

*The commandment of  
the LORD  
gives light  
to the  
eyes.  
(Ps. 19:8)*

# Third Sunday in Lent

## St. James Lutheran Church Fishersville, VA Sunday, March 3, 2024

### BRIEF ORDER FOR CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,  
who writes the law on our hearts,  
who draws all people together through Jesus.  
**Amen.**

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin  
in the presence of God and of one another.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Holy God,  
**we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.  
We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.  
We speak in ways that silence others.  
We are silent when we should speak up.  
We keep score in our hearts.  
We let hurts grow into hatred.  
For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.  
Amen.**

Here is a flood of grace:  
Out of love for the whole world,  
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through ✚ Jesus Christ.  
**Amen.**

**ENTRANCE HYMN "Christ, the Life of All the Living" (LBW 97)**

### Introduction

The third covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the central one of Israel's history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God's liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

## 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.**

## KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,  
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray. . . .

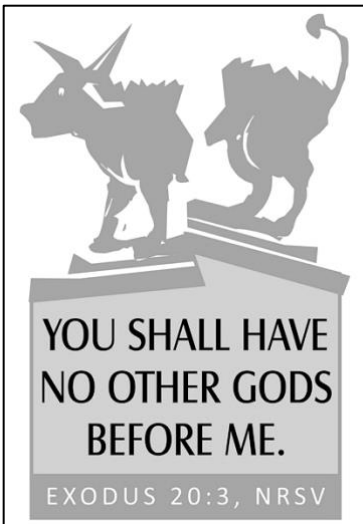
Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## First Reading:

*After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.*

## Exodus 20:1-17



<sup>1</sup>God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup>you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup>You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth.

<sup>5</sup>You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup>but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup>You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup>Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup>Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup>But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do

any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup>For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup>You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup>You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup>You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup>You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup>You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Here ends the reading.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 19

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glo-ry of God,  
and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

<sup>2</sup>**One day tells its tale to another,  
and one night imparts knowledge to another.**

<sup>3</sup>Although they have no words or language,  
and their voices are not heard,

<sup>4</sup>**their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to  
the ends of the world,**

**where God has pitched a tent for the sun.**

<sup>5</sup>It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber;  
it rejoices like a champion to run its course.

<sup>6</sup>**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs  
about to the end of it again;**

**nothing is hidden from its burning heat.**

<sup>7</sup>The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re-  
vives the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the  
simple.

<sup>8</sup>**The statutes of the LORD are just and re-  
joice the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to  
the eyes.**

<sup>9</sup>The fear of the LORD is clean and en-  
dures forever;  
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

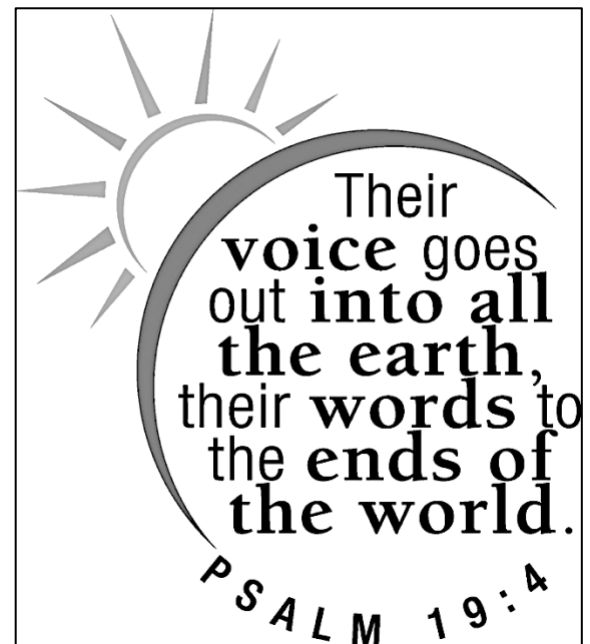
<sup>10</sup>**More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,  
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.**

<sup>11</sup>By them also is your servant enlightened,  
and in keeping them there is great reward.

<sup>12</sup>**Who can detect one's own offenses?  
Cleanse me from my secret faults.**

<sup>13</sup>Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me;  
then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

<sup>14</sup>**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,  
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.**



## Second Reading:

*The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul's preaching is Christ crucified.*

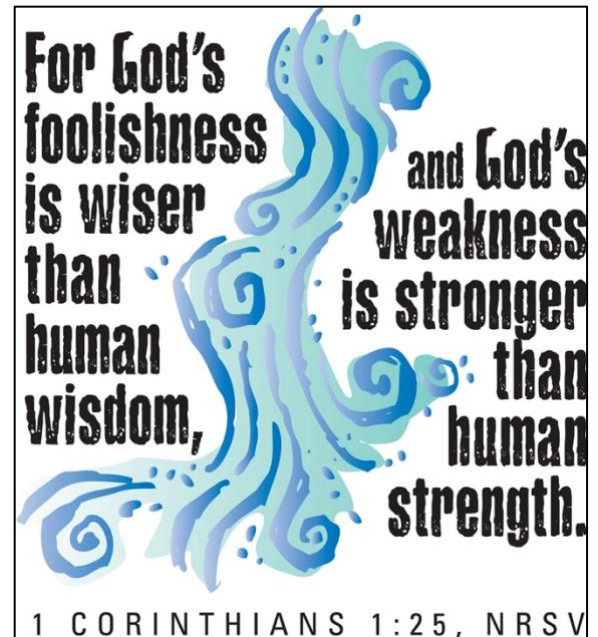
### 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

<sup>18</sup>The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

<sup>19</sup>For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup>Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup>For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup>but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup>For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.



Here ends the reading.  
Thanks be to God.



### Gospel: John 2:13-22

Glory to you, O Lord.



*Jesus attacks the commercialization of religion by driving merchants out of the temple. When challenged, he responds mysteriously, with the first prediction of his own death and resurrection. In the midst of a seemingly stable religious center, Jesus suggests that the center itself has changed.*

<sup>13</sup>The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. <sup>15</sup>Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!” <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” <sup>18</sup>The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” <sup>19</sup>Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” <sup>20</sup>The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” <sup>21</sup>But he was speaking of the temple of his

After he was raised  
from the dead,  
his disciples remembered  
that he had said this.

John 2:21

body. <sup>22</sup>After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON:** Rev. Carl Trost

**HYMN OF THE DAY "Jesus, the Very Thought of You"(LBW 316)**

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith by using the words of the 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.**



### **THE PRAYERS**

Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

*A brief silence.*

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick especially we pray for Norma, Gillian, Cecilia, Jean, Betty, Becky, Inez, Charlotte, Zeby, Bonnie, Claire, Charles, Ellen, Jerry, Bill, Josh, and Mike. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

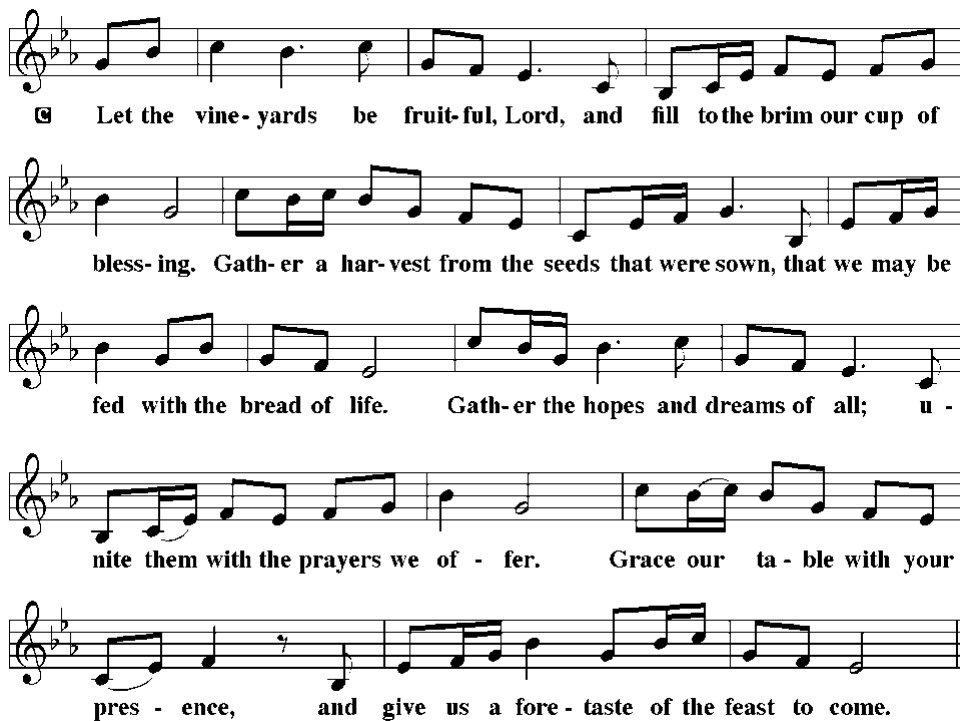
The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**And also with you.**

(For whom else and what else shall we pray...)

**Anthem, "Jesus, Name All Names Above" Text, Johan Schop, Composer, J S Bach.**

## OFFERING



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

## OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Jesus, you are the bread of life  
and the host of this meal.

Bless these gifts that we have gathered  
that all people may know your goodness.

Feed us not only with this holy food  
but with hunger for justice and peace.

We pray this in your name.

**Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

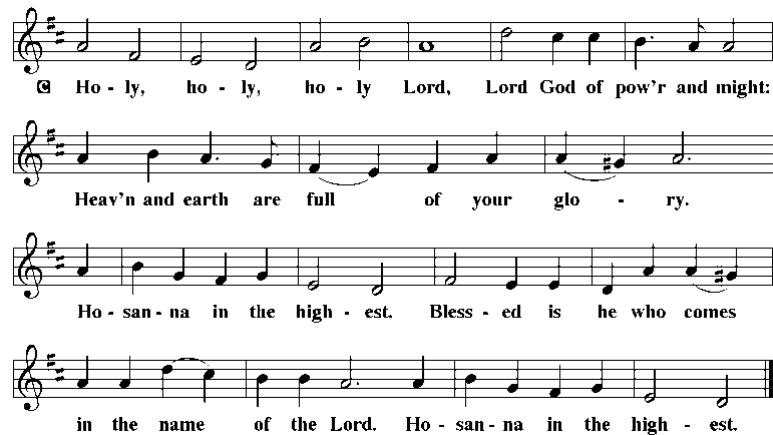
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE

It is indeed right and salutary 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:

### SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### THANKSGIVING

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.

### LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.


**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

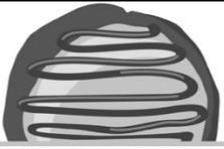
**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**



March

3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sam Diehl
10 <sup>th</sup>	Sherie W-Rohal
17 <sup>th</sup>	Flora Williams
24 <sup>th</sup>	Sherie W-Rohal
28 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday Ivan Diehl
29 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday Anne Putnam
31 <sup>st</sup>	Bambi Straw



**MARCH**  
BIRTHDAYS

13 <sup>th</sup>	Calvin Jordan
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Becky Dick

**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**

Bread for the journey.  
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

### **COMMUNION**

The body of Christ, given for you.  
The blood of Christ, shed for you.  
**Amen.**

### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

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

### **Prayer after Communion**

Let us pray.  
Generous God,  
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.  
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread,  
now make us one loaf to feed the world;  
in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life  
**Amen.**

### **Closing Hymn “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” (LBW 104)**

#### **Blessing**

Beloved, we are God’s own people,  
holy, washed, renewed.  
God bless you and keep you,  
shower you with mercy,  
fill you with courage,  
and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

#### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Share your bread.  
**Thanks be to God.**

### **Prayer Concerns**

#### Ongoing Need for Prayer

Norma Turak, Cecilia Shott, Jean Geiser,  
Betty Diehl, Gillian Taylor, Claire Viette,  
Ellen McDonald, Charles McDonald, Zeby  
(Ellen & Charles’ grandson), Charlotte  
Shifflett (Danny’s aunt), and Inez Johnson  
(Becky and Debbie’s aunt).

#### Prayer Concerns

Becky Dick, Jerry Hill and Bill Bayes  
(friends of Pastor Gordon and Anne), Bonnie  
Snyder (Danny’s mother), Josh Thornhill  
(Norma Turak’s grandson-in-law), and Mike  
Martin (friend of Phillip Snyder).

### **Community Conversations**

- Last week’s Soup and Sandwich Luncheon benefited Valley Mission. We raised \$142. Thank you.
- March 5<sup>th</sup> Open Circle meets at 1pm at Betty Bartley’s home.
- March 12<sup>th</sup> Quilting Group meets at 1pm.
- March 13<sup>th</sup> 9am Council meeting.
- Choir practice every Tuesday at 6pm at Betty Bartley’s home.
- Men’s Group meets every Friday at 9:00 am.
- For prayer concerns, contact Pastor Gordon.
- Council Person of the Month

### **National Quilt Day March 16<sup>th</sup>**

The Quilt Group will be  
partnering with The Grace Quilt  
Group for quilting and fellowship  
from 9am to noon at St. James  
followed by lunch at a restaurant  
to be determined (Dutch Treat).

Today is the last day to order  
Easter Flowers. See Flora if  
you have questions.





# Back Pack Needs

We need your help! The Backpack program has grown to 22 kids. Your support by purchasing any of the items listed below is much appreciated. Items can be placed in the box in the narthex. There is also an offering basket for financial support of the program.

- |                      |                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Mac and cheese       | Kroger meals            |
| Chef Boyardee meals  | Fruit cups              |
| Boxes of cereal      | Poptarts                |
| Oatmeal              | Ramen Noodles, any kind |
| Boxed juices         | Yahoo chocolate milk    |
| Apple sauce          | Raisins                 |
| “Hugs” Drink Barrels | All single servings     |

Pastor Gordon Putnam  
 434-760-0263  
 Grputnam1949@gmail.com  
 Pastor Carl Trost  
 Hannah Pingel, Pianist  
 Sam Diehl and Bambi Straw, Assisting Ministers

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## Lenten Services

Our Lenten journey this year is titled “Sing With All The Saints in Glory.” Each week we will lift up the lives of saints from the past. You will find a list of the many saints that we commemorate in the front of our hymnal. In remembering these Christians who have gone before, we find inspiration for our own Christian journey.



March 6<sup>th</sup> Zion Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Worship  
*Faithful in Prayer*

**Gregory the Great** was a sixth-century pope who is often remembered as one of the “fathers of Christian worship” because of his work revising the liturgy and making developments in church music.

**Patrick** was a missionary to Ireland. Called by God to carry the good news of Jesus to the Irish, he became one of the founders of the great Celtic tradition of Christianity.

March 13<sup>th</sup> Grace Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm worship  
*Striving for Justice*

**Archbishop Oscar Romero** was an outspoken critic of the government corruption, military abuse, and oppression of the people of his native El Salvador and was martyred while celebrating mass in 1980.

**Joseph** took Mary and Jesus to Egypt becoming refugees at the hands of a tyrant ruler.

March 20<sup>th</sup> Bethlehem Lutheran, 6 pm Soup Supper, 7 pm Worship  
*Dying and Rising with Christ*

**Hans Nielsen Hauge**, a nineteenth-century Norwegian lay preacher who initiated a religious revival in his home country, Norway.

**John Donne** was a seventeenth-century English poet and dean of St. Paul’s Cathedral in London.