



A MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES
**CHRIST OUR PEACE —
PRAYING FOR HEALING
AND WHOLENESS**

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
MARCH & APRIL 2025, 6:30 PM

WELCOME TO ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH!

*The **Bold Print** indicates responses spoken by all.
The ELW hymns are found in the red hymnal located in the pew.*

THE GATHERING

The Prelude

Fawn Albert

THE OPENING DIALOGUE

- P We gather tonight mindful of the wounded world, confessing our complicity in its wounding. We come to the cross to pray for the end of hostility, hatred, and fear that divides nations, destroys communities, and sows the seeds of death in our own hearts. We come to hear God's promise to pardon, strengthen, and heal us. We come to pray for the healing of the nations and for our own lives and communities. We come to be gathered again into the blessed, broken Body of Christ, who is our peace.
- P Blessed be God, who forgives our sin, heals every illness, saves us from death, enfolds us with tender care, and crowns us with steadfast love, now and forever.
- C Amen. Blessed be the Lord our God.**

THE GATHERING HYMN

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory

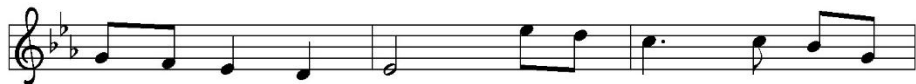
ELW 561



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n - ly glo - ry, lov - ing glow of God's own
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
3 You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen

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THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

C **And also with you.**

THE GATHERING PRAYER

P Let us pray.

Holy God, out of your great love for the world, your Word became flesh to live among us and to reconcile us to you and to one another. Rekindle among us the gift of your Spirit that we might live as one new humanity in Christ, dismantling the walls that divide, ending the hostility between neighbors, and proclaiming peace to those who are near and to those who are far away. Gather us now within the arms of your mercy and fill us with your wisdom and compassion. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our comforter and redeemer, our model of perfect love, mercy, and peace.

C **Amen.**

THE WORD

THE INVITATION OF THE WORD

P O God, I call to you, come to me now;

C **hear my voice when I cry to you.**

P Let my prayer rise up as incense before you,

C **lifting up my hands as an evening sacrifice.**

THE LESSONS

Week 1—The Greatest Commandment *Matthew 22:34–40*

Week 2—Christ the Cornerstone *Ephesians 2:14–22*

Week 3—Created for Community *Genesis 2:7, 18–22*

Week 4—Serving Others, Serving Jesus *Matthew 25:34–40*

Week 5—Love One Another *John 13:33–35*

— *Brief silence for meditation* —

THE RESPONSE TO THE WORD

P Keep watch within me, God;

C **deep in my heart may the light of your love burn bright.**

P All praise to the God of all, Creator of life;

C **all praise to the Christ and the Spirit of love.**

THE REFLECTION

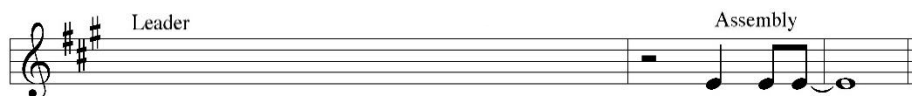
Pastor Halle Kluever

THE TIME FOR PRAYER & MEDITATION

FOR THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

P Let us name before God the nations of the world, pleading for healing for those places and peoples torn by ancient animosities or afflicted by new fears; those devastated by drought or disease; those enduring poverty, oppression, or war; and those yearning for a word of hope.

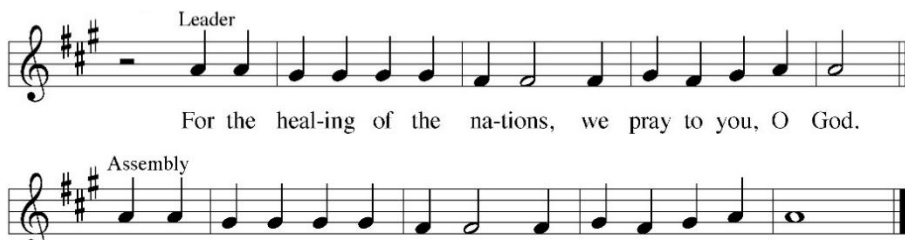
The leader names the places for which prayers are made, the assembly responds with "Peace be yours" after each petition:



The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is labeled "Leader" and contains a whole rest, indicating a period of silence for the leader to name countries or territories. The second staff is labeled "Assembly" and contains a musical phrase: a quarter rest, followed by a quarter note G4, a quarter note A4, a quarter note B4, and a half note G4.

The leader names countries / territories. The assembly responds: Peace be yours.

After each verse, the assembly joins the leaders in singing:



The musical notation consists of two staves. The first staff is labeled "Leader" and contains a whole rest followed by a melodic line: quarter notes G4, A4, B4, G4, F4, E4, D4, C4, B3, A3, G3, F3, E3, D3, C3, B2, A2, G2. The second staff is labeled "Assembly" and contains the same melodic line as the leader.

For the heal-ing of the na-tions, we pray to you, O God.

For the heal-ing of the na-tions, we pray to you, O God.

Text: Susan Briehl

Music: John D. Becker, from *Litany of the Saints*

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THE INVITATION TO PRAYER

P Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

When the music begins, come as you are drawn to pray. Light a candle, lay down a burden, or receive a blessing. Take this time to dwell in the presence of our Lord, receiving the peace that only Christ can give. If you choose to remain seated, know you are invited to lift your prayers in silence and meditation.

So, come. This space has been prepared for you. Come and seek healing, peace, and wholeness in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

THE TIME FOR PRAYER AND MEDITATION

During this time, the congregation is invited to offer prayers and seek God's blessing at the four prayer stations around the church. You may:

- **Light a candle** at the foot of the cross to offer a prayer for yourself, a loved one, or neighbors near and far.
- **Place a stone** on the large map in the chancel to pray for a specific place in the world.
- **Receive a blessing** from Pastor Halle in the left wing.
- **Write a worry or concern** on a dissolvable piece of paper to place in the baptismal font, giving your burden to God.

*If you prefer to **stay in your pew**, you are invited to pray silently (see the example provided below), listen to the music, or reflect upon this evening's scripture lesson.*

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Grant, O God, that your holy and life-giving Spirit may move every human heart; that the barriers dividing us may crumble, suspicions disappear, and hatreds cease; and that, with our divisions healed, we might live in justice and peace; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(ELW, PAGE 79)

THE SENDING

THE SENDING PRAYER

- P Gathering our many prayers into one, let us pray.
You are gracious and merciful, O God, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. You draw near to those who call upon you, crying out from their hearts. Receive now the prayers of your people. By your grace save us, heal our divisions, fill us with your blessing, and make us one in Christ Jesus, your Son, our hope and peace.
- C **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

THE BENEDICTION

- P May Christ Jesus + dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are rooted and grounded in love, strengthened by the Spirit, and filled with the fullness of God.
- C **Amen.**

THE SENDING HYMN

Light Dawns on a Weary World

ELW 726



1 Light dawns on a wea - ry world when eyes be - gin to
2 Love grows in a wea - ry world when hun - gry hearts find
3 Hope blooms in a wea - ry world when crea - tures, once for -



see all peo - ple's dig - ni - ty. Light dawns on a
bread and chil - dren's dreams are fed. Love grows in a
lorn, find wil - der - ness re - born. Hope blooms in a



wea - ry world: the prom - ised day of jus - tice comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised feast of plen - ty comes.
wea - ry world: the prom - ised green of E - den comes.



The trees shall clap their hands; the dry lands, gush with springs;



the hills and moun - tains shall break forth with sing - ing!



We shall go out in joy, and be led forth in peace,



as all the world in won - der ech - oes sha - lom.

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: TEMPLE OF PEACE, William P. Rowan, b. 1951

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THE DISMISSAL

P Go in peace. Christ is with you.

C Thanks be to God.



ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

40 2nd Street, Slatington, Pennsylvania 18080

St. John's Lutheran Church is located in the heart of Slatington, Pennsylvania and has served the Lehigh Valley since 1868.

CHURCH STAFF

The Rev. Halle Kluever, *Pastor*
Sharon Stehly, *Church Administrator*
Fawn Albert, *Organist and Choir Director*
Bob Kroboth, *Sexton*

SUNDAY WORSHIP

8:00 AM & 10:15 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

9:00 AM

CONTACT

Phone (610)767-6361
Email stjohnslatington@gmail.com

BUILDING HOURS

Weekdays	9 AM to 3 PM
Saturday	Closed
Sunday	7 AM to 12 PM

Visit us online at stjohnslatington.org
and follow us on **Facebook**

ONLINE GIVING

For your convenience, St. John's Lutheran Church accepts online offerings through Vanco, an online payment processing service.

With Vanco, you can choose to give a one-time offering, or you can create an account to schedule weekly or monthly tithes.



To give today, scan the QR Code above by opening your cell phone's camera. This will direct you to the church's online giving website.

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