4

## "All Creatures, Worship God Most High"



1 All crea-tures, wor-ship God most high! Sound ev - 'ry voice in earth and  
2 Sing, broth - er wind; with clouds and rain you grow the gifts of fruit and  
3 Sing, broth - er fire, so mirth - ful, strong; drive far the shad - ows, join the  
4 All who for love of God for - give, all who in pain or sor - row



sky: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Sing, broth - er sun, in splen-dor  
grain: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear sis - ter wa - ter, use - ful,  
throng: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Dear moth - er earth, so rich in  
grieve: Al-le - lu - ia! Al-le - lu - ia! Christ bears your bur-dens and your



bright; sing, sis - ter moon and stars of night:  
clear, make mu - sic for your Lord to hear: Al-le - lu - ia, al-le -  
care, praise God in col - ors bright and rare:  
fears; still make your song a - mid the tears:



lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia!

Text: Francis of Assisi, 1182–1226; tr. composite  
Music: LASST UNS ERFREUEN, *Geistliche Kirchengesänge*, Köln, 1623  
Text © 1997 Augsburg Fortress.

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## APOSTOLIC GREETING

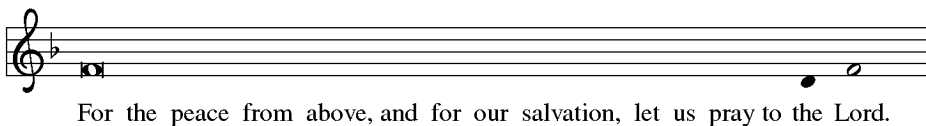
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

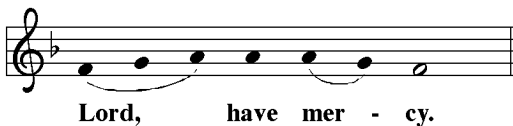
# KYRIE



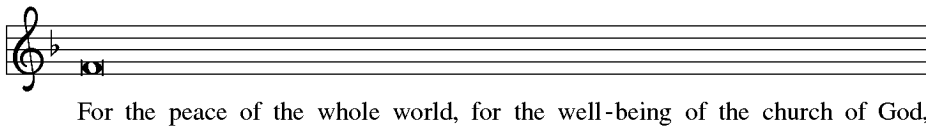
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



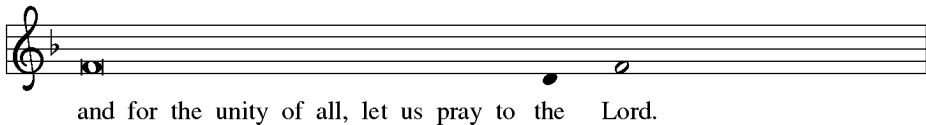
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



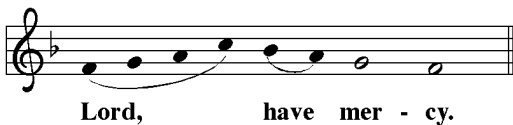
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



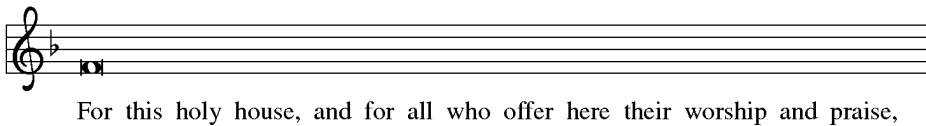
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



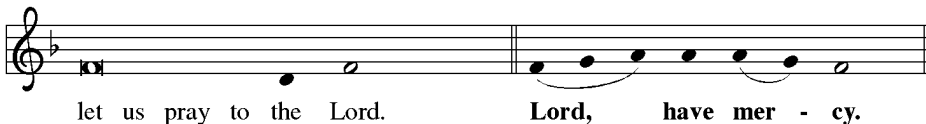
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



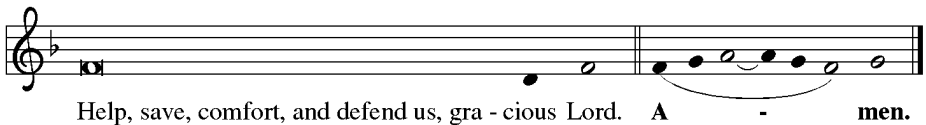
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



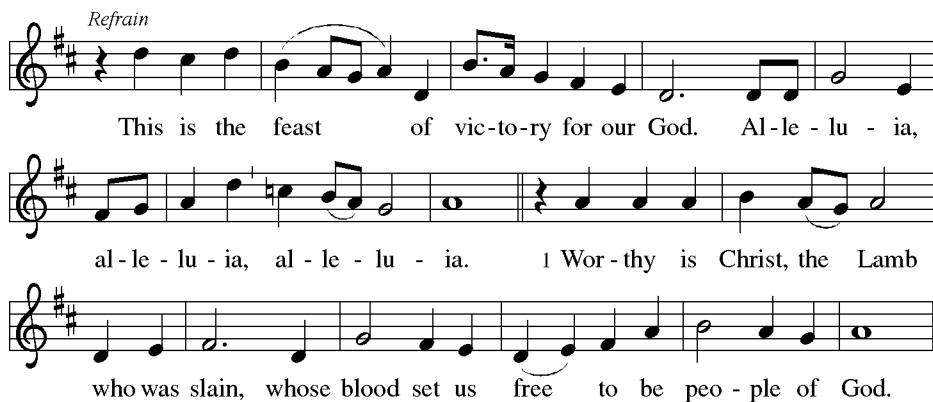
let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

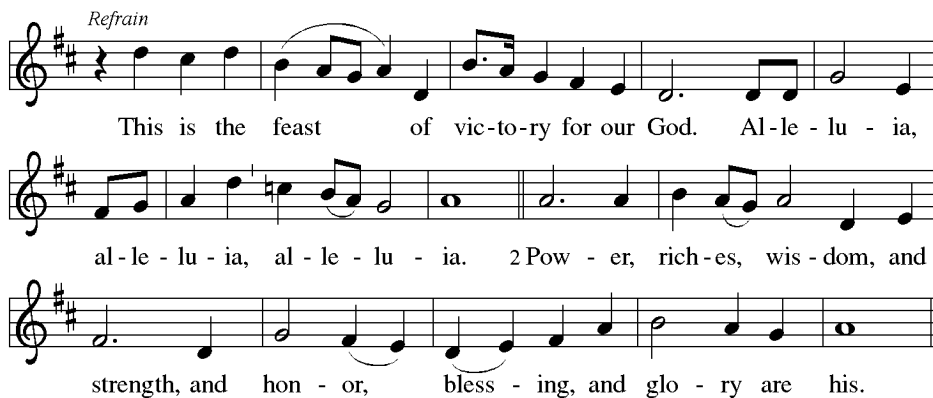
## CANTICLE OF PRAISE

*Refrain*



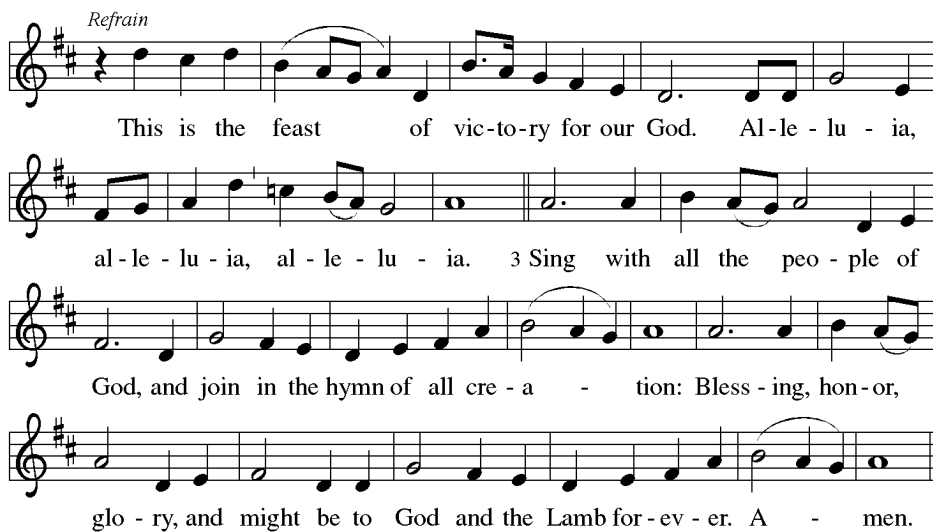
This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb  
who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

*Refrain*



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

*Refrain*



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  
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.

*Refrain*

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

*Final refrain*

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**

Let us pray. O Lord Jesus, make us instruments of your peace, that where there is hatred, we may sow love, where there is injury, pardon, and where there is despair, hope. Grant, O divine master, that we may seek to console, to understand, and to love in your name, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

# WORD

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

*Sit*

## FIRST READING

## GENESIS 45:3-11, 15

*Many years after being sold into slavery by his jealous brothers, Joseph reveals himself to them. Now the second-in-command in Egypt, Joseph reassures his brothers that God has used their evil intentions for good to preserve life during a devastating famine, and Joseph forgives them.*

<sup>3</sup> Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence.

<sup>4</sup> Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. <sup>5</sup> And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. <sup>6</sup> For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. <sup>7</sup> God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. <sup>8</sup> So it was not you who sent me here, but God; he has made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler over all the land of Egypt. <sup>9</sup> Hurry and go up to my father and say to him, 'Thus says your son Joseph, God has made me lord of all Egypt; come down to me, do not delay. <sup>10</sup> You shall settle in the land of Goshen, and you shall be near me, you and your children and your children's children, as well as your flocks, your herds, and all that you have. <sup>11</sup> I will provide for you there—since there are five more years of famine to come—so that you and your household, and all that you have, will not come to poverty.'" <sup>15</sup> And he kissed all his brothers and wept upon them; and after that his brothers talked with him.

*Response after the First Reading*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

## PSALM 37:1-11, 39-40

- <sup>1</sup> Do not be provoked by <sup>1</sup> evildoers;  
do not be jealous of those <sup>1</sup> who do wrong.
- <sup>2</sup> **For they shall soon wither <sup>1</sup> like the grass,  
and like the green grass <sup>1</sup> fade away.**
- <sup>3</sup> Put your trust in the Lord <sup>1</sup> and do good;  
dwell in the land and <sup>1</sup> find safe pasture.
- <sup>4</sup> **Take delight <sup>1</sup> in the Lord,  
who shall give you your <sup>1</sup> heart's desire. R**
- <sup>5</sup> Commit your way to the Lord; put your trust <sup>1</sup> in the Lord,  
and see what <sup>1</sup> God will do.
- <sup>6</sup> **The Lord will make your vindication as clear <sup>1</sup> as the light  
and the justice of your case like the <sup>1</sup> noonday sun.**
- <sup>7</sup> Be still before the Lord and wait <sup>1</sup> patiently.  
Do not be provoked by the one who prospers, the one who succeeds in <sup>1</sup> evil schemes.
- <sup>8</sup> **Refrain from anger, leave <sup>1</sup> rage alone;  
do not be provoked; it leads on- <sup>1</sup> ly to evil. R**
- <sup>9</sup> For evildoers shall <sup>1</sup> be cut off,  
but those who hope in the Lord shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land.
- <sup>10</sup> **In a little while the wicked shall <sup>1</sup> be no more;  
even if you search out their place, they will <sup>1</sup> not be there.**
- <sup>11</sup> But the lowly shall pos- <sup>1</sup> sess the land;  
they will delight in abun- <sup>1</sup> dance of peace.
- <sup>39</sup> **But the deliverance of the righteous comes from <sup>1</sup> you, O Lord;  
you are their stronghold in <sup>1</sup> time of trouble.**
- <sup>40</sup> You, O Lord, will help them and <sup>1</sup> rescue them;  
you will rescue them from the wicked and deliver them,  
because in you <sup>1</sup> they seek refuge. R

## SECOND READING

## 1 CORINTHIANS 15:35-38, 42-50

*In the Apostles' Creed, we speak of the "resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting." Using the metaphor of a planted seed and the story of Adam, Paul preaches passionately about the mystery of following Christ's perfect life into eternity.*

<sup>35</sup> But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"

<sup>36</sup> Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. <sup>37</sup> And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.

<sup>38</sup> But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.

<sup>42</sup> So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. <sup>43</sup> It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. <sup>44</sup> It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. <sup>45</sup> Thus it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> But it is not the spiritual that is first, but the physical, and then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As was the man of dust, so are those who are of the dust; and as is the man of heaven, so are those who are of heaven. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven.

<sup>50</sup> What I am saying, brothers and sisters, is this: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.


*Response after the Second Reading*

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise in body or in spirit.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

*The gospel is announced.*

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the Sixth Chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

## **GOSPEL**

**LUKE 6:27-38**

*Jesus continues to address a crowd of his disciples. He invites his followers to shower radical love, blessing, forgiveness, generosity, and trust even on enemies and outsiders. Living in harmony with God's intent brings the reward of overflowing blessing.*

[Jesus said:] <sup>27</sup> "But I say to you that listen, Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, <sup>28</sup> bless those who curse you, pray for those who abuse you. <sup>29</sup> If anyone strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also; and from anyone who takes away your coat do not withhold even your shirt. <sup>30</sup> Give to everyone who begs from you; and if anyone takes away your goods, do not ask for them again. <sup>31</sup> Do to others as you would have them do to you.

<sup>32</sup> "If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners love those who love them. <sup>33</sup> If you do good to those who do good to you, what credit is that to you? For even sinners do the same. <sup>34</sup> If you lend to those from whom you hope to receive, what credit is that to you? Even sinners lend to sinners, to receive as much again. <sup>35</sup> But love your enemies, do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return. Your reward will be great, and you will be children of the Most High; for he is kind to the ungrateful and the wicked. <sup>36</sup> Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.

<sup>37</sup> "Do not judge, and you will not be judged; do not condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven; <sup>38</sup> give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together, running over, will be put into your lap; for the measure you give will be the measure you get back."

*The gospel concludes:*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

## **SERMON**

**PASTOR JAY SERAFIN**

*Silence is kept after the reflection.*

Please rise in body or in spirit.

## HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #677

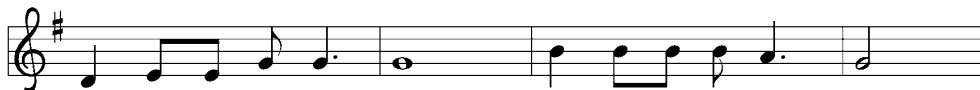
### "This Little Light of Mine"



1 This lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
2 Ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
3 Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine;  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine;



this lit - tle light of mine, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
ev - 'ry - where I go, I'm goin' - a let it shine,  
Je - sus gave it to me, I'm goin' - a let it shine,



let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.  
let it shine, let it shine, let it shine.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: THIS JOY, African American spiritual

## ORDER FOR HOLY BAPTISM

ELW PAGE 227

## **APOSTLES CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith in the words of the 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  
power of 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 Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

*Each portion of the prayers ends with these words:*

God of grace,  
**hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

**Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*We share a sign of Peace with our neighbors saying **Peace be with you** to which we respond **And also with you**. Please know that it is fine if you do not want to shake hands but would rather just share a sign of peace.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

*Sit*

## OFFERING

## CHOIR ANTHEM

### "Children of the Heavenly Father"

*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](https://apostles-elca.org/contributions)



From your mobile phone, text the word **GIVE** to **844-215-5453**

## OFFERTORY HYMN

## ELW #186

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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*Please rise in body or in spirit*

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray. God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

**Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

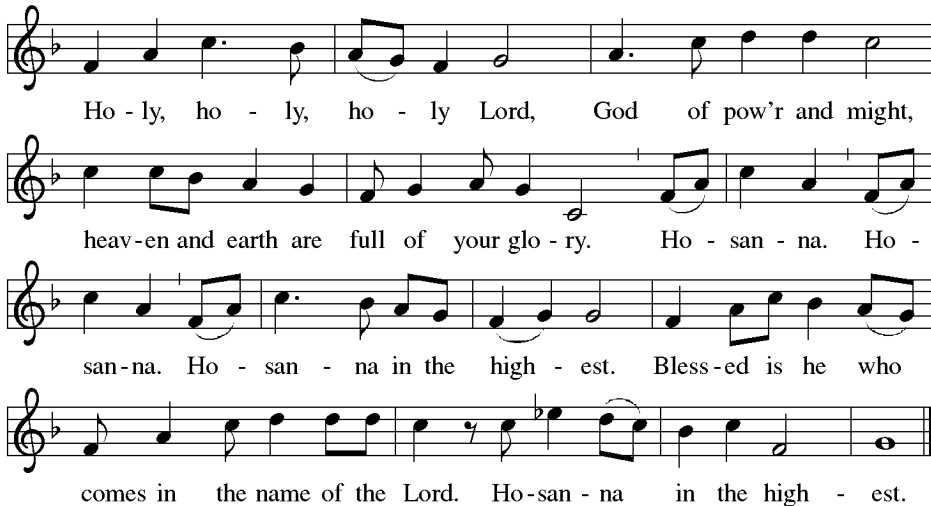
**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come again.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... We look with hope for his coming.

**Come, Lord Jesus.**

*The great thanksgiving continues.*

... Bring the gift of peace on earth.

**Come, Holy Spirit.**

*The great thanksgiving concludes.*

... All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever.

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

*Sit*

## COMMUNION

*All are invited to join us at the Lord's table to receive the presence of Jesus through the bread and wine. Jesus himself invites you and Jesus turns no one away.*

*You will be invited to come forward either to receive the elements or to receive a blessing. For those receiving the elements, after receiving the bread, please take a glass from the tray held by the acolyte. There are pre-filled glasses of grape juice in the tray for those who do not drink wine. Gluten free wafers are also available upon request.*

## 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.

## HYMN DURING COMMUNION

ELW #482

“I Come with Joy”



1 I come with joy, a child of God, for - giv - en, loved, and  
2 I come with Chris - tians far and near to find, as all are  
3 As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud di - vi - sion  
4 The Spir - it of the ris - en Christ, un - seen, but ev - er  
5 To - geth - er met, to - geth - er bound by all that God has



free, the life of Je - sus to re - call in  
fed, the new com - mu - ni - ty of love in  
ends. The love that made us one, and  
near, is in such friend - ship bet - ter known, a -  
done, we'll go with joy, to give the world the



love laid down for me, in love laid down for me.  
Christ's com - mu - nion bread, in Christ's com - mu - nion bread.  
strang - ers now are friends, and strang - ers now are friends.  
live a - mong us here, a - live a - mong us here.  
love that makes us one, the love that makes us one.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936

Music: DOVE OF PEACE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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*After all have returned to their places, all rise in body or in spirit.*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. 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,

**Amen.**

## SENDING

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

## BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

**Amen.**

## SENDING HYMN

**ELW #656**

**“Blest Be the Tie That Binds”**



1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris-tian love;  
2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;  
3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,  
4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

Text: John Fawcett, 1740–1817, alt.  
Music: DENNIS, Johann G. Nägeli, 1773–1836, adapt.

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

**Thanks be to God.**

# POSTLUDE

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## APOSTLES LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Today we gather on the original and ancestral homelands of the Pamunkey, Mattaponi, Chickahominy, Rappahannock, and Nansemond peoples and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor all our indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

## WORSHIP LEADERS

	<b>Serving Today</b>	<b>Serving Next Week</b>
<b>Worship Leader/Preacher</b> .....	Pastor Jay Serafin .....	Pastor Jay Serafin
<b>Lay Assisting Minister</b> .....	Pete Liljeberg .....	Irene Albert
<b>Lector</b> .....	Margaret Grimes .....	Irene Albert
<b>Acolyte</b> .....	Ray Scholz .....	Chase Ambrose
<b>Accompanist</b> .....	Kathy Merithew .....	Janet Gomez
<b>Altar Care</b> .....	Betsy Liljeberg .....	The Alberts
<b>Communion Bread</b> .....	Betsy Liljeberg .....	The Alberts
<b>Greeter/Usher</b> .....	Betsy Liljeberg .....	Heinz Albert
<b>Technology</b> .....	Chris Hawkins .....	Doug Dalager

## SERVANTS FOR THE WEEK

	<b>Serving This Week</b>	<b>Serving Next Week</b>
<b>Cleaning Team</b> .....	Ambrose/Scholz .....	Alberts/Runk
<b>Tellers</b> .....	Barbara Runk/Ray Scholz .....	Ben Grimes/Betsy Liljeberg
<b>Fellowship Set Up</b> .....	Jennie Hawkins .....	Ray Scholz
<b>Fellowship Food</b> .....	Judy Wright/Nancy Wagner .....	Alberts/Scholz
<b>Fellowship Clean Up</b> .....	Scholzs .....	Alberts

### First Reading: Exodus 34:29-35

*Coming down from Mount Sinai,  
Moses' face shown*

### Psalm 99

*Proclaim the greatness of the Lord; worship upon  
God's holy hill*

### Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2

*With unveiled faces we see the Lord's glory  
as we are transformed*

### Gospel: Luke 9:28-36 [37-43a]

*Jesus is transfigured on the mountain*

## **SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY**

On each standard Sunday of the year, we encounter the risen Christ: on this Sunday, both Jesus' mandate for his followers to forgive their enemies and Jesus' gift of forgiveness of us all, who cannot forgive as we hope to be forgiven.

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL – TODAY**

Sunday School will be held after worship today – all are welcome to attend!

### **THANK YOU TO ...**

Kathy Merithew for playing for our service today – we are so thankful!!

### **SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM – TODAY**

Anders Don Peterson, infant son of Nate and Ingrid Peterson will be baptized during our worship service today – please join is for a reception after the worship service.

### **WOMEN'S GROUP TO MEET NEXT SATURDAY**

The newly formed Women's Group will be meeting on **Saturday, March 1st, at 9:30 AM** – all women of the church are invited to participate. We hope you can join us!!

### **FLOWERS THIS MORNING ARE GIVEN BY . . .**

Pete and Betsy Liljeberg in thanksgiving for the baptism of Anders Don Peterson.

### **LUTHER'S LEGACY FOR LAITY**

Luther's Legacy for Laity has been rescheduled because of the snow – it will be held **this Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>** – we have a sandwich at 6:00 PM and the study starts at 6:30 PM.

## COMMEMORATIONS

"The saints are to be remembered so that we may strengthen our faith when we see how they experienced grace and how they were helped by faith."

- On February 23rd, we remember **Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna**, a martyr, who died in 156. Because he is said to have been known by John, the author of Revelation, as well as the important early church fathers Irenaeus and Ignatius, Polycarp serves as a vital link in church history. He was burned at the stake at age 86 for refusing to renounce his faith.
- On February 25<sup>th</sup>, we remember **Elizabeth Fedde**, a deaconess who died in 1921. Born in Norway and trained there as a deaconess, Fedde was asked to come and minister to the poor and to seamen in New York City. She established the Deaconess House in Brooklyn as well as Deaconess Hospital in Minneapolis.
- On March 1<sup>st</sup>, we remember **George Herbert**, a hymnwriter who died in 1633. An excellent scholar, Herbert served briefly in the English parliament, then became a parish priest. He was known for devoted care of his parishioners, as well as for writing poetry and hymns, including "Come, my way, my truth, my life." He died at age 40.

## THOUGHT FOR TODAY

In her amazing podcast *Everything Happens*, Kate Bowler interviews Anthony Ray Hinton, a Black man in Alabama who was unjustly convicted of two murders and sat on death row for twenty-eight years until Equal Justice Initiative and Bryan Stevenson helped overturn his conviction and set him free. In a powerful interview (Season 5, Episode 16) Hinton shares a Christlike vision of mercy for all: "We are all worthy. The good and the bad among us, the criminals and the saints, the deserving and the undeserving." Jesus offers a message of forgiveness and mercy that grounds our lives as Christians.

## **PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS**

**Heinz Albert, Rich Bitting, Manning Freeman, Don Garfield, Betty Hauch, Ellen Kendzierski, Ellen Quirk, Michael Schlemmer, Keith & Juanita Sturdy, George Thomas, Jewel Thomas, Lena Woodlief**

## **OUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS**

**Patricia Armentor, Paul Bauer, Karen Bell** (Pam Moore's sister), **Bob & Dixie, Calli Bonfey, Patricia Boyd & Brad Zelmer, Amanda Brown, David Brown, Dennis & Dorothy Brown, Sally Burkholder, Amy Carter, the Clements family, Laura Clodfelter, Jackie Collier, Ben Davis** (friend of Donna Ambrose), **Tommy & Kathie Davis, Jenny DeSha, Colton Elliot** (Michael Schlemmer's cousin), **Emily, Laura Fleige** (Janet Gomez's sister), **Teresa Floersheim-Miller** (Ingrid Peterson's mother), **Suzanne Gibson, Steven Godwin** (Juanita Sturdy's grandson), **Jimmy & Fay Gray** (Chris Hawkins' family), **Karen Guire, Mike Hall, Melvin Hawkins** (Chris Hawkins' father), **Chaneice Hayden** (Daniel Hayden), **Rosie Heins, Sherry Helpap, Carl & Kaleb Hess, Adam Hewko** (nephew of the Hansons), **Aris Hibbs** (friend of Ray Scholz), **Spencer Hodges, Wendy Isernia** (Heinz and Irene's daughter), **Suzanne Kinkade** (friend of Ellen Quirk), **the Little Family, Marion Lucier, Manuel, Lotte Mathias, Wayne Mathews, Wayne McCormick, Michael, Sylvia Midgette** (grandmother of Krystle McMahan), **Debbie Minteins, Keith Morgan, Carol Pascale** (Lynn Jaeger's mother), **Chastity Perkins** (co-worker and friend of Donna Ambrose), **Brad Person** (Lilly Frost's uncle), **Dick Peterson & his brother, Monique Raposa, Joan Ritter, Glen Robertson, Carol Schlemmer, James Schollian** (friend of Nancy Wagner), **Michael Scholz** (nephew of Ray Scholz), **Scott, Erin Seamonson** (Lara Jaeger), **Joseph Serafin** (Pastor Jay's father), **Kathy Shackelford, Elana Sierson, Fred Smith, Tammy Smith, Jean Sterling, Susie, Dave Wagner** (husband of Nancy), **Cathy Walker** (friend of Linda Hodges), **Wayne McCormick, Chuck Webb** (Tina Britt's father), **Makenzie Webb** (niece of Tina Britt), **Elizabeth & Steven White, Cory Woodlief, Jim Wright** (Judy Wright's husband), **Logan & Shannon Wymer, Greg Yvonovich** (friend of Margaret & Ben Grimes), **Derek Zwiers** (friend of CK Ambrose)

## **OUR SPONSORED CHILDREN IN GUATEMALA**

**Amayra, Hugolino and Manuela**

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

There is a book located at the rear of the worship space for you to write any prayer requests you have for today. Fill out a "Prayer Request" (on the back of each pew) and place it in the offering plate to add a prayer request to the "Prayer List" included in the bulletin and the newsletter. **Please print legibly!**

# THIS WEEK AT APOSTLES

**FEBRUARY 23, 2025 – MARCH 2, 2025**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>10:00 AM</b> 11:00 AM	<b>Worship Service – Holy Baptism</b> Coffee Fellowship/Sunday School
<b>MONDAY</b>	<b>4:00 PM – 8:00 PM</b> 7:00 PM 7:00 PM	<b>Pastor Jay in the office</b> Worship Ministry Team AA
<b>TUESDAY</b>	7:00 PM	Al-Anon/AA
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>4:00 PM – 7:30 PM</b> 6:00 PM 7:30 PM	<b>Pastor Jay in the office</b> Luther’s Legacy for Laity Choir
<b>FRIDAY</b>		Girls Scouts
<b>SATURDAY</b>	9:30 AM 6:30 PM	Women’s Group Young and Sober
<b>SUNDAY</b>	10:00 AM 11:00 AM	<b>Worship Service</b> Coffee Fellowship/Sunday School

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO ...**

Lynn Scholz – Feb 24<sup>th</sup>

## **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO ...**

Barbara and Bern Runk – Mar 1st

## **HAPPY BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARY TO ...**

Kayla Hautz – Mar 2<sup>nd</sup>

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