

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



March 22, 2020

WELCOME

*We welcome you to Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church!
If you are worshipping with us for the first time, WELCOME,
If you are worshipping again, WELCOME BACK.
Worship is much more joyful when we add our voices to offer praise and
thanksgiving. If you need anything, just ask one of the ushers or greeters.
A nursery is provided for younger children should you want to use it at any time. If
you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon,
Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!*

Again welcome...

PRE-SERVICE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Please see the Community Announcements in the back section of the bulletin.
Please note that all the congregation responses are printed in **Bold and Italics**.*

PRELUDE

We are silent as we prepare our hearts for worship.

THE GATHERING

*We stand and face the baptismal font.
All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist.
Amen.

*Please turn to face the cross at the doors of the sanctuary. As broken children, we
begin worship by acknowledging our sinfulness and asking for God's forgiveness.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us.

***We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.***

We have wandered from your resurrection life.

We have strayed from your love for all people.

Turn us back to you, O God.

***Give us new hearts and right spirits,
that we may find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.***

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.

“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.

All your sin is forgiven in the name of ✝ Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

Amen.

As the cross passes your pew, please turn your bodies and worship attention to the altar.

HYMN

Open Our Eyes, Lord

W&P 113

O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

Je - sus, to reach out and touch

him, and say that we love him.

O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

GREETING

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

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

We sit.

THE WORD

READING: Samuel 16:1-13

A reading from Samuel.

¹The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ²Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’”

³Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴Samuel did what the LORD commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD’s anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰Jesse made seven of his sons pass

before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹²He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” ¹³Then Samuel took the horn of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 23

Read responsively.

¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

***²The LORD makes me lie down in green
pastures and leads me beside still waters.***

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name’s sake.

***⁴Though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff,
they comfort me.***

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

***⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the
house of the LORD forever.***

READING: Ephesians 5:8-14

A reading from Ephesians.

⁸Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; ¹³but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL: John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰But

they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.

²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹We know that God has

spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³²Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” ³⁴They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

³⁵Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

We sit.

CHILDREN’S SERMON

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

Please pray with me the prayer of preparation.

Holy God, you have a word for me today. Make my heart soft and plant your word in me in order that it may bear fruit in your kingdom. Amen.

MESSAGE

Live as children of the light

We stand.

HYMN

You Are Mine

W&P 158



1 "I will come to you in the si - lence,
2 "I am hope for all who are hope - less,
3 "I am strength for all the de - spair - ing,
(4) am the Word that leads all to free - dom,

I



I will lift you from all your fear.
I am eyes for all who long to see.
heal-ing for the ones who dwell in shame.
am the peace the world can - not give.

(2) In the



You will hear my voice, I claim you as my choice. Be
shad-ows of the night, I will be your light.
All the blind will see, the lame will all run free, and
I will call your name, em - brac - ing all your pain. Stand



still and know I am here.
Come and rest in me.
all will know my name.
up, now walk and live!

To stanza 2

To refrain

To refrain

To refrain



Do not be a-fraid, I am with you. I have called you each by



name. Come and fol-low me, I will bring you home; I



love you and you are mine."

To stanzas 3 and 4

4 "I

APOSTLES' CREED

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

***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 catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.***

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*After each petition: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.***

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE MEAL

OFFERING

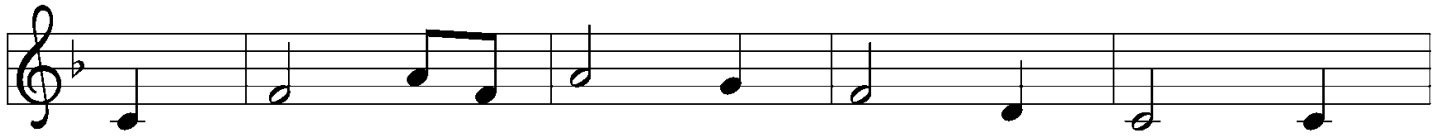
We give our monetary offering to support Christ's mission in this place and around the world in gratitude of God's amazing grace. You may make a contribution any time by visiting **www.mthlc.org** and click on "On-line Giving." Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Amazing Grace

ELW 779



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

We stand.

OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together.

***Holy and generous host,
you set a table where we feast as friends.
Prepare us to witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever. Amen.***

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

***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.***

THE SENDING

BLESSING

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation.

*Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, † bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace. **Amen.***

As the cross passes your seat, please turn and follow as we are sent into the world to proclaim the Gospel through our lives.

Refrain

A E/A D A/C# Bm B⁷

Shine, Je - sus, shine, fill this land with the

E A E/A D A

Fa - ther's glo - ry; blaze, Spir - it, blaze, set our

Bm Bm/A G E A E/A D A/C#

hearts on fire. Flow, riv - er, flow, flood the

Bm B⁷ E A E/A

na - tions with grace and mer - cy; send forth your Word,

D A/C# Bm E⁷ A D

Lord, and let there be light!

To stanzas
E/A D/A

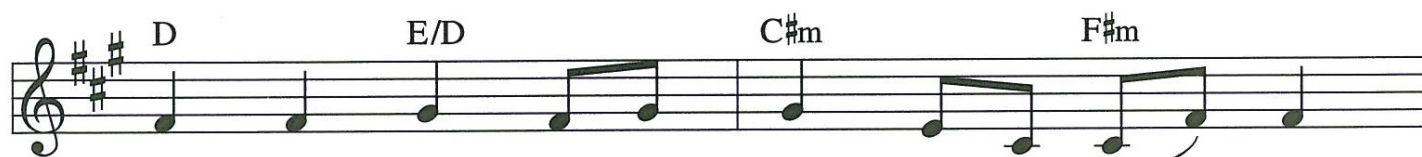
Last time
A

A D/A A E/A

1 Lord, the light of your love is shin - ing,
2 As we gaze on your king - ly bright - ness,

A D/A A E/A

in the midst of the dark - ness, shin - ing;
so our fac - es dis - play your like - ness,



Je - sus, light of the world, shine up - on us,
ev - er chang - ing from glo - ry to glo - ry,



set us free by the truth you now bring us.
mir - rored here, may our lives tell your sto - ry.



Shine on on me, shine on on me:
Shine on on me, shine on on me:

Refrain

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in love and not in fear. Christ loves you!

Thanks be to God.

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# **COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The altar flowers are given today to the Glory of God and in honor of our wonderful & caring church family. Thank you for your prayers. Love, Parker & Diane Boulware

**Tithes, and Offering for 03/15/2020**  
**Attendance: Worship – 115; Sunday School – 27**

|                                 |          |            |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------|
| <b>Current &amp; Benevolent</b> | Received | \$3,153.05 |
| <b>Building Improvement</b>     | Received | \$175.00   |
| <b>Growing on Holy Ground</b>   | Received | \$1,280.00 |

## **Honorariums and Memorials (all funds)**

In memory of Nell Buff's sister, Myrtle Jenkins, by Bobby & Doris Carver

In memory of Roy Lindler, father of Nancy Addison and Becky Wise, by Bobby & Doris Carver, Karen Nicholson, Jean & James





**Tithe.ly** Online Giving.  
You may download the Tithely app and select  
Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church 3011 Leaphart Road

Or you may give from our website at [www.mthlc.com](http://www.mthlc.com)  
and select *Online Giving*  
**<http://www.mthlc.com/online-giving.html>**

**Dementia Through the Lens of Grace**  
discussion with  
Bishop Kenneth L. Carder  
Sunday, March 22  
4 p.m.  
Mt. Hermon  
Lutheran Church  
*Opportunities for the Church  
to be in Ministry*

**Bake Sale**  
Saturday, March 28  
Bring Your Goodies  
10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
**Ladies**  
Let's Have A Great Bake Sale

  
**16th Annual  
Chicken Stew**  
**\$7 per plate**  
includes  
coleslaw, pickles &  
bread  
or  
**\$9 per quart**  
*Eat In or Take Out*  
**March 28, 2020  
11 am to 2 pm**  
*Advanced ticket  
purchase desired*  
**Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church**  
3011 Leaphart Road, West Columbia  
*Proceeds go to Mt. Hermon Debt Reduction  
and Lutheran Men in Mission*

*postponed*



**We have been asked by the Red Cross not to cancel this:**

### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

**April 26, 2020 11:30-4:00**

Mt. Hermon is sponsoring a Red Cross Blood Drive on **Sunday, April 26** from **11:30 am–4:00 pm**. Please make plans to donate blood to save a life. You can register to give by going to [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and enter Sponsor Code “**mthermon**” to make your appointment or call the Church Office, 803.794.6430, so that we can get you registered.

# MT HERMON PRAYS ...

*\*everyone who has been effected by the virus and sickness*

*\*Family of Marie Pitt & family, family of Buddy & Angie Hydrick*

## ***Homebound and Care Facilities***

Nell Buff, *Home*

Patricia Bachman, *Carolina Gardens*

Hazel Bockus, *Carolina Gardens*

Lynwood Crout, *Home*

Tom & June Roof, *Home*

Margie Hook, *Home*

Lois Watson, *Lexington Place*

Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

Rev. Everette Price, *Home*

Ernie Swygert, *Home*

## ***Members in Special Need of Prayer***

Alberta Berry

Connie Bucknam

Lila Catt

Jim Whitaker

Jeff Bucknam, *deployed*

## ***Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers***

Megan Sease, *granddaughter of Earl & Mary Frances Sease*

Jane Park, *friend of Pastor Gina & Dion*

Jean Wooten, *friend of Linda Waters-Hamilton*

Tommy Roof, *son of Tom & June Roof*

Martha Eastwood, *sister of Marie Kleckley*

Eric Powell, *friend of Kim Fulmer*

Bob Eastwood, *brother-in-law of Marie Kleckley*

Harold & Mary Prater, *parents of Ray Prater*

Sonny Williams, *friend of Kenny Bouknight*

Molly Kate Shealy, *friend of Jean Shealy*

Chuck Backman, *nephew of Jean Shealy*

Floyd Fuller, *uncle of David Marsh*

Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*

Gary & Linda Hodgins, *friends of Herb & Connie Bucknam*

Lois Moore & family, *family of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman*

Bill Harrell, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*

Don Morris, *father of Keith Morris*

Cheryl Coureville, *friend of Herb & Connie Bucknam*

Mary Frances Hamilton, *friend of congregation*

Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*

Jimmy Mills, *father of Tommy Mills*

Richie Tallent, *friend of Danny Scott*

Mandy McLemore, *co-worker of Amanda Boyd, Kim Addy, & Alyson Price*

John Catoe, *family of Ellisors*

Jenifer Gooding, *co-worker of Joel Price Jr. & Mary Price* Todd Hewitt, *friend of Missy Addy*

Sherri Crapps, *sister-in-law of Linda Waters-Hamilton*



Website: [mthlc.org](http://mthlc.org)  
3011 Leaphart Road  
West Columbia, SC 29169  
[office@mthlc.org](mailto:office@mthlc.org) 803.794.6430  
Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm

|                                           |              |                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Rev. Gina D. Metze, <i>Pastor</i>         | 803.951.3784 | <a href="mailto:PastorGinaMetze@gmail.com">PastorGinaMetze@gmail.com</a> |
| Ruthie Brannen, <i>Cantor</i>             |              | <a href="mailto:RuthieBrannen@gmail.com">RuthieBrannen@gmail.com</a>     |
| Susan LaCons, <i>Parish Administrator</i> | 803.794.6430 | <a href="mailto:office@mthlc.org">office@mthlc.org</a>                   |

### **CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS**

|                                           |                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| Ronnie Fulmer, <i>President</i>           | Marion Leaphart, <i>Vice President</i>          |
| Robin Ellisor, <i>Secretary</i>           | Parker Boulware, <i>Treasurer</i>               |
| Annette Price, <i>Financial Secretary</i> | Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, <i>Sextons</i> |

### **Sunday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> *Fourth Sunday in Lent***

9:00 am Holy Communion Worship – Live Stream

10:15 am Sunday School – ***Cancelled***

### **Wednesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am – 12:00 Food Pantry (Doris Mattox)

### **Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am – 12:00 Food Pantry

### **Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> *Fifth Sunday in Lent***

9:00 am Holy Communion Worship – Live Stream

### **Wednesday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**

9:00 am – 12:00 Food Pantry (Angie Hydrick)

### **Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>**

9:00 am – 12:00 Food Pantry

### **Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>**

10:00 am Easter Eggstravaganza – ***Cancelled***