



ALL SAINTS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ministers: The People of All Saints

Rev. David B. Menz, Pastor

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Peter Van Scozza, Organist

Rev. Paul R. Mertzlufft, Pastor Emeritus

Fourth Sunday in Lent March 30, 2025

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away ... the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!



WE WELCOME ALL GUESTS AND VISITORS

Come share the good news of Jesus Christ, God's gift of love to the world.

We call our style of worship "liturgy", a Greek word that means "the work of the people" and describes a pattern of songs, responses, and scripture readings.

We invite all guests and visitors to participate in voice and song.

- This bulletin includes responses, readings, and prayers for today.
- The service liturgy is printed in the hymnal. Page numbers in the bulletin refer to the front part of the book.
- Hymn numbers are indicated by # and refer to the music found in the back of the book. Please feel free to join in the singing.

Visitors interested in becoming a member, please speak with Pastor today.

ALL BAPTIZED CHRISTIANS who believe in the presence of Jesus Christ in the sharing of this bread and wine are extended His invitation to come forward and receive Holy Communion at this service.

The Service 11:00 AM

Prelude and Silent Meditation

Words of Welcome

[stand]

Confession and Forgiveness

☩ Blessed be the Holy Trinity, Father, †Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C **Amen.**

☩ Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

☩ Compassionate One,

☩ **you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

☩ Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In †Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

☩ **Amen.**

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THE LORD

Hymn

LBW # 291

Greeting

pg 57

The Kyrie

pg 57

The Prayer of the Day

☩ The Lord be with you.

☩ **And also with you.**

☩ Let us pray together:

☩ God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

[sit]

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

The First Reading: Joshua 5:9-12

The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰ While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹ On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹² The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The Psalm: #32 *(will be read responsively – odd verses choir side; even verses pulpit side)*

¹ Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
whose sin is covered.

² **Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity,
and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

³ While I kept silence, my body wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity;

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you;**

**at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters
shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

**⁸ I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go;
I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

⁹ Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding,
whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle,
else it will not stay near you.

**¹⁰ Many are the torments of the wicked,
but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the
LORD.**

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous,
and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷ So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹ that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰ So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

[stand]

The Lenten Verse

pg 63

The Gospel Responses

pg 63

The Holy Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. ² And the Pharisees and the scribes were

grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³ So he told them this parable: "There was a man who had two sons. ¹² The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³ A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴ When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵ So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶ He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷ But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸ I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹ I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." ' ²⁰ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹ Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²² But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe--the best one--and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³ And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴ for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵ "Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶ He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷ He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸ Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹ But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰ But when

this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!"³¹ Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.'³² But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

[sit]

The Sermon – “Be The Miracle”

[stand]

The Hymn of the Day

LBW # 385

The Nicene Creed

pg 64

[sit]

The Prayers

A Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

A God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love.

God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life.

God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all.

God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness.

God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

A God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all.

God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died (*especially*). We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found.

God, in your mercy,

C receive our prayer.

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C Amen.

[stand]

The Peace

pg 66

[sit]

The Offering and Preparation of the Lord's table
Choir Anthem – "*Tsama*"

[stand]

The Offertory – "What Shall I Render"

pg 67

The Offertory Prayer

A Gracious Provider,

C you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful

love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

WE CELEBRATE AT CHRIST’S TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving

The Dialog and Preface pg 68

The Sanctus – “Holy, holy, holy, ...” pg 69

The Words of Institution pg 69

The Lord’s Prayer pg 71

[sit]

Agnus Dei – “Lamb of God” pg 72

The Distribution

We offer both wine and grape juice during Communion. If you wish grape juice instead of wine, please express your desire to the Deacon or Worship Assistant when you come forward to receive.

(Little children with hands extended will receive a “fish” cracker reminding them that “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, is their Savior”. The fish was an ancient symbol that the early Christians used to identify one another. Each letter of the Greek word for “fish” is the starting letter for the words, “Jesus Christ, God’s Son, Savior”.)

[stand]

Post-Communion - Canticle 13: “Keep in Mind...” #13

℣ Keep in mind that Jesus Christ has died for us and is risen from the dead.

He is our saving Lord; he is joy for all ages.

**1 If we die with the Lord, we shall live with the Lord.
If we endure with the Lord, we shall live with the Lord. ℣**

**2 In him all our sorrow, in him all our joy.
In him hope of glory, in him all our love. ℣**

**3 In him our redemption, in him all our grace.
In him our salvation, in him all our peace. ℣**

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Post Communion Prayer

A Generous Host,

☒ you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE

The Blessing *(sung by all)*

**☒ The Lord bless and keep you,
the Lord make his face to shine on you,
and be gracious, gracious.
The Lord bless and keep you,
the Lord lift his countenance on you,
and give peace, give you peace.
Shalom. Shalom. Shalom.**

Hymn

LBW # 97

The Dismissal

A People of All Saints, loved by God,
what have you been called to do?
C **Live the love of Christ!**
A Go in peace to serve in love.
C **Thanks be to God!**
Give us courage to follow wherever you lead us.

+ + + + + + + + + + +

ENTER TO WORSHIP – EXIT TO SERVE

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Next week’s lessons: Isaiah 43:16-21, Psalm 126,
Philippians 3:4b-14, John 12:1-8

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS and Other Volunteers

| | <u>Through Today</u> | <u>Beginning Tomorrow</u> |
|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Deacon | Beth Cheney | Sandi Menz |
| Ushers | Marc Schwartz &
Volunteer | Chris Lotocki &
Volunteer |
| Lay Reader | Martha Muck | Ron Heintz |
| Crucifer | Volunteer | Volunteer |
| Count | Joan Fabian &
Ann Meyer | Beth Cheney &
Ann Mayer |
| Altar Guild | Donna Pavel | Donna Pavel |
| Cleaning | Pastor Dave | Beverly Blette |

THIS WEEK

| | | |
|-----------|----------|--|
| Today | 9:30 AM | Bible Study |
| | 11:00 AM | Worship with Holy Communion |
| | 12:15 PM | Choir Rehearsal |
| | 6:30PM | Dean Jeremiah Smith meets with the church councils of All Saints & First at All Saints |
| Tuesday | 7:00 PM | Church Council |
| Wednesday | 7:00PM | Lenten Worship at First Lutheran |
| Friday | 9:30 AM | Prayer group |
| Sunday | 9:30 AM | Bible Study |
| | 11:00AM | Worship with Holy Communion |
| | | Coffee hour after church |
| | 12:15PM | Choir rehearsal |

PLEASE NOTE: All reports for the Annual Report are to be turned in to Barbara Kurasch (bkurasch@gmail.com) by April 1st. Thank you.

There is a sign-up sheet on the easel for helping host the refreshment time following our mid-week Lenten service.

THE TINA AND DANA DUERINGER SCHOLARSHIP AND MEMORIAL FUND is accepting applications for the 2025-2026 school year. Recipients shall be active members of All Saints Lutheran Church or related in some way to the ministry of the congregation, complete high school this year and be registered to attend a college or graduate school in a degree program for the next semester. All interested candidates may pick up an application on the table in the church narthex. **Applications must be turned in by May 11, 2025.**

ALTAR GUILD MEMBERS NEEDED – The Altar Guild is a spiritual ministry. Caring for the altar is a way to act out our relationship with God. It is quiet and prayerful work. Any member can participate. You don't have to have experience. We will train you. We seldom have meetings. Won't you please consider joining?

BUDGET—Bless you for your generous financial offerings, which ensure the continuation of the ministries at All Saints, our surrounding communities, the Niagara Frontier Conference, the Upstate New York Synod, our nation, and around the world.

USED INK CARTRIDGES – Please save your used cartridges for the church office. We turn them in to Office Max for credit on office supplies. A box is on the table in the back of the Fellowship Hall to deposit cartridges. Thank you.

CHOIR ANTHEM

“Tsama”

(The Hebrew word for thirst is TSAMA.)

Tsama, tsama, I thirst for the water of life.

Tsama, tsama, a cross is the final strife.

Where is the water of life?

Tsama, tsama, forsaken upon the tree.

Tsama, tsama, He thirsts for you and me.

“O God, My God, must this be My destiny?

“O God, My God, must I fulfill the prophecy?

I thirst, My God, I thirst.”

Tsama, tsama, the cross brings a shallow breath.

Tsama, tsama, the journey moves on to death.

The journey moves on to death.

Tsama, tsama, tsama.