

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Sunday, March 31, 2019 Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church West Columbia, SC 9:00am Worship

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 Partita On Ebenezer "Thy Strong Word" Behnke

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

PRELUDE I Gave My Life for Thee Arr. Mark Hayes 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, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new. **Amen.**

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God who calls us from the margins, We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of + Christ, leading you from death into life. Amen.

As the cross passes your pew, please turn your bodies and worship attention to the front of the sanctuary.



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.

KYRIE



We come to hear your liv-ing word; it saves us from de-spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re-new us with your sav-ing pow'r; cre-ate in us new hearts!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We pray together.

God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

We sit.

THE WORD

READING: Joshua 5:9-12

A reading from Joshua.

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32

¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!

³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.

⁵Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

8"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

⁹Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

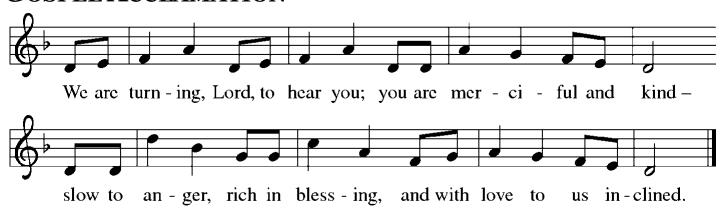
A reading from 2nd Corinthians.

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

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

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The holy gospel according to Luke the 15th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ¹¹b There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands." '20So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

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.

We stand.



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

Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

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

The Prayers conclude:

Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.

We sit.

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. Please also take this time in worship to complete the pew registers.

OFFERING

Deep, Deep Love

Dengler

OFFERTORY

As the Deer

W&P 9



As the deer pants for the wa-ter, so my soul longs af - ter you.



You a - lone are my heart's de - sire and I long to wor - ship you.



You a - lone are my strength, my shield, to you a - lone may my spir-it yield;



you a - lone are my heart's de - sire, and I long to wor-ship you.

OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together.

Generous God,

you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.

Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.

Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

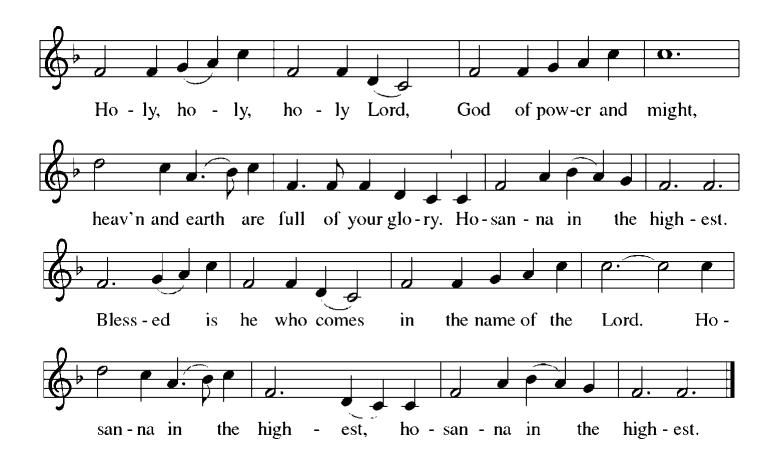
The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

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.*

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:



EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

In the night in which he was betrayed...

With this bread and cup, we remember our Lord's Passover from death to life and we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's abundant life for you.

We sit.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

All are welcome to this Meal. Come down the center aisle to receive the bread. Glutenfree wafers are also available. Then move to the chalice (cup) of wine, dip the bread in the wine. Return to your pew by the side aisle. Those not communing for any reason may come forward for a blessing. Those who desire communion but who are not able to come forward will be communed first in their pew.

Please take this time to complete the Friendship Registration Pads which are located on the pew near the center aisle.

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Lamb of God



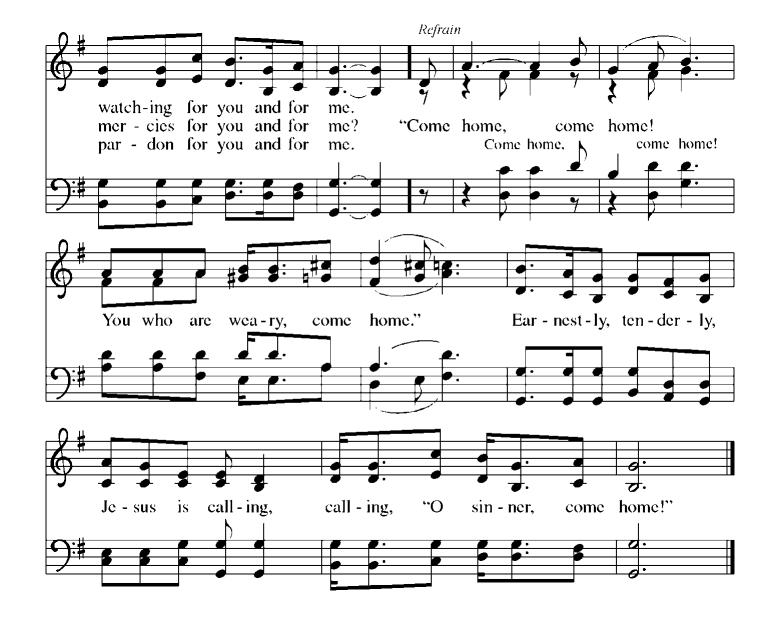
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way; 3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray. you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray. e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling ELW 608





We stand.

COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you and give you peace for this Lenten journey.

Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray together.

Tender and merciful one, at your feast, you fed us who brought nothing, turning our emptiness into joy. Filled with your abundant grace, send us now to be ministers of reconciliation, mending broken hearts, working for justice, and striving for peace among all people, in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE SENDING

BLESSING

God, who fills the creation with abundance, Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness, Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us, + bless you and bring you to life everlasting. *Amen.*



DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Remember the poor.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Arise, My Soul Arise!

Burkhardt

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWERS that beautify our sanctuary today are given to the Glory of God and in honor of Daryl Leigh Anthony's birthday by Rick Anthony.

Help decorate the sanctuary on Easter Sunday by purchasing an Easter lily. The cost is \$8.50. You may remember a loved one, honor a loved one, or give to the glory of God. If you have a box of offering envelopes, you may use the Easter Lily envelope. You may also place a check and note in the offering plate. If you have any questions, call the church office at 803.794.6430. Please place your order by Sunday, April 7th.





Come meet **Thomas** this week.











Come and begin Holy Week as we celebrate Palm Sunday and the Entrance into Jerusalem.

Hear the MANDATE for us to love one another. We will share a meal and strip the altar.





This worship service will be a combination of choral music and Tenebrae service. Come and hear about the life of Jesus. Be reminded of the One who healed, the One who washed the feet, the One whom we crucified. Continue the journey to the Good Friday cross and the sealed tomb.

This is our Passover from Christ from darkness to light, from the bondage to freedom, from death to life.











Easter Morning Celebration



7:00 – 8:00 Join the Congregation in the Fellowship Hall for Breakfast

Bring flowers to decorate the cross. We will gather at 8:00 at the cross.





8:30 Festival Music begins.



Tithes, and Offering for 3-24-19 Attendance: Worship – 98; Sunday School - 53

Current & Benevolent

Over/(Under)

Needed \$4,074.75 * Received \$2,388.67 (\$1,686.08)

Building Improvement

Needed \$346.15 * Received \$132.00 (\$214.15)

Building on Holy Ground

Needed \$1,646.15 Received \$1,108.00 (\$538.15)

Honorariums and Memorials (all funds)

In honor of our musicians by the Swygert family

In memory of Harold Driver, Pastor Gina's father, by Eldon Eargle

Mt Hermon has chosen Sightler's Florist, effective immediately, to be our new florist. Sightlers is located at 716 Meeting Street, West Columbia, SC 29169. Normal weekly arrangements are \$55.00. Please write "flowers" on your check and place it in the offering plate. Should you have special instructions for your Sunday, please call Sightler's Florist 803-794-2859. If your request results in an increased cost, you will be given the new amount so that you can adjust your check amount. If

you have made special arrangement with Pineview Florist for any upcoming Sunday, we request that you cancel and secure your needs with Sightler's Florist.



^{*}Please note the corrected weekly amounts needed. This amount is the Adopted Yearly Budget divided by 52 weeks.

Serving Today* Serving April 7th*

Greeter: Jenny Scott Fran Bouknight

Crucifer: Jackson Price Bryce Addy

Acolytes Josh Koon Karly Addy

Mackenzie Burns Brayden Rutherford

Lector: Parker Boulware Allison Swygert

Communion Asst.

Joel Price, Sr. Bryce Addy

Angie Hydrick Karly Addy

Marion Leaphart

Children's Sermon:

Diane Boulware Ruthie Brannen

Nursery: Grace Roof, Haley Addy, Grace Roof, Larry Amick

& Karen Nicholson Kay Bryant

Food Pantry: April 3 April 10

Renee Greenbaum Diane Boulware

Serving in March*

Council Representative: Emily Morris

Altar Guild: Mary Frances Sease, Marie Kleckley, Kim Jolly

Tabulators:

Annette Price, Ronnie Fulmer, Buddy Hydrick, Larry Amick

Ushers: Marion Leaphart, Herb Bucknam, Parker Boulware, Tommy Mills

^{*} If you are unable to serve, please ask someone to cover for you and notify the church office of the change. If you have a responsibility in worship, please arrive no later than 8:45am

OUR CHURCH AT PRAYER

Homebound and Care Facilities

Nell Buff, *Home* Margie Hook, *Home*

Patricia Bachman, Carolina Gardens Lois Watson, Lexington Place

Hazel Bockus, *Home* Lena Wessinger, *Presby. Home*

Lynwood Crout, *Home* Connie Bucknam, *Lex. Medical*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

Alberta Berry Trudy Bouknight Linda Waters-Hamilton

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Our Prayers

Mary Frances Hamilton, friend of congregation

Kathryn & Don Bergeron, friends of Herb and Connie Bucknam

Iris Wellborn, sister of Earl Sease

Scott Coleman, brother of Dennis Thurman

Jim & Vickie Burcham, family of Dennis Thurman

W.A. "Buddy" Keller, friend of Marion & Cyndi

Nellie Gantt, mother of Mary Price

Jimmy Mills, father of Tommy Mills

Tressa Oswalt, sister of Angie Hydrick

Sue Reeves, friend of Dennis and Cyndi Thurman

Linda Rea, friend of Marion & Cyndi

Jason Thurman, son of Dennis & Cyndi Thurman

Richie Tallent, friend of Danny Scott

Todd Hewitt, friend of Missy Addy

Charlotte Martindle, family of Kelli Mills

Kaiden Robinson, friend Kelli Mills

Rose Little, daughter of Marie Kleckley

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

Megan Sease, granddaughter of Earl & Mary Frances

Elaine Donaldson, Doris Maddox's daughter

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, April 7, 2019 ~ Fifth Sunday in Lent

9:00 am Holy Communion Worship

10:15 am Sunday School

11:00 am Tone Chime Choir

4:00 pm Confirmation

Monday, April 8th

6:30 pm Lutheran Men

Tuesday, April 9th

1:00 pm Bulletin Deadline

6:30 pm Outreach Team Meeting

Wednesday, April 10th

6:00 pm Chancel Bells

6:35 pm Lenten Worship: Come meet Mary Magdalene

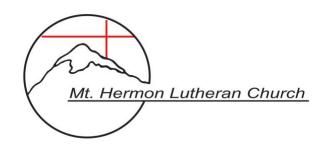
7:00 pm Lenten Meals

Thursday, April 11th

6:00 pm Chancel Choir

Saturday, April 13th





3011 Leaphart Road West Columbia, SC 29169 office@mthlc.org 803.794.6430 Monday – Friday 9:00 am – 1:00 pm Pastor Gina 803.951.3784

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor* Ruthie Brannen, *Cantor* Church Office

803.951.3784

PastorGinaMetze@gmail.com RuthieBrannen@gmail.com office@mthlc.org

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

President, *Terry Swygert* Secretary, *Alyson Price* Financial Secretary, *Annette Price* Vice President, Ronnie Fulmer Treasurer, Emily Morris Sextons, Ricky Bouknight, Allison & Terry Swygert

Sunday, March 31, 2019 ~ Fourth Sunday in Lent

9:00 am Holy Communion Worship

10:15 am Sunday School

11:00 am Tone Chime Choir

5:00 pm Worship Team Meeting

Tuesday, April 2nd

1:00 pm Bulletin Deadline

Wednesday, April 3rd

6:00 pm Chancel Bells

6:35 pm Lenten Worship: Come meet Thomas

7:00 pm Meal in Fellowship Hall

Thursday, April 4th

6:00 pm Chancel Choir