



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church

Serving and Loving Christ since 1737

The people of Schwarzwald - Ministers
The Rev. Jim Farnsworth, Designated Pastor
The Rev. David Blich, Visitation Pastor
Mrs. Kathy Snyder - Director of Music
Ms. Diane V. Hafer - Office Administrator
Mrs. Crystal Jordan - Christian Ed. Director
Mrs. Melissa Kerber—Sexton

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 1, 2026 10:45 A.M.

HYMNS ON THE CARILLON

CALL TO WORSHIP—RINGING THE BELLS

PRELUDE *There Is A Fountain*. Labenske



ANNOUNCEMENTS

WELCOME Leader: This is the day that the LORD has made!
Congregation: Let us rejoice and be glad in it!

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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.**

C 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.

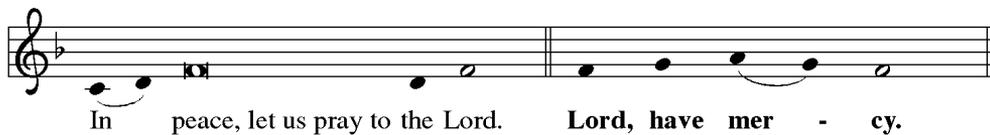
GATHERING HYMN #796 *How Firm A Foundation*

GREETING

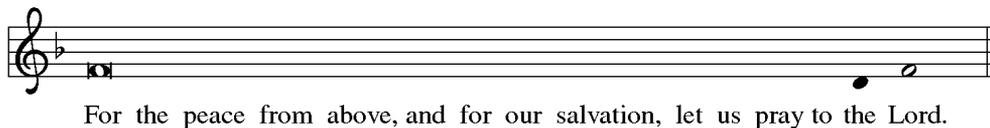
P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **And also with you.**

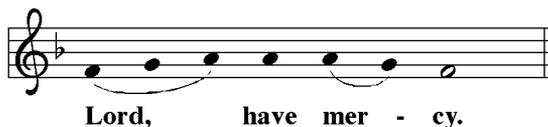
KYRIE



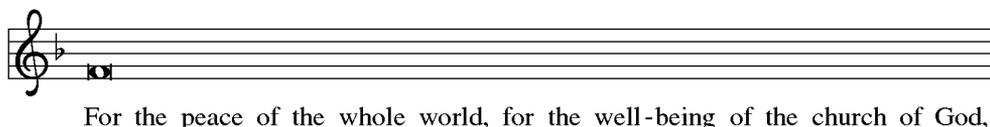
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



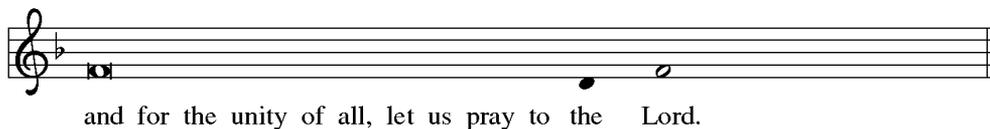
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



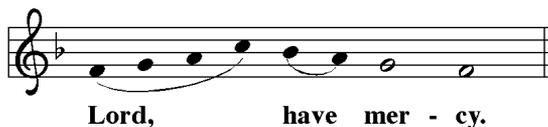
Lord, have mer - cy.



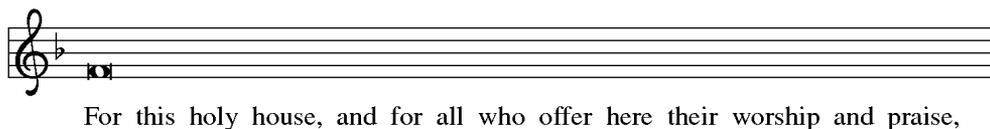
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



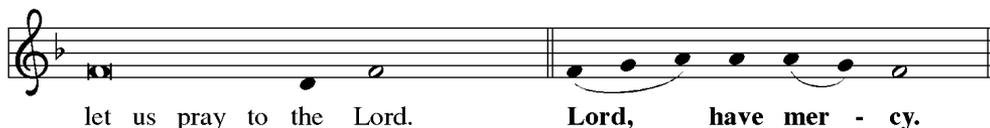
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



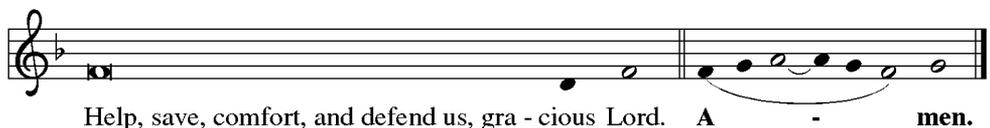
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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.

Please be seated.

CHILDREN'S CIRCLEThe Rev. Jim Farnsworth

FIRST READING Genesis 12:1-4a

¹The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a}So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 121 *read responsively*

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills—
from where will my help come?

²**My help comes from the Lord,
who made heaven and earth.**

³He will not let your foot be moved;
he who keeps you will not slumber.

⁴**He who keeps Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep.**

⁵The Lord is your keeper;
the Lord is your shade
at your right hand.

⁶**The sun shall not strike you by day
nor the moon by night.**

⁷The Lord will keep you from all evil;
he will keep your life.

⁸**The Lord will keep
your going out and your coming in
from this time on and forevermore.**

SECOND READING Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³ For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴ For it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

A The word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

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.

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

C **Glory to you, O Lord.**

HOLY GOSPEL John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one

can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Please be seated.

SERMON The Rev. Jim Farnsworth

Please stand.

HYMN

#325 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
Of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and
the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. 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.

A Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss especially,

Clyde Feick
Barbara Hafer
Betty Neiman
Walt Smithson
Todd McLain
Betty Scollick

Cindy Fliegel
Ruth Hoover
Mary Phillips
Pat Weiser
Jayne Phillips
Lin Tiderman

Russ Frey
Gwen Kauwell
Denton Quick
Debra Hoerner
Tracy Rohrbach
Jim & Lauri Walker

And for all those concerns and people we quietly name who we hold in our hearts.

Silent Prayers

Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and accompany those who have recently left this community to journey elsewhere. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

A Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

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

C Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P The peace of our Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

P Let us share God’s peace with one another.

Please be seated.

OFFERING

SR. CHOIR ANTHEM

How Beautiful Paris

Please stand.

OFFERTORY RESPONSE



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A 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.

C Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING



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



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



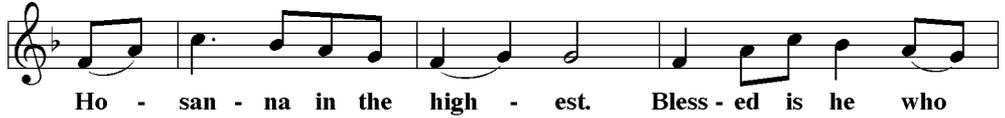
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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,
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.

THE 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.

A Word of Welcome: The Sacrament of Holy Communion is the meal of the Church. All are welcome to the Lord's Table to receive the gift of His body and blood. Children who have not yet received instruction for First Holy Communion are welcome to come to the altar to receive a special blessing. If you are unable to come forward, please let the ushers know, and you will be served in the pew.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

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.

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

Continuous Communion

When directed by the usher, proceed to the altar by way of the center aisle.

If preferred, grape juice is available at the top of the steps.

For gluten free wafers, please ask the Communion Assistant.

After receiving communion, please return to your seat by the way of the side ramps.

HYMN SUNG DURING DISTRIBUTION

#697 *Just a Closer Walk with Thee*

Please stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A 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.

C Amen.

BLESSING

P Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✚ bless you now and always.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN #759 *My Faith Looks Up to Thee*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *Fugue in C* Scarlatti

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Please be advised that all of our worship services are broadcast live via Zoom
to anyone who possesses the meeting passcode
as well as recorded for subsequent distribution via email
to members of the congregation and posted on the
church's Facebook page.

SERVING AT WORSHIP

Joshua Kerber	Assisting Minister
Fred Mohr / Youth	Usher Team
John Gibson	Acolyte
Peg Gumpert	Accompanist
Joshua Kerber, Peg Gumpert, Barry Hoover	Communion Assistants
Sally Kennedy, Judy Ney, Emma Dickerson, Ian Carr	Carillonneurs
Bob Rutherford.	Zoom Master

ANNOUNCEMENTS

If you are a visitor, a special welcome to you, and if you are without a church home, we invite you to join our fellowship. You are also encouraged to sign our guest register with your preferred contact information. If you do not have a Bible at home, please take one from the welcome table. Visitors who are communing members of other Christian congregations are cordially invited to receive the Sacrament with us. Welcome to the Lord's table where we are one with Christ!

The **altar flowers** are presented to the glory of God and sponsored by Fred and Cindy Mohr in memory of Bob and Shirley Schaeffer and Oliver Brumbaugh.

Large print bulletins and hearing receivers are available in the Narthex. Please see an usher for assistance.

Children's toys, games, puzzles and books can be found in the Narthex.

A **Church-time Nursery room** is available downstairs in the "Parent and Me" room with plenty of toys and books for toddlers and youngsters.

Altar flower (\$25) and bulletin sponsors (\$14) are needed for all of March. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

BREAKFAST BUNCH will meet on Thursday, March 12, at 9:00 a.m. at Breakfast Hut Restaurant on Perkiomen Avenue. All are welcome!

WE ARE IN NEED OF ALTAR FLOWER SPONSORS (\$25) and BULLETIN SPONSORS (\$14) for all of March. Please use the sign-up sheets in the Narthex.

DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME BEGINS AT 2:00 AM ON SUNDAY, MARCH 8. BE SURE TO MOVE YOUR CLOCKS **AHEAD** ONE HOUR BEFORE GOING TO BED ON SATURDAY NIGHT, **MARCH 7!**

The **March issue of the *Pulpit and Pew*** is available for pick-up in the Narthex and Vestibule entrances.

Lenten Calendars are available for pick-up in the Narthex and Vestibule entrances. Help yourself to these free Lenten guides.



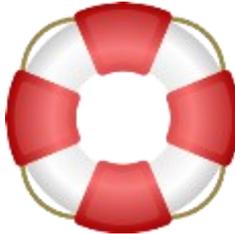
GREETERS / PARLOR COFFEE CAFÉ SNACK SIGN-UP

Scan the QR code above or use the Sign-Up Genius link below to sign-up to be a Greeter or to bring a baked good for the parlor coffee café on Sunday morning:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050C4FA9AD2FA7FD0-60582416-schwarzwald>

Announcing our ELCA World Hunger Appeal

Help fight world hunger by joining the \$350 Challenge!
Visit the display in the Narthex where you will find envelopes, Lenten Calendars, and a little treat.
Donations made throughout March will be matched up to \$350. The challenge will end on Sunday, March 29.
BE A LIFE SAVER!



Schwarzwald Lutheran Church
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Reading, PA 19606

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pastorjimsmc@gmail.com or 610-246-4278

The Rev. David Blitch, Visitation Pastor:
upsygrad@msn.com

Church Office Phone 610-779-3480

Church Office Fax 610-779-2777

Website www.schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Office e-mail administrator@schwarzwaldlutheran.org

Director of Music 484-794-1214 (text)

Emergency 610-914-8257



Hopewell Love Community Services

invites you to join us for

PASTOR JIM'S 60TH BIRTHDAY & WAKE GALA

*A fun evening of celebration and community
at BlackJax American Pub & Grill Restaurant*



Friday, March 27th

6pm - 10pm

\$60 per person

*Gift Basket Raffles, Live Auction
& Cash Bar*

*All Proceeds go to support the services of
Hopewell Love, including food distributions*



Scan to purchase tickets

For more information call
610.582.8167 or email us at
hopewelllovecs@gmail.com

April 11 - 12, 2026

ACTIVES • BUILD COMPASSION • UNDE

RAISE AWARENESS • CHANGE PERSP



STAND BETTER • SEE DIFFERENTLY

Christ Lutheran - Harleysville

A SEPA multi-congregation event hosted at

Christ Lutheran Church, Harleysville

For Youth Grades 6-12 • Friends Welcome!

Learn • Raise \$ • Play Games • Worship

Details on Website <https://bit.ly/boxcity26>

What is Box City?

Box City is a social justice learning experience designed for youth in grades 6–12. The event combines education, empathy-building, and community action by simulating aspects of homelessness and food insecurity. Participants engage in lessons and discussions that highlight real-world challenges faced by unhoused individuals, reflect on the social and economic factors contributing to poverty, and learn how they can make a difference through advocacy and service.

By spending the night outdoors (weather permitting) and raising funds for a local shelter, youth gain a deeper understanding of compassion and community responsibility.

Registration is open now!



DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays — March 4, *11, 18, 25 — 7:00 p.m.
We will be using the *Holden Evening Prayer Service*
*Dinner will be served in Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m.
before the service on March 11

PALM SUNDAY

March 29

10:30 AM Worship with Holy Communion
Reading of the Passion

MAUNDY THURSDAY

April 2

At **St. Mark's** 6:00 PM Seder Meal

OR

At **SLC** 7:30 PM Holy Communion Service — Stripping of the Altar

GOOD FRIDAY

April 3

7:30 PM Worship Service

EASTER DECORATING (Help needed)

April 4, 9:00 a.m.

EGG HUNT

April 4, 10:00 a.m.

EASTER

April 5

8:00 AM Early Service with Holy Communion

9:00 AM Breakfast in Fellowship Hall

10:30 AM Festival Worship with Holy Communion

