

*St. Luke Lutheran Church*

*Second Sunday in Lent*

*March 16, 2025*

*8:15AM & 10:45AM*

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**SERMON**

Pastor Wackenhuth  
"Outfoxing the Fox"

# Welcome to St. Luke Lutheran Church

20 Candlewood Path  
Dix Hills, NY 11746-5398  
Church: 631-499-8656 - Fax: 631-462-6496  
Preschool: 631-462-5216

Our Website: [www.stlukedixhills.org](http://www.stlukedixhills.org)  
Satellite for the Lutheran Counseling Center: 516-741-0994

## Welcome!

In the name of Jesus Christ, we welcome both members and guests to His church. We are present this day to worship Him. In this service we thank and honor our Lord for His many blessings and seek His guidance and comfort for each day of life.

- ❖ Be **reverent** and **thoughtful** in this Holy place.
- ❖ **Before** the service, speak with God.
- ❖ **During** the service, let God speak to you.
- ❖ **After** the service, speak to one another.

**As We Gather:** We begin our worship today praising the lamb of God who has taken away the sins of the world. For this saving work, Christ is truly worthy of praise, adoration, thanks and honor. He is truly worthy of our worship because of who He is and what He has done for us. Now we shall hear again the great story of salvation that was won for us by the Lamb of God. Rejoice! For the lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia!

## Holy Communion is celebrated at each Worship Service.

The Lord's Supper is a gift from our Savior in which He offers us Himself and His forgiveness. Those who partake witness their love for Him and their faith and fellowship for each other. If you have confessed your sins and if you have been properly instructed regarding the Lord's Supper, and believe in the presence of Christ in the form of bread and wine, which are the body and blood of Christ, please join us for the celebration of Holy Communion.

## REGULAR WORSHIP SCHEDULE

### Traditional Worship with Holy Communion

8:15am & 10:45am w/ Sunday School

**Contemporary Band plays Sundays two times/month (check online calendar)**

Sundays at 10:45 AM

## BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE

Sunday morning between services at 9:30 AM

Wednesday Mornings online at 10:00 AM

The **C.A.R.E Team** encourages *anyone experiencing illness or a challenging situation in their life to reach out to us for support. Support can consist of emotional/spiritual support, meals, transportation, help with errands or chores, and other areas as they are identified. Contact via **Hotline: (631) 600-0271** Or email [careteam@stlukedixhills.org](mailto:careteam@stlukedixhills.org) Coordinators: Trish Klare & Amanda Fenty*

## Mission Statement

**To know Christ and make him known by Serving, Teaching, and Loving.**

## PRELUDE

Variations on Reformation - Emma Lou Diemer

## PASTORAL GREETING

**INTROIT: Handbell Choir (10:45)**

“Lead on O King Eternal” - arr. Judy Phillips

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS - LSB 203

*(The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.)*

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

**People: who made heaven and earth.**

Pastor: If You, O Lord, kept a record of sins, O Lord, who could stand?

**People: But with You there is forgiveness; therefore You are feared.**

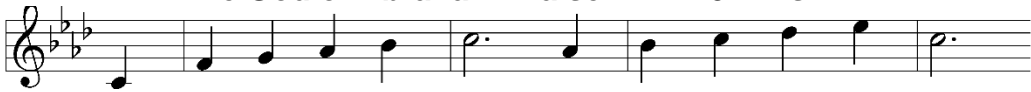
Pastor: Since we are gathered to hear God’s Word, call upon Him in prayer and praise, and receive the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ in the fellowship of this altar, let us first consider our unworthiness and confess before God and one another that we have sinned in thought, word, and deed, and that we cannot free ourselves from our sinful condition. Together as His people let us take refuge in the infinite mercy of God, our heavenly Father, seeking His grace for the sake of Christ, and saying: God, be merciful to me, a sinner.

**People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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 of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN**  
**“The God of Abraham Praise” LBW 544 vs. 1-4**



1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;  
 2 The God of A-br'ham praise, at whose su - preme com - mand  
 3 The God of A-br'ham praise, whose all - suf - fi - cient grace  
 4 He by him - self has sworn; I on his oath de - pend.



An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love.  
 from earth I rise and seek the joys at his right hand.  
 shall guide me all my pil - grim days in all my ways.  
 I shall, on ea - gle wings up - borne, to heav'n as - cend.



Je - ho - vah, great I AM! By earth and heav'n con - fessed;  
 I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—  
 He deigns to call me friend; he calls him - self my God!  
 I shall be - hold his face; I shall his pow'r a - dore,



I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.  
 and him my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.  
 And he shall save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.  
 and sing the won - ders of his grace for - ev - er - more.

**SUNDAY SCHOOL SONG**

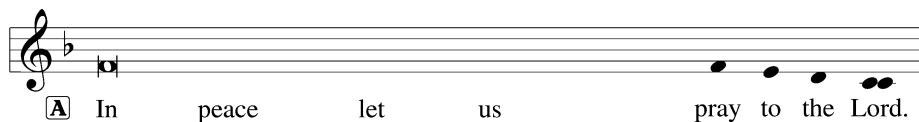
**SUNDAY SCHOOL DISMISSAL**  
**“The God of Abraham Praise” LBW 544 vs. 1**

**GREETING**

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

**People:** And also with you.

# KYRIE



**P** For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.



**P** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.



**P** For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.



**P** Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

### First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup> But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup> He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 27

- <sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?  
The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?
- <sup>2</sup> **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh,  
they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**
- <sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.  
Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.
- <sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek;  
that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon  
the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**
- <sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter,  
hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.
- <sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.  
Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will  
sing and make music to the LORD.**
- <sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call;  
have mercy on me and answer me.
- <sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.”  
Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**
- <sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.  
Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my  
salvation.
- <sup>10</sup> **Though my father and my mother forsake me,  
the LORD will take me in.**
- <sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD;  
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.
- <sup>12</sup> **Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing violence.**
- <sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!
- <sup>14</sup> **Wait for the LORD and be strong.  
Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

### **ANTHEM: Adult Choir (8:15)**

“We See the Mountains Lifted High Before Us” - arr. Hal Hopson

## Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Reader: This is the word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

### GOSPEL VERSE– LSB 205



These things are writ-ten that you may be-lieve that

Je-sus is the Christ, the Son of God.

A - men A - men A - men

### THE GOSPEL

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

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

### Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’”



<sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

### SERMON

Pastor Wackenhuth

"Outfoxing the Fox"

### HYMN OF THE DAY

#### "Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life" LBW 429



1 Where cross the crowd - ed ways of life, where sound the  
 2 In haunts of wretch - ed - ness and need, on shad - owed  
 3 From ten - der child - hood's help - less - ness, from hu - man  
 4 The cup of wa - ter giv'n for you still holds the



cries of race and clan, a - bove the noise of  
 thresh - olds dark with fears, from paths where hide the  
 grief and bur - dened toil, from fam - ished souls, from  
 fresh - ness of your grace; yet long these mul - ti -



self - ish strife, we hear your voice, O Son of Man.  
 lures of greed, we catch the vi - sion of your tears.  
 sor - row's stress, your heart has nev - er known re - coil.  
 tudes to view the strong com - pas - sion in your face.

5 O Master, from the mountainside  
 make haste to heal these hearts of pain;  
 among these restless throngs abide;  
 oh, tread the city's streets again;

6 Till all the world shall learn your love,  
 and follow where your feet have trod;  
 till glorious from your heav'n above  
 shall come the city of our God.

## APOSTLES' CREED

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.

\**Or*, to the dead.  
\*\**meaning*, universal

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Each petition ends with "God, in your mercy,"  
The response is "**receive our prayer.**"

Pastor: 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.  
People: **Amen.**

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.  
People: **And also with you.**

*We greet one another in the name of the Lord.  
Please do so with a wave, handshake, or however you feel comfortable.  
Hand sanitizer is available in the sanctuary.  
Ask an usher if you don't see one*

## OFFERING



## OFFERTORY

“If You But Suffer God; to Guide Thee” - Flor Peeters

## OFFERING HYMN

“Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” LSB 805

△ Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; Praise Him, all  
crea - tures here be - low; Praise Him a - bove, ye heav'n - ly  
host: Praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Gracious Provider,  
**People:** **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.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING – LSB 208

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People:** And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People:** We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

*It is indeed right and salutary... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

## SANCTUS – LSB 208



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;



Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.



Sing ho - san-na in the high-est, sing ho-san - na to the Lord;



Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

## LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:  
People: **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.**

## AGNUS DEI – LSB 210

1 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
2 O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
You take the sin of the world a - way;  
O Je - sus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mer - cy on us, Je - sus Christ,  
Have mer - cy on us, Lord, we pray.  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

## COMMUNION MUSIC

### "Be Thou My Vision" WOV 776



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, thou my high tow'r,  
 thou, and thou on - ly, first in my heart,  
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

## “My Life Flows on in Endless Song” WOV 781



- 1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,
- 2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu-sic ring - ing.
- 3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.
- 4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

### *Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

# “Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling” WOV 734



1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 Oh, for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for



you and for me. See, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

## *Refrain*



watch - ing for you and for me.  
 mer - cies for you and for me? “Come home, come home!”  
 par - don for you and for me.



You who are wea - ry, come home.” Ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,



Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, “O sin - ner, come home!”



## Nunc Dimitis - LSB 211

1 O Lord, now let to Your ser - vant De -  
2 All glo - ry to the the Fa - ther, All

part in heav'n - ly peace, For I have seen the  
glo - ry to the Son, All glo - ry to the

glo - ry Of Your re - deem - ing grace:  
Spir - it, For - ev - er Three in One;

A light to lead the Gen - tiles Un -  
For as in the be - gin - ning, Is

to Your ho - ly hill, The glo - ry of Your  
now, shall ev - er be, God's tri - une name re -

peo - ple, Your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
sound - ing Through all e - ter - ni - ty.

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

**Deacon:** Let us pray,  
O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## BLESSING

Deacon: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

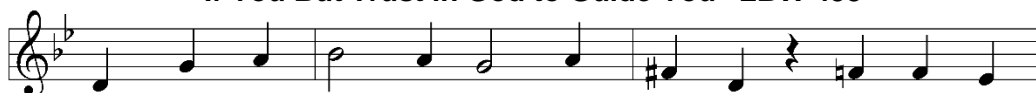
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

People: Amen.

## MINISTRY NEWS

### CLOSING HYMN

#### “If You But Trust in God to Guide You” LBW 453



1 If you but trust in God to guide you and place your  
2 What gain is there in fu - tile weep - ing, in help - less  
3 In pa - tient trust a - wait his lei - sure in cheer - ful  
4 Sing, pray, and keep his ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



con - fi - dence in him, you'll find him al - ways there be -  
an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in his care and  
hope, with heart con - tent to take what - e'er your Fa - ther's  
ser - vice faith - ful - ly, and trust his word; though un - de -



side you, to give you hope and strength with - in. For those who  
keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For he who  
plea - sure and all - dis - cern - ing love have sent; doubt not your  
serv - ing, you'll find his prom - ise true to be. God nev - er



trust God's change - less love build on the rock that will not move.  
took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.  
in - most wants are known to him who chose you for his own.  
will for - sake in need the soul that trusts in him in - deed.

## **DISMISSAL**

Deacon: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**People: Thanks be to God!**

## **POSTLUDE**

“Be Thou My Vision” - Franklin Ashdown

**\*\* Church Attendance and Offerings \*\***

**Attendance week ending 3/9/2025**

**Sunday March 9, 2025**

8:15 AM: 41

Contemporary 10:45 AM: 85

**Offerings Received in February 2025**

*(total monthly offerings **includes** online giving)*

**ACTUAL February Regular Offerings Received:**

Regular Weekly Offerings: \$18,866.59

Loose Plate: \$117.00

**Total February: \$18,983.59**

Regular Budgeted: \$22,000.00

**Year to Date Through February 2025**

**ACTUAL YTD Offerings Received: \$ 176,565.56**

YTD Offerings Budgeted: \$176,000.00

**St Luke Church Council 2025**

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