

HOLY COMMUNION FEBRUARY 18, 2024 FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD." (Psalm 122:1)

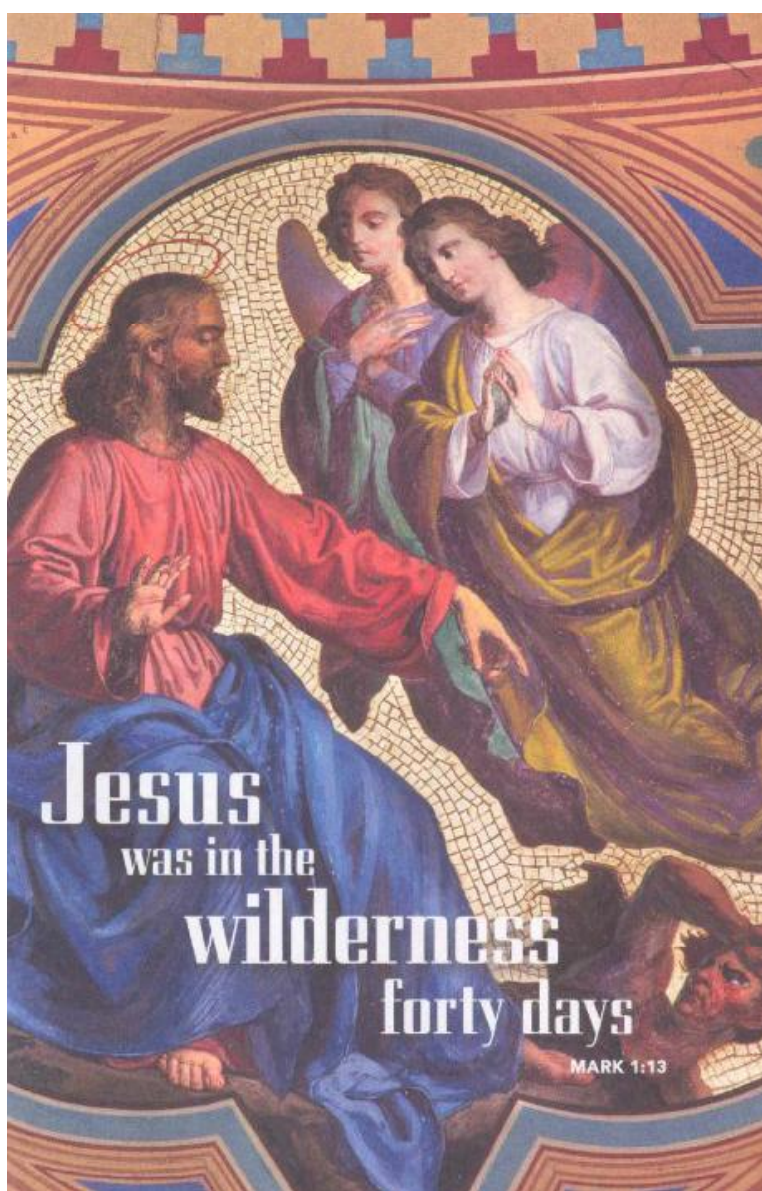
PRELUDE AND PREPARATION

During the prelude, prepare your heart for worship: read the introduction, find the Scripture readings in your Bible or the pew Bible, and pray.

You may pray: Bless us, O God, with a reverent sense of Your presence, that we may be at peace and may worship You with all our mind and spirit; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN.

INTRODUCTION

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey with Christ toward the cross. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.



1 A might-y for-tress is our God, A bul-wark nev-er fail-ing;
 2 Did we in our own strength con-fide, Our striv-ing would be los-ing,
 3 And though this world, with dev-ils filled, Should threat-en to un-do us,
 4 That word a-bove all earth-ly powers, No thanks to them, a-bid-eth;

1 Our help-er He a-mid the flood Of mor-tal ills pre-vail-ing.
 2 Were not the right man on our side, The man of God's own choos-ing.
 3 We will not fear, for God hath willed His truth to triumph through us.
 4 The Spir-it and the gifts are ours Through Him who with us sid-eth.

1 For still our an-cient foe Doth seek to work us woe—His craft and power are
 2 Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je-sus, it is He— Lord Sab-a-oth His
 3 The prince of dark-ness grim, We trem-ble not for him— His rage we can en-
 4 Let goods and kin-dred go, This mor-tal life al-so— The bod-y they may

1 great, And, armed with cru-el hate, On earth is not his e-qual.
 2 name, From age to age the same, And He must win the bat-tle.
 3 dure, For lo, his doom is sure: One lit-tle word shall fell him.
 4 kill; God's truth a-bid-eth still: His king-dom is for-ev-er. A-men.

COMMEMORATION

Martin Luther, renewer of the church (1483–1546): For those in the habit of remembering the work of Martin Luther on Reformation Day, this commemoration may seem out of place. But it is a custom to remember saints on the day of their death, their “heavenly birthday.” On this day Luther died at the age of 62. For a time, he was an Augustinian monk, but it is his work as a biblical scholar, translator of the Bible, reformer of the liturgy, theologian, educator, and father of German vernacular literature that holds him in our remembrance. In Luther’s own judgment, the greatest of all of his works was his catechism, written to instruct people in the basics of faith. And it was his baptism that sustained him in his trials as a reformer.

WELCOME AND MEDITATION

(Please rise.)

GATHERING HYMN “A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”

(Maj # 13 - favorite - Martin Luther, trans. Frederick H. Hedge)

THE INVOCATION *(SBH page 15)*

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN.

THE ORDER OF PUBLIC CONFESSION *(pages 250-252)*

P: Dearly Beloved: The Holy Supper of our Lord Jesus Christ has been instituted for the special comfort and strengthening of those who humbly confess their sins, and who hunger and thirst after righteousness. Forasmuch as we intend to come to the Lord’s Table, it becomes us diligently to examine ourselves as St. Paul exhorted us. We find, when we do this, that we are under the dominion of sin and death. To save us from death, make us children of God and exalt us to everlasting life, our Lord Jesus Christ had mercy on us, took our nature upon Him, and Himself became obedient unto death. In order that we should believe this with greater confidence and be strengthened in cheerful obedience to His will, He has instituted the Sacrament of the Altar in which He gives us His Body and His Blood to eat and to drink. Whoever eats this Bread and drinks this Cup, firmly believing the words of Christ, lives in Christ and Christ in him, and has eternal life. We should also do this in remembrance of Him, showing His death, that He was delivered for our offences and raised again for our justification. For all that He has done we are bound to give Him most hearty thanks, to take up our cross and follow Him, and as He gave commandment, to love one another as He has loved us. For as we are all partakers of this one Bread and drink of this one Cup, so are we all one body in Him.

P: Let us pray together: **C: Almighty God, unto 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, Your Son, our Lord. AMEN.**

P: I ask you in the presence of God, Who searches the heart: Do you confess that you are by nature a most unworthy sinner, and that you have grievously offended against Him, in thought, word, and deed, and have merited only His wrath and condemnation?

C: I do so confess.

P: Do you trust entirely in the mercy of God in Jesus Christ?

C: I do so trust.

P: Do you promise heartily to forgive others, as you believe that God forgives you, and to serve Him henceforth in newness of life, to the glory of His holy Name?

C: I do so promise.

P: Let us humbly kneel, and make confession unto God, imploring His forgiveness through Jesus Christ our Lord.

(Please kneel. Silence is kept for reflection.)

C: O God, our heavenly Father, I confess unto You that I have grievously sinned against You in many ways; not only by outward transgressions, but also by secret thoughts and desires which I cannot fully understand, but which are all known unto You. I do earnestly repent, and am heartily sorry for these my offences, and I beseech You of Your great goodness to have mercy upon me, and for the sake of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, to forgive my sins, and graciously to help my infirmities. AMEN.

P: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us, and for the sake of the sufferings, death, and resurrection of His dear Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, forgives us all our sins. As a Minister of the Church of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore declare unto you who do truly repent and believe in Him, the entire forgiveness of all your sins: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **C: AMEN.**

P: On the other hand, by the same authority, I declare unto the impenitent and unbelieving, that so long as they continue in their impenitence, God has not forgiven their sins, and will assuredly visit their iniquities upon them, if they do not turn from their evil ways, and come to true repentance and faith in Christ, before the day of grace is ended.

THE GREETING *(Please rise.) (page 252)*

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

C: And also with you.

WE PRAISE GOD'S NAME

With one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"Let all the peoples praise him." (Romans 15:6,11)

PRAISE SONG *"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"*

(ELW # 325 - African-American Spiritual)

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

L: Let us pray together: **C: Holy God, heavenly Father, in the waters of the flood You saved the chosen, and in the wilderness of temptation You protected Your Son from sin. Renew us in the gift of baptism. May Your holy angels be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. AMEN.**

(Please sit.)

RESPONSIVE READING....Psalm 25 *(congregation: indented)*

To You, O LORD, I lift up my soul;

in You I trust, O my God.

Do not let me be put to shame,

nor let my enemies triumph over me.

No one whose hope is in You will ever be put to shame,

but they will be put to shame

who are treacherous without excuse.

Show me Your ways, O LORD,

teach me Your paths;

guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior,

and my hope is in You all day long.

Remember, O LORD, Your great mercy and love,

for they are from of old.

Remember not the sins of my youth and my rebellious ways;

according to Your love remember me,

for You are good, O LORD.

Good and upright is the LORD;

therefore He instructs sinners in His ways.

He guides the humble in what is right

and teaches them His way.

All the ways of the LORD are loving and faithful

for those who keep the demands of His covenant.

For the sake of Your name, O LORD,

forgive my iniquity, though it is great.

Who, then, is the man that fears the LORD?

He will instruct him in the way chosen for him.

He will spend his days in prosperity,

and his descendants will inherit the land.

The LORD confides in those who fear Him;

He makes His covenant known to them.

My eyes are ever on the LORD,

for only He will release my feet from the snare.

Turn to me and be gracious to me,

for I am lonely and afflicted.

The troubles of my heart have multiplied;

free me from my anguish.

Look upon my affliction and my distress

and take away all my sins.

LENTEN EXHORTATION *(Please rise.)*

“Return to the Lord, Your God” (LBW p 83)



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.

WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

For everything was written to teach us, so that by steadfastness and by the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. (Romans 15:4)

FIRST READINGGenesis 9:8-17 p. 13

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READINGRomans 12:1-10p. 1763

P: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(Please rise.)*

“O Lord Throughout These Forty Days” verses 1-2 (LBW # 99)

1 O Lord, through-out these for-ty days you prayed and kept the fast;
2 You strove with Sa-tan, and you won; your faith-ful-ness en-dured;
3 Though parched and hun-gry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind a-bove;
4 Be with us through this sea-son, Lord, and all our earth-ly days,

in - spire re - pen - tance for our sin, and free us from our past.
lend us your nerve, your skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
so teach us to de - ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
that when the fi - nal Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan, b. 1930 Music: CAITHNESS, *Psalter*, Edinburgh, 1635

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st Chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

GOSPELMark 1:9-15.....Pg. 1552

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to You, O Christ.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *verses 3-4*

(Young children go to Children's Church)

SERMON *(Please sit.)* Rev. Al

WE RESPOND IN FAITH

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing.
(Romans 15:13)

HYMN OF THE DAY *(Please rise.)*

“And Can it Be that I Should Gain?” (Majesty # 245 - favorite)

Charles Wesley, 1739

SAGINA, 8.8.8.8.88 with refrain
Thomas Campbell, 1825

1. And can it be that I should gain an in - t'rest in the Sav - ior's blood?
2. He left his Fa - ther's throne a - bove (so free, so in - fi - nite his grace!),
3. Long my im - pris - oned spir - it lay fast bound in sin and na - ture's night;

1. Died he for me, who caused his pain—for me, who him to death pur - sued?
2. emp - tied him - self of all but love, and bled for Ad - am's help - less race.
3. thine eye dif - fused a quick - ning ray; I woke, the dun - geon filled with light!

1. A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my Lord, shouldst die for me?
2. 'Tis mer - cy all! im - mense and free! for, O my God, it found out me.
3. My chains fell off; my heart was free; I rose, went forth, and fol - lowed thee.

Refrain

A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my Lord, shouldst die for me.
A - maz - ing love! How can it be that thou, my Lord,

4. No condemnation now I dread; Jesus, and all in him, is mine!
Alive in him, my living Head, and clothed in righteousness divine,
bold I approach th'eternal throne, and claim the crown, through Christ, my own.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father, through Him all things were made. For us and our salvation He came down from heaven; He was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake He was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day He rose again in accordance with the Scriptures, He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead: and His kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the Giver of Life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, with the Father and the Son He is worshipped and glorified, He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH *(Please kneel.)*

(Response: L: Lord, in Your mercy, C: hear our prayer.)

WE RECEIVE CHRIST'S COVENANTAL MEAL

For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. (1 Corinthians 11:26)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING *(Please rise.)*

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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid Your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

“Holy, Holy, Holy Lord” (WOV p 22)

The musical score is written on five staves of a single melodic line in treble clef, 3/4 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

PRAYER AND WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: Holy God, our living water and our merciful guide, together with rivers and seas, wells and springs we bless and magnify You. You led Your people Israel through the desert, and provided them water from the rock. We praise You for Christ, our rock and our water, Who joined us in our desert, pouring out His life for the world.

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.

Remembering, therefore, His life, death, and resurrection, we await Your salvation for all this thirsty world. Pour out Your Spirit on this holy food and on all the baptized gathered for this feast: wash away our sin, that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ. Through Him all glory and honor is Yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in Your holy church, both now and forever. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER *(sung to the Albert Hay Malotte tune)*

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. AMEN.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: Come to Christ, broken and poured out for you.

All who are baptized and trust in Jesus as Lord and Savior may partake. Please fill out a communication card and put it in the plate with your offering. Take a regular or rice (blue) wafer and a pre-filled glass of wine (red) or grape juice (white). Those not ready to receive communion may come for a blessing.

LAMB OF GOD *(WOV p 25)*

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

COMMUNION HYMNS *(sung while others are receiving.)*

1. *Thy Holy Wings* (WOV # 741)

1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
 2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
 3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.
 and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
 where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
 Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.
 Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
 Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
 Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,
 and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
 for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
 and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

2. "O Love That Will Not Let Me Go" (Maj # 508 - favorite)

1 O Love that will not let me go, I rest my wea - ry soul in
 2 O Light that fol-lowest all my way, I yield my flick-'ring torch to
 3 O Joy that seek-est me through pain, I can - not close my heart to
 4 O Cross that lift - est up my head, I dare not ask to fly from
 thee; I give thee back the life I owe, that
 thee; my heart re - stores its bor - rowed ray, that
 thee; I trace the rain - bow through the rain and
 thee; I lay in dust life's glo - ry dead, and
 in thine o - cean depths its flow may rich - er, full - er be.
 in thy sun - shine's blaze its day may bright - er, fair - er be.
 feel the prom - ise is not vain that morn shall tear - less be.
 from the ground there blos - soms red life that shall end - less be.

Text: George Matheson, 1842-1906, alt. Music: ST. MARGARET, Albert L. Peace, 1844-1912

WE ARE SENT INTO GOD'S WORLD

Come, let us walk in the light of the LORD! (Isaiah 2:5)

POST COMMUNION PRAYER *(Please rise.)*

L: Let us pray together: **C: Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. AMEN.**

BLESSING

P: The blessing of God Almighty, the wisdom and power of Jesus Christ, and the light of the Holy Spirit be among you and remain with you always. **C: AMEN.**

SENDING HYMN

"Great Is Thy Faithfulness" (Maj # 519 - favorite)

PASSING THE PEACE

P: As we leave to serve the risen Lord in the power of His Spirit, let us share with one another some of the blessings of peace we have received. The peace of the Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

1 Great is thy faith-ful-ness, O God my Fa-ther; there is no
 2 Sum-mer and win-ter and spring-time and har-vest, sun, moon, and
 3 Par-don for sin and a peace that en-dur-eth, thine own dear

shad-ow of turn-ing with thee; thou chang-est not, thy com-
 stars in their cours-es a-bove join with all na-ture in
 pres-ence to cheer and to guide; strength for to-day and bright

pas-sions, they fail not; as thou hast been, thou for-ev-er wilt be.
 man-i-fold wit-ness to thy great faith-ful-ness, mer-cy, and love.
 hope for to-mor-row, bless-ings all mine, with ten thou-sand be-side!

Refrain

Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Great is thy faith-ful-ness! Morn-ing by

morn-ing new mer-cies I see; all I have need-ed thy

hand hath pro-vid-ed; great is thy faith-ful-ness, Lord, un-to me.

Text: Thomas O. Chisholm, 1866-1960 Music: FAITHFULNESS, William M. Runyan, 1870-1957

FEBRUARY 18 2024

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

SERVANTS OF THE LORD THIS WEEK

GREETER: 8:30-Sally Stein / 10:45-Irene Graham

SONG LEADER: Nancy Cook

SOUND: 8:30-Chris Chmela / 10:45-Ken Yoxheimer

LIVE STREAM: 8:30-Jan Stryker

LITURGIST: 8:30-Patty Stein / 10:45-Lyn Stryker

LECTOR: 8:30-Alyce Stein / 10:45-Lyn Stryker

CHILDREN'S CHURCH: Ruthann Kistler

USHER: 8:30-Jan Stryker / 10:45-Irene Graham

COMMUNION SERVER: 8:30-Patty Stein / 10:45-Lyn Stryker

ALTAR GUILD: Sharon Branigan, Irene Graham

COUNTERS: Karen Brown, Jan Stryker

PHONETREE: Jonathan Mosebach

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: Mike Zyskowski

PRAYER CARE: call Pat Gilbert (610) 867-7759

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CHURCH STAFF

Rev. David L. Brown, *Pastor* † Ruthann Kistler, *Christian Ed. Dir.*

Nancy Cook, *Music Director* † Jonathan Mosebach, *Office Secretary*

Volunteers Needed, *Sexton* † Karen Steiner, *Pre-school*

Lisa Wechsler, *Treasurer* † Glade Schroeter, *Webmaster*

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Worship - 8:30 & 10:45 AM † Sunday School - 9:45 AM

(Holy Communion 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays & Major Feasts)

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