

*In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

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**HOPE EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

10016 STATE ROUTE 18, HAMLER, OH 43524

Pastor Keith A. Hunsinger

Church: 419-274-5765

[hopelutheran@metalink.net](mailto:hopelutheran@metalink.net)

Pastor: 419-607-0040

[pastorkah@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorkah@hotmail.com)

[www.hopelutheranchurchonline.com](http://www.hopelutheranchurchonline.com)

**On Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/hopelutheranchurchhamler](http://www.facebook.com/hopelutheranchurchhamler)

*“Let us come into [God’s] presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise! (Psalm 95:2). Welcome to worship.*

**PRELUDE**

*Just as I Am*

**BELL RINGING and ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who is present, who gives life, who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

**Amen.**

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?

Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.

“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.

All your sin is forgiven in the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN AND KYRIE:** *Your Heart, O God, Is Grieved*  
*LBW #96*

**GREETING**

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

Let us pray... Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**ANTHEM:** *Healing At The Fountain*

*Senior Choir*

## FIRST READING

*Exodus 17:1-7*

*Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the LORD among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.*

*A reading from Exodus, the seventeenth chapter.*

<sup>1</sup>From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup>The people quarreled with Moses, and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” <sup>3</sup>But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” <sup>4</sup>So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” <sup>5</sup>The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. <sup>6</sup>I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup>He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

*The reading concludes:* The word of the Lord.

*Response:* **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 5:1-11

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

*A reading from Romans, the fifth chapter.*

<sup>1</sup>Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup>through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup>And not only that, but we also boast in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, <sup>4</sup>and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup>and hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup>For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

<sup>7</sup>Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup>But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup>Much more surely then, now that we have been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup>For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup>But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*The reading concludes: The word of the Lord.*

*Response: **Thanks be to God.***

## 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, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## GOSPEL

*John 4:5-42*

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

The holy gospel according to St. John, the fourth chapter.

### **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>5</sup>[Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup>Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup>A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."<sup>8</sup>(His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup>The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup>Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."<sup>11</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?"<sup>12</sup>Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well, and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"<sup>13</sup>Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup>but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."<sup>15</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."<sup>16</sup>Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."

<sup>17</sup>The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; <sup>18</sup>for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup>The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup>Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup>Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup>You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup>But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." <sup>25</sup>The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." <sup>26</sup>Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

<sup>27</sup>Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup>Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup>"Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" <sup>30</sup>They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup>Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." <sup>32</sup>But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." <sup>33</sup>So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" <sup>34</sup>Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup>Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup>The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup>For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup>I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

<sup>39</sup>Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup>So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup>And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup>They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON:**

*Pastor Keith A. Hunsinger*

**HYMN OF THE DAY:** *Oh, that the Lord Would Guide My Ways*

*LBW (Green) Hymnal #480*

**CREED**

God has made us His people through our Baptism into Christ. With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*A brief silence.*

God of living water, send your church beyond boundaries to proclaim your grace. May its witness be a source of refreshment for thirsty souls. Strengthen our voices, that all people can know and believe that Jesus is truly the savior of the world. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, protect from pollution or misuse all rivers, lakes, oceans, and streams. Bless the work of those who dig wells and those who advocate for access to clean water, that all people and animals have enough to drink. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, open the hearts of leaders and authorities, that they hear the cries of the suffering and act with compassion toward them. Bring peace to disputed lands and bring reconciliation to people divided by race, culture, or nationality. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, mend the hearts of those who grieve broken relationships, whether by conflict, abuse, divorce, or death. Draw near to all who are ill especially Roger, Shirley, Jane, Laura, Arnie, Margaret, Jackie, Bernadine, Beth Ann, Burdell, Dianne, Marvin, Vic, Richard, Carolyn, Rollie, Brooke, Bruce, Orville, Luke, Eulene, Marge, Ray, Rosemary, Linda, Shellee, Jamie, Ruth, Carolyn, and those we name in our hearts... Assure those questioning your presence in the midst of doubt or suffering. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, renew us in the promises of baptism. Join us together in worship, fellowship, and sharing your good news. Embolden us to serve others and to work for justice and peace. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

God of living water, we thank you for those who endured suffering and who now boast in the glory of God, especially Eldor Gruenhagen. Pour your Holy Spirit into our hearts and give us peace as we live in the hope of our salvation. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**



## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## OFFERING

*Peace Within My Soul*

## OFFERTORY



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles - sing. 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.

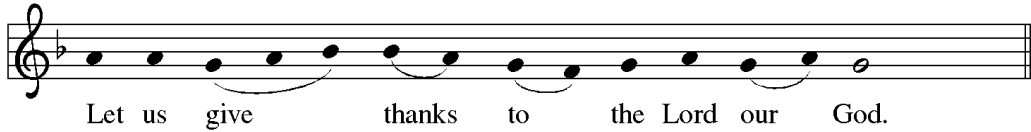
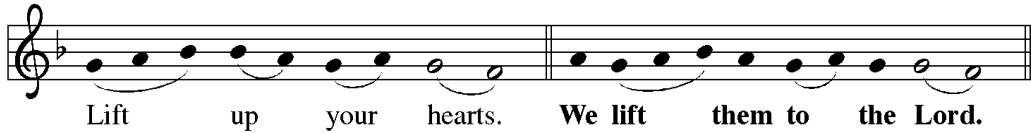
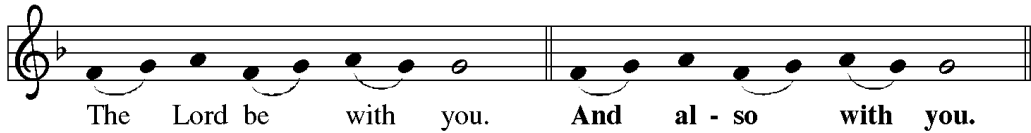
## OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray... Holy and generous host, you set a table where we feast as friends.

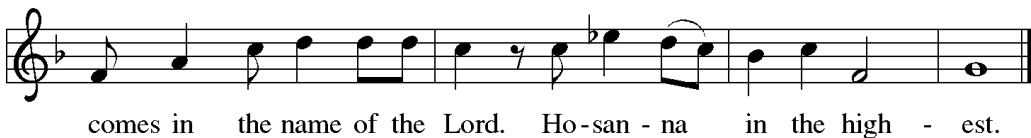
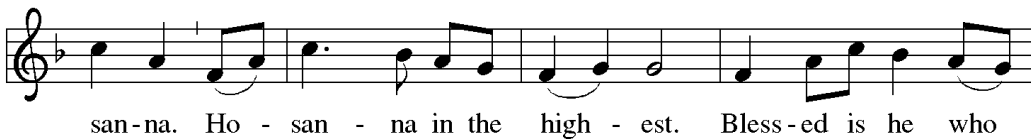
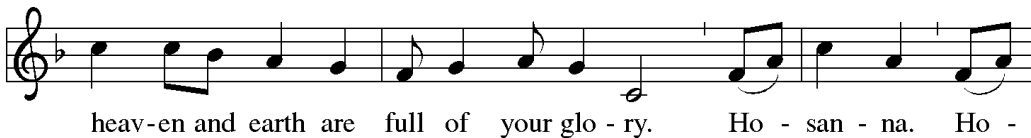
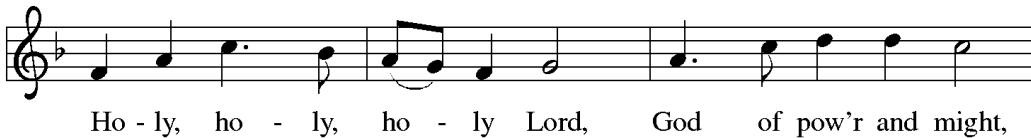
Prepare us to witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your peace through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING



It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise... *here the minister continues with the preface of the day, concluding...* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

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.

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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,**

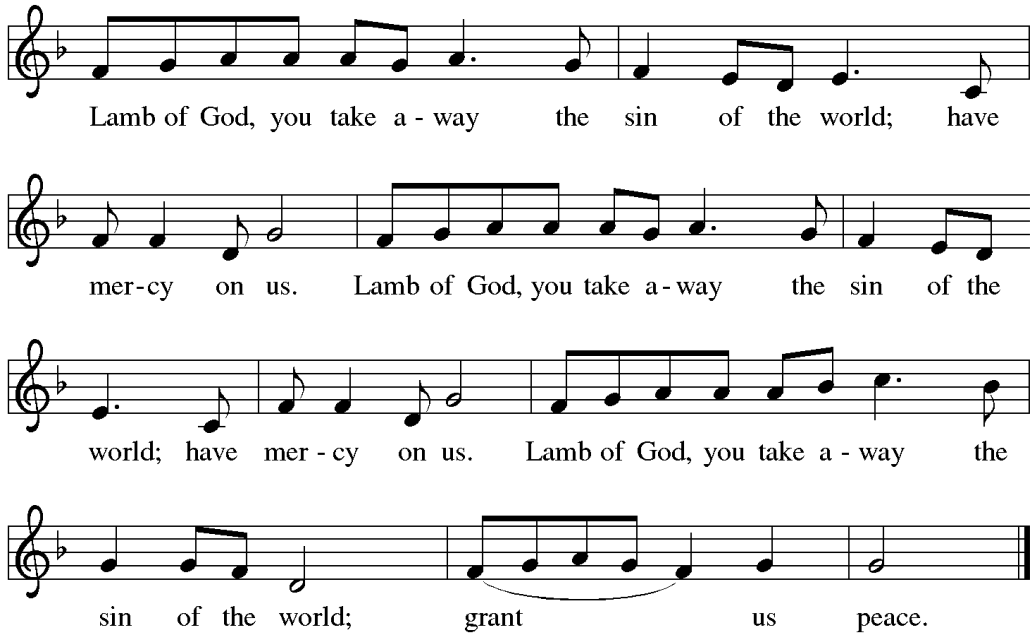
**forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION**

God's love is poured out in Christ for you.

Open yourselves to receive it.

*The congregation is seated. Communion is continuous. Communion hymns are on the board in the front of the sanctuary. The first hymn sung is:*



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

**ADDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION HYMNS:**

*WOV (Blue) Hymnal #706, #710, #699*

*When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:*

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

*and each person may respond* **Amen.**

*After all have returned to their places:*

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

**Amen.**

**POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:** *On My Heart, Imprint Your Image*

*LBW (Green) Hymnal #102*

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray... We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of your Son, which sustains us in the wilderness and the garden alike. As Christ has loved us in this feast, so send us to love Christ in our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

## **BLESSING**

Now is the acceptable time. Now is the day of salvation. Holy God, speaking, spoken, and inspiring, ☩ bless you, unbind you, and send you in love and in peace.

**Amen.**

**SENDING HYMN:** *Glories of Your Name Are Spoken*      *LBW (Green) Hymnal #358*

## **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **POSTLUDE**

*More Holiness Give Me*

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*Organist and Choir Director:*

Jim Murcko

*Lector:*

Doug Prigge

*Communion Assistants:*

Doug Prigge, Amy Nickels, Judy Damman

*Acolytes:*

Carson Prigge, Gavin Schwiebert

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### **Lessons for March 22:**

First Lesson: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Psalm: Psalm 23

Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

Gospel: John 9:1-41

**Prayer Concerns:** Roger & Shirley Bostelman, Jane Brandt, Laura Durham, Arnie Gerken, Margaret Gerken, Jackie Mangas, Bernadine Meyer, Beth Ann Miller, Burdell Schwiebert, Dianne Schwiebert, Marvin Schwiebert, Vic Sonnenberg, Richard Storch, Carolyn Willford, Rollie Baden, Brooke Bostelman, Bruce Blue, Orville Dickerson, Luke Haselman, Eulene Keeton, Marge Lanzer, Ray Lewis, Rosemary Lones, Linda McDonald, Shellee Murcko, Jamie Rader, Ruth Roberts, Carolyn Sonnenberg.

Our **Christian Sympathy** to Gary & Deb Jones and family on the death of Deb's step-father, Eldor Gruenhagen.

The **Worship Ministry** will meet today following the service.

For the time being, the **church phone number** will be answered by a CenturyLink voice mail. We hope to access it multiple times a day. In an emergency, please call Pastor Keith on his cell: 419-607-0040, or Deb Moser, church secretary on her cell: 419-722-4123. Thank you for your patience during renovation.

The **Door Offering** will be received next Sunday for the Filling Home of Mercy.

The April-June issue of **Portals of Prayer** is available in the Narthex. *Please pick up your copy.*

The Luminary Seven of Hamler is sponsoring an **Palm Sunday Cantata** "Wondrous Love" performed by members of area churches on Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> at 7pm at St. Stephen Lutheran Church, Hamler.

Hope's Luther League will once again be selling **Easter Lilies and Hydrangeas**. Members of the Luther League will be at the back of the church on Sunday mornings to take your order or you can fill out the order form on the back page and place it with your money in the offering plate or send it in to the church office. *If writing a check, please make it to Hope Lutheran Church Luther League.*

We have placed a fact sheet on the **Coronavirus** (COVID-19) in your bulletin. This has a lot of important information, so please take one home with you. If you would like additional copies, please contact the church office.

**This Week and Next at Hope:**

Monday 3/16	6:30 PM	Inter Church Conversations @ St. Peter, Holgate
Tuesday 3/17	4:00 PM	Shalom
Wednesday 3/18	4:00 PM	First Communion Class
	5-6:00 PM	Catechism
	6:00 PM	Soup Supper ( <i>hosted by Christian Life/Outreach</i> )
	7:00 PM	Lenten Worship
	7:30 PM	Choir Practice
Sunday 3/22	9:00 AM	Sunday School
	10:15 AM	Worship
		Door Offering ( <i>Filling Home of Mercy</i> )

**Attendance:**

*Sunday, March 8:* 91  
*Wednesday, March 11:* 50

**Offerings:**

*General Fund:* \$3,222.00  
*Student Funds:* \$50.00  
*New Construction Fund:* \$75.00  
*Filling Home:* \$15.00  
*Shalom:* \$20.00  
*Soup Supper:* \$110.00  
*Noisy Collection:* \$32.63

**Community Flyers Posted:**

Hamler American Legion Sunday Dinner – March 15  
Digital Empowerment for Parents (*P.H.H.S. Gymnasium*) – March 16  
St. Paul's Catholic Church Fish Fry – March 20  
St. Peter's Baked Steak Dinner – March 22 (*Carry-out only*)  
Holgate Fire Dept. Chicken BBQ – April 5  
Palm Sunday Cantata (*at St. Stephen Lutheran Church*) – April 5

*Easter Flowers*

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# of Lilies (\$8.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_

# of Hydrangeas (\$13.00 each) \_\_\_\_\_ PINK \_\_\_\_\_ BLUE

Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

*OR*

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

*Orders are due by March 22nd.*