

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church

Preaching and presiding this day: Pastor Todd Bertani

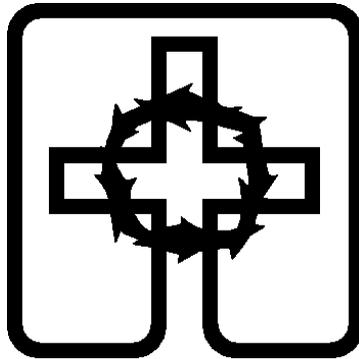
Church Website: smlcestes.org

Office Email: secretary@smlcestes.org 970-586-3900

Pastoral Care: Pastor Todd Bertani, 707-688-6411

Mission Statement:

Shepherd of the Mountains Lutheran Church is a community of faith grounded in love for God and love for our neighbors.



March 22, 2026

5th Sunday in Lent

Celice Clark, Accompanist

Prelude: “Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery” set by Christopher Uehlein

“Variations on Aberystwyth” by Janet Linker

Welcome, Friends in Christ,

*To assist in worship, this bulletin includes all portions of our service; prayers, readings, hymns, congregational responses in **bold**.*

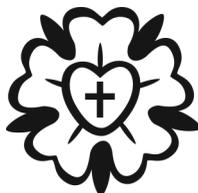
We also provide activity bags for children. You may request these from an usher to use during the service. Parents, please note, these contain a snack.

Please know that EVERYONE is invited to receive communion, where we are all guests at God's table.

Meeting you during the Sharing of Peace, or after the service, would be our joy. Many of us come from other places before calling Estes Park home, and you never know when you may find common threads.

Whether first time visitors or returning friends, welcome!

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(Please, take the time to center heart and mind on God's presence in worship)

Welcome and Introduction: Pastor Todd Bertani

(For those joining online, you are invited to share communion by preparing a cracker or bread along with wine or juice, that will be blessed during communion.)

Call to Worship: "Great God, Your Love Has Called Us"

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the † cross, the sign marked at baptism, as we begin.

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water

Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and

hope in the world: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to

come forth to life: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the

righteousness of Christ. In the name of †Jesus Christ, your sins are

forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours

God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

Opening Hymn: "Rise Up, O Saints of God!" Hymn 669

1 Rise up, O saints of God! From vain am - bi - tions turn;
2 Speak out, O saints of God! De - spair en - gulf's earth's frame;
3 Rise up, O saints of God! The king - dom's task em - brace;
5 Com - mit your hearts to seek the paths which Christ has trod;

Christ rose tri - um - phant that your hearts with no - bler zeal might burn.
as heirs of God's bap - tis - mal grace, the word of hope pro - claim.
re - dress sin's cru - el con - se - quence; give jus - tice larg - er place.
and, quick - ened by the Spir - it's pow'r, rise up, O saints of God!

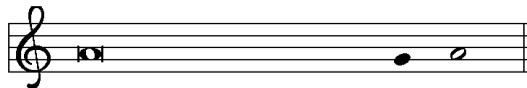
Text: Norman O. Forness, b. 1936
Music: FESTAL SONG, William H. Walter, 1825–1893
Text © Norman O. Forness, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Greeting

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

And also with you.

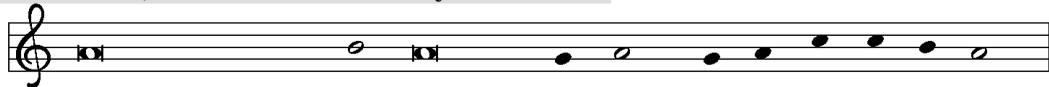
Kyrie (Congregation sings the highlighted refrain)



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



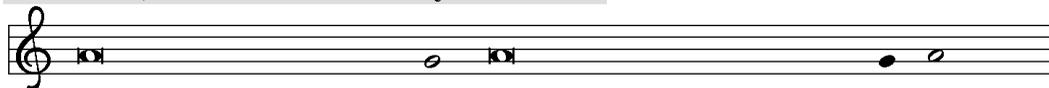
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-b-ove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



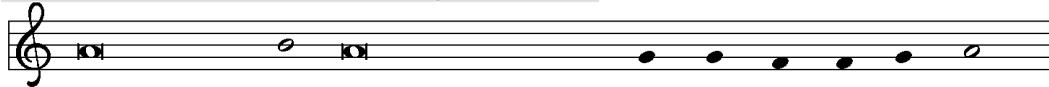
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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 wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord.

A - - men.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Holy God,

In this season of contemplation, help us to recognize that you revealed yourself in Jesus, who walked among us and was handed over to be crucified. May we be strengthened by his presence among us today. Amen.

(You may be seated)

Psalm 146

¹Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord, O my soul!

²I will praise the Lord as long as I live;

I will sing praises to my God all my life long.

³Do not put your trust in princes,
in mortals, in whom there is no help.

⁴When their breath departs, they return to the earth;
on that very day their plans perish.

⁵Happy are those whose help is the God of Jacob,
whose hope is in the Lord their God,

⁶who made heaven and earth,
the sea, and all that is in them;

who keeps faith forever;

⁷who executes justice for the oppressed;
who gives food to the hungry.

The Lord sets the prisoners free;

⁸ the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.
The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down;
the Lord loves the righteous.
⁹ The Lord watches over the strangers;
he upholds the orphan and the widow,
but the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.
¹⁰ The Lord will reign forever,
your God, O Zion, for all generations.
Praise the Lord!

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Lenten Verse



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel: John 19:1-16a

The holy gospel according to John Chapter 19.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. ² And the soldiers wove a crown of thorns and put it on his head, and they dressed him in a purple robe. ³ They kept coming up to him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" and striking him on the face. ⁴ Pilate went out again and said to them, "Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no case against him." ⁵ So Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple

robe. Pilate said to them, “Behold the man!”⁶ When the chief priests and the police saw him, they shouted, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Pilate said to them, “Take him yourselves and crucify him; I find no case against him.”⁷ The Jews answered him, “We have a law, and according to that law he ought to die because he has claimed to be the Son of God.”

⁸ Now when Pilate heard this, he was more afraid than ever. ⁹ He entered his headquarters again and asked Jesus, “Where are you from?” But Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰ Pilate therefore said to him, “Do you refuse to speak to me? Do you not know that I have power to release you and power to crucify you?” ¹¹ Jesus answered him, “You would have no power over me unless it had been given you from above; therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” ¹² From then on Pilate tried to release him, but the Jews cried out, “If you release this man, you are no friend of Caesar. Everyone who claims to be a king sets himself against Caesar.”

¹³ When Pilate heard these words, he brought Jesus outside and sat on the judge’s bench at a place called The Stone Pavement, or in Hebrew Gabbatha. ¹⁴ Now it was the day of Preparation for the Passover, and it was about noon. He said to the Jews, “Here is your King!” ¹⁵ They cried out, “Away with him! Away with him! Crucify him!” Pilate asked them, “Shall I crucify your King?” The chief priests answered, “We have no king but Caesar.” ¹⁶ Then he handed him over to them to be crucified.

So they took Jesus,

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

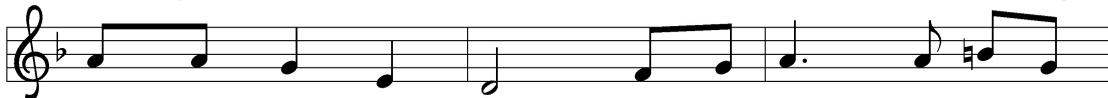
(You may be seated)

Sermon: Pastor Todd Bertani

Sermon Hymn: "Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" Hymn 334



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

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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.

Intercessory Prayer

Each petition ends: "Hear us, O God."
Response is "**Your mercy is great.**"

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering

*Online
Giving*



Offertory: "Take Up Your Cross" *arr. by Lloyd Larson*

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Receiving of Gifts

Offering Prayer

**O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
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.

Preface

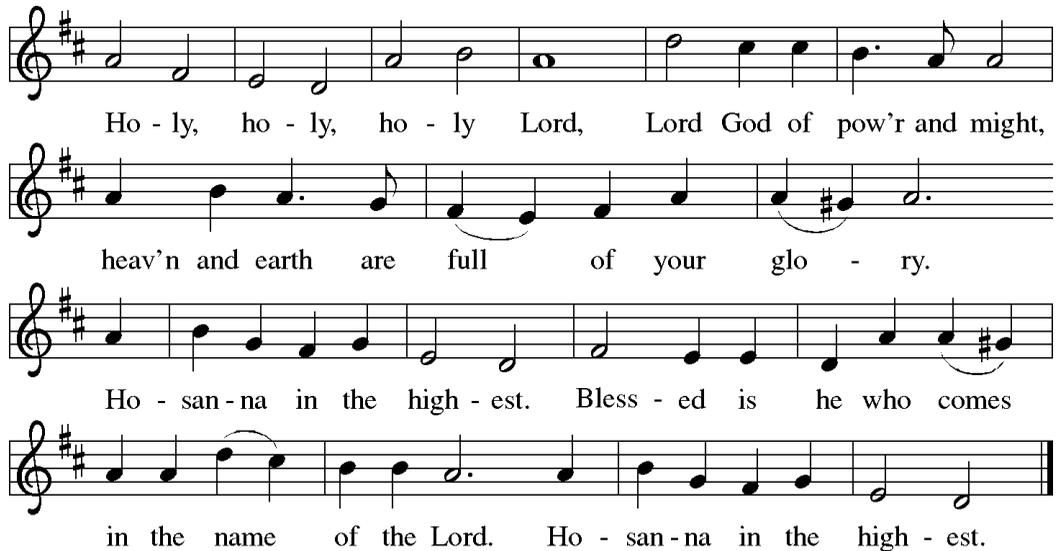
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places

give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

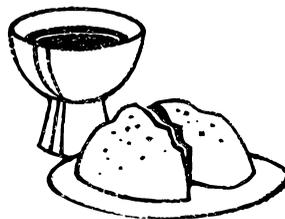
You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:

“Holy, Holy, Holy”



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



Thanksgiving at the Table

(Those online, are invited to lift their communion elements, with the Pastor.)

Holy God, our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.
We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

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 life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

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

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Invitation to Communion

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

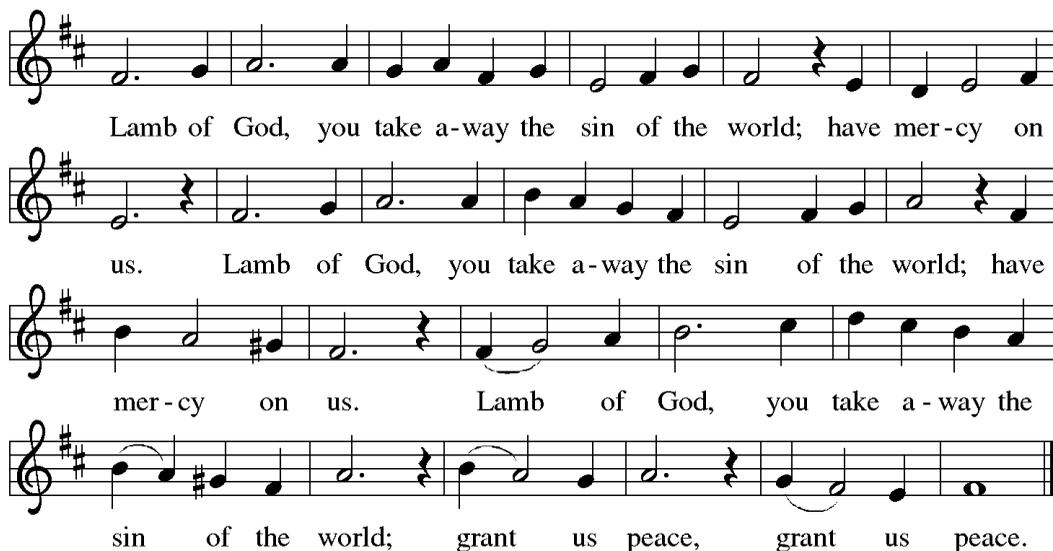
We commune by 'Intinction', by dipping the wafer in wine or grape juice.

*We are all guests at God's table. **Everyone** is invited to receive communion.*

(At this time, those online, may partake in communion.)

(The congregation may be seated)

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, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: "Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church" *Hymn 321*

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
 2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
 3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,

walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
 so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
 you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;

led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
 we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
 and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,

moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
 know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
 glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,

far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
 so we are dead and live with you in God.
 so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003
 Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre psaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551
 Text © Thomas H. Cain. Used by permission of estate.

Post Communion Blessing

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

Post Communion Prayer

God of our salvation,
**we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
Through the body and blood of your Son,
may we become Christ's body in the world,
bearing witness to your love for all creation,
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

Ministry Calendar

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- AED Training (last week to inform office of interest)
- Sign up's for: PALS, ends today
- Sign up's for: Easter Brunch, Easter Plants thru March 29
- 1st Qtr Offering on March 29th for Crossroads
- Pulpit Exchange, April 26

THIS WEEK

March 22—Sunday: (Bible passage to read: John chapters 7 thru 10)

10:30 a.m.: **Bible Study: "Defining Moments in the Gospel of John"**
Led by Robbi Telfer

March 23-26—Monday-Thursday:

Crossroads Easter Distribution from our church.

March 25—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)

3:00 p.m.: Choir

4:30 p.m.: Lenten Service

March 26—Thursday:

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

March 27—Friday:

11:00 a.m.: Service at Good Sam

FOLLOWING WEEK

March 29—Sunday: Palm Sunday & 1st Qtr Offering

March 29—Sunday: (Bible passage to read: John chapters 11 and 12)

10:30 a.m.: **Bible Study: “Defining Moments in the Gospel of John”**

Led by Robbi Telfer

April 01—Wednesday:

8:00 a.m.: Sacred Space (Zoom)

3:00 p.m.: Choir

April 02—Maundy Thursday:

1:00 p.m.: Quilting

4:30 p.m.: Service

April 03—Good Friday:

12:00 p.m.: Service (with St. Bart’s)

HOLY WEEK

- April 4—Easter Vigil at St Bart’s 6:30 p.m.
- April 5—Easter 9:00 a.m.

(You may stand, in body or spirit)

Blessing

Almighty God, Father, ⁺ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn: "Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness" *Hymn 843*



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark-ness with a lib - er - at - ing light;
3 Praise the one true love in - car - nate: Christ, who suf - fered in our place;

praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners, turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight.
Je - sus died and rose for man - y that we may know God by grace.

Praise the One who preached the gos - pel, heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease,
Let us sing for joy and glad - ness, see - ing what our God has done.

calm - ing storms and feed - ing thou - sands with the ver - y bread of peace.
Praise the one re - deem - ing glo - ry; praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

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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: “Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended” *by Joyce Jones*

Sermon Notes:

Thank you for serving!

	<i>March 22</i>	<i>March 29</i>
<i>Accompanist:</i>	Celice Clark	Julie Varilek
<i>Choir Director:</i>	Ann Knipping	Ann Knipping
<i>Greeter:</i>	OPEN	OPEN
<i>Lector:</i>	Paula Stensvaag	Linda Schlitt
<i>Ushers:</i>	Heidi Schweikart Susan Anderson	Steve Thorn Mike Wold
<i>Tellers:</i>	Bruce Adams OPEN	Bruce Adams OPEN
<i>Altar Care:</i>	Mary Settje	Tara McConnell
<i>Communion Asst:</i>	Paula Stensvaag OPEN OPEN	OPEN OPEN OPEN
<i>AV Engineer:</i>	Bruce Adams	Bruce Adams
<i>Fellowship Host:</i>	OPEN	OPEN
<i>Flower Sponsor:</i>	Lent	Lent
<i>Flower Arranger:</i>	Lent	Lent

Think of us in this way,
as servants of Christ
and stewards of
God's mysteries.



1 Corinthians 4:1