

# A WARM WELCOME TO ADVENT LUTHERAN CHURCH

3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT

8:30 AND 11:00 AM

MARCH 23, 2025

## INTRODUCTION

*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!*

**PRELUDE**

*"AMAZING GRACE"*

Raney

**JEAN PONTIOUS**

*You may remain seated or stand*

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P** In the name, Father ✝ Son ✝ 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 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. 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 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, Father ✠ Son ✠ Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

### GATHERING HYMN

“Amazing Grace”

Vss. 1, 2 & 4

LBW # 448

1 A - maz - ing that grace, how sweet the sound, that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his

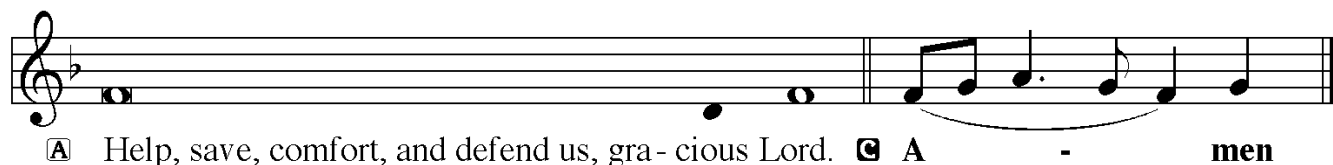
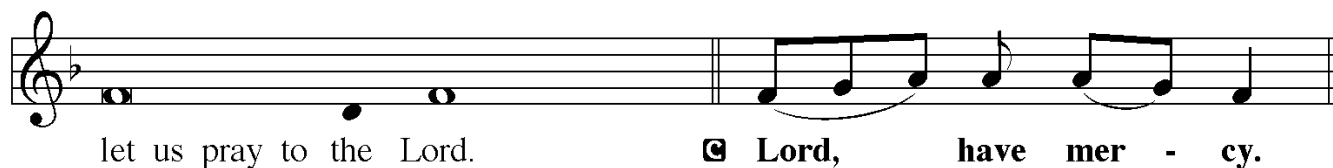
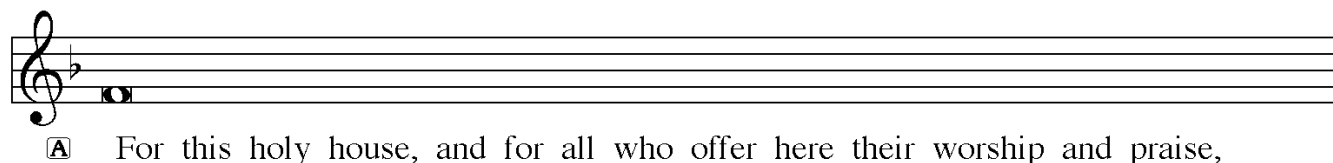
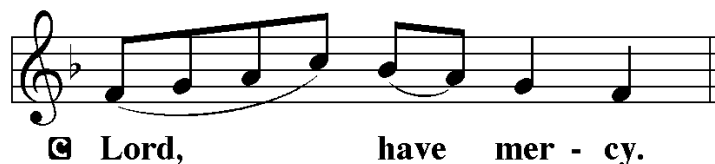
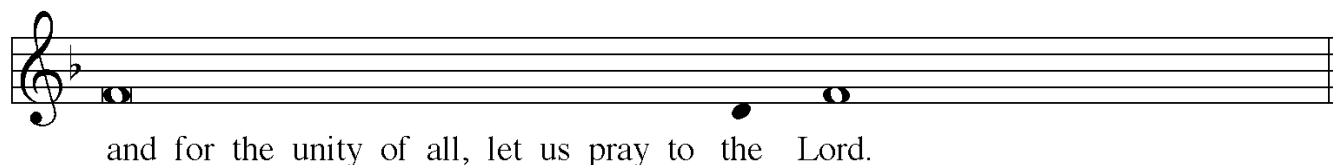
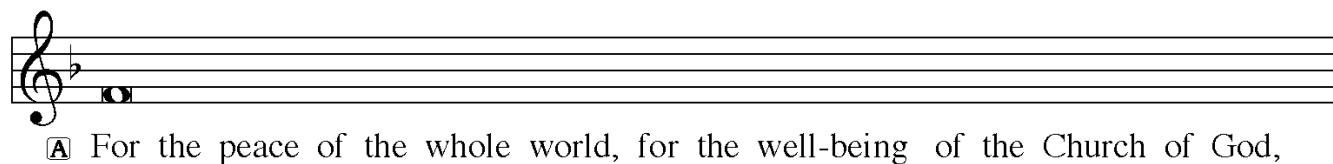
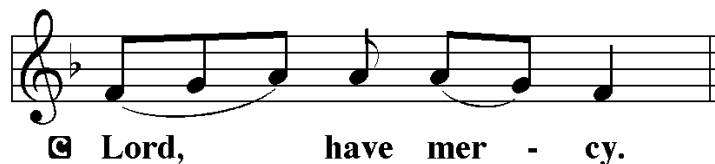
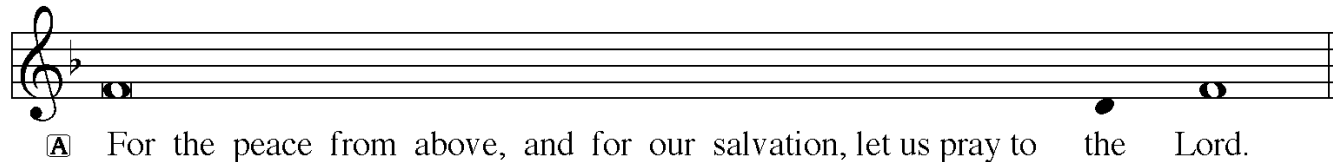
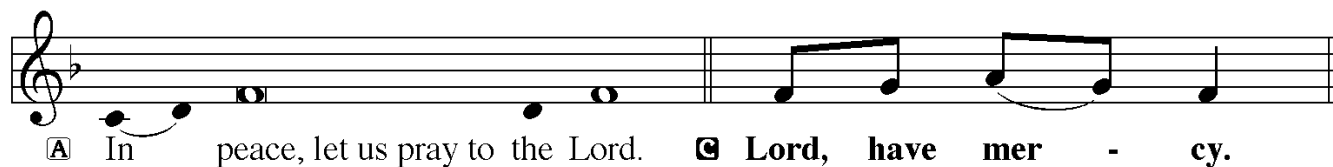
saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.

### GREETING

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

C And is also with you.



## PEACE

P The peace of Christ is with you always.

C And is also with you.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together the prayer of the day.

C **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. Amen.**

Sit

## WE HEAR THE WORD

### FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>Ho, 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.

<sup>2</sup>Why 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.

<sup>3</sup>Incline 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.

<sup>4</sup>See, I made him a witness to the peoples,

a leader and commander for the peoples.

<sup>5</sup>See, 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.

<sup>6</sup>Seek the LORD while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
<sup>7</sup>let 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.  
<sup>8</sup>For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.  
<sup>9</sup>For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

*After the reading:*

A The Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 63:1-8**

*O God, eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you. (Ps. 63:1)*

A <sup>1</sup>O 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.  
C <sup>2</sup>**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**  
A <sup>3</sup>For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you  
praise.  
C <sup>4</sup>**So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.**  
A <sup>5</sup>My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
C <sup>6</sup>**when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**  
A <sup>7</sup>For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.  
C <sup>8</sup>**My whole being clings to you; Your right hand holds me fast.**

## **SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13**

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, <sup>2</sup>and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, <sup>3</sup>and all ate the same spiritual food, <sup>4</sup>and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. <sup>5</sup>Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

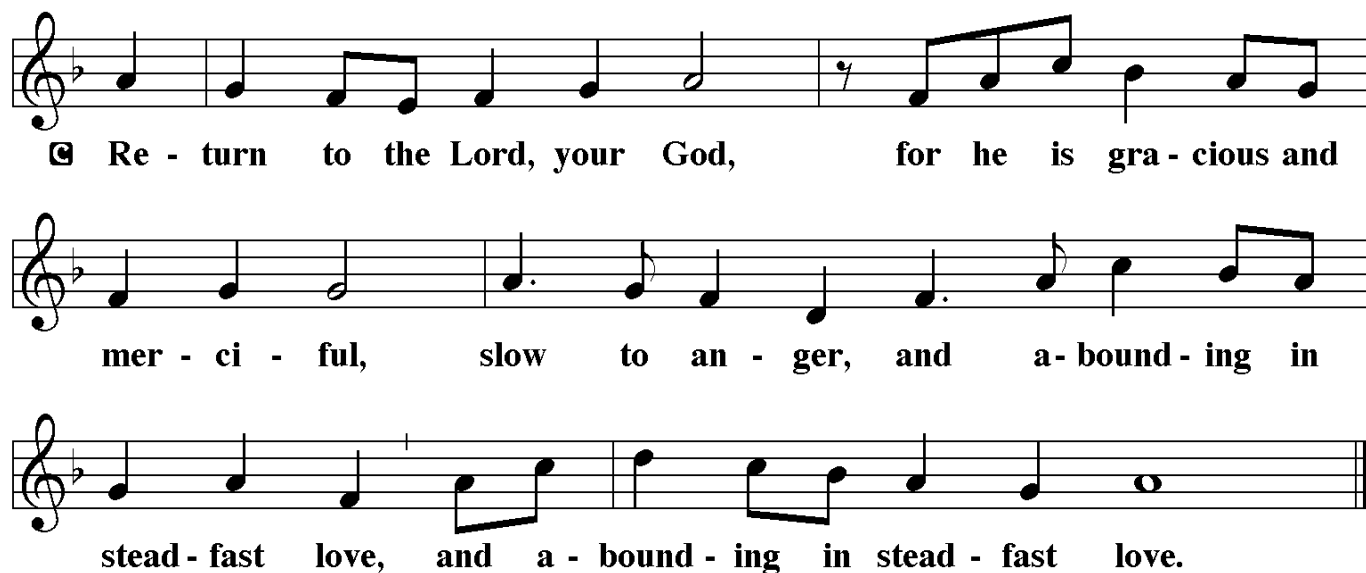
<sup>6</sup>Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. <sup>7</sup>Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." <sup>8</sup>We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. <sup>9</sup>We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. <sup>10</sup>And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. <sup>11</sup>These 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. <sup>12</sup>So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. <sup>13</sup>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.

*After the reading:*

**A** The Word of the Lord.

**C** Thanks be to God.

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**



P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 13<sup>th</sup> chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

### GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

*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.*

<sup>1</sup>At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup>[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? <sup>3</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. <sup>4</sup>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? <sup>5</sup>No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

<sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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?' <sup>8</sup>He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. <sup>9</sup>If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

*After the reading:*

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

**SPECIAL MUSIC**

“AS THE DEER”  
“COME TO THE WATER”

CARTER  
HASSLER

JEAN PONTIOUS  
ADULT CHOIR

TO SUPPORT ADVENT’S MINISTRIES, POINT CAMERA HERE



*You may remain seated or stand*

**APOSTLES’ CREED**

A    *Christians, what do we believe?*

C    **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 into hell.**

**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

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 We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. Sustain our Bishop Suzanne with wisdom and dedicated leaders. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. We pray for an end to all war and armed conflict. Strengthen organizations and communities that broker peace and care for refugees, immigrants, and all caught in the center of conflict. Bring joy and strength to people and organizations who advocate for the needs of neighbors. Empower activists who advocate for change. Guide leaders of the world to end conflicts and pursue peace. Direct us to contribute effectively to the needs of others and to extend hospitality. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. We pray for the peoples in so many countries whose lives are considered of no value by leaders. Welcome into your kingdom those who have been killed and protect those who are living in the valley of death, because of unconscionable wars. Strengthen our resolve to serve all in need. God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for those in need, we pray aloud and silently for those in need of healing; family members, friends, co-workers, casual acquaintances and those we know by name only (*leave a time of silence*). God, in your mercy,

**C receive our prayer.**

A We pray for our Advent assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

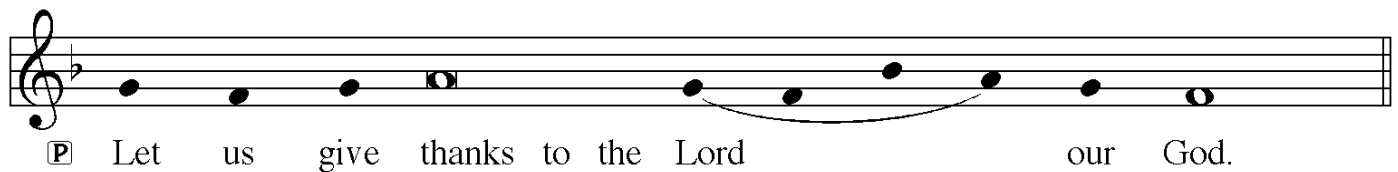
A We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended who we remember in our hearts (*leave a time of silence*). May their witness inspire our own. God, in your mercy,

C **receive our prayer.**

A 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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



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:



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. Ho - san - na.



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.

## 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.

## LORD'S PRAYER

A Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

☐ 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.

## DISTRIBUTION

Invitation to the Lord's Table – Believing in the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, this family of faith practices Eucharistic hospitality. All baptized persons are welcomed to Communion when they are worshipping with us.

### **HOLY COMMUNION INSTRUCTIONS**

*As the ministers give the bread and cup to each communicant, they say these words:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen***

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*The communicant may say: **Amen***

***This communion bread is free from: Gluten, Dairy, Nuts, Egg and Yeast.***

*Grape juice is available by request at the chancel rail.*

***After receiving the elements, you may return to your seats.***

*Please place your empty communion cup in the baskets  
provided on the first row of chairs.*

***If you would like to receive communion at your seat,  
please let an usher know.***

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

C **Amen**

*You may remain seated or stand*

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

A Let us pray. 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.

C **Amen.**

## WE ARE SENT OUT TO SERVE

### BENEDICTION

P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C Amen.

### SENDING HYMN

"ROCK OF AGES"

VSS. 1 & 2 LBW # 327

1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.

### DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Worship God, Follow Jesus, Serve Others, and Make Disciples.

C Thanks be to God.

### POSTLUDE

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS – March 23**

	8:30 AM	11:00 AM
ACOLYTE		SAM WITTEN
ASSISTING MINISTER	ANNA LAYNE	BETH PITTMAN
INTERIM PASTOR	PASTOR DAVID HINKELMAN	

*The Altar Flowers are given to the Glory of God and in celebration of Cecilia Bunch on her birthday from her family; and in remembrance of Charlie Pitts from Norma.*



*Please check the 2025 Altar Flower Chart located above the usher stand to order flowers in honor of someone special or celebrating special occasions. Price is \$25.00 per vase.*