

Welcome to Worship for  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**



Sunday, March 15, 2026

***All Saints Lutheran Church***

722 Rockbridge Road | Lilburn, GA 30047

Rev. Ashton Roberts, Pastor  
John Womack, Director of Music



Welcome to worship! We are so glad that you are here. Please feel free to utilize this QR code using your smart phone to access our website, Facebook & Instagram pages, and to give online. Your generosity for God's church and presence is making a difference, both here in this ministry and throughout the community. Thank you!

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## GATHERING

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### PRELUDE

*John Womack*

### WELCOME

*Rev. Ashton Roberts*

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*Rev. Ashton Roberts*

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

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt  
and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God,

you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead

dwells in you,

pours God's love into your hearts,

and gives you life and peace.

**Amen.**

## There Is a Balm in Gilead

*Refrain*



There is a balm in Gil-e - ad to make the wound - ed whole;



there is a balm in Gil-e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul.



1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*



but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
 and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: BALM IN GILEAD, African American spiritual

**GREETING***Rev. Ashton Roberts*

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

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY***Rev. Ashton Roberts*

*Let us pray.*

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## Word

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

### **FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13**

*John Womack*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup>When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM 23 (Read Responsively)**

*John Womack*

<sup>1</sup>The LORD | is my shepherd;  
I shall not | be in want.

<sup>2</sup>**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures  
and leads me be- | side still waters.**

<sup>3</sup>You restore my | soul, O LORD,  
and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall |  
fear no evil;**

**for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

<sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.

<sup>6</sup>**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my  
life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever.**

## **SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8-14**

*John Womack*

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light.

Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!  
Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,



slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## **GOSPEL: John 9:1-41**

*Rev. Ashton Roberts*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup>As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” <sup>9</sup>Some were

saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he."<sup>10</sup> But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"<sup>11</sup> He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."<sup>12</sup> They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup> They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind.  
<sup>14</sup> Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes.  
<sup>15</sup> Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see."  
<sup>16</sup> Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided.  
<sup>17</sup> So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup> 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  
<sup>19</sup> and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?"<sup>20</sup> His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind,<sup>21</sup> but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself."<sup>22</sup> His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue.<sup>23</sup> Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup> So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner."  
<sup>25</sup> He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see."<sup>26</sup> They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?"<sup>27</sup> 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?"<sup>28</sup> Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.<sup>29</sup> We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."<sup>30</sup> The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.<sup>31</sup> We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.  
<sup>32</sup> Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.<sup>33</sup> If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."<sup>34</sup> They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

<sup>35</sup> Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"<sup>36</sup> He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."<sup>37</sup> Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."<sup>38</sup> He said, "Lord, I believe."

And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup> Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup> Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup> Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

The gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

**SERMON**

*Rev. Ashton Roberts*

*The assembly stands.*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW 776**

What God Ordains Is Good Indeed



1 What God or - dains is good in - deed, for all life well pro - vid - ing.  
 2 What God or - dains is good in - deed: my light, my life, my Sav - ior!  
 3 What God or - dains is good in - deed. When hope seems like de - lu - sion,  
 4 What God or - dains is good in - deed. My Lord will nev - er fail me



The will of God is best for me, the ground of my con - fid - ing.  
 No ill can get the best of me; God's care will nev - er wa - ver.  
 I taste the bit - ter cup and plead, "Lord, quench my fear, con - fu - sion."  
 on dan - ger's path, in deep - est need, when death in grief shall veil me.



My faith - ful God, on ev - 'ry road you know the way un -  
 Through joy and pain I shall at - tain the dawn dis - clos - ing  
 God ends the night, re - stores de - light; by faith I face to -  
 My God so dear will draw me near, in lov - ing arms will



fold - ing and my hand you are hold - ing.  
 clear - ly that God has loved me dear - ly.  
 mor - row and yield to God all sor - row.  
 hold me, at last in light en - fold me.

Text: Samuel Rodigast, 1649–1708; tr. Martin A. Seltz, b. 1951  
 Music: WAS GOTT TUT, Severus Gastorius, 1646–1682  
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## **APOSTLES' CREED**

*Rev. Ashton Roberts*

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*John Womack*

*The assembly is seated or kneels for prayer.*

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to feel unimportant, and transform the hearts of all infected by bigotry and prejudice. Care for all in special need this day.

We offer to you now the concerns of our hearts, either silently or aloud.

**Additional Intercessions**

*Rev. Ashton Roberts*

*A brief silence*

- *We pray for Charlie; Melanie; Robin and Cathy; June; Jim.*
- *We pray for Carter and her family and for Keren and her family.*
- *We pray for Roger and the Boyer family.*
- *We pray for K Phillip; Jeff; Kathryn; Alex; John.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

- *We pray for justice and peace among nations where war and violence rage, especially in Iran, Lebanon, Gaza, South Sudan, Ukraine, and Venezuela.*
- *We pray for all those impacted by severe storms and weather.*
- *We pray for schools everywhere, that all students and those who care for them may feel safe and free from fear.*
- *We pray for justice around the world and here at home, that God may delight when we are creators of justice and joy, compassion, and peace.*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands in body or spirit.*

**PEACE**

*Rev. Ashton Roberts*

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

I invite you to share a sign of peace with one another.

*If you are joining us online, reach out by phone, text, email, or social media this week to share the Peace of Christ.*

# MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

## OFFERING

*Rev. Ashton Roberts*

*We have several ways to receive your offering. There is a basket on the table by the sanctuary doors, or you can utilize the QR code on the front of your bulletin to submit your offering online. Mailing your offering to the church is also an option.*

## OFFERING RESPONSE

**ELW 182**

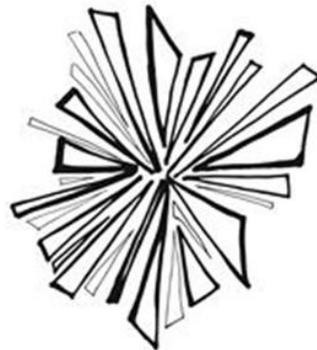
### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



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 the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
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# OFFERING PRAYER

John Womack

Let us pray.

O God, maker of heaven and earth,  
your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth  
and bring forth its bounty.  
Through these gifts of bread and wine,  
draw us into the death and life of your Son,  
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.  
We ask this in Jesus' name.

**Amen.**

## DIALOGUE

Rev. Ashton Roberts

G C D D/C Bmin Emin C Amin F

The Lord be with you! And al-so with you! Lift up your hearts! We lift them to the Lord!

Bb/D Bb F/A Gmin C7sus4 C

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God! It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Cmin Eb Fsus4 Fmin Db Cmin Ab

On the night He was be-trayed, He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it and said:

Eb Ab Cmin Bbsus4 Bb Eb Ab

"Take and eat. This is my bo-dy, gi-ven for you. Take and eat. This is my body,

Cmin Ab Eb Fsus4 Fmin C

gi-ven for you. Do this for the re-mem - brance of me."

Cmin Eb Fsus4 Fmin Db Cmin Ab

On the night He was be-trayed He took the cup gave thanks, and raised it up:

Eb Ab Cmin Bbsus4 Bb Eb Ab

"Take and drink. This is my blood, poured out for you. Take and drink. This is my blood,

Cmin Ab Eb Fsus4 Fmin F

poured out for you. Do this for the re-mem - brance of me."

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-lo-wed be Thy name. Thy  
king-dom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in hea-ven. Give us this  
day our dai-ly bread, and for - give us as we for-giveour debt-ors; and  
lead us not in-to temp - ta - tion, but de - li-ver us from e - vil; for  
Thine is the king-dom and the po - wer and the glo - ry, for - e - ver. A - men.

Chords: B $\flat$ sus4 B $\flat$ , E $\flat$ , F $\flat$ sus4 F, B $\flat$ , C, B $\flat$ /D E $\flat$ , F $\flat$ sus4 F, B $\flat$ , B $\flat$ /A, G $\flat$ min, C7, C $\flat$ min, F, B $\flat$ , C, D $\flat$ min, E $\flat$ , B $\flat$ , F, F/G G $\flat$ min, F/E $\flat$ , D7, D/F $\sharp$ , G $\flat$ min, G $\flat$ min/F, E $\flat$ , F, B $\flat$ .

## COMMUNION SONG

Lamb of God, You take a - way the sin  
of the world. Have mer - cy on us.  
Grant us peace. Grant us peace. Grant us peace, Lamb of God.

Chords: B $\flat$ , B $\flat$ /D, E $\flat$ , F, B $\flat$ , B $\flat$ /D, E $\flat$ , F7sus4, B $\flat$ , B $\flat$ /D, E $\flat$ , F7sus4, B $\flat$ .

Tune: John Tirro

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## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table.  
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*The assembly is seated.*

## **MUSIC FOR COMMUNION**

*The assembly stands in body or spirit.*

## **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

*Rev. Ashton Roberts*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*John Womack*

*Let us pray.*

God of our salvation,  
we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,  
reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.  
Through the body and blood of your Son,  
may we become Christ's body in the world,  
bearing witness to your love for all creation,  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

## **BLESSING**

*Rev. Ashton Roberts*

*The assembly stands in body or spirit.*

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:  
God, who calls all things into existence,  
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,  
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,  
✠ bless you now and always.

**Amen.**

*Blessed*

## Be Thou My Vision



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 both by day and by night,  
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
 thou and thou on - ly, the 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.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1931  
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Rev. Ashton Roberts*

**DISMISSAL**

*Rev. Ashton Roberts*

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

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