

THIRD SUNDAY
in
LENT

MARCH 23, 2025

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. If you would like to discuss discipleship at Mt. Hermon, Pastor Gina would love to speak with you!

Again welcome ...

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**.*

We prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

Deliver Us

Peterson/CCLI #4752291

THE GATHERING

We stand and face the baptismal font.

Blessed be the holy Trinity,

† one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We return to God, confessing our sin the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,

*you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.*

*We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.*

*We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
You grant to all people.*

We oppress others,

even though you have set us free and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives

and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ, you are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

As fully forgiven children of God, turn and face the altar as the cross passes you.

HYMN

Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer

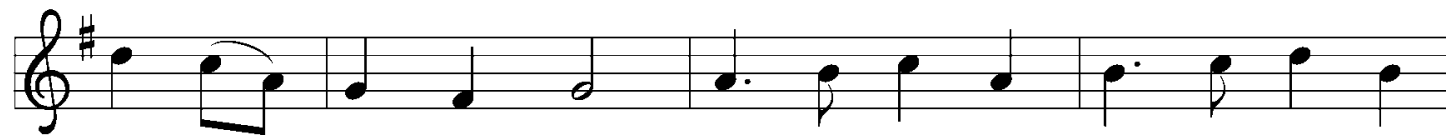
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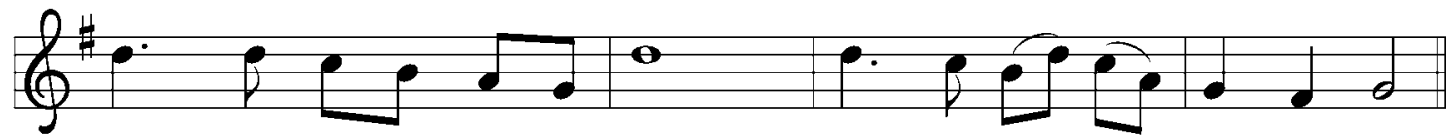
1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

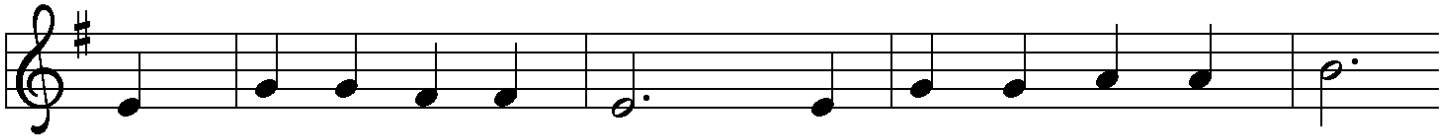
GREETING

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

Augsburg Fortress #SB153820



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



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.

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.

We sit.

THE WORD

Isaiah 55:1-9

A reading from Isaiah.

¹ 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.

² 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.

³ 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.

⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵ 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.

⁶ Seek the Lord while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷ 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.

⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.

⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

Word of God, teaching us the way.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 63:1-8

¹ 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.

*² Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.*

³ For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.

*⁴ So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.*

⁵ My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

*⁶ when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.*

⁷ For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

*⁸ My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.*

1 Corinthians 10:1-13

A reading from 1st Corinthians.

¹ 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, ² and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³ and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴ and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵ Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶ Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷ 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.” ⁸ We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹ We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰ And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹ 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. ¹² So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³ 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.

Word of God, teaching us the way.

Thanks be to God.

We stand.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Augsburg Fortress Liturgies #SB153820



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

The holy gospel according to St. Luke the 13th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

CHILDREN’S TIME

fruit

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.

SERMON

being intentional

We stand.

HYMN

O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts

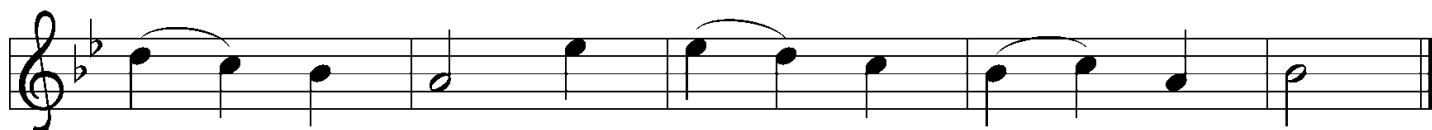
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1 O Je - sus, joy of lov - ing hearts, the fount of
2 We taste you, ev - er - liv - ing bread, and long to
3 For you our rest - less spir - its yearn, wher - e'er our
4 O Je - sus, ev - er with us stay! Make all our



life, the light of all: from ev - 'ry bliss that earth im -
feast up - on you still; we drink of you, the foun - tain -
chang - ing lot is cast; glad, when your smile on us you
mo - ments fair and bright! Oh, chase the night of sin a -



parts we turn, un - filled, to hear your call.
head; our thirst - ing souls from you we fill.
turn, blest, when by faith we hold you fast.
way! Shed o'er the world your ho - ly light.

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

Led by the Spirit, we turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

God in your mercy, receive our prayer.

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. **Amen.**

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.

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 contribute any time by visiting www.WeAreMtHermon.org and click on "On-line Giving." Thank you for your gifts and your stewardship. **Friendship pads** have returned to the pews. Please take a moment to sign the forms so that we may get to know our neighbors and we will also have a record of your communing.

ANTHEM

As Rain from the Clouds

Spilman/OneLicense #22337

We stand.

OFFERTORY

Bread of Life

Hamilton, Meisenheimer/CCLI #7252237

D Em G D Em G

Verses

1. If you're hun - gry, come, tired_ and un - done, there's a
 2. Bring your wear - y mind, ev - ery tear you've cried, there is

D Em G D Em G D Em G

place for you, a place for you at the ta - ble._ If you're lone - ly, come,
 peace for you, ___ peace for you at the ta - ble._ Lay your bur - dens down,

D Em G D Em G

fill your emp - ty cup, _ there's a drink for you, _ a drink for you at the
 hope is all a - round, you are wel - come here, ___ wel - come here at the

D Em G G D/F# Bm A

Refrain

ta - ble._ Bread of life, Je - sus with us, ___ heal - ing our hearts with love.
 ta - ble._

G D/F# Bm A

Bread of life, bro-ken for you, share with a - noth - er too.

G D Bm A G D D(sus4) D

There is e-nough. Oh there will al-ways be, so take this bread with me.

OFFERING PRAYER

We give thanks for these gifts and we pray together.

Gracious Provider,

***you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.***

As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,

***Deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with
others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.***

THE MEAL

Christ is truly present in the most ordinary and unexpected of places.

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.

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.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

In the night in which he was betrayed...

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

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

God, our great provider, the bread of life nourishes and sustains us. Send the Spirit to fill this bread and wine. ***Come, Holy Spirit.***

This meal fills your people with your abundant mercy and draws us closer to you and with one another. We long to be filled with your bread. Strengthen us in your presence.

Come, Holy Spirit.

We worship and adore you. We fall at your feet to be near you. Show us your great power and assure us of your mighty presence. ***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

All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is here.
We sit.

COMMUNION

Please come forward using the side aisles to receive communion. You will receive the bread and then you may dip in the first chalice of wine, or in the second chalice of grape juice. You may then return to your pews using the center aisle. Please return to your pews for a time of quiet prayer and meditation. If this is the first Sunday of the month, we also offer communion at the rail. On this Sunday, you may continue through the side doors and an usher will guide you to the altar to receive communion.

MUSIC

I Received the Living God

Anonymous/OneLicense #87225

We stand.

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

May the Body and Blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ,
strengthen you and keep you in His grace. ***Amen.***

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

We pray together.

***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. Amen.***

THE SENDING

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
† bless you now and forever. *Amen.*

HYMN

Lead Me, Guide Me

Akers/OneLicense #195322

Refrain



Lead me, guide me, a-long the way, For if you



lead me, I can - not stray. Lord, let me walk each



day with thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.



1. I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r to
2. Help me tread in the paths of right - eous - ness, Be my
3. I am lost if you take your hand from me, I am



help me o - ver my weak - est hour. Help me through the
aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press. I am put - ting
blind with - out thy Light to see, Lord, just al - ways



dark-ness thy face to see, Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
all my trust in thee. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.
let me thy ser - vant be. Lead me, oh Lord, lead me.

As the cross passes your pew, turn and face the entrance of the sanctuary.

SENDING

The Blessing

Brown, Carnes, Jobe, Furtick/CCLI #7147007

The Lord bless you — and keep you,
make his face shine — up - on — you and be gra - cious — to you.
The Lord turn his — face toward you and give you peace.
— A - men, a -
-men, a - men. A - men, a -
-men, a - men. D.C. || D.S. |
-men, a - men. - men.

SENDING OF GOD'S PEOPLE

We follow the light of Christ into the world.

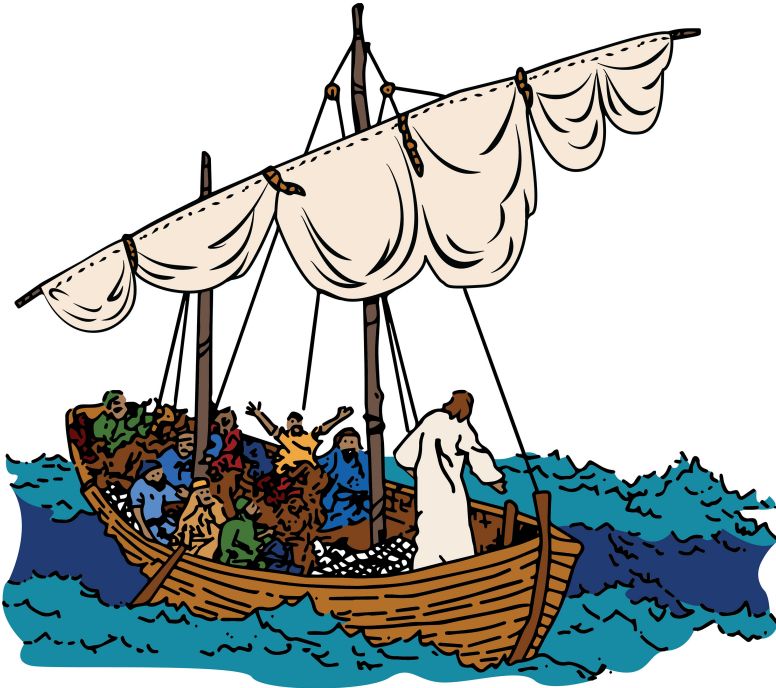
We are God's people on a mission.

We have gathered. We have been fed.

Now, we go out to make a difference in the world. Amen.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

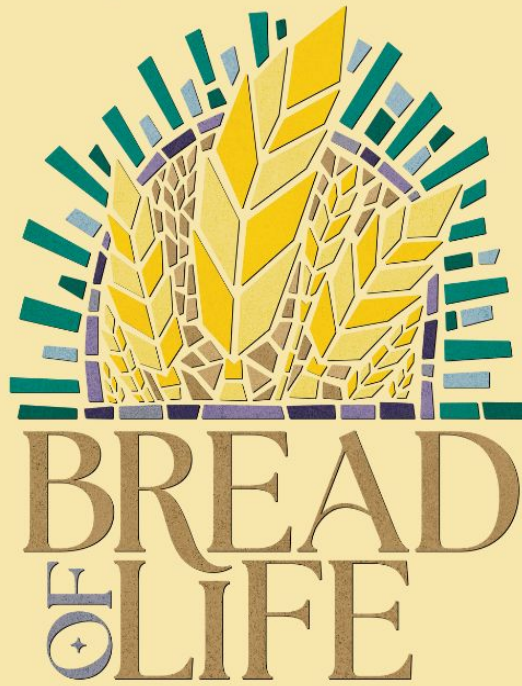
The altar flowers are given to the glory of God and in honor of Nana's birthday by Abbey & Emmy Carroll.



Thank you to the youth for leading worship and reminding all of us the importance of trusting Jesus even in the midst of the storms!

Jesus calms the storm

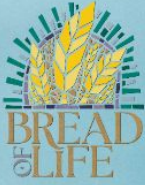
Lenten Worship
Every Wednesday ~ March 12 - April 9
6:30 pm in the Sanctuary



*Spring flowers will decorate the sanctuary
and the outside cross on Easter Morning.*

*If you would like to make a financial
contribution to purchase flowers and have
someone's name(s) listed in the
memorial/honorarium bulletin, please make a
donation by April 13th*

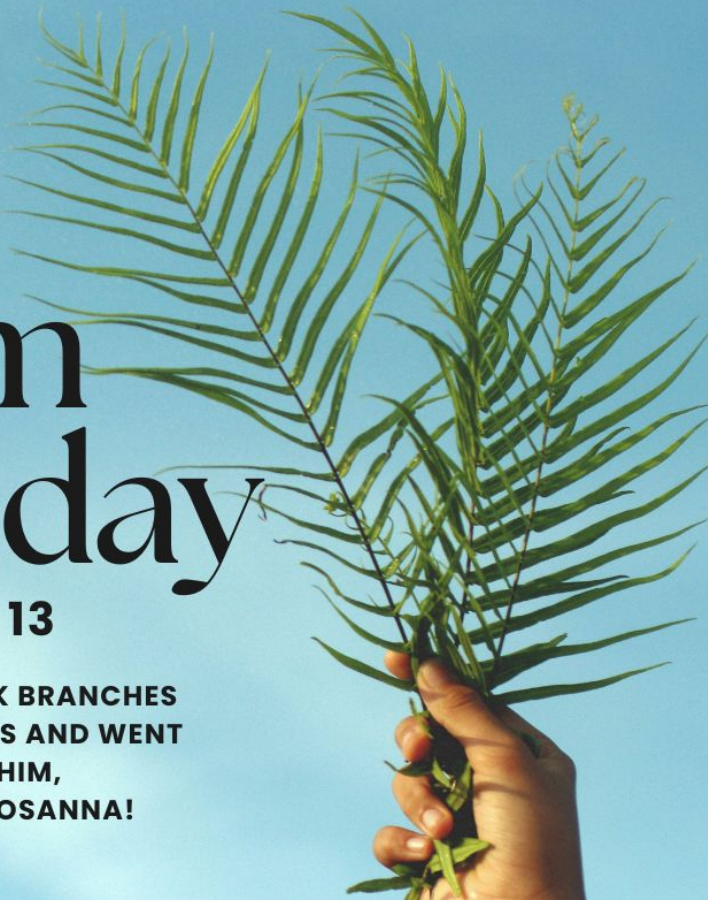
*Please call the church office
if you have any questions 803.794.6430*



Palm Sunday

APRIL 13

“ SO THEY TOOK BRANCHES OF PALM TREES AND WENT OUT TO MEET HIM, SHOUTING “HOSANNA!



SAVE THE DATE

**MT. HERMON
PICNIC**

MAY 4, 2025

More details to come!



TITHES AND OFFERINGS

03/16/2025

In person attendance 100 +live stream 148 = 248

| | | |
|---------------------------------|----------|------------|
| Current & Benevolent | Received | \$2,965.07 |
| Building Fund | Received | \$301.00 |
| Building Improvement | Received | \$67.00 |

HONORARIUMS AND MEMORIALS

In memory of **Stephen Michael Price** by Mom and Dad.

We livestream each week to Facebook. Did you also know that we also livestream to YouTube? Like us on Facebook and subscribe on YouTube



@mthermonlutheran3011



Mt. Hermon Lutheran Church,
West Columbia, SC

SERVING IN WORSHIP

| | Today | Next Sunday |
|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Ushers: | Joel Price, Jr. | Larry Amick |
| | Teddy Koon | Kay Bryant |
| Crucifer: | Walker Kinard | Quentin Kinard |
| Acolyte: | Adelaide Bryant | Mackenzie Burns |
| Lector: | Ronnie Fulmer | DJ Plummer |
| Communion Assts: | Joel Price, Jr. | Quentin Kinard |
| | Ronnie Fulmer | Mackenzie Burns |
| | Spencer Price | DJ Plummer |
| | Sherwood Garrett | Danny Scott |
| | Walker Kinard | Jenny Scott |
| Audio: | Brandon Donaldson | Ryan Corley |
| Video: | Marie Gardner | Rick Duval |
| Nursery: | Kay Bryant | Charlene Corley |
| | Larry Amick | DJ Plummer |
| Flowers: | Abbey & Emmy | Herb Bucknam |

SERVING IN MARCH

COUNCIL REP: Mary Koon

ALTAR GUILD: Mary Frances Sease, Diane Boulware

TABULATORS: Ann Addy, Mary Frances Sease

USHERS: Marion Leaphart, Dennis Thurman, Susan Busby

MT HERMON PRAYS

Continual Prayer

Patricia Bachman, *Asbury Arms*
Lauvenia Butts, *Lakeside Place*
Bobby & Doris Carver, *Presby Home*
Georgianna Gray, *home*
James Hallman, *Lakeside Place*
Marie Kleckley, *Lex Ext Care*

Gloria Mathias, *home*
Jane Sexton, *Phoenix Asst Living*
Jean Shealy, *Lakeside Place*
Cyndi Thurman, *Encompass*
Linda Waters-Hamilton, *home*

Members in Special Need of Prayer

| | | |
|----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Karly Addy | Bonnie Bouknight | Chris Carroll |
| Randy Clark | Debbie Duval | Debbie Fulmer |
| Michelle Gantt | Joye Haygood | Frankie Jackson |
| Dennis Thurman | Mary Frances Sease | Jim Whitaker |
| Wynne Price | | |

Family and Friends Who Have Requested Prayers

Billy Huckabee, *friend of Danny Scott*
Stetson Cooper, *grandson of Dan Cooper*
Paula Miller, *friend of Brittany Allen*
Dawn McIlwain-Merck, *friend of Robin Ellisor*
John Catoe, *family of the Ellisors*
Mrs. William L. Coleman Jr (Carolyn),
friends of Marion & Cyndi Leaphart
Iris Wellborn, *sister of Earl Sease*
Mrs. Cruz, *teacher of Abbey Carroll*
Phil Dennis, *brother of Lavonne Roof*
Nancy Lail-Hulon & Family,
friends of Debra & Dave Butts
Sandra Watson, *aunt of Courtney Bucknam*
Sarah Harmon, *friend of Courtney Bucknam*
Jaimie Womack, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Cynthia Rabon, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer Price*
Blase Rhine,
grandson of Frank & Bonnie Bouknight
Cynthia Mallard,
friend of Sheila Starkey & Beth Jordan
Jeslyn, *friend of Scarlett Bryant*
Tom Shaul, *friend of the Kinard Family*

Debbe Dearman, *neighbor of Kathy Cooper*
Max Schronce,
friend of the David & Scottie Marsh
Faye McCartha, *mother of Debra Butts*
Hayes Wingard,
grandson of Sam and Kathy Cooper
Robbie Rector, *friend Jennifer Miller*
Bill Geddings, *father of Allison Swygert*
Jane Baxley, *cousin of Michelle Gantt*
Joyce Davis, *grandmother of Jaquelyn Hawlik*
Will & Summer Satcher,
friend of Courtney Bucknam
Dorothy Collins, *friend of Ryan Price*
Lauren Addy, *friend of Kathy Cooper and Metztes*
Sam Lockridge, *friend of Scottie Marsh*
Mary Duffie, *mother of Alyson Price*
Thelma Moyer, *mother of Diane Boulware*
Kaiden Howell, *friend of Jacquelynn Hawlik*
Randy Stonehill, *friend of Ryan & Jennifer*
Linda Bennett, *mother of Beth Jordan*
Neice of *Abbey Carroll's teacher*



WeAreMtHermon

www.WeAreMtHermon.com

3011 Leaphart Road

West Columbia, SC 29169

Monday – Friday 9:00am – 1:00 pm

803.794.6430 / 803.240.3143 cell/text

Rev. Gina D. Metze, *Pastor*

803.951.3784

PastorGina@WeAreMtHermon.com

Svetlana Royal, *Director of Music*

Music@WeAreMtHermon.com

Roberta Smith, *Administrative Asst*

803.240.3143 cell

Office@WeAreMtHermon.com

CONGREGATIONAL OFFICERS

Terry Swygert, *President*

Ronnie Fulmer, *Vice President*

Sheila Eargle, *Secretary*

Frank Bouknight, *Treasurer*

Annette Price/Karen Nicholson, *Financial Secretary*

Ricky Bouknight & Terry Swygert, *Sextons*

THIS WEEK'S EVENTS

Sunday, March 23rd

9:00 am Worship

10:30 am Sunday School

11:30 am CR: Worship Team

Pastor Gina will be on Vacation Monday and Tuesday, Thursday through Monday. If you need immediate pastoral care, please call your Faith Family leader.

Tuesday, March 25th

6:30 pm CR: Support Team

6:30 pm Life Group at the Jacksons

Wednesday, March 26th

9:00 am Food Pantry

(David & Debra Butts, Rick & Debbie Duval)

12:05 pm FH: OneBody Worship

6:30 pm Lenten Worship

7:00 pm Lenten Meals: Worship Team

7:05 pm Handbell Practice

7:30 pm Choir Practice

Saturday, March 29th

9:00 am Food Pantry (Koon Family)