

# Service of Holy Communion

## Transfiguration of our Lord

### February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026



#### INTRODUCTION

Today's festival is a bridge between the Advent-Christmas-Epiphany cycle that comes to a close today and the Lent-Easter cycle that begins in several days. On a high mountain Jesus is revealed as God's beloved Son, echoing the words at his baptism. This vision of glory sustains us as Jesus faces his impending death in Jerusalem. We turn this week to Ash Wednesday and our yearly baptismal journey from Lent to Easter. Some churches put aside the alleluia at the conclusion of today's liturgy. This word of joy will be omitted during the penitential season of Lent and will be sung again at Easter.

#### GATHERING

#### CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

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

P. Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters. **Amen.**

P. Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*The congregation sits or kneels. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Mighty God, lover of justice, **you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.**

The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in <sup>†</sup> Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace. **Amen.**

*Congregation stands*

**GATHERING HYMN**

We Are Marching in the Light

ELW 866

**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**

A. In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

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

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. 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.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**C. Lord, have mercy.**

A. Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**C. Amen.**

**CANTICLE OF PRAISE**

1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,  
Son of God and Son of Man!  
Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,  
light of my soul, my joy, my crown.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. O God, in the transfiguration of your Son you confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the witness of Moses and Elijah, and in the voice from the bright cloud declaring Jesus your beloved Son, you foreshadowed our adoption as your children. Make us heirs with Christ of your glory, and bring us to enjoy its fullness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

*Congregation is seated*

## WORD

### **FIRST READING: Exodus 24:12-18**

<sup>12</sup> The Lord said to Moses, “Come up to me on the mountain and wait there; I will give you the tablets of stone, with the law and the commandment, which I have written for their instruction.” <sup>13</sup> So Moses set out with his assistant Joshua, and Moses went up onto the mountain of God. <sup>14</sup> To the elders he had said, “Wait here for us, until we come back to you. Look, Aaron and Hur are with you; whoever has a dispute may go to them.”

<sup>15</sup> Then Moses went up on the mountain, and the cloud covered the mountain. <sup>16</sup> The glory of the Lord settled on Mount Sinai, and the cloud covered it for six days; on the seventh day he called to Moses out of the cloud. <sup>17</sup> Now the appearance of the glory of the Lord was like a devouring fire on the top of the mountain in the sight of the Israelites. <sup>18</sup> Moses entered the cloud and went up on the mountain. Moses was on the mountain for forty days and forty nights.

**A. Word of God, word of life.      C. Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 2 (read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> Why are the nations in an uproar?

    Why do the peoples mutter empty threats?

<sup>2</sup> **Why do the kings of the earth rise up in revolt, and the princes plot together, against the LORD and against the LORD's anointed?**

<sup>3</sup> “Let us break their yoke,” they say;

    “let us cast off their bonds from us.”

<sup>4</sup> **God whose throne is in heaven is laughing;**  
**the LORD holds them in derision.**

<sup>5</sup> Then in wrath God speaks to them,  
    and in rage fills them with terror.

<sup>6</sup> **As for me, I have anointed my king**  
**upon Zion, my holy mountain.”**

<sup>7</sup> Let me announce the decree of the LORD,  
    who said to me, “You are my son; this day have I begotten you.

<sup>8</sup> Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance  
and the ends of the earth for your possession.

<sup>9</sup> You shall crush them with an iron rod  
and shatter them like a piece of pottery."

<sup>10</sup> And now, you kings, be wise;  
be warned, you rulers of the earth.

<sup>11</sup> Submit to the LORD with fear,  
and with trembling bow in worship;

<sup>12</sup> lest the LORD be angry, and you perish in a sudden blaze of wrath.  
Happy are all who take refuge in God!

#### **SECOND READING: 2 Peter 1:16-21**

<sup>16</sup> We did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty. <sup>17</sup> For he received honor and glory from God the Father when that voice was conveyed to him by the Majestic Glory, saying, "This is my Son, my Beloved, with whom I am well pleased." <sup>18</sup> We ourselves heard this voice come from heaven, while we were with him on the holy mountain.

<sup>19</sup> So we have the prophetic message more fully confirmed. You will do well to be attentive to this as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts. <sup>20</sup> First of all you must understand this, that no prophecy of scripture is a matter of one's own interpretation, <sup>21</sup> because no prophecy ever came by human will, but men and women moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

A. Word of God, word of life.

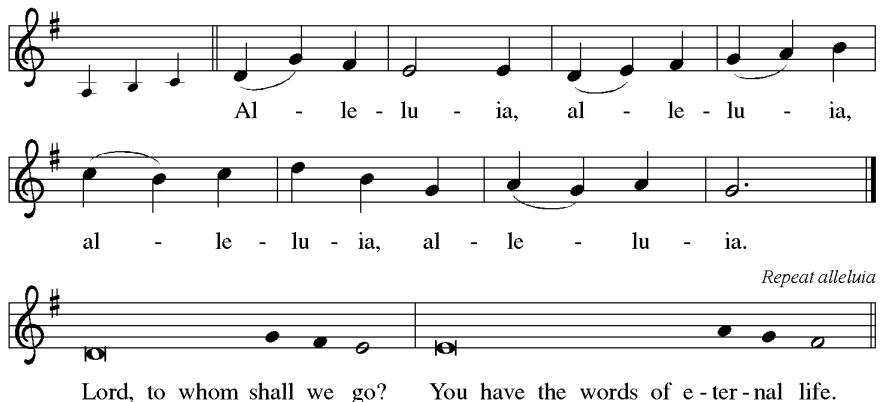
**C. Thanks be to God.**

#### **TIME FOR THE CHILD IN US ALL**

*Children & Youth are invited forward for a special sermon time with Pastor Peggy.*

*Congregation stands*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,  
al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.  
*Repeat alleluia*

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

## GOSPEL: Matthew 17:1-9

P. The holy gospel according to Matthew. **C. Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. <sup>2</sup> And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became bright as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. <sup>4</sup> Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will set up three tents here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." <sup>5</sup> While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and a voice from the cloud said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" <sup>6</sup> When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. <sup>7</sup> But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid." <sup>8</sup> And when they raised their eyes, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

<sup>9</sup> As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them, "Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead."

P. The gospel of the Lord. **C. Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Congregation is seated*

**SERMON**

Coming Down the Mountain

*Congregation stands*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

Jesus on the Mountain Peak

ELW 317

## APOSTLE'S 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 THE CHURCH

A. As God's beloved children united in Christ, let us pray for the church, the whole human community, and the well-being of the earth, our home.

*A brief silence.*

A. Revealing God, your Spirit sustains the church. Strengthen the faithful with the revelation of Christ transfigured, that we may joyfully follow him in the way of the cross. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Life-giving God, creation is full of your majesty. Nurture in us a deep respect for the interdependence of all life, and make us wise and vigilant stewards of your good earth. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Peacemaking God, the nations are in turmoil. We pray for an end to violent conflict. Give wisdom to negotiators and sanctuary to refugees. Defend any who are in danger. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Healing God, you desire wholeness for all people. Bring healing to any who are experiencing illness, chronic pain, or mental anguish. Comfort the dying and those who grieve, we pray especially for... those we now say aloud... and those we hold in our hearts. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Holy God, in our worship we glimpse your glory, hear your voice, and receive assurance of your love. Inspire all who prepare, lead, and participate in worship to serve you with reverence and joy. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

A. Transforming God, you bring life from death. We give thanks for the witness of those who have died in faith, and we praise you for the hope we have in Christ, our Morning Star. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

P. Confident that the Holy Spirit receives our prayers and answers us, we commend all for whom we pray to God's loving-kindness made known to us in Christ Jesus our Savior. **Amen.**

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P. The Peace of Christ be with you always.

**C. And also with you.**

P. Let us share with each other a sign of Christ's peace.

*Congregation is seated*

### **CHOIR ANTHEM**

In Your Presence, Praise

*Carlson, Stone, Mauldin*

### MEAL

### **OFFERTORY INVITATION**

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***Thank you for your generous gifts!***

Scan to give  
via Tithely



*Congregation stands*

## OFFERTORY SONG

1 Let all things now liv - ing a song of thanks - giv - ing to  
God the cre - a - tor tri - um - phant - ly raise,  
who fash - ioned and made us, pro - tect - ed and stayed us, who  
still guides us on to the end of our days.

God's ban - ners are o'er us, God's light goes be -  
fore us, a pil - lar of fire shin - ing forth in the night,  
till shad - ows have van - ished and dark - ness is ban - ished, as  
for - ward we trav - el from light in - to light.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

A. Let us pray... God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## DIALOGUE & PREFACE OF THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P. The Lord be with you.

**C. And also with you.**

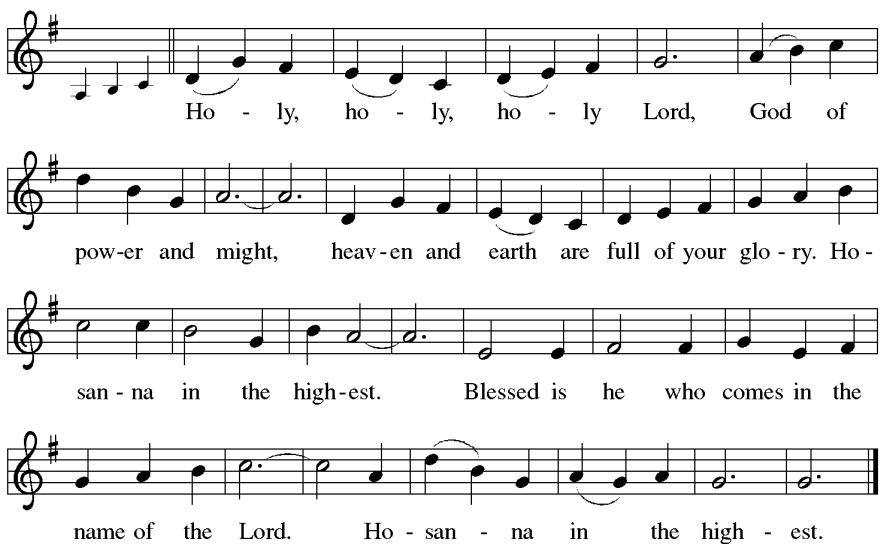
P. Lift up your hearts.

**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; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of  
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the  
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

*The congregation sits or kneels.*

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

P. Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations.

Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty God, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, both now and forever. **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.**

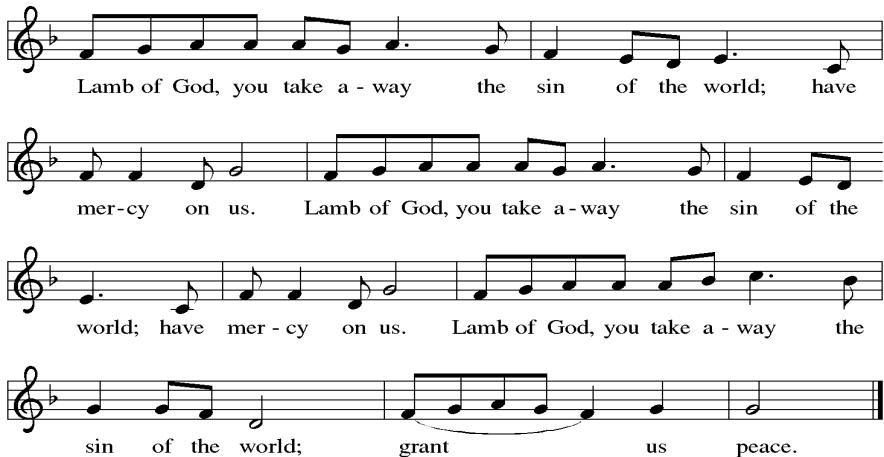
#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

*Believing in the real presence of Christ, we practice Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcome to Communion this morning. Children may come forward for a blessing.*

*Please come forward, guided by the Ushers, to receive the bread and wine. Gluten free wafers are available, please note this to Pastor Peggy when you come forward. Grape juice is available in the second communion plate. As you return to your seat via the side aisles you can place your empty cup in the baskets on either side.*

P. Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table, taste and see.

## COMMUNION SONG



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.

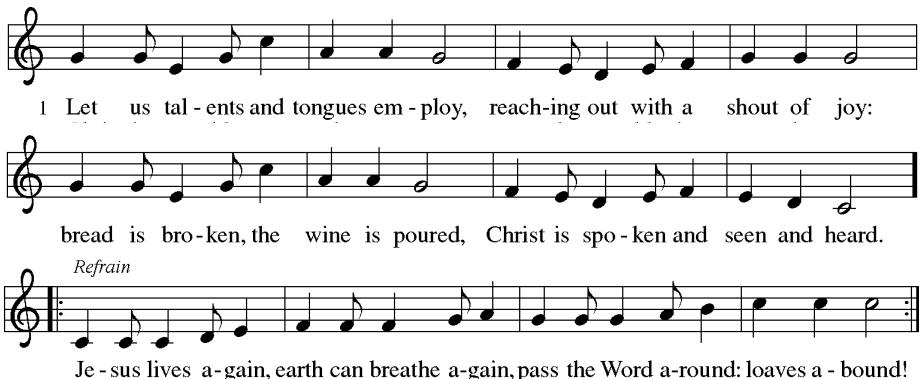
## DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

*After all have received Communion the congregation stands.*

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## SONG AFTER COMMUNION



1 Let us tal - ents and tongues em - ploy, reach-ing out with a shout of joy:  
bread is bro - ken, the wine is poured, Christ is spo - ken and seen and heard.  
*Refrain*  
Je - sus lives a - gain, earth can breathe a - gain, pass the Word a-round: loaves a - bound!

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A. Let us pray... Radiant God, we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ. In the sacrament of his body and blood you have drawn us to your heart. Send us from this table with delight, that our lives may reflect the beauty of love, and bear witness to all we have seen and heard, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

## SENDING

### **BENEDICTION**

P. May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise  bless you now and forever. **Amen.**

### **SENDING HYMN**

Shine, Jesus, Shine

ELW 671

### **DISMISSAL**

A. Go in peace. Do justice. Love mercy. **C. Thanks be to God.**

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## **Announcements for February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026**

**Welcome** to Holy Counselor Lutheran Church. May you experience the joy of God's presence in our worship!

*If today is your **first time** worshiping at Holy Counselor, please be sure to fill out the "Guest Book" on the table in the narthex and take a welcome bag.*

*Please ask our ushers any questions you may have regarding worship this morning. Large print bulletins are available.*

**Worship is live streamed** to our church Facebook page, but the camera is pointed away during Communion and is not on the children when they come forward during A Time for the Child in Us All.

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### **Volunteers for Today's Worship**

*\*All positions open\**

### **Volunteers for Next Sunday, Feb.22<sup>nd</sup>**

*\*All positions open\**

**\*\*\*\*\* Join us for refreshments after worship\*\*\*\*\***

## THIS WEEK AT HOLY COUNSELOR

**Sunday, Feb 15:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship w/Communion, Transfiguration, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

**Monday, Feb 16:** Office Closed

**Tuesday, Feb 17:** Shrove Tuesday Dinner, 5-7pm

**Wednesday, Feb 18:** Adult Ed, Zoom, 10am & 7pm

Pastor's Office Hours, Ashes on the Go, Daily Bean, 12-2pm

Ash Wednesday Worship, 7pm

**Thursday, Feb 19:** Cluster-wide Grief Study, Zoom, 7-8pm

**Saturday, Feb 21:** Sisters in Prayer, Zoom, 8:30am

**Sunday, Feb 22:** Sunday School, 8:45-9:15am

Worship w/Communion, 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent, 9:30am

Choir Practice following worship

**Return Soup Mason Jars:** If you purchased soup from the souper bowl sale we invite you to return the mason jars to be recycled for next years' soup making!

**Shrove Tuesday Dinner:** Our Shrove Tuesday Dinner is **THIS Tuesday, February 17<sup>th</sup> from 5-7 pm.** We will have pancakes and other delicious food! Invite your neighbors. All are welcome.

**Ash Wednesday—2 Opportunities for Ashes:** Lent begins with **Ash**

**Wednesday THIS week, February 18th.** We will **worship at 7pm** that evening with the imposition of ashes. Pastor Peggy will also be imposing **ashes on the go** at the Daily Bean from 12-2pm that day.

**Women's Lenten Retreat:** We are hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Woman's Retreat at HCLC on **Saturday, March 7<sup>th</sup> from 9 am-3 pm.** All women are invited to come explore a Lenten journey this winter about self-care. The day includes Pastor Peggy as our keynote speaker, worship, music, workshops and meditation. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided. There is a recommended **donation of \$15** for building use. Please **RSVP** to the office (office@hc-lutheranchurch.org) **ASAP** if you'd like to attend. We already have 17 people registered! See Kathy Heeren or Pam Kucks with any questions.

**Cluster-wide Grief Study:** There are 2 more sessions of our cluster **4-week series** on grief. Topics include: Identifying Grief Patterns; What is Normal?/ Dealing with Thoughts & Feelings; Coping Strategies; and The Spiritual Dynamics of Grief. Join us on **Zoom from 7-8pm on Thursdays** (2/5-2/26). It's okay if you can't make it every week. All are welcome!

**Lenten Bible Study:** Adult Ed will pause their current book study during Lent for a bible study titled ***Journey to the Resurrection***. This is a 6-week series inviting you into a deeper exploration of Lent and your faith. All are welcome to attend the **Wednesday Zoom sessions at 10am or at 7pm from February 25<sup>th</sup> to April 1<sup>st</sup>**. Please **let Pam Kucks know** you'd like to participate so she can get you a book. Books are \$12, grants available.

**Lighten Your Load: Lent & Lament:** Pastor Peggy will be offering a Lenten evening of releasing our laments and receiving hope through the remembrance of our baptism. Join her in the Sunday School classroom on **Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 7-8pm**. Pastor Peggy is looking for **1 more volunteer to bring soup**.

**District Meeting-Church Delegates Needed:** Our NJ Synod District meeting will gather from 10am-1pm on Saturday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Succasunna (*about an hour drive*), with coffee and registration beginning at 9:30am. Lunch is provided. We are looking for delegates from Holy Counselor to attend. **Our new Bishop will be in attendance to listen and meet you as well!** Please email Pastor Peggy for more information or with questions.

**Chili Cook-off: Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> following worship will be our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Chili Cook-off!** Prepare your best chili to be voted on or come with your appetite and opinions to vote on the best chili!

**Pajama Sunday: Pajama Sunday is March 8<sup>th</sup>!** Donate \$5 per person or \$20 for the whole family to support Lutheran Disaster Response and wear your PJs to church. This is Daylight Savings morning, so wearing pajamas is one less step to get ready for church!

**Corned Beef and Cabbage Meals to Go: Following worship on Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup> we will have Corned Beef and Cabbage meals to go.** Please call the office or **sign up** on the sheet with **how many meals** you would like so that we can plan accordingly. **Free will donations**, suggested donation of \$15-20! Lots of love goes into the preparation, so you can always give more.

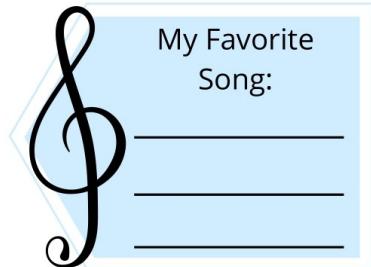
**Food Pantry: Food items to help restock:** boxed cereal, boxed oatmeal pouches, scanned stew, canned chili, canned corn, children's juice boxes or pouches, 4-pack toilet paper, liquid dish soap, & toothpaste. You can always bring donations of canned goods, paper goods, and hygiene products. All donations can be **placed in the blue bin** by the sanctuary doors. Thank you!



For God's Children of all ages!

# Worship Notes

Sunday's Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## Word Count

How many times did you hear each of these words today? Make a tally.

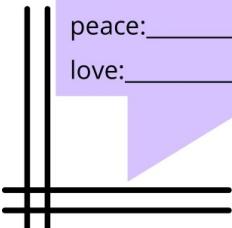
grace: \_\_\_\_\_

joy: \_\_\_\_\_

peace: \_\_\_\_\_

love: \_\_\_\_\_

||||| //





Church Office (973) 827-5251  
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Bookkeeper: Wynn White: [accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org](mailto:accounts@hc-lutheranchurch.org)

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

*As Children of God,  
we are called to share and serve  
Christ's love and bring God's word to all.*

### **CHURCH COUNCIL**

**Pastor** Rev. Peggy Ludlow

**President** Nancy Knecht

**Vice President** Frank Urbaniak

**Treasurer** Claire Speroni

**Recording Secretary** Dawn McCormick

**Financial Secretary** John Heeren

**Outreach Coordinator** Francine Vince

**Nurture Coordinator** Fred Schoenagel

**Administration Coordinator** Diane Rossi

**Youth Representative** Kevin Drache

### **PASTORAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

Kristina Heeren

Pam Kucks

Matt Moller

Aileen Donovan

*Holy Counselor is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Munsee people, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We also wish to recognize and honor our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.*

