





# ALL SAINTS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Ministers: The People of All Saints

Rev. Serena Mollenkopf-Grill, Interim Pastor      Cell: 716-510-2939

Peter Van Scozza, Organist

Rev. Paul R. Mertzlufft, Pastor Emeritus

## Third Sunday in Lent March 8, 2026

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection east, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal – offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.



### 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

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

**C Amen.**

**P** Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P** Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P** For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P** For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P** For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:  
Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P** For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers:  
Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P** For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:  
Gracious God,

**C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**P** For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**☩ have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**☩** God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of †Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**☩ Amen.**

### **WE GATHER TO WORSHIP THE LORD**

Hymn	LBW # 327
Greeting	pg 78
The Kyrie	pg 78

The Prayer of the Day

**☩** The Lord be with you.

**☩ And also with you.**

**☩** Let us pray together:

**☩ Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Children in grades Pre-K-5th join together for Kids' Kingdom.

*[sit]*

### **WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD**

**The First Reading:** Exodus 17:1-7

**F**rom the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses, and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against

Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup> The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

### **The Psalm: #95** (Spoken)

- <sup>1</sup> O come, let us sing | to the LORD;  
let us make a joyful noise to the rock of | our salvation!
- <sup>2</sup> **Let us come into his presence | with thanksgiving;**  
**let us make a joyful noise to him with | songs of praise!**
- <sup>3</sup> For the LORD is | a great God,  
and a great King a- | bove all gods.
- <sup>4</sup> **In his hand are the depths | of the earth;**  
**the heights of the mountains | are his also.**
- <sup>5</sup> The sea is his, | for he made it,  
and the dry land, which his | hands have formed.
- <sup>6</sup> **O come, let us worship | and bow down,**  
**let us kneel before the | LORD, our Maker!**
- <sup>7</sup> For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture,  
and the sheep | of his hand.  
O that today you would listen | to his voice!
- <sup>8</sup> **Do not harden your hearts, as at | Meribah,**  
**as on the day at Massah in the | wilderness,**
- <sup>9</sup> when your ancestors | tested me,  
and put me to the proof, though they had | seen my work.
- <sup>10</sup> **For forty years I loathed that | generation**  
**and said, "They are a people whose hearts go astray,**  
**and they do not re- | gard my ways."**
- <sup>11</sup> Therefore in my ang- | er I swore,  
"They shall not ent- | er my rest."

### **The Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11**

**T**herefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained

access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person--though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*[stand]*

The Lenten Verse	pg 83
The Gospel Responses	pg 83

### **The Holy Gospel: John 4:5-42**

So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. <sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw

water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

[sit]

## The Sermon

[stand]

The Hymn of the Day

LBW # 104

The Nicene Creed

pg 84

[sit]

## The Prayers

**A** Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

**A** O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint.

Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods.

Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses.

Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need (*especially*).

Hear us, O God.

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

**A** When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles.

Hear us, O God.

**G** **Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

**A** O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory.

Hear us, O God.

**G** **Your mercy is great.**

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

**G** **Amen.**

*[stand]*

The Peace

pg 86

*[sit]*

Preparation of the Lord's table

Choir Anthem

*[stand]*

The Offertory – “What Shall I Render”

pg 87

The Offertory Prayer

**A** Let us pray.

**G** **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. Amen.**

## WE CELEBRATE AT CHRIST'S TABLE

The Great Thanksgiving

The Preface

pg 88

The Sanctus – “Holy, holy, holy, ...”

pg 89

The Words of Institution

pg 90

The Lord's Prayer

pg 91

[sit]

Agnus Dei – “Lamb of God”

pg 92

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

**℣ 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. Amen.**

**WE ARE SENT FORTH TO SERVE**

The Blessing

**℣ 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.

☒ Amen.

Hymn

LBW # 94

The Dismissal

☒ Go in peace. Believe the good news.

☒ Thanks be to God.

+ + + + + + + + + + +

***ENTER TO WORSHIP – EXIT TO SERVE***

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Next week’s lessons: 1 Samuel 16:1-13, Psalm 23,  
Ephesians 5:8-14, John 9:1-41

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS and Other Volunteers

|                | <u>Through Today</u>           | <u>Beginning Tomorrow</u>      |
|----------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Worship Leader | Rev. Mary Ellen Larson         | Rev Devie Ellis                |
| Deacon         | Barbara Kurasch                | Beth Cheney                    |
| Ushers         | Marc Schwartz &<br>Volunteer   | Marc Schwartz &<br>Volunteer   |
| Lay Reader     | Lori Gawlak                    | Ron Heintz                     |
| Crucifer       | Volunteer                      | Volunteer                      |
| Count          | Beth Cheney &<br>Linda Spencer | Beth Cheney &<br>Linda Spencer |
| Altar Guild    | Martha Muck                    | Gail Hellert                   |
| Cleaning       | Joan Fabian                    | Bev Blette                     |

THIS WEEK

|           |         |   |
|-----------|---------|---|
| Today     | 9:30AM  | Bible Study   |
|           | 11:00AM | Worship, Holy Communion, Kid's Kingdom<br>Coffee Hour following worship |
| Wednesday | 7:00PM  | Lenten Worship at First Lutheran  |
| Thursday  | 10:00AM | Church council meeting  |
| Friday    | 10:15AM | Choir Practice  |
| Sunday    | 9:30AM  | Bible Study   |
|           | 11:00AM | Worship, Holy Communion, Kid's Kingdom                                  |

DEADLINE FOR APRIL NEWSLETTER

OUR TRANSITION PASTOR, Pastor Serena Mollenkopf-Grill will be at All Saints on Thursday mornings from 9 AM to noon. If you are in need of pastoral care you can reach her at 716-510-2939.

BENEATH THE CROSS OF JESUS is the theme for our Wednesday evening worship. Lynn Whitworth will be leading the service. This week the service will be at First Lutheran, Blasdell at 7 PM.

ALMS BOX money collected will go to Hearts to Homeless for this quarter.

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 in the back of the Fellowship Hall to deposit them.