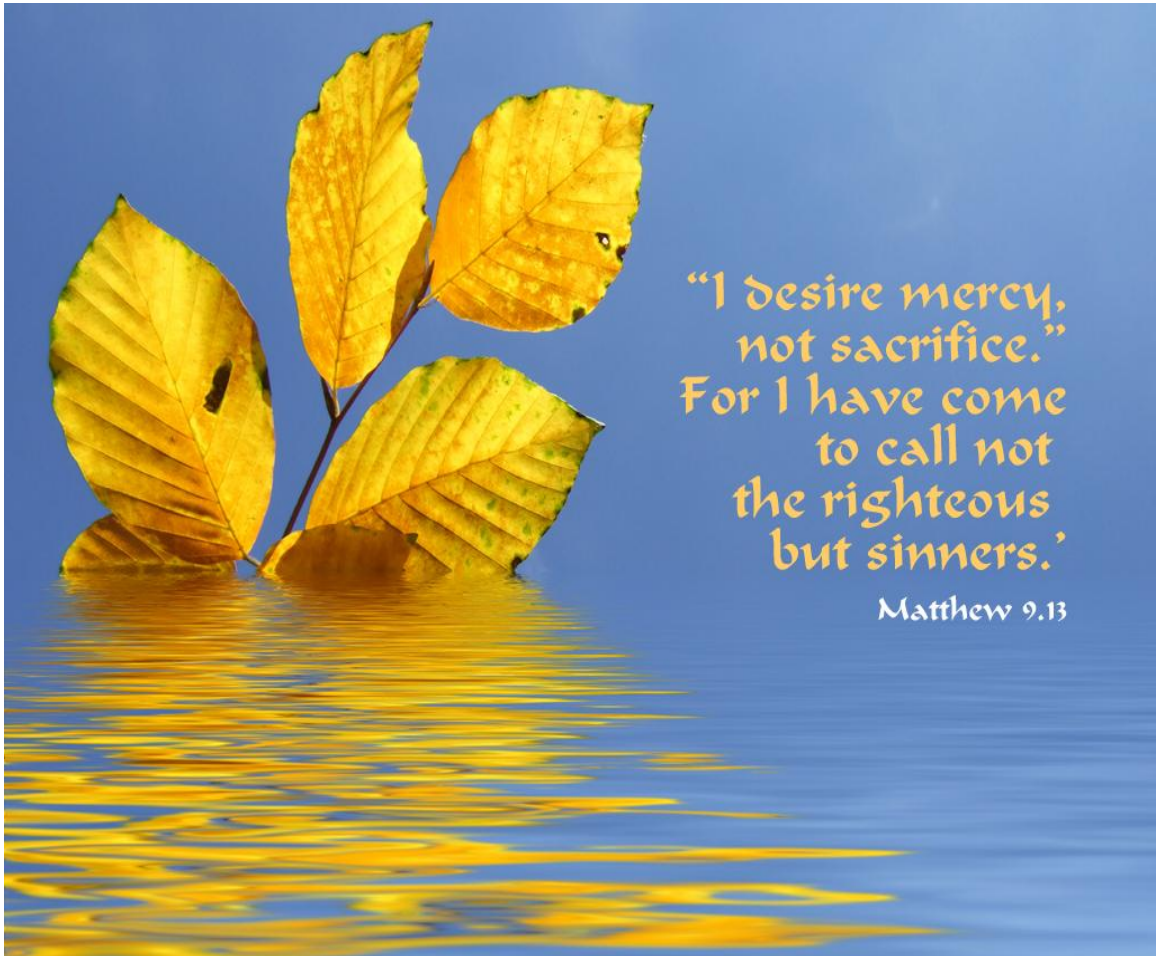


*St. Luke Lutheran Church*  
*Second Sunday after Pentecost*  
*June 7, 2026*  
*9:30 a.m.*

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*“I desire mercy,  
not sacrifice.”  
For I have come  
to call not  
the righteous  
but sinners.’*

*Matthew 9.13*

**SERMON**

Rev. Dr. Victor Nelson  
“The \$64,000 Question”

**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 through May

#### **SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

One Service Sundays at 9:30 AM begins June 7<sup>th</sup>  
Weekday Thursdays at 7:30 PM begins June 25<sup>th</sup>

#### **BIBLE STUDY SCHEDULE**

Sunday morning Bible Study is on pause  
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.**

## SUMMARY OF THE DAY

*Though Jesus was a devout Jew who practiced his faith, he was criticized for eating with tax collectors and sinners—the religiously nonobservant. Jesus criticizes the self-righteous and reminds us that mercy is to be at the heart of our religious practices. God continues to be made known in those on the margins of society, like Matthew the tax collector and the hemorrhaging woman. As we gather each Lord’s day we receive the healing that makes us well and sends us forth to be signs of God’s mercy for the world.*

## PRELUDE

Herr Jesu Christ, dich zu uns Wend - J. S. Bach

## PASTORAL GREETING

## CALL FOR PRAYERS

*Stand*

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins

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

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord,

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Pastor: Most Merciful God,

**People: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. 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

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” LBW 543



1 Praise to the Lord, the Al - might - y, the King of cre - a - tion!  
2 Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is won - drous - ly reign - ing  
3 Praise to the Lord, who will pros - per your work and de - fend you;  
4 Praise to the Lord! Oh, let all that is in me a - dore him!



O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and sal - va - tion!  
and, as on wings of an ea - gle, up - lift - ing, sus - tain - ing.  
sure - ly his good - ness and mer - cy shall dai - ly at - tend you.  
All that has life and breath, come now with prais - es be - fore him!



Let all who hear now to his tem - ple draw near,  
Have you not seen all that is need - ful has been  
Pon - der a - new what the Al - might - y can do  
Let the a - men sound from his peo - ple a - gain.



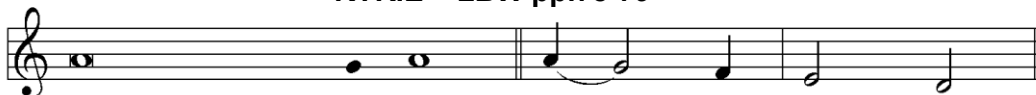
join - ing in glad ad - o - ra - tion!  
sent by his gra - cious or - dain - ing?  
if with his love he be - friend you.  
Glad - ly for - ev - er a - dore him!

### GREETING

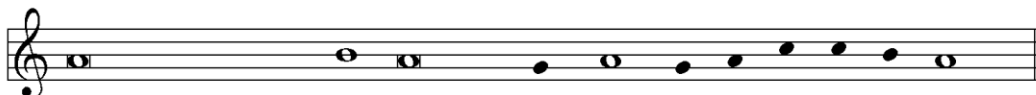
Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: And also with you.

## KYRIE – LBW pp.78-79



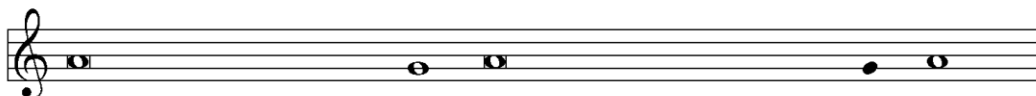
**A** In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



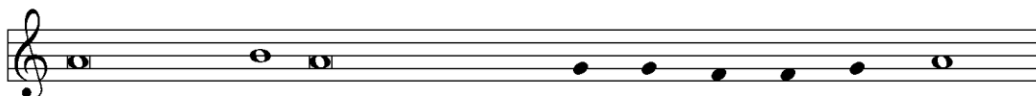
**A** For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



**A** Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

HYMN OF PRAISE  
Glory to God... LBW p.79-80



♩ Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to his peo-ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav-en-ly king, al-might-y God and Fa-ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry.



Lord Je-sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord,



you a-lone are the Most High, Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it,



in the glo-ry of God the Fa-ther. A-men

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray.

Almighty God, You sent Your Son to seek and to save the lost. Open our ears and our hearts to hear His call and to follow Him; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

*Sit*

**First Reading: Hosea 5:15 - 6:6**

*(God desires steadfast love)*

<sup>15</sup> I will return again to my place  
until they acknowledge their guilt and seek my face.  
In their distress they will beg my favor:

<sup>6:1</sup> “Come, let us return to the LORD,  
for it is he who has torn, and he will heal us;  
he has struck down, and he will bind us up.

<sup>2</sup> After two days he will revive us;  
on the third day he will raise us up,  
that we may live before him.

<sup>3</sup> Let us know, let us press on to know the LORD;  
his appearing is as sure as the dawn;  
he will come to us like the showers,  
like the spring rains that water the earth.”

<sup>4</sup> What shall I do with you, O Ephraim?  
What shall I do with you, O Judah?  
Your love is like a morning cloud,  
like the dew that goes away early.

<sup>5</sup> Therefore I have hewn them by the prophets;  
I have killed them by the words of my mouth,  
and my judgment goes forth as the light.

<sup>6</sup> For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice,  
the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM 50:7-15

*(Call upon me in the day of trouble)*

<sup>7</sup>“Listen, my people, and I will speak: Israel, I will bear witness against you;  
for I am God, your God.

<sup>8</sup>**I do not accuse you because of your sacrifices;  
your burnt offerings are always before me.**

<sup>9</sup>I will not accept a calf from your stalls,  
nor goats from your pens;

<sup>10</sup>**for all the wild animals of the forest are mine,  
the cattle on a thousand hills.**

<sup>11</sup>I know every bird of the mountains,  
and the creatures of the fields are mine.

<sup>12</sup>**If I were hungry, I would not tell you,  
for the whole world is mine and all that is in it.**

<sup>13</sup>Do you think I eat the flesh of bulls,  
or drink the blood of goats?

<sup>14</sup>**Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving  
and make good your vows to the Most High.**

<sup>15</sup>Call upon me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall honor me.

## SECOND READING: Romans 4:13-25

*(Paul presents Abraham as a living model of right relationships)*

<sup>13</sup>The promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup>For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup>For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

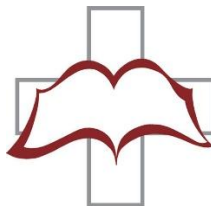
<sup>16</sup>For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup>as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup>Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become “the father of many nations,” according to what was said, “So shall your descendants be.” <sup>19</sup>He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), and the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. <sup>20</sup>No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup>being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised.

<sup>22</sup> Therefore “it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>23</sup> Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was handed over for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord

People: **Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL VERSE– LBW p.83



### THE GOSPEL

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the 9<sup>th</sup> chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### Gospel: Matthew 9:9-13

*(Jesus demonstrates God's mercy and power, accepting the unacceptable)*

<sup>9</sup> As Jesus was walking along, he saw a man called Matthew sitting at the tax-collection station, and he said to him, “Follow me.” And he got up and followed him.

<sup>10</sup> And as he sat at dinner in the house, many tax collectors and sinners came and were sitting with Jesus and his disciples. <sup>11</sup> When the Pharisees saw this, they said to his disciples, “Why does your teacher eat with tax collectors and sinners?” <sup>12</sup> But when he heard this, he said, “Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. <sup>13</sup> Go and learn what this means, ‘I desire mercy, not sacrifice.’ For I have not come to call the righteous but sinners.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**  
**“The King of Love My Shepherd Is” LBW 456**



1 The King of love my shep - herd is, whose good - ness  
2 Where streams of liv - ing wa - ter flow, my ran - somed  
3 Per - verse and fool - ish oft I strayed, but yet in  
4 In death's dark vale I fear no ill, with thee, dear



fail - eth nev - er; I noth - ing lack if  
soul he lead - eth and, where the ver - dant  
love he sought me, and on his shoul - der  
Lord, be - side me, thy rod and staff my



I am his and he is mine for - ev - er.  
pas - tures grow, with food ce - les - tial feed - eth.  
gent - ly laid, and home, re - joic - ing, brought me.  
com - fort still; thy cross be - fore to guide me.

5 Thou spreadst a table in my sight;      6 And so, through all the length of days,  
thine unction grace bestoweth;            thy goodness faileth never.  
and, oh, what transport of delight      Good Shepherd, may I sing thy praise  
from thy pure chalice floweth!            within thy house forever.

**SERMON**  
Rev. Dr. Victor Nelson  
“The \$64,000 Question”

*Stand*

## **APOSTLES' CREED – LBW p.85**

**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.**

### **PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Petition ends with "In Jesus' Name"

The response is "**Amen.**"

### **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

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

**People:** **And also with you.**

*Sit*

### **OFFERING**



### **OFFERTORY**

"My Inmost Heart Now Yearneth" - Telemann

*Stand*

## OFFERING PRESENTATION & OFFERING HYMN

### “Let the Vineyards” LBW p.86

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

The musical score is written on five staves in a single system. It begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and a common time signature (C). The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics printed below the notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

S


### OFFERTORY PRAYER – LBW p.88

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Blessed are you,  
**People:** O Lord our God, maker of all things,  
Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts.  
With them we offer ourselves to your service and dedicate our lives  
to the care and redemption of all that you have made, for the sake of  
him who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.


## GREAT THANKSGIVING – LBW p.88



**P** The Lord be with you. **C** And al - so with you.



**P** Lift up your hearts. **C** We lift them to the Lord.



**P** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



**C** It is right to give him thanks and praise.

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

## SANCTUS – LBW p. 89



**C** Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:



Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.



Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes



in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **And also with you**

## 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.**

*Sit*

## LAMB OF GOD – LBW p.92



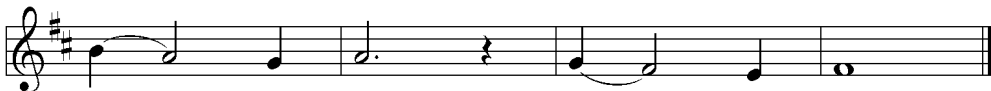
☐ Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;



grant us peace, grant us peace.

## HOLY COMMUNION



**COMMUNION MUSIC**  
**“You Satisfy the Hungry Heart” - WOV 711**  
*(Gift of Finest Wheat)*

*Refrain*



You sat - is - fy the hun - gry heart with gift of fin - est wheat.



Come give to us, O sav - ing Lord, the bread of life to eat.



- 1 As when the shep - herd calls his sheep, they know and heed his voice;
- 2 With joy - ful lips we sing to you our praise and grat - i - tude
- 3 Is not the cup we bless and share the blood of Christ out - poured?
- 4 The mys - t'ry of your pres - ence, Lord, no mor - tal tongue can tell:
- 5 You give your - self to us, O Lord; then self - less let us be,

*Refrain*



so when you call your fam - 'ly, Lord, we fol - low and re - joice.  
 that you should count us wor - thy, Lord, to share this heav' n - ly food.  
 Do not one cup, one loaf, de - clare our one - ness in the Lord?  
 whom all the world can - not con - tain comes in our hearts to dwell.  
 to serve each oth - er in your name in truth and char - i - ty.

## “Draw Us in the Spirit's Tether” WOV 703



1 Draw us in the Spir-it's teth - er, for when hum - bly  
2 As dis - ci - ples used to gath - er in the name of  
3 All our meals and all our liv - ing make as sac - ra -



in your name two or three are met to - geth - er,  
Christ to sup, then with thanks to God the giv - er  
ments of you, that by car - ing, help - ing, giv - ing,

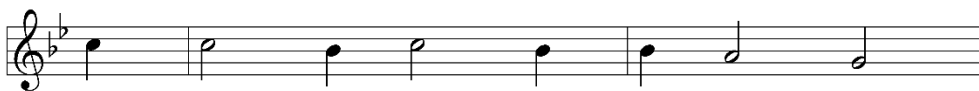


you are in the midst of them. Al - le - lu - ia!  
break the bread and bless the cup, Al - le - lu - ia!  
we may be dis - ci - ples true. Al - le - lu - ia!



Al - le - lu - ia! Touch we now your gar - ment's hem.  
Al - le - lu - ia! so now bind our friend - ship up.  
Al - le - lu - ia! We will serve with faith a - new.

## “Oh, Love, How Deep” - LBW 88



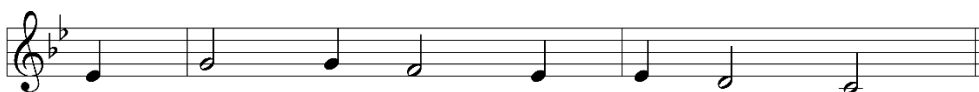
1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
 2 He sent no an - gel to our race,  
 3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore  
 4 For us he prayed; for us he taught;



be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
 of high - er or of low - er place,  
 his ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;  
 for us his dai - ly works he wrought,



that God, the Son of God, should take  
 but wore the robe of hu - man frame,  
 for us temp - ta - tion sharp he knew;  
 by words and signs and ac - tions thus



our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!  
 and to this world him - self he came.  
 for us the tempt - er o - ver - threw.  
 still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

- 5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
 for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
 he bore the shameful cross and death;  
 for us he gave his dying breath.
- 6 For us he rose from death again;  
 for us he went on high to reign;  
 for us he sent his Spirit here  
 to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.
- 7 All glory to our Lord and God  
 for love so deep, so high, so broad;  
 the Trinity whom we adore  
 forever and forevermore.

Stand

**POST COMMUNION HYMN**  
"Thank the Lord..." LBW p. 92-93



**☩** Thank the Lord and sing his praise; tell ev-'ry-one what he has done.



Let ev-'ry-one who seeks the Lord re-joice and proud-ly bear his name.



He re-calls his prom-is-es and leads his peo-ple forth in joy



with shouts of thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia. Al-le-lu-ia.

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**Deacon:** Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God,  
that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life;  
and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us through this gift,  
in faith toward you and fervent love toward one another;  
for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**People:** Amen.

**BENEDICAMUS & BENEDICTION**

**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.

Sit

**MINISTRY NEWS**

Stand

**CLOSING HYMN**  
**“Blest Be the Tie that Binds” LBW 370**



- 1 Blest be the tie that binds our hearts in Chris - tian love;
- 2 Be - fore our Fa - ther's throne we pour our ar - dent prayers;
- 3 We share our mu - tual woes, our mu - tual bur - dens bear,
- 4 From sor - row, toil, and pain, and sin we shall be free;



the u - ni - ty of heart and mind is like to that a - bove.  
our fears, our hopes, our aims are one, our com - forts and our cares.  
and of - ten for each oth - er flows the sym - pa - thiz - ing tear.  
and per - fect love and friend - ship reign through all e - ter - ni - ty.

**DISMISSAL**

**Deacon:** Heaven has come near. Go, share the good news!  
**People:** **Thanks be to God!**

**POSTLUDE**  
“Now Rejoice Ye, Beloved Christians” - J. S. Bach

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

**Attendance week ending 5/31/2026**  
**Sunday, May 31, 2026** (Rite of Confirmation)  
 8:15 AM:48 10:45 AM:120

**Offerings Received in April 2026**  
*(total monthly offerings **includes** online giving)*

**April 2026 Offerings Received:**  
 Regular Weekly Offerings: \$14,993.02  
 Loose Plate: \$646.00  
 Celebrations: \$6,311.00

**TOTAL** March 2026: \$21,950.02  
 Budgeted \$22,608.33

Year to Date Received (July through April) 2025-2026: \$193,806.78

**St. Luke Church Council 2026**

Ken Wenz	President	kpwenz@gmail.com
Jackie Guidone	Vice-President	Jackies7fromhvn@aol.com
Anna Schwen	Secretary	Aschwen1123@gmail.com
Brenda Lentsch	Treasurer	Treasurer@stlukedixhills.org
Denise Norman	Christian Education	Denisenorman231@gmail.com
Tony Fisher	Property	Afisher1855@gmail.com
Michele Castro	Finance	Michelel25@yahoo.com
Theresa Clark	Evangelism	Teesamarie33@gmail.com
Lori Etienne	Parish Life	lletienne13@gmail.com
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