



**Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical
Lutheran Church**

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Dennis J. Lauritsen, Pastor
David B. Richards, Parish Musician
Karen Rouleau, Administrative Assistant



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

During the Prayers of Intercession, you are invited to add your own prayer(s) either in speech or in silence. You may wish to use this insert to write down your prayer(s) which you may then offer aloud during that time. If you wish to have your prayers added to the Prayer of the Church during the coming weeks, please remove and place this card in the offering plate.

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT
March 3rd, 2024 ✚ 10:15 a.m.

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

HOLY COMMUNION

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING FIVE, PAGES 156-164

GATHERING

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

PRELUDE

Melodie

Ole Bull

(In memory of Mary R. Sordel.)

***ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

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

Come, let us acknowledge our sin and seek God's face, that we may live. *(A brief silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.)*

Holy, gracious and merciful God, we confess that we have turned away from you and from our neighbors, and in toward ourselves. We have sought security in possessions and the place of power in relationships. We have trusted ourselves most of all. Turn us back to you, O God. In your mercy, forgive our sinfulness and cleanse us from guilt and shame. Guide us on the path of freedom that is your gift to us in Christ our Lord. Amen

Hear for yourselves: There is no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. In the waters of baptism grace abounds for you and for all. God turns to you in love and puts away every sin, every wrong turn, for the sake of + Jesus, the one God sent to save the world. **Amen**

*GREETING

The grace and mercy of God, who in Christ bears our burdens and saves us from sin, be with you all.

And also with you.

*KYRIE

ELW 157

*(Please refer to Hymn #157
in Evangelical Lutheran Worship for the melody.)*

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God.

Amen.

*PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

WORD

God speaks to us in Scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING

Exodus 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 19

Prayed responsively by the leader and congregation.

The heavens are telling the glory of God;
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

**Day to day pours forth speech,
and night to night declares knowledge.**

There is no speech, nor are there words;
their voice is not heard;

**yet their voice goes out through all the earth,
and their words to the end of the world.**

In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,
which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

**Its rising is from the end of the heavens,
and its circuit to the end of them; and nothing is hid from its heat.**

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple;

**the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;**

the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

**More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.**

Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

**But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.**

Keep back your servant also from the insolent;
do not let them have dominion over me.

**Then I shall be blameless,
and innocent of great transgression.**

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW 176

Lenten Acclamation



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

Text: *Evangelical Lutheran Worship*
Music: Robert Buckley Farlee, b. 1950
Text and music © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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*GOSPEL READING

John 2:13-22

The Holy Gospel according to St. John... **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.

The gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

*CREED

God has made us his people through our baptism into Christ. Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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

Relying on the promises of God, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.
A brief silence is observed.

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name. Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Fill leaders with your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. We humbly ask that you work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the well-being and freedom of all. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering, especially... Defend victims of crime and bring redemption to those who have harmed others. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Additional prayers may be offered here in speech and silence.

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross, remembering especially those from among us who dwell with the saints... Give us the same trust in life and in death. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

*PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

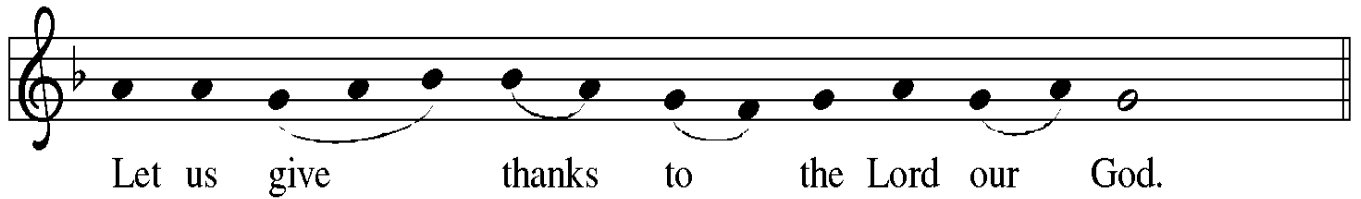
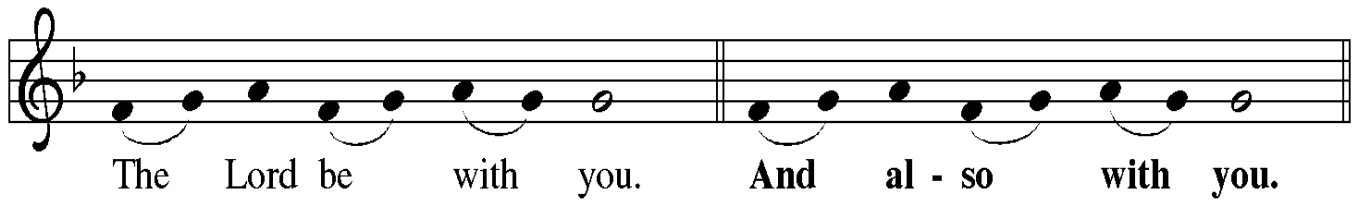
MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. 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**

*DIALOGUE

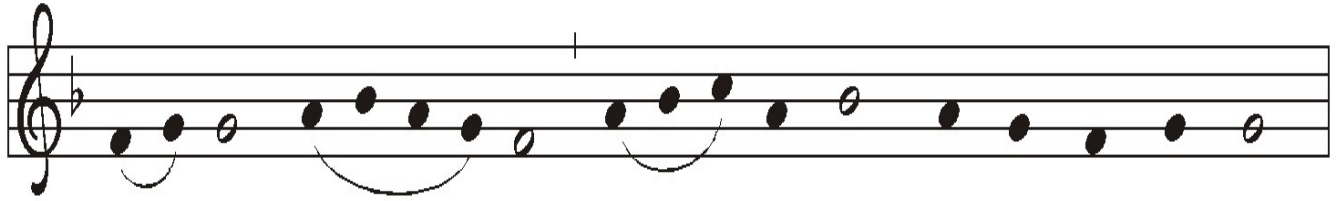


*PREFACE

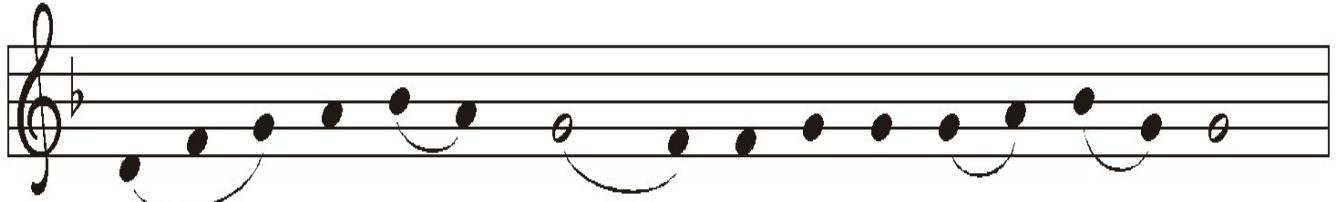
It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, 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, God of pow'r and might,



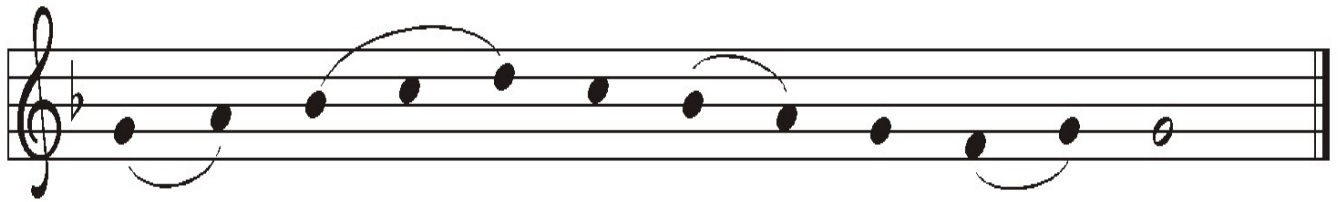
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.



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

Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with light and life;
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the promise to Israel,
the rescue from Egypt,
the gift of the promised land,
the words of the prophets;
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

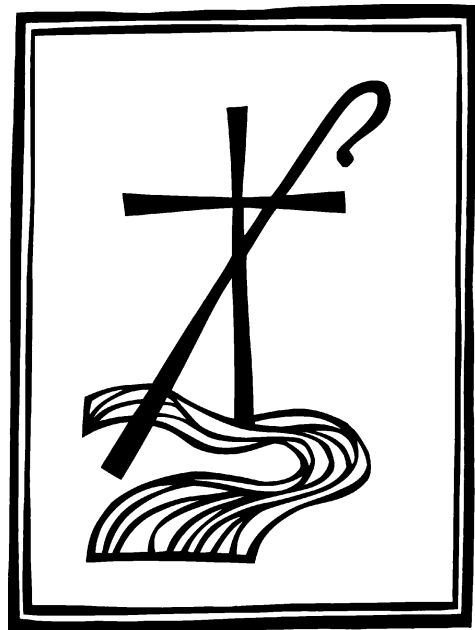
Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup
we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection,
we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.
Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

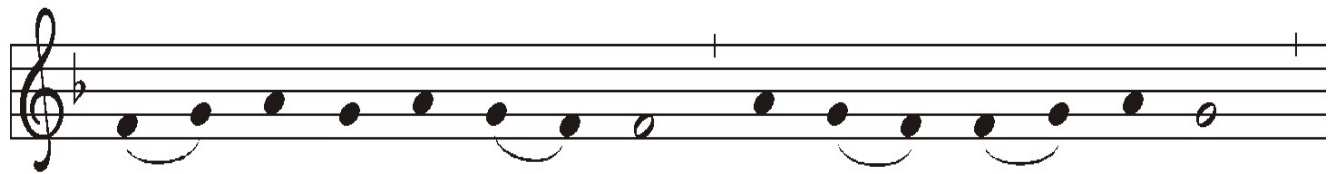
Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit,
that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory
and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.
Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants
of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

**Through him, with him, in him,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father,
now and forever.
Amen**



*LORD'S PRAYER



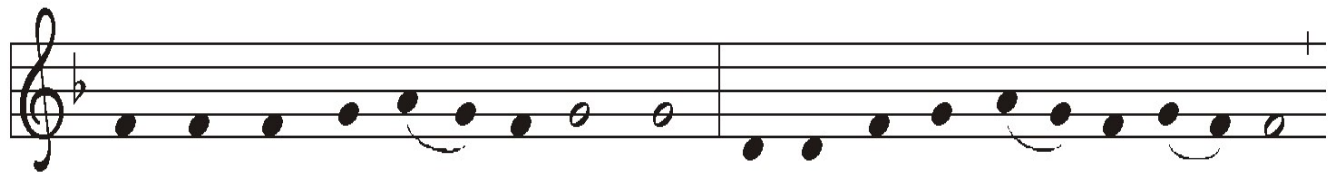
Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,



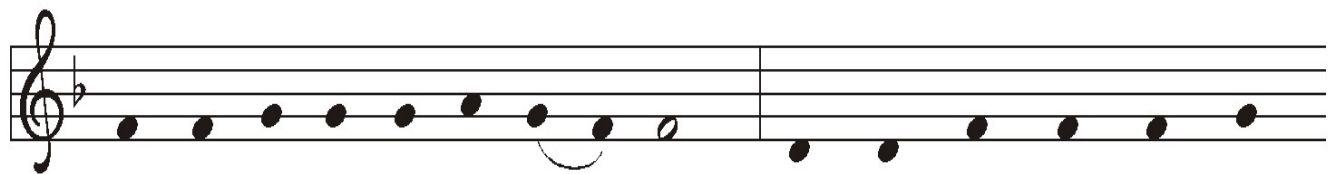
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.



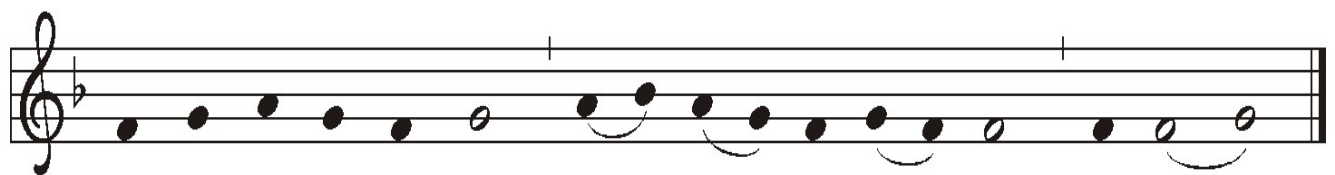
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al



and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,



and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Return to the Lord with all your heart. Receive bread for the journey and drink for the desert.

DISTRIBUTION

Berceuse

Chopin

*BLESSING

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

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

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. **Amen**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

*BENEDICTION

May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,
and claimed us as children of the light,
strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor
and give you + peace. **Amen**

*SENDING HYMN

God of Grace and God of Glory

ELW 705

*DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

SERVING IN THE LITURGY

PREACHING AND PRESIDING MINISTER

Dennis Lauritsen, pastor

ASSISTING MINISTER

Vicki Michaels

MUSIC MINISTER

David Richards

VIOLINIST

Kristine Boike

SERVICE LEADER

Beverly Tarbox

LECTOR

Kristine Boike

GREETER

Sandy Garvey

LIVE STREAM

Paul Watkiss

USHER

Rafael Martinez

ALTAR CARE AND SACRISTAN

Beverly Tarbox

IN THE PRAYERS

Members of the Congregation: Helen Gaydusek, Karole Gaydusek, Elaine Haase, Bettye Harden, Luddy Kovalsky, Rev. James Kuemmerle, Mildred Mendel, Lois Mika, George Pagurko, Mildred Riban and Mary Sasuta. **Friends and Relatives of the Congregation:** Betty Bartel, Kurt Behrendt, Carolyn Becker, Wally Bisping, Birch Burghardt, Dan and Mary Costello, Eric Dennison, Marilyn Dunne, Tom Duran, Barbara Dykes, Denise Fricano, Walid Jabbar, Ron Kelly, Nicole Kisiel, Lenyce Lawrenson, Delores Linden, Darlene Loughlin, Mary Frances Mason, Michele Mason, Julie Mroz, Donald Neal, Pat Pileggi, Gail Purcell, Becky Rosas, Mary Lee Rosland, Sandy Rossella, Stevie Singer, Peter Spilotro, Kathy Stenson, and Janie Tarbox.

Our prayers and condolences are extended to the family and loved ones of +**Gertrude Tarbox**+, especially son "J.T.", Beverly and Nico. Gertrude passed from this life at 100 years of age on February 25th and was buried from St. Bruno Church in Chicago on Friday. We share the grief of Gertrude's loved ones but find solace and hope in the promise of the resurrection given to us through our baptism into Christ our Lord.

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead next Saturday, March 9th. Daylight savings time begins Sunday, March 10th.





Lenten Vespers, Holden Setting
is sung every Thursday evening at 7:15 p.m.
during the weeks of Lent
preceded by a supper of soup and bread
beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Supper hosts may sign up on the list posted at the lower west entrance to the dining hall or please leave a voice mail message in the church office box at 708-442-5250 or send an email message to office@stspeterandpaulriverside.org

Easter lilies will be available for purchase at \$16.00 per plant for those who wish to place a lily or lilies in the chancel for the upcoming Easter celebrations. To order, please call or email the church office or use the sign-up sheet posted in the dining hall at the lower west entrance. The final day for orders is **Thursday, March 21st**. You are also welcome to bring your own potted spring plants, including lilies, hyacinths, tulips, daffodils, etc. to decorate the chancel and sanctuary.

*Almighty and ever living God, you invite us deeper into your world,
your people, your Lent. May this time be one of outward focus; seeking you in those
we often forget. Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.
Give us hearts hungry to serve you and those who need
what we have to give.*

UPCOMING COMMEMORATIONS

Perpetua and Felicity and companions, martyrs at Carthage, died 202
Thursday, March 7th

Vibia Perpetua, a noblewoman, and Felicity, an enslaved woman, were catechumens at Carthage, northern Africa. They, with four other catechumens, had defied the Roman emperor who had forbidden conversions to Christianity, and were put to death in the amphitheater.



Traditionally, Lent is a time for giving up something. People quit eating chocolate or drinking coffee or alcohol. Lent becomes a time to fast from all sorts of things that are not good for our physical or spiritual health. What if people were instead invited to take on a practice during Lent: daily prayer, daily scripture reading, meditative walks, acts of kindness and generosity. What might forty days of taking on such practice yield?

O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offering **February 25th, 2024**

| | |
|--|------------|
| <i>Weekly Budgeted Offering for 2024:</i> | \$2,615.00 |
| <i>Offering Received for the Above Categories:</i> | \$1,825.00 |
| <i>Shortage:</i> | \$ 790.00 |