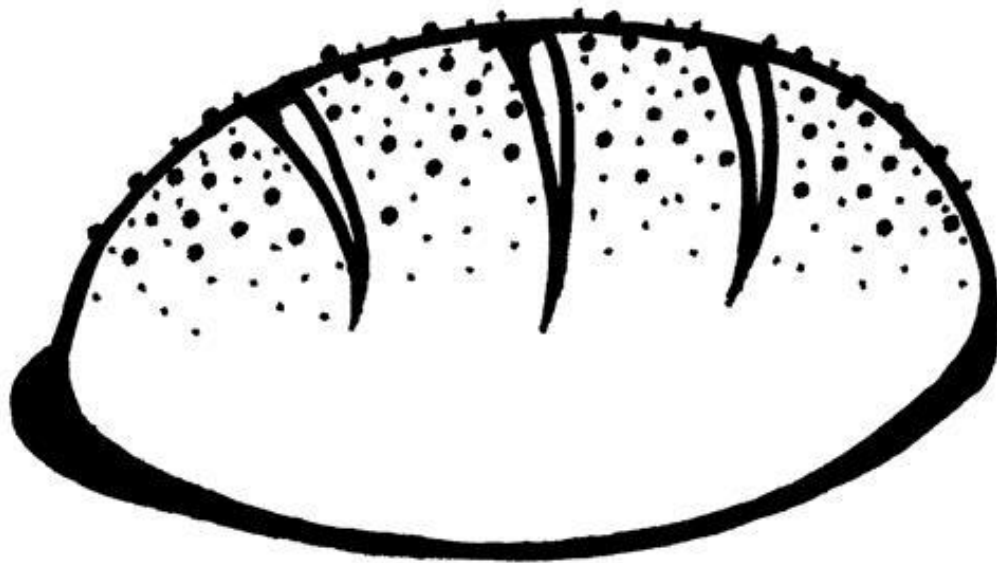


FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 22, 2026



MELLINGERS LUTHERAN CHURCH
80 GOCKLEY ROAD
STEVENS, PA 17578
717-336-8800

Pastor's Contact Information

Rev. Timothy L. Craven

Home: (717) 738-3838

Mobile: (717) 468-9049

E-Mail: revtlc@ptd.net

Director of Music

Vickie Kissinger (717) 354-6575

E-Mail: vickiekissinger@gmail.com

Director of Christian Education

Diane Adair (717) 715-3124

PRAYER CORNER**Please pray for the following people:**

Mike Leed, Ruth Hollinger, Martha Petery, Barb Moyer, Fay Weitzel, Shannon Brown, Shirley Sweigart, Molly Brown, Carl Mohler Jr., Jay Weaver, Dave Haldeman, Vivian Gehr, Tom Parrish Sr, Elaine Haldeman, Clair Miller, Skip Hutchinson, Jay Stoltzfus, Theda Raffauf, Mary Weidman, and Marty Leed & Family.

Artman Lutheran Home, Ambler: Sally Wealand

Ephrata Manor: Iris Weaver, Dorothy Hutchinson, Shirl Tobias and Pauline Sawyer

Gardens at Stevens: Pat & Nevin McQuate

Keystone Villa: Betty Firestine & Janet Hirneisen

Luther Acres Personal Care: Judy Meckley

Neffsville Rehab & Nursing: Pauline Martin

Phoebe Berks: Nick Rampolla

Darlene Datras, George Wolf, Bonnie Weinhold, Gale Fassnacht, Candace Stoudt, Bob Harker, Merrill Fisher, Jimmy Vincent, Mary Stewart, Lisa Wing, Bob Farr, Cheryl Nixon, Cocalico Builders of Hope (finding a house for housing program), Lorna Buohl, Richard Sockriter, David Taimuty, Helen Blank, William Sockriter, Doug Cody, Ron Neidigh, Mary Morton, Brenda Sweigart, Nancy Bolotine, Bea Hassler (Hospice), Karen Leonhard, Mary Sanger, Andy & Brenda Gabig, Brian Kerns, Mary Lou Crum, Bob Bos, Curtis Townsley, Robyn Redcay, Margaret Weller, Cynthia Peters and Priscilla (last name only).

Pray also for the grieving families of:

Mary Moore, Orvilla Oberholtzer, Lowell Haws, Mary Jane Goshert,

Ed Sieber, Nancy Leh, Darrell Buchter, Jack Poole, Sharlene Miller,

Joyce Pannebecker, Barb Mertz, Beverly Sweigart, Maggie Kiralfy,

Dale Firestone, Yvonne Walters, Larry Rabold, Zach Caflin, Bob Weaver,

Pastor Conrad Youse, Karen Krater, Vesta Reber, Jean Shober, Joyce Boyer,

Joan Wentzel, Jeff Moyer, Anna Weinhold, and Kenton Shaffer.

† WE PREPARE TO WORSHIP †

*Please stand if you are able

Welcome / Announcements

Temple Talk – Bob Getz – The Great Eight for Lent

Prelude: “Cantilena”

-Hall Macklin

†GATHERING†

Pastor: This is the day the Lord has made.

Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it.

***GATHERING HYMN: “Sign Us With the Cross of Ashes”**

Sign us with the cross of ash— es as we make this sol— emn
Je— sus, Mas— ter, in the de— sert, fast— ing prayed for for— ty
Give us strength to start this jour— ney to give alms, to pray and

Lent; Mark us with the sign of pen— ance, as we
days. Thus, re— sis— ting all temp— ta— tions, gave to
fast. That, at Lent's most sol— emn end— ing, we may

weep, as that we re— pent. Hear the pleas— of all your
us that that hum— ble way. That, by ser— ving God and
know that joy at last. When the bless— ed hap— py

11

ser - vants, as, this de - sert we en - dure. That, re -
trust - ing in his pro - vi - dence a lone, we will
mor - ning sings the vic - t'ry of the Cross, and the

ly - ing on your mer - cies, we are freed from sin's al - lure.
con - quer sins false lust - er and shall rise be - fore the throne.
sor - row of the Pass - ion brings new life to what was lost.

T

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS OF SINS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: 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.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(a brief silence is observed)

P: Most merciful God,

C: 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

P: 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.

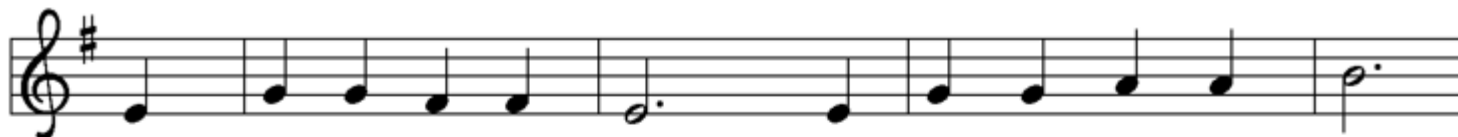
C: Amen

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.

THE KYRIE



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen

LENTEN HYMN: #334 Sing Verse 1 then Lent 1 “*Tree of Life*”

† GOD’S WORD †

FIRST READING

GENESIS 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Lay Reader (Randy Brubaker): A reading from Genesis the 2nd & 3rd chapters.

L: Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent’s promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make

one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE PSALMODY

PSALM 32



Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord. (Ps. 32:10)

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer. R**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you
forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you
in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach
them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

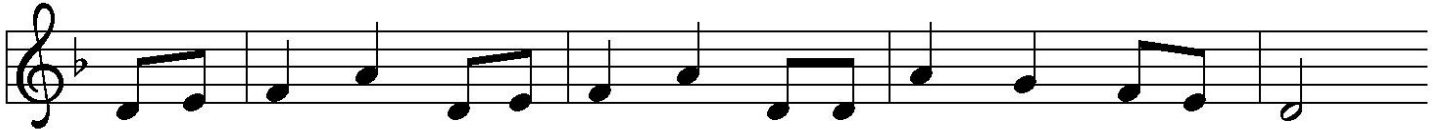
⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you
should go;
I will guide you | with my eye. R**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay
near you."

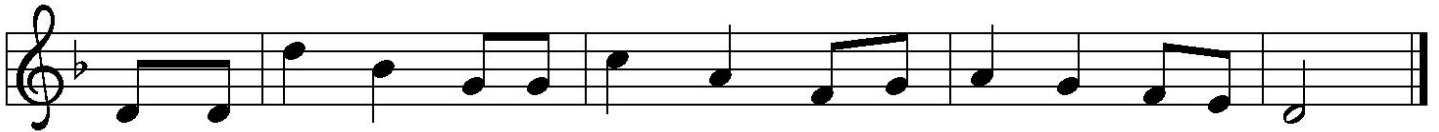
- ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart. **R**

CHILDRENS SERMON

*LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

JOHN 1:43-51

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the 1st chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

P: *Jesus Calls Philip and Nathanael*

⁴³ The next day Jesus decided to leave for Galilee. Finding Philip, he said to him, "Follow me."

⁴⁴ Philip, like Andrew and Peter, was from the town of Bethsaida.

⁴⁵ Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found the one Moses wrote about in the Law, and about whom the prophets also wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

⁴⁶ "Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?" Nathanael asked. "Come and see," said Philip.

⁴⁷ When Jesus saw Nathanael approaching, he said of him, "Here truly is an Israelite in whom there is no deceit."

⁴⁸ "How do you know me?" Nathanael asked.

Jesus answered, "I saw you while you were still under the fig tree before Philip called you."

49 Then Nathanael declared, “Rabbi, you are the Son of God; you are the king of Israel.”

50 Jesus said, “You believe because I told you I saw you under the fig tree. You will see greater things than that.” 51 He then added, “Very truly I tell you, you will see ‘heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending on’ the Son of Man.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you O Christ.

MESSAGE: *“Traveling The Road to Repentance”* -Pastor Craven

CHOIR ANTHEM: *“Amazing Grace”* -Arr. By Chris Owenby

***THE APOSTLE’S CREED**

C: 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen

† Prayers of Intercession †

*P: Reconciled by God’s mercy and sustained by God’s presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

P: God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. (*Especially we pray for...*) Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you (*especially*). Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen

***THE PEACE**

P: The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

***OFFERTORY HYMN #323 “God Loved the World”**

God loved the world so that he gave his only

Son the lost to save, that all who would in

Him believe should ever lasting life receive.

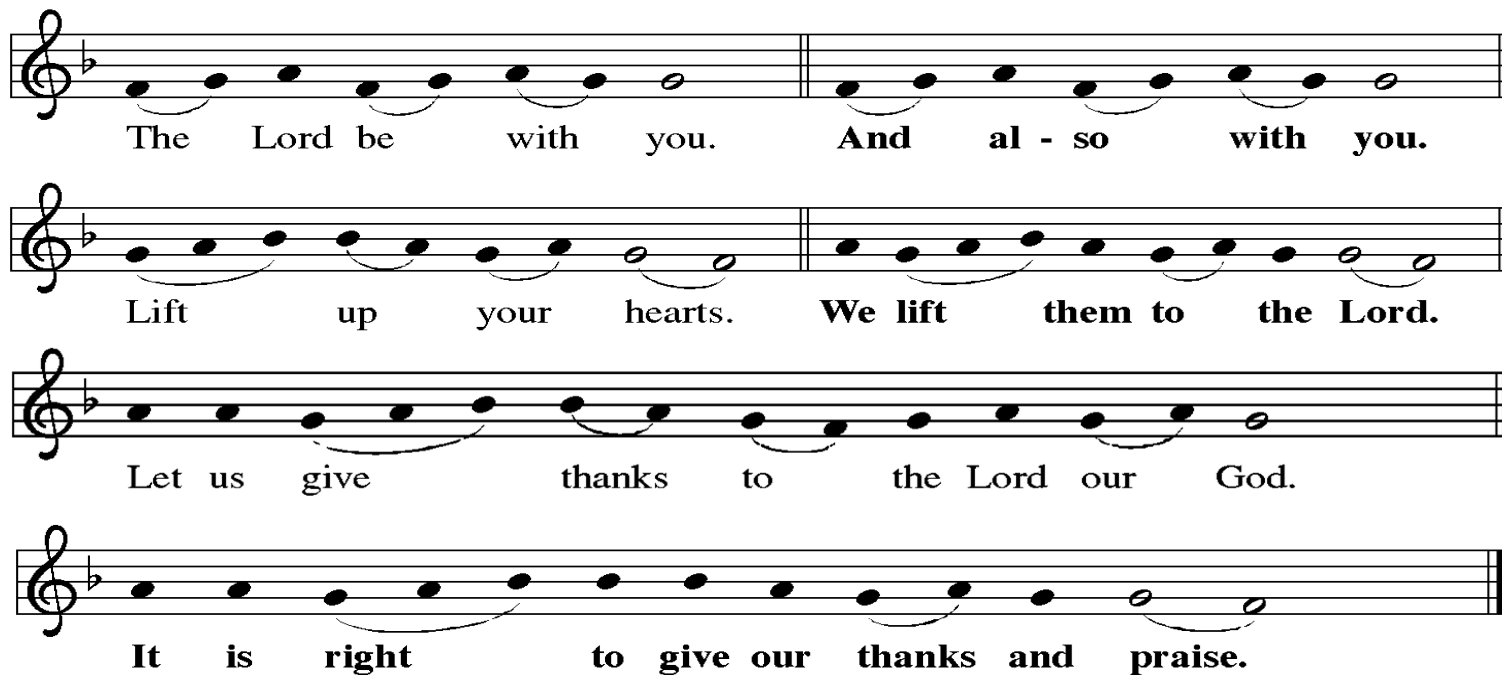
OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

C: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

† WE CELEBRATE THE LORD’S SUPPER †

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



The musical notation consists of four staves, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are connected by slurs, indicating a continuous melody. The lyrics are written below the notes, with some words aligned under specific notes and others under groups of notes.

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

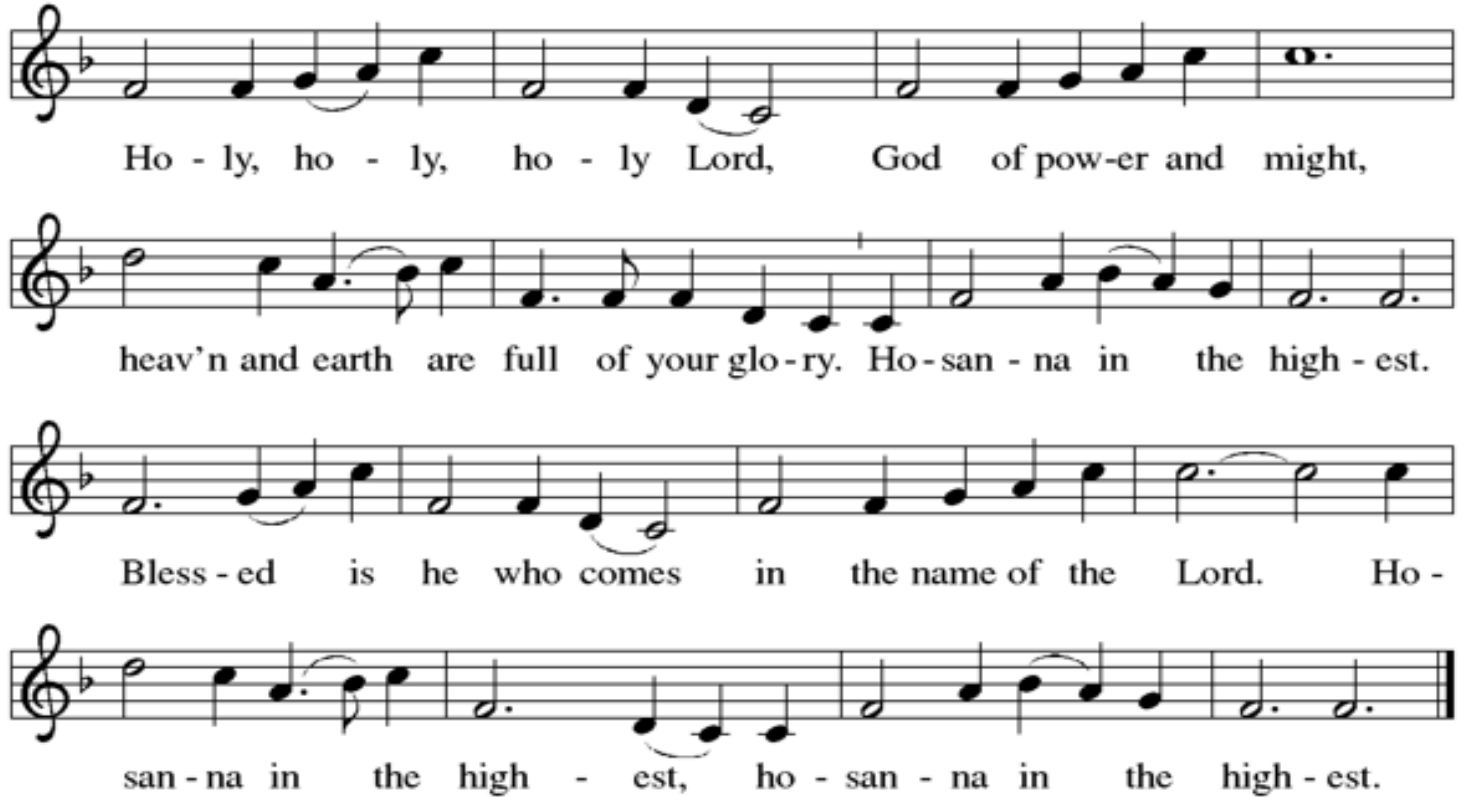
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy.....
We praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: 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 and 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.

TRADITIONAL LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

THE AGNUS DEI



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

We ask parents to bring their non-communing children with them for a blessing. Pick up an empty cup. A grape juice option and gluten free communion wafers provided. If you cannot come to the Chancel, Communion will be taken to you. Please notify an Usher.

Those in the parking lot partake of Communion at this time.

During Communion

Hymn #742: *“What A Friend We Have In Jesus”*

Hymn #661: *“I Love to Tell the Story”*

Hymn #781: *“Children of the Heavenly Father”*

Hymn #616: *“Jesus Remember Me”*

***POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

***Post Communion Canticle: Hymn #210:** *“Blessed Be God”*

Blessed be God, the source of all life, the word of salvation,
The spirit of mercy.

***POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen

† WE LEAVE TO SERVE †

BENEDICTION AND BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and † give you peace.

C: Amen Amen Amen (sung responsively)

***SENDING HYMN #505:** *“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord with joy.

C: Thanks be to God.

***POSTLUDE:** *“Sinfonia”* from “Soloman”

-G. F. Handel

Participants in the Service:

Pastor: Timothy Craven

Church Secretary: Ashley Weinhold

Organist: Vickie Kissinger

Lay Reader: Randy Brubaker

Communion Assistant: Lisa Reed

Psalmist: Choir

Videographer: The Boys

Soundboard: Troy Adair

Ushers: Lowell Yost, Randy Brubaker and Alternate Dave Weidman

Weekly Receipts Report as of 02/19/26	
Attendance (Inside / Parking Lot)	73
Online Attendance	117
General Receipts	\$3,823.23

Please use our QR code to donate via PayPal.



For the Goat Fund; please fill out your donation then put it in a “Goat” envelope.

If you use another envelope make sure you write “Goat Fund” on your donation.



Lenten Cluster Services are beginning this week.

2026 Cluster Lenten Services – “Making Change”

<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Preacher</u>
Wednesday Feb 25, 7pm	Faith United, Denver	Pastor Marrisa Becklin

There is a change to Service information:

Pastors will be preaching at their own congregation.

Date, time and location remain the same.



We are collecting contributions for Peter's Porch in Denver. The boxes for the food and other household staples are in the Narthex until Sunday March 1st. A list of items will be on the Narthex Table, if there are specific questions about or for Peter's Porch please contact Terry Burkholder at 717-962-0839.



Easter Flowers for Our Easter Service

It is time to order flowers for our Easter Service on Sunday April 5th. This year, we are offering the following:

Daffodils – 6 ½ inch pot with 4-6 full size blooms for \$8.00

Tulips – 6 inch pot with 5 to 6 blooms of 1 color for \$8.00

White Lilies – 6 inch pot with 3-4 blooms for \$10.00



On the order form please list to whom you would like your flowers made in memory or in honor of. Place your form along with payment in the envelope provided and place in the Special Flowers mailbox or give to Pat Haller at church. Please make checks payable to Mellingers Lutheran Church. Proceeds benefit Mellingers Needy Fund.

Last day to order flowers is Sunday March 29.
Please pick up flowers after the service on Sunday April 5.



Order sheets are on the Narthex table.