

Third Sunday in Lent Sunday, March 20, 2022

Peace Lutheran Church, ELCA

WELCOME TO PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

We extend in the name of Christ, a hearty welcome to all who are worshipping us today. May you find here an experience of true Christian worship and If you are seeking a church home, we invite you to consider joining fellowship. Peace.

MISSION STATEMENT

As servants of Jesus Christ, we share God's grace and mercy. We welcome and encourage all to grow with us in God's kingdom through praise, worship, and service.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.

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.

One of the following or another confession is prayed.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

Amen.

The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of

Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG O Tender God, Have Mercy Richard Bruxvoort-Colligan

O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us. O living Christ, have mercy, for you will heal us. O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us, For you are for us.

O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us. O living Christ, have mercy, for you will heal us. O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us, For you are for us.

O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us. O living Christ, have mercy, for you will heal us. O tender God, have mercy, for you are for us, For you are for us.

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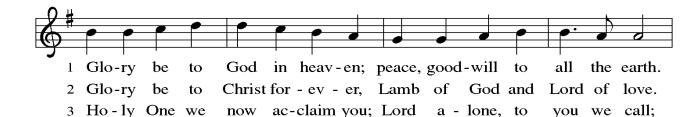
GREETING

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.

HYMN OF PRAISE

ELW P. 204





Might-y God of all cre - a - tion, Fa - ther of sur - pass - ing worth: Son of God and gra - cious Sav - ior, you have come from heav'n a - bove; Ho - ly One in faith we name you, God most high, yet near to all:



we ex - alt you, we a - dore you, we lift high our thanks and praise. on the cross you died to save us; now you reign at God's right hand. Je-sus Christ, with God the Spir - it, in the Fa-ther's splen-dor bright.



Saints and an - gels bow be - fore you; here on earth our songs we raise. Hear our prayer; re - store, for - give us; in your prom - ise firm we stand. For the peace that we in - her - it, glo - ry be to God on high!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P. Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C. Amen.

+ WORD +

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways

are not our ways.

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8

¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

⁴So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.

⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

⁶when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

⁷For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

⁸My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A reading from 1 Corinthians.

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. 13 No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

P. Word of God. Word of life.

C. Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Sung to the tune of Canticle of the Turning)

"Return to me," so Says Our God.

"Return with broken heart.

Your sins, your guilt, your fears, your tears, will not keep us apart.

I am slow to anger, full of love, for sinners great and small. Return to me with arms outstretched, I welcome one and all."

GOSPEL LESSON Luke 13:1-9

- P. The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 13th Chapter.
- C. Glory to you, O Lord.

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

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

SERMON

Rev. Mary E. Zupansic

REFLECTION: FOR THOSE AT HOME

In this passage, Jesus counters the long-held belief that people deserve the senseless tragedies which happen to them. He uses examples his hearers would know to demonstrate his point. Jesus insists that these events were random and tragic, not veiled judgments from on high.

Jesus emphasizes that these tragedies could have happened to anyone, regardless

of their degree of sinfulness. We cannot control the circumstances into which we are born or what misfortunes befall us. We live in a precarious and vulnerable state. Thus, the admonition to repent and to be made right with God is for everyone.

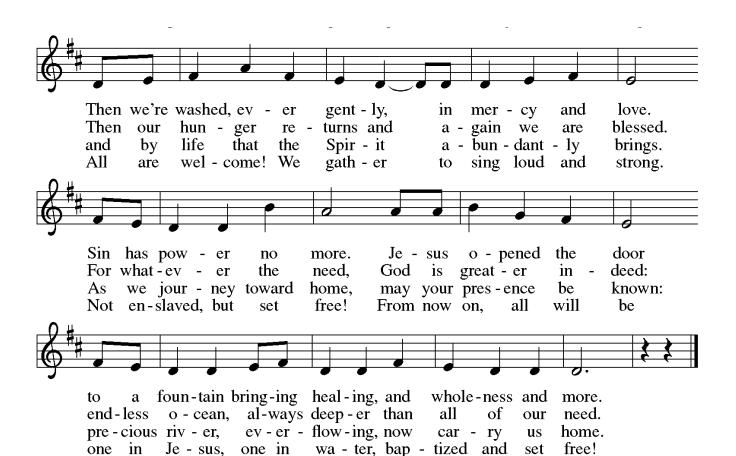
The Russian soldiers caught up in this war might be an extreme example of this concept. But when we get a little closer and look at individuals, rather than stere-otypes and assumptions, we see that even they do not deserve the pain, torture, imprisonment, or death that war brings. We might imagine ourselves, our siblings, or our children in their position, born in their circumstances, subjected to the same influences. What, if anything, separates us from the same circumstances they face?

Each of us—Russians, Ukrainians, Americans—are sinners in need of repentance. God has given us the pathway to a right relationship with God. God knows we are going to fall short, but God ensures that our sinfulness is not the end of the road. There is no person too far gone to return to God in repentance. There is no sin too great for God's forgiveness to cover.

In the first section of the lesson, we hear the call to repent of our sin. In the second section, the parable of the fig tree indicates how God responds to us, even while we are still sinners. The gardener does not leave that poor fruitless tree to its own devices. Instead, the gardener promises special care for the tree to help it produce fruit.

In the same way, God approaches each of us, sinners though we may be, with mercy, patience, compassion, and love. These blessings from God are not a result of our righteousness or fruitfulness. Rather, God's blessings empower us to repent and turn around from our old ways to walk in God's Way instead.

Baptized and Set Free HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #453 1 We are peo - ple at - ed, cho - sen by God. cre We are fed and we're nour - ished, filled and freshed. re 3 We are nour - ished by wa - ter, all liv ing things, 4 Now with praise and thanks - giv - ing, we join the song.



Text: Cathy Skogen-Soldner, b. 1956 Music: BAPTIZED AND SET FREE, Cathy Skogen-Soldner Text and music © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

the holy catholic church,

APOSTLES' CREED

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 communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the world in all its forms: for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders; for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future of their ministry. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Merciful God,

receive our prayer.

For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing (especially we pray for those on our prayer list and those we hold in the quiet of our hearts). Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. With (names and) all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the

body, and the life everlasting. Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

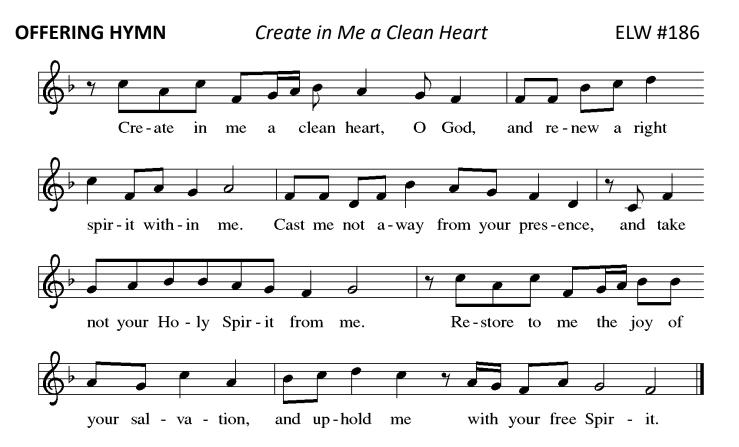
THE SHARING OF PEACE

- P. The peace of Christ be with you always.
- C. And also with you.

+ THE MEAL +

OFFERING OF TITHES & GIFTS

Thank you for your continued support of the ministry of Peace Lutheran Church. We gladly accept your offerings via US Postal Service, Tithe.ly, or direct deposit from you bank.



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

OFFERING PRAYER

- P. Let us pray. Extravagant God,
- C. you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

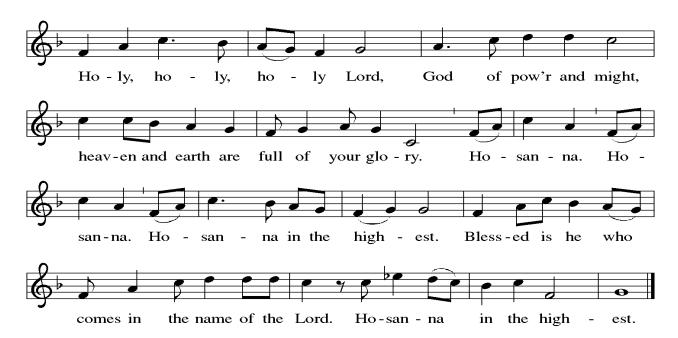
GREAT THANKSGIVING

- 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. 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

ELW p. 144



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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

LORD'S PRAYER

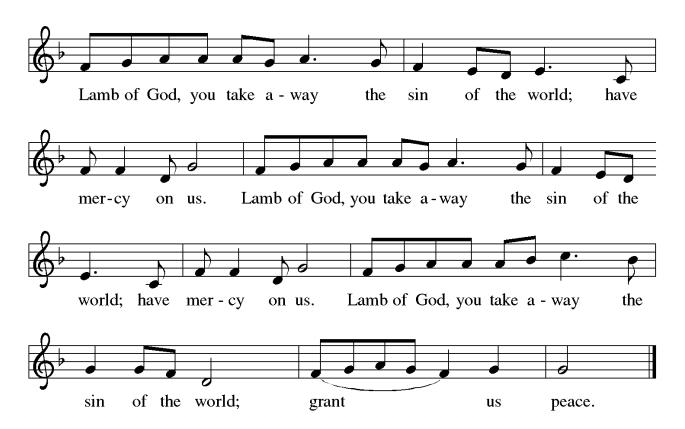
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

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

P. Here is food and drink for the journey. Take and be filled.

LAMB OF GOD ELW p. 146



rest.

grace;

10V.

O Living Bread from Heaven

ELW # 542



- 1 O liv ing Bread from heav en, how well you feed your guest!
- 2 My Sav-ior, you have led me with in your ho-liest place,
- 3 You gave me all I want ed; this food can death de stroy.
- 4 Oh, grant me then, well-strength-ened with heav'n-ly food, while here



The gifts that you have and here your-self have And you have free - ly my course on earth is giv - en have filled my heart with fed me with trea - sures of your grant - ed the cup of end - less length - ened, to serve you, free from



O won-drous food of bless - ing! O that heals our woes! cup for you have free - ly giv - en what earth could nev - er buy, Lord. I do not mer - it the fa - vor you have shown, My bring me home to praise you where none can peace de - stroy, and



Text: Johann Rist, 1607–1667; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt. Music: AURELIA, Samuel S. Wesley, 1810–1876

TABLE BLESSING

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

C. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

- P. Let Us Pray. Blessed Jesus,
- C. in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need. Amen.

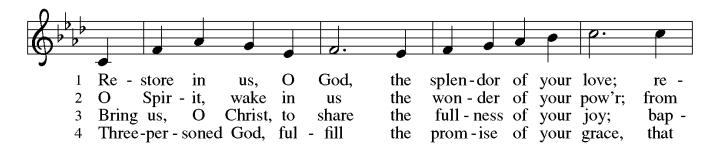
BLESSING

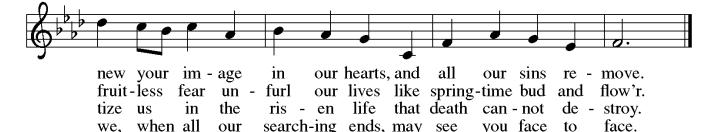
- P. You are children of God, anointed with the oil of gladness and strengthened for the journey. Almighty God, motherly, majestic, and mighty, ♣ bless you this day and always.
- C. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Restore in Us, O God

ELW #328





Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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DISMISSAL

P. Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way.

C. Thanks be to God.

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News You Can Use

ABOUT THIS WEEKS TEXT

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

COMMEMORATIONS THIS WEEK

Monday, March 21 —Thomas Cranmer, Bishop of Canterbury, martyr, died 1556 Cranmer's lasting achievement is contributing to and overseeing the creation of the Book of Common Prayer, which remains (in revised form) the worship book of the Anglican Communion. He was burned at the stake under Queen Mary for his support of the Protestant Reformation.

<u>Tuesday, March 22—Jonathan Edwards, teacher, missionary to American Indians, died 1758</u>

A Puritan minister in Connecticut, Edwards is remembered as being a great preacher. Though his most famous sermon talks at length about hell, he was more concerned with God's love. He served both as missionary to the Housatonic people in Massachusetts, and as president of the future Princeton University.

<u>Thursday, March 24—Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died</u> <u>1980</u>

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Friday, March 25—Annunciation of Our Lord

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel annunced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

THOSE WHO HAVE ASKED FOR OUR PRAYERS:

Walter Hoyt, Kim Efird, Henry Harms, Jill Blackburn
Verlene Urekar, Dale Kruckeberg, Joe O'Brien, Maureen Lober, Dee Sandstrom
Peg Kastner, Jim Titone, Judy Barhoover, Gary Wood, Margaret Wood

If you would like to be added to the prayer list, or know someone who would like to be added to our list, please fill out a Prayer Request Card, send an email to peace.lutheran@comcast.net OR call the Office at (217)546-7646. Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks unless otherwise notified.

Please note—for privacy reasons, we must have an individual's permission to add their name. If interested in assisting on Saturdays or Sundays, please call the church office at 217.546-7646, or text Pastor Mary at 920-671-4338.

ZOOM MEETINGS/EVENTS THIS WEEK

SUNDAY, MAR 20 In Person Worship/Livestream—9:30am

Adult Faith Formation (Zoom) - 5:45 p.m.

SUNDAY, MAR 27 In Person Worship/Livestream—9:30am

Adult Faith Formation (Zoom) - 5:45pm

ASSISTING THE WEEK OF MARCH 20:

Assisting Minister: Elizabeth Mitchell Ushers: Steve and Lois McConomy

Video: Linda Rice Camera: Janet Kocis

ALTAR FLOWERS THIS WEEK:

FOR THE GLORY OF GOD.

EASTER FLOWERS: Orders are now being taken for Easter Flowers—\$20 each—Orders due by March 20th—More info in NYCU

EASTER FOOD BASKETS: Financial or donations of cereal are needed by April 3rd—More info in NYCU

CANDY COLLECTION FOR JEFFERSON AND FRANKLIN MIDDLE SCHOOLS: Donations needed by April 3rd. All candy must be individually wrapped.

PASTORAL CARE: If you would like a visit from Pastor Mary OR have a pastoral emergency, PLEASE contact Pastor on her cell phone @ 920-671 -4338. You may also call the church office @ 217-546-7646 and leave a message.





