Evangelical Lutheran Church of Durham

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Reverend James Heckman, Pastor 267-664-3160 / pastor@durhamlutheran.org



March 30, 2025 Fourth Sunday in Lent

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

You can find the live stream at the following location:

www.youtube.com/@DurhamLutheran

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Prelude: "Nearer, My God to Thee"

Please take this time to silently reflect on the journey of Lent, praying for God to make our hearts clean.

GATHERING

P: The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

CONFESSION ANDS FORGIVENESS

(Stand if you are able)

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

(Silence is kept for reflection)

P: Compassionate One,

- C: 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 again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.
- P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen



Gathering Hymn: ELW 726

Light Dawns on a Weary World



Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953 Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358.

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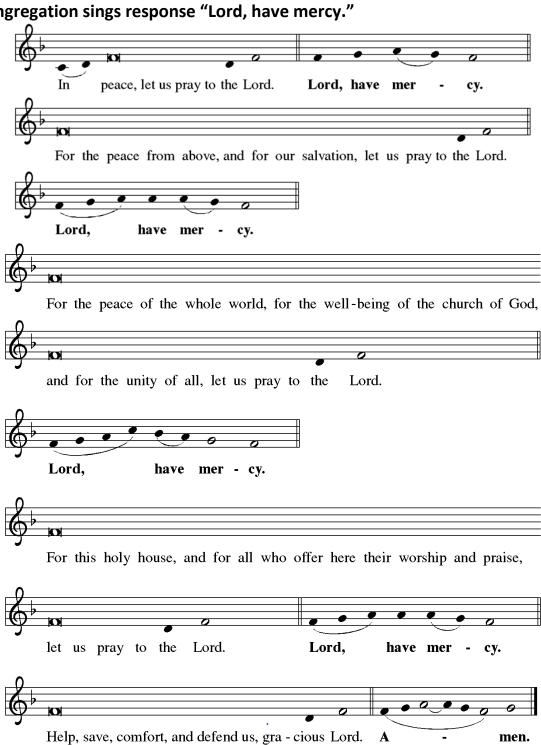
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P: The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the community of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you





Prayer of the Day

L: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

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

C: Amen.

(Please be Seated)

First Reading-Joshua 5:9-12

By celebrating the Passover and eating the produce of the promised land instead of the miraculous manna that had sustained them in the desert, the Israelites symbolically bring their forty years of wilderness wandering to an end at Gilgal.

L: A reading from the fifth chapter of Joshua.

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

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

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 32

- L: ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!
- C: ² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!
- L: ³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.
- C: ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.
- L: ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- C: ⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.
- L: ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- C: 8 "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

- L: ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."
- C: ¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.
- L: ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading - 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

One way to describe the gospel is the promise that in Christ everything is transformed into newness. All mistakes, all deliberate sins, all old history is reconciled with Christ's resurrection. This is Paul's strong message to the congregation in the city of Corinth.

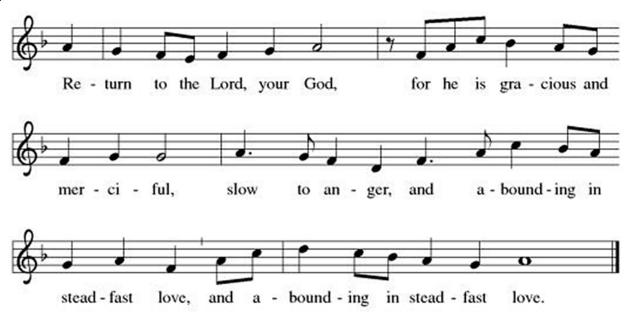
L: A reading from the fifth chapter of 2 Corinthians.

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

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation:



The Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Jesus tells a parable about a son who ponders his father's love only after he has spurned it. The grace he receives is beyond his hopes. That same grace is a crisis for an older brother who believes it is his obedience that has earned his place in the father's home.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke, the fifteenth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

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

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Children's Sermon / Sermon (please be seated)

Hymn of the Day: ELW 608

Softly and Tenderly Jesus Is Calling



Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847–1909 Music: THOMPSON, Will L. Thompson

Apostle's 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The pastor will read the first and last prayer, those in the congregation are invited to read the other prayer aloud as they feel called. The congregation may turn and face the aisle.

P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

God of faithful promise, make your church a new creation in Christ. As you reconcile us to yourself, guide us also in your way of reconciliation, that through confession and forgiveness, repentance and reparations, your church may bear witness to your love. God, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God of new beginnings, restore balance to the earth. Send rain to places of drought and sunshine to places of flooding, that the produce of the land may again support life. God, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God of prodigal grace, unite the nations as fellow members of the human family. Give leaders the courage to put aside pride and ego, to cease squandering lives and time, and to work for the well-being of all. God, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God of boundless love, receive with open arms any in need of compassion (*especially*). Embrace all who are far from home or estranged from loved ones, and all who live with regret. Embolden your people to offer and to seek forgiveness. God, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God of radical inclusion, widen human circles to welcome all who are excluded. Bless the work of disability ministries, ministries by and with neurodivergent people, and multicultural and ethnic-specific ministries; that the welcome of Jesus be extended to all. God, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

God of resurrection life, welcome home all who have died (*especially*). We thank you for their lives and entrust them into your keeping, where true reconciliation and eternal peace are found. God, in your mercy,

C: Receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

OFFERING

Choir Anthem: "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing" - Arr. Robert Thygerson

PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS

Create in Me a Clean Heart Offering Song



Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923 Music © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Offering Prayer

- P: 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.
- C: Amen.

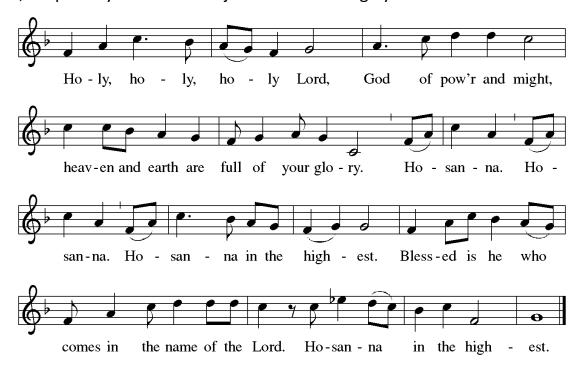
THE HOLY COMMUNION

The Great Thanksgiving

- P: The Lord be with you.
- C: And also 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 our thanks and praise.

PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ; who on this day overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE (said by Pastor)

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

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

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

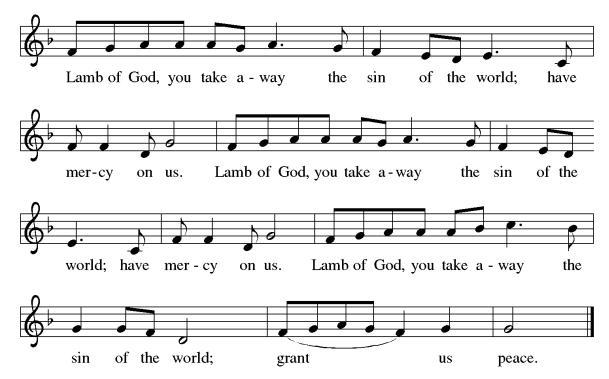
C: Amen.

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

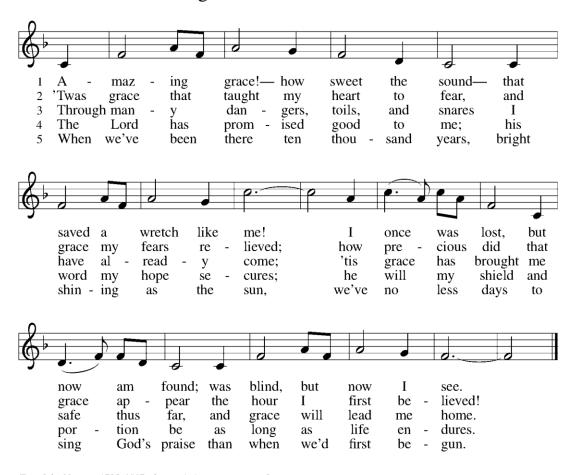
P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.



Distribution of Bread & Fruits of the Vine (please follow usher)

SONG DURING COMMUNION: ELW 779

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Announcements

BLESSING

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

Sending Song:

Build a Longer Table



Text: David Bjorlin, b. 1984

Music: NOEL NOUVELET, French carol

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DISMISSAL

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

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude:



PLEASE SIGN UP! Lutheran Day at the Iron Pigs April 27th at 1:35PM Tickets are \$30 each. Non-refundable.

LAST CALL

Our Outreach envelopes for March will be given to Lutheran Disaster Relief.

MARCH	BIRTHDAYS	ANNIVERSARIES	BAPTISMS	
30	Tom Praster			
APRIL 3			Rachel McCallister, Sam Rhine	
4			Dave Helfrich	
THIS WEEK'S ACTIVITIES				

4	Dave Helfrich		
·	THIS WEEK'S	S ACTIVITIES	
Sunday, March 30	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library	
Fourth Sunday in Lent	10:00 AM	Communion Worship	
	After Worship	Informational Session and Youth Choir Practice	
	5:00- 7:00 PM	Confirmation Class @ Trinity Pleasant Valley	
Monday, March 31	1:00 -3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours	
Wednesday, April 2	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours	
	10:00 AM	Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal	
	6:00-7:30PM	Lenten Soup Supper St. Luke Ferndale	
Thursday, April 3	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office Hours	
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim	
	1:00 - 3:00 PM	Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's	
	UPCOMING	·	
Sunday, April 6	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library.	
Fifth Sunday in Lent	10:00 AM	Communion Worship	
Monday, April 7	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours	
Tuesday, April 8	7:00 PM	Council Meeting	
Wednesday, April 9	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Office Hours	
· · ·	6:00-7:30PM	Lenten Soup Supper Trinity Pleasant Valley	
Thursday, April 10	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office Hours	
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim	
	1:00 - 3:00 PM	Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's	
Friday, April 11	10:00 AM	WELCA Meeting	
Saturday, April 12	10:00 AM	Easter Egg Hunt @ Durham	
Sunday, April 13	9:15 AM	Adult Sunday school in the library	
Palm Passion Sunday	10:00 AM	Communion Worship	
	After Worship	Congregational Meeting & Youth Choir Practice	
	5:00PM-7:00PM	Confirmation Class @ Durham	
Monday, April 14	1:00 PM- 3:00 PM	Admin Office Hours	
Wednesday, April 16	10:00 AM – 2:00 PM	Office Hours	
• •	10:00 AM	Mid-Week Choir Rehearsal	
	1:30 PM	Christian Education Meeting	
Thursday, April 17	10:00 AM - 1:00 PM	Office hours	
	12:00 PM	Chat & Chew with Pr. Jim	
	1:00 - 3:00 PM	Adult Bible Study @ Hlavaty's	
	5:00 PM	Seder Supper @ Trinity Reservations Req'd	
	7:00 PM	Maundy Thursday Communion Service @Trinity	
Friday, April 18	10:00 AM	WELCA Meeting	
•	3:00 PM	Stations of the Cross @St. Luke Ferndale	
	7:00 PM	Good Friday Passion of John Service @Durham	
Saturday, April 19	11:00 AM-1:00 PM	Messy Church	
	2:00 PM	Easter Egg Hunt at St Luke Ferndale	
SUNDAY	6:30 AM	Sunrise Service @Sky Island Upper Tinicum	
APRIL 20 th EASTER	10:00 AM	Communion Worship @Durham	



For Healing of those in our Congregation:

David Antoni; Esther Crouse; George Kreitz; Paul McGinn; Cheryl Mesko; Joanne Ziegenfuss

For Healing of Friends and Family:

Frank Allebach; Phyllis Allebach; Bob Benoure; Jason Bigley; Stephen Bizon; Clay Butler; Doris Calverley; Deb Carmichael; Jane Carr; Peggy Coleman; Stephanie Courtney; Dan Crooke; David Davis; Nancy Davis; Nancy Edelen; Carol and Leon Errico; Gabriella

Froehlich; Barbara Foster; Debbie Gardner; Candie Gimbar; Baree Lee Goodman; Jason Gourley; Penni Griffith; Andrew Hales; Krista Heyer; Penny Houck; Bill Hunt; Lois James & family; Martine King; Tim Koplin; Mary Lily; Jim McAnally; Charleigh McCade; Letitia McCrea; Connor McDevitt; Patrick McNaulty; Stacy Mechum; Nancy Morris; Sue Odor; Lucia Otero; Leslie Patience; Jennifer Phelps; Lisa Ridge; Adrienne Rozzi; Connie Rugen; Tammy Sassman; Paul Sauter; Laurel Sheetz; Holly Snyder; Donna Storm; Edward Thaler; Russ Trauger; Joe V.; Kelly Walsh; Jacqueline Ward; Dean Erika Wesch; Henry Wong; Wayne Yeisley; Barbara Yob.

For those who are Homebound:

James Altemose; Cleo Eck; Jayne Miller.

For families and friends grieving the loss of:

Fred Foerster; Norma Fox ;Kenneth Hager; Frank Mammana; Silas Rodenbach; Bart Shaw; Ed Xander and Bobby Ziegenfuss

If you want to add or remove someone from the prayer list, please contact Joan Mammana either by phone (610-258-5717 or 610-417-6553) or by email at: joanmammana@icloud.com

Worship Assistants

Preacher	Rev. James Heckman	
Organist/Choir Director	Carolyn Williams	
Altar Guild	Miriam Anderson and Nancy Moskella	
Greeter(s)	Miriam Anderson	
Acolyte	Tucker Wagner	
Lector	Kathryn Wagner	
Head / Communion Usher		
Council Communion	Dealers' choice	
Counting Team	Becky Praster, Cathy Mueller and Dave Sauter	
Technology & Livestreaming	Ken Anderson	
Administrative	Kathryn Wagner	
Custodian	Dianna Streletz	



