

+ Fourth Sunday in Lent +

March 15, Year of our Lord 2026 | DS3

+ Confession and Absolution +



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

Invocation

Matthew 28:19b; 18:20

- P** In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

Exhortation

Hebrews 10:22; Psalm 124:8; Psalm 32:5

- P** Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.
P Our help is in the name of the Lord,
C **who made heaven and earth.**
P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,
C **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

Confession of Sins

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father,
C **I, a poor, miserable sinner, confess unto You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.**

Absolution

[John 20:19–23]

- P** Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C Amen.

+ Service of the Word +

Introit

Psalm 27:4–6; antiphon: Psalm 25:15



P My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*
for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

C **One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek | after:***
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 inquire in his | temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of | trouble;*

he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will lift me high up- | on a rock.

And now my head shall be lifted up above my enemies all around me, and I will offer
in his tent sacrifices with | shouts of joy;*

I will sing and make melody | to the LORD.

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

and to the Holy | Spirit;

as it was in the be- | ginning,*

is now, and will be forever. | Amen.

My eyes are ever | toward the LORD,*

for he will pluck my feet out | of the net.

Kyrie

Mark 10:47

C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -
on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

Salutation and Collect of the Day

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

P Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C A - men.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14–21

For a long time I have held my peace;
 I have kept still and restrained myself;
 now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
 I will gasp and pant.
 I will lay waste mountains and hills,
 and dry up all their vegetation;
 I will turn the rivers into islands,
 and dry up the pools.
 And I will lead the blind
 in a way that they do not know,
 in paths that they have not known
 I will guide them.
 I will turn the darkness before them into light,
 the rough places into level ground.
 These are the things I do,
 and I do not forsake them.
 They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
 who trust in carved idols,
 who say to metal images,
 “You are our gods.”

Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!
Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?
He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.
The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual

Hebrews 12:2

C **[O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus,
the founder and perfecter of our faith,
who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame,
and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.**

Epistle

Ephesians 5:8–14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Verse of the Day

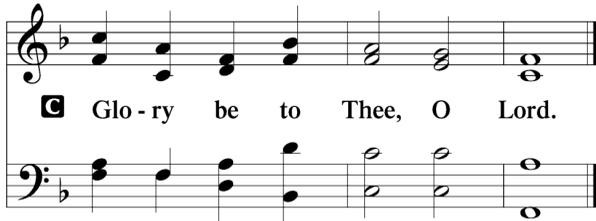
Psalm 36:9

P With you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Holy Gospel

John 9:1–41

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter.



As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to

become his disciples?” And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

Apostles' Creed

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.

Hymn of the Day: 849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two - edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

Text: Rusty Edwards, 1955 Tune: The Sacred Harp, 1844, Philadelphia

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+ Sermon +

Let us Fix our Eyes on Jesus (after Jesus Fixes our Eyes)

Offertory, p. 192-193

Psalm 51:10-12

**☐ (sung) Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence, and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.**

**Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation, and uphold me with Thy free spirit.
Amen.**

Announcement of Offering and Greetings of Peace

The people may greet one another in the name of the Lord, saying, “Peace be with you,” as a sign of reconciliation and of the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace (Matt. 5:22–24; Eph. 4:1–3).

Prayer of the Church - see colored insert

*Reminder for those watching at home to pray **The Lord’s Prayer**.*

Benediction for those worshipping via the livestream.

+ Service of the Sacrament +

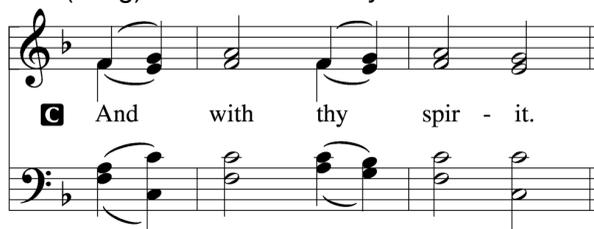
A Word to Our Guests and Visitors about Communion at Praise

The Lord’s Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very Body and Blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death and resurrection until He comes. Scripture warns that those who come forward to eat and drink our Lord’s Body and Blood in an unworthy manner do so to their great spiritual harm. The Lord’s Supper is also a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar. Therefore, any who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet to desire to receive the Sacrament (Communion), are encouraged to seek guidance from the pastor.

Preface

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]

P (sung) The Lord be with you.



And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.



C It is meet and right so to do.

Proper Preface (Abbreviated)

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary . . . evermore praising You and saying:

Sanctus ~ Holy, Holy, Holy, p. 195 for music

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9

C (sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth; heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He, blessed is He, blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.**

Lord's Prayer

Matthew 6:9–13

P Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C **Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory**

forever and ever. Amen.

The Words of Our Lord *Mt 26:26-30; Mk 14:22-26; Lk 22:14-23; 1 Cor 11:23-25.*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My † body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My † blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

Pax Domini

John 20:19

P (sung) The peace of the Lord be with you always.

A musical score for the hymn "Pax Domini". It consists of two staves, a treble clef on top and a bass clef on the bottom. The key signature has one flat (B-flat). The melody is written in the treble clef and the bass line in the bass clef. The lyrics "A - - - - - men." are written below the treble staff. A copyright symbol (C) is located at the beginning of the treble staff.

Agnus Dei, p. 198

John 1:29

C (sung) **O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. Amen.**

Distribution

Please see our pastor for details about baptism, instruction, and vow of confirmation of our church's teachings prior to taking the Lord's Supper (Communion) at Praise.

Distribution Hymn: 636 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness (see hymnal)

Distribution Hymn: 430 My Song is Love Unknown

Distribution Hymn: 545 Word of God, Come Down on Earth

Distribution Hymn: 890 O Blessed Light, O Trinity

Nunc Dimittis, p. 199-200

Luke 2:29-32

C (sung) **Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people, a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

Thanksgiving

Psalm 107:1

A (sung) O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

The musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Post-Communion Collect

A Let us pray. We give thanks to You...now and forever.

C A - men.

The musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Salutation

2 Timothy 4:22

P (sung) The Lord be with you.

C And with thy spir - it.

The musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

Benedicamus

Psalm 103:1

A (sung) Bless we the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The musical notation consists of two staves, treble and bass clef, in the key of D major (two sharps). The melody is written in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are placed below the notes.

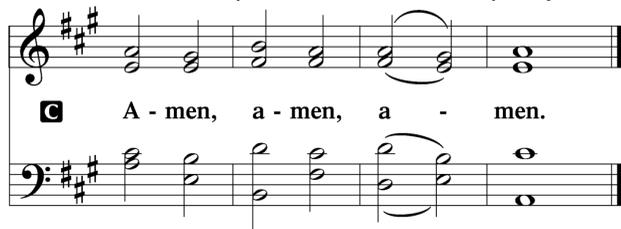
Benediction

Numbers 6:24–26

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you.

The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



C A - men, a - men, a - men.

“Return to the Lord your God.” Midweek Lenten Services on Wednesdays at 12 noon and 7:00 p.m. Soup & Sandwich Supper at 6:00 p.m. Theme: *The Cardinal Virtues*.



315 Southdowne Dr, Maryville, TN 37801 | (865) 977-5810 | praiselutheran.com

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday, 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Sunday Divine Services weekly at 8:30 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

Sunday Congregational Bible Study and Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.

Office Administration: Elissa Upward, officeadmin@praiselutheran.com, (865) 977-5810

Pastor: Rev. Derek Roberts, pastor@praiselutheran.com, (865) 421-9988 (Day off: Fridays)

Director of Worship Arts: Caleb Hesse, caleb@praiselutheran.com

Congregational President: Dr. Tom Wittkopp, **Vice President:** Tim Nunnink

Organist/pianists: Janice Kaiser, Susan Johnson, Gary Schauerman

Choir Director: Caleb Hesse, Choir Pianist: Susan Johnson

Church Calendar: Visit praiselutheran.com/events for upcoming events.

Newsletter: Subscribe at the bottom right of our homepage.

Social Media: Connect with us at facebook.com/PraiseLutheranChurch and youtube.com/@PraiseLutheran.

Online Giving: Go to praiselutheran.com and click the blue “Give” button.

Additional Information: Please submit prayer requests by 9:00 a.m. each Thursday to ensure they are included in the upcoming service. If your contact information has changed, kindly notify the church office. Large-print hymnals are available upon request. Please speak with an usher for assistance.

Acknowledgments

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+ Prayers +

World: For the end of persecution and genocide of **Nigerian Christians**. For the end of the fighting between the **U.S., Israel, and Iran** and soon we pray between **Ukraine and Russia**. For **fire, flood, and hurricane** recovery.

Concern for the Lost: For family and friends who do not know or have fallen away from the truth, grace, and love of the Savior, Christ Jesus.

Vocation: For the recent Baptisms of **Silas Hicks** and **Finn Johnson**. For our parents expecting children this year: **Joshua & Adelaide Arguien, Bryan & Kaite Baer, and Justin & Nicole Fritts**. For the recent engagement of member **Rachel Vesper** to **Aiden Morrison**. For upcoming weddings in 2026 for **Patrick Jermain & Alesha Williams** (April) and for **Jack Nunnink & Rachel Holst** (June). For **veterans and our military** for **Mason Burkett** (Mary Schopmann's grandson-in-law) deployed to Poland. For military servants: **Michael Strange, Carter Felt, Casey Lawson, Tyler Smith** and **William Smolter**. For **those serving in hospitals and homeless shelters**. For **teachers** in our community schools. For our circuit's seminary students: **Aaron Wade, Sam Bohnet** (vicarage placement in Louisville, KY). For **children and families** dealing with difficult situations due to drugs, alcohol, violence, abuse, stress, and strife.

Recent Loss and Mourning: For the Family of **Mavis Johnson** who passed away 2/28. For the family of Elder **Chuck Pettyohn** who died on 2/25. For the family of **Marvin Arcari** (Will Wade's and Paul Ruble's family) who passed away in Michigan. For family of **Polly Gallamore** who passed away 2/16. For **Mary Ann Furr** (mother of Pam Sokoll). For family of **Ed Hannah** who passed away 1/22. For family of **Barney** (Darlyn Burch's brother) who passed away. For **Donald Thorson** (Susan Johnson's uncle). For family of **Cheryl Dunnington** (cousin of Sharon Felker). For the family of **Jeffrey** (Becky Hamby's brother) who passed away in Chattanooga. For family of **Carol Ehrens** who passed away 12/9. For family of (former member) **Don Wuethrick** who passed away.

Health: For **Fran Wehmeier** who broke femur above her knee (hospitalized). For **Melvin Wehmeier** (Deb Wales's father) recovering from broken shoulder. For **Tom Williams** at home in hospice care. For **Cindy DiPasqua** recovering from heart attack, surgery, and valve replacement. For **Mildred Balash**, now at Morning View for rehab (and health at 104 yrs old). For **Lou Trebus** corrective knee surgery (3/19). For **Glen McCarty** heart check for blockages. For **Fred Hansen's** health (no carotid procedure due to extent of narrowing). For **Ron Dozier** (Renee Hickmon's brother) heart incident. For **Charlene Smith** (Rev. George Smith's wife) health and hospitalization (and prayers for George). For **Linda Davis** health (recovery from recent hospitalization). For **Maureen Roberts** recovering from pneumonia. For **George Walker** procedure recovery. For **Steve Clemmer** hip replacement recovery. For **Jennifer Hebar** recovering from recent hip surgery. For **Piper** (9 yr old, niece of Mary Brown) cancer diagnosis and treatment. For **Todd Stubelt** (nephew of Sharon Felker) stage 4 brain cancer. For **Anna Roberts** (Jim & Maureen's daughter-in-law) upcoming cancer treatments. For **Alan Bell** (Barbara Morsch's brother) stroke recovery. For **Al Reuer** stroke recovery. For **Catherine Boute** surgery recovery from broken shoulder. For **Sydney Pierce** recovering from broken ankle surgery. For **Sarah** (friend of Suzanne Nunnink) intensive chemotherapy. For **Kathi Hawn** (friend of Faye Schauerman) recovering from surgery for a double lung transplant. For **John Reese** (Mary Ellen Brown's niece's husband)

recovery of health. For **Carolyn Howard** (friend of Paul Ruble) pneumonia recovery and for her daughter **Jane** who suffered a stroke. For **Ann** (Rick Gift's stepmother) leukemia and health. For **Tonia Latham** (Phyllis Bembas's niece) health recovery. For **Ed McGillick** dizziness spells. For **Sherrie** (Renee Hickmon's sister) health recovery. For **Joan Large** health. For **George Gorghis** (friend of Donna Wall) treatment for Lymphoma cancer, stage 4. For **Janeen Meier** healing for physical and mental health (Maureen Roberts' sister and Pastor Roberts's Aunt). For **Bob Heckman's** health. **Sandy Bagley** health. For **Pat Sweet** (friend of Ole & Mavis) fragile health condition. For **June McDonnell** recovering from falls and lung health. For **Tim Smith** heart and blood pressure health. For **Ted Frazier** headaches and blood pressure drops. For **Lee Schuck** and **Gus** taking care of her. For **Derek Bryant** (friend of Mary Schopmann) kidney reception. For **Gary Kubin** back and leg pain. For **Haley Jenkins** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's niece) esophageal issues. For **Margarete** (neighbor to Jim & Maureen Roberts) dealing with advancing cancer. For **Ron Williams** (at Foothills) and for his wife Pamela. For **Barbara Moyers** health. For **Marie Guinn** (Jennifer Kropp's mother) cancer treatment and health. For **Mary** (Ed & Sandy Bagley's daughter) health. For **June Latham** (Phyllis Bembas' sister) stroke and vision recovery. For **Fred Goddard** (nephew of Mary Ellen Brown) lung cancer treatment. For **Carol** (Alex Hick's aunt) frontal lobe dementia. **Debbie Johnston** kidney health. For **Alan Stremsterfer's mother** health. **Aurora Stevens** pain and health. Andrew Hebar's Aunt **Kara** (health).

Birthdays: Lillian H (3/15), Paul G (3/16), Julian M (3/17), Andrew H (3/21), Rosalyn L (3/24), Becky Ham (3/25), Desmond L (3/26), Bennett B (3/28), Collin B (3/28)

Anniversaries: Steve & Amanda Nagle (3/17), Craig & Joyce Furry (!! 50th !!, 3/18) Rick & Lisa Gift (3/20)

Church Operations & Christian Stewardship

General Fund		2026 Receipts	Remaining for Budget
Jan 1 to Mar 15, 2026		\$87,952	\$312,047
Building Fund	2025 Receipts	2026 Receipts	Total Receipts
Actual	\$71,247	\$4,237	\$1,255,110
Pledged	\$42,744	<i>Budget: \$25,000</i>	\$1,065,270
Remaining	\$28,503 [over]	20,763 [under]	\$189,840 [over]

Thank you to all who gave or fulfilled commitments to the Capital Campaign, which ended Dec. 31, 2025. As of 12/31/25 the new loan balance is \$1,861,079. Gifts to the Building Fund or Loan Principal Fund are encouraged to help reduce principal and for future projects.

Visit praiselutheran.com/build to see our build completion video! Gifts to the Build Fund are still encouraged. Our total monthly mortgage payments to Lutheran Church Extension Fund: \$11,413 [breakdown: \$10,309 (new building) + \$1,100 (extra mortgage payment monthly)].

Children and Youth Ministry

Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m. each Sunday for all children and students age 2 on up. Confirmed youth are encouraged to join the Congregational Bible Study with Pastor Roberts.

Midweek Youth Group will break through Easter. Come to Midweek Lent worship (weekly on Wed at 6:00 p.m. for soup and sandwich supper and 7:00 p.m. for worship).

Campfirmation. is July 5–11 for youth ages 12 and up. Soft commitments are due NOW and can be emailed to officeadmin@praiselutheran.com. The total cost is \$115 per camper, with a \$50 deposit due April 19 and the remaining \$65 due June 1. Payments can be placed in the collection plate with note or memo “Campfirmation” or dropped off at the front office.

Worship and Music Ministry

Choir Practice this Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. (Lent season schedule).

Piano and Organ lessons are available at Praise with our Director of Music, Caleb Hesse. Anyone age 6 and up (with a parent/guardian for children) is welcome to sign up. For additional information, please reach out to Caleb at caleb@praiselutheran.com.

Congregational Life & Fellowship

Oktoberfest Shirts & Glasses from 2024 and 2025 are available on the shelves in the Narthex, with suggested donation amounts posted. Donations go to the Youth Group for our annual *Campfirmation* (July 5-11).

Meals of Comfort Ministry provides meals for grieving families, easing the burden of hosting visiting loved ones and allowing them to focus on mourning and sharing Christ’s comfort. We are currently seeking a Coordinator. If you’re interested, please connect with Elissa or Pastor.

Donations for the Veterans Pantry may be placed in the basket in the Narthex. They are delivered on a regular basis to the Blount County Office of Veterans Affairs.

Lutheran Women in Mission (LWML) empowers women of Praise to grow in Christ through local and global mission projects. Members gather for fellowship, devotions and service on a quarterly basis. Scheduled meetings for 2026 are on Saturdays, March 28, May 16, August 15, November 21 in the church social hall from 10 am to 11:30 am. Please mark your calendars and plan to attend. We welcome adult women of all age groups to be a part of LWML.

Today

Rescheduled Voters Meeting at 9:45 a.m. in the Social Hall.

This Week

Mar 18 (Wed) Lent Midweek Services at 12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m. Topic: *Fortitude* (Christian Virtues). Soup and Sandwich Supper at 6:00 p.m. Please bring food to share.

Mar 19 (Thu) Ladies Bible Study at 10:00 a.m. in the Social Hall with Barbara Morsch.

Upcoming

Mar 25 (Wed) Lent Midweek Services at 12:00 Noon and 7:00 p.m. Topic: Fortitude (Christian Virtues). Soup and Sandwich Supper at 6:00 p.m. Please bring food to share.

Mar 28 (Sat) LWML Meeting in the Social Hall, 10:00 a.m. Founded in 1942, the Lutheran Women's Missionary League (LWML) is the official women's auxiliary of the LCMS. LWML empowers women to grow in Christ and serve through local and global mission projects. Members gather for fellowship, prayer, worship, service, and Bible study.

Mar 29 (Sun) Palm Sunday and the beginning of Holy Week with services on Holy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Vigil (Saturday), leading up to Easter Sunday, Apr 5.

Apr 5 (Sun) Annual Easter Celebration at The Roberts: Come to the home of Pastor and Gretchen Roberts to continue the celebration of the Resurrection and the Life we have in Christ. Meat and drinks provided. Please bring a side-dish, salad, or dessert to share. Start time: after the 11:00 a.m. Easter Service on Apr 5 (around 1:00 p.m.). Park in the two long driveways, in the front yard, or on the street. Egg hunt for the kids. No RSVP required. 1813 Oxford Dr. in Maryville.

Apr 18 (Sat) [Lutheran's for Life Event at a Christ Our Savior in Loudon] Dying Well in Christ: Issues We Face at Life's End addresses important topics and how to seek God's blessings even during suffering and end-of-life decisions. The Lutherans for Life Team of Christ Our Savior Lutheran Church in Loudon invites you to a seminar led by Rev. Dr. Aric Fenske, Executive Director of Lutherans for Life, on Saturday, April 18 from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., featuring a welcome continental breakfast, a noon meal, and sessions beginning at 9:00 a.m. Come be informed, examine these difficult issues through a faith-centered perspective. To register call 865-458-9407 (free-will offering received).