



# APOSTLES LUTHERAN CHURCH

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## **GUEST** **GLOUCESTER UNITED** **EMERGENCY** **SHELTER TEAM**

### **2026 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.

# GATHERING

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

*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"

A new com-mand-ment I give un - to you, that you love one an - oth-er as  
I have loved you, that you love one an - oth-er as I have loved you.  
By this shall peo-ple know you are my dis - ci - ples, if  
you have love one for an - oth - er; by this shall peo-ple know  
you are my dis - ci - ples: if you have love one for an - oth - er.

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of five staves of music. The lyrics are placed below the notes. There are three triplet markings (indicated by a '3' above a bracket) over the notes 'er;' in the fourth staff and 'er.' in the fifth staff.

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 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”**

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

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





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.

## 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.**

\*\*\*\*\*

# 2026 MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

February 25, 2026

## Reading & Hymns

First Reading	Isaiah 58:6-11
Second Reading	1 Peter 4:8-11
Gospel	John 13:12-15
Reflection	Michelle Wells, GUEST <i>"God of Grace and God of Glory"</i>
Hymn of the Day	ELW #716 <i>"Lord of All Nations, Grant Me Grace"</i>
Sending Hymn	ELW #728 <i>"Blest Are They"</i>

## LENT OFFERINGS FOR 2026

Offerings received during this Lent are being given to the organizations we support – Gloucester United Emergency Sheltering Team (GUEST), Jubilee Churches, Gloucester Mathews Care Clinic (GMCC), Bread for Life Food Pantry and Rural Housing Partnership. Thank you for sharing God's love with your neighbors when and where they need it most!

## THANK YOU TO . . .

Michelle Wells, Executive Director of GUEST, for being with us tonight and sharing information about her organization!!

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