

First Sunday in Lent – March 9, 2025

**Everything [in] between
Stranger & Neighbor**



Mt. Tabor Lutheran Church



Welcome to our Service

Our mission at Mount Tabor is to be “an inclusive, compassionate faith community living God’s love in the world.” Mount Tabor is a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America and a *Reconciling in Christ* congregation of the ELCA. This means that all are welcome and affirmed, especially our LGBTQ+ siblings, and that we are connected to the world. We all have a place here at God’s round table just as we are!

If this is your first time here, a special welcome to you! We are mask optional and mask friendly. Please sign the guest register in the narthex (along with your e-mail and cell) so we can be in touch, put on a name tag and join us for refreshments after the service.

Holy Communion is open to all. Children of all ages are invited to receive communion with their parents’ or guardians’ permission. Come when you are ready. Gluten-free bread is available. If you would like a blessing, come to the altar with your arms folded.

Children are welcome at all times in the sanctuary. We are blessed to be part of their faith formation through worship!

Please turn off cell phones in the sanctuary before worship begins.

You may add names to the prayer list by sending a request to Brenda Wardle (office@mttaborslc.org), or Pastor Christine (pastor@mttaborslc.org). Names added to the prayer list will remain there for one month. You may request that they stay on longer or come off sooner by contacting the same people.

Visit our web site at www.mttaborslc.org

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT - MARCH 9, 2025

ELW Setting Four

*Please stand as you are able until directed to be seated.

Greeting & Preparation for Worship

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit Calls Us Together as the People of God.

*Call to Worship

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

Who is my neighbor?

How can I help?

What do I have to learn?

Where is God in it all?

Here in this place, we can ask big questions.

So may we listen. May we learn.

May we stay curious, and may we look for God.

This is our invitation to lean in. Let us worship our holy God.

Please be seated.

Prelude

Bob Brown

*Call to Confession

Our faith tells us to love our neighbor as we love ourselves, but you and I know that is often easier said than done. Fortunately for us, prayer can be a tool for transformation. When we are honest before God and each other, we open the door to growth and change. So join me in the prayer of confession. Join me now, so that tomorrow, we will be even better at loving our neighbors as ourselves.

Prayer of Confession

Let us pray:

Holy God, you have told us to love our neighbors as ourselves, but we get tripped up on logistics. We want to know: who is our neighbor? Do we have to love the stranger? Must we have compassion for our enemy? Forgive our human tendency to create exceptions in the face of love. Rewire our hearts so that we might see the face of a neighbor in every stranger we pass. With hope we pray. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith,

When we set limits on love,

God loves extravagantly.

When we forget that we are neighbors,

God claims us as God's own.

When we judge, hold back, or harm,

God surrounds us with grace.

There is nothing we can do or leave undone
that could separate us from the love of God.

Gathering Song

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love

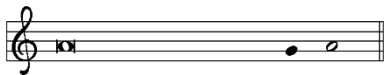
#708

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.



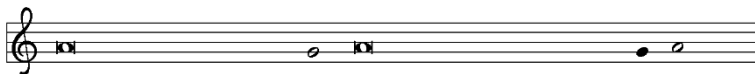
Lord, have mer - cy.



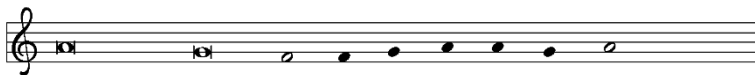
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



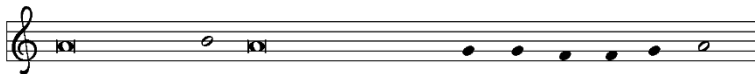
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God,

We love to ask you questions.

We love to throw our wonderings at the sky,

to bring our curiosity to your feet,

to examine, beseech, and imagine all day long.

But when the answers come,

we don't always like what we hear.

Awaken a curiosity in us.

Awaken a penchant for listening,

and make room in our spirits for your Word to land.

With hope we question, we wonder, we dream, we listen.

Amen.

THE WORD

God Speaks to Us in Scripture Reading, Preaching and Song

First Reading

Deuteronomy 30:9-14

⁹and the LORD your God will make you abundantly prosperous in all your undertakings, in the fruit of your body, in the fruit of your livestock, and in the fruit of your soil. For the LORD will again take delight in prospering you, just as he delighted in prospering your ancestors, ¹⁰when you obey the LORD your God by observing his commandments and decrees that are written in this book of the law, because you turn to the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. ¹¹Surely, this commandment that I am commanding you today is not too hard for you, nor is it too far away. ¹²It is not in heaven, that you should say, "Who will go up to heaven for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹³Neither is it beyond the sea, that you should say, "Who will cross to the other side of the sea for us, and get it for us so that we may hear it and observe it?" ¹⁴No, the word is very near to you; it is in your mouth and in your heart for you to observe.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Special Music

How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place
Jenny Jensen, and Lee Kreutzer, vocalists

by Josef Haydn

Psalm 25:1-9

To be read responsively

¹To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.

²**O my God, in you I trust;**

do not let me be put to shame;

do not let my enemies exult over me.

³Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴**Make me to know your ways, O LORD;**

teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth, and teach me,
for you are the God of my salvation;
for you I wait all day long.

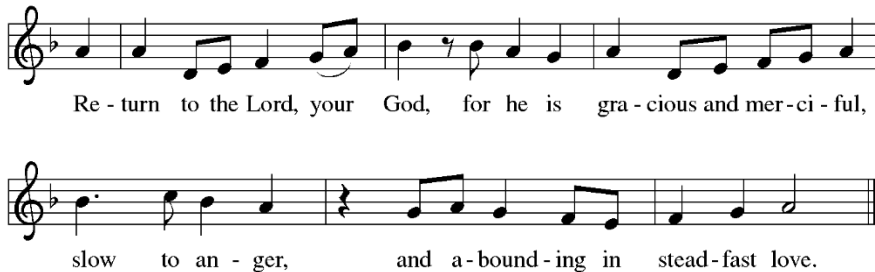
⁶**Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,
for they have been from of old.**

⁷Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;
according to your steadfast love remember me,
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!

⁸**Good and upright is the LORD;
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.**

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,
and teaches the humble his way.

*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.

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel

Luke 10:25-37

²⁵Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" ²⁶He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" ²⁷He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself." ²⁸And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live." ²⁹But wanting to justify himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" ³⁰Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. ³¹Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. ³²So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. ³³But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was moved with pity. ³⁴He went to him and bandaged his wounds, having

poured oil and wine on them. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. ³⁵The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.' ³⁶Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" ³⁷He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Message

Pastor Christine Higuera-Street

A time of silence follows the sermon for reflection on the message

***Hymn of the Day**

O God of Mercy, God of Light

#714

Affirmation of Faith

Please join me in professing our Christian faith.

Church, if God asked you, "Who is your neighbor?"

what would you say?

We would say,

every child, every person,

every weeping willow,

and every morning lark.

Every freckled face,

every wrinkled pair of hands,

every tail-wagging dog,

and every crisp ripe apple.

We would say,

we are connected—

to one another, to all of God's creation.

There are no strangers in God's house.

We are all family here.

I think God would delight in that answer. For it is said,

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your strength,
with all your mind,
and you shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

We believe. Help our unbelief.

Amen.

Please be seated.

The Prayers of the People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

After each petition

God in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

We remember in prayer.

Vicki Lange

Tonya Ashton

Jan Burke

Paul Robinson

Dannie Gavros

Rosemary Stelz

Scott Larrabee

John and Ann Ribera

Ellen

Doug Kempf

Ben Roundy

Toby Goldsmith

Travis and Nathan Jelsma-Beery

Hannah Comb

Leonard

Nancy Poe

Alan Astin

Judy White

We pray for all those suffering the effects of traumatic events, natural disasters and climate change. We pray for the recovery efforts, the first responders and volunteers who are serving in these areas.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

Sharing the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God Feeds Us with the Presence of Jesus Christ.

Sharing our Gifts and Gratitude

We provide several ways of sharing your financial blessings with our congregation. Offering plates are located at the doors of the sanctuary and envelopes can be found in the pews. **Simply Giving** is an automatic direct-donation method of supporting our life and ministry together. If you would like to enroll in **Simply Giving** or if you are interested in updating your giving amount, frequency, etc., please contact office@mttaborslc.org with your request. We are grateful and thankful for your support and wonderful generosity. *Alternately, feel free to use this QR code to contribute electronically.*



Prayer of Gratitude

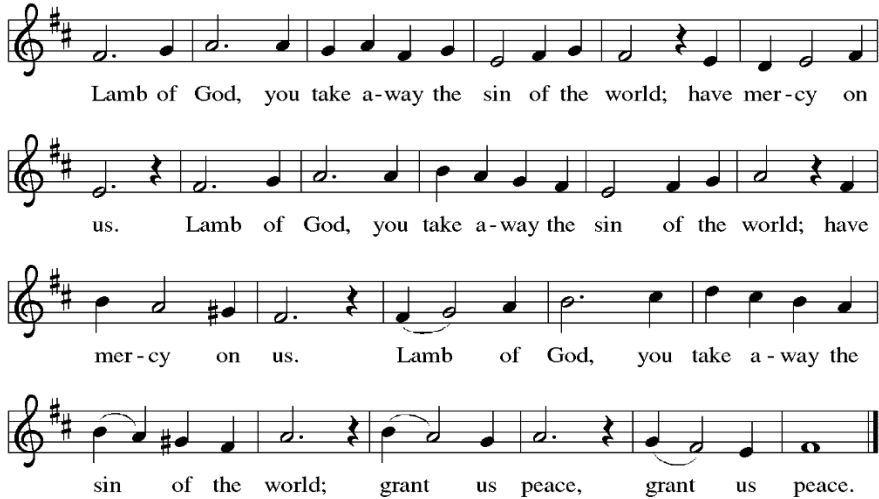
Let us pray,

**Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

Great Thanksgiving

The table is prepared as the assembly sings:

Lamb of God



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, grant us peace.

*Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

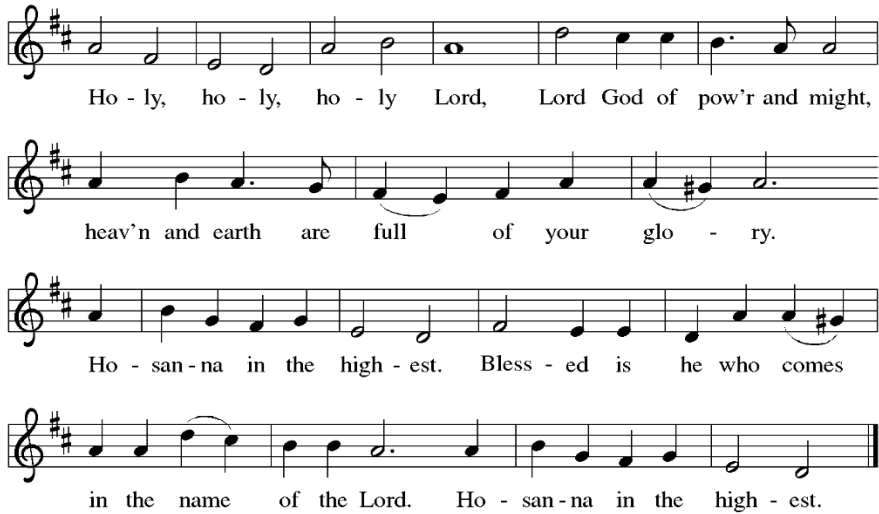
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Table Prayer

Holy God . . .in praise of your holy and almighty name.

Holy, Holy, Holy



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.

The Words of Institution

In the night.... in your holy Church, both now and forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

We pray together as the body of Christ:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Invitation to Communion

The Distribution *Come when you are ready, children are always welcome!*

| | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|
| Communion Songs | I Want Jesus, to Walk with Me | #325 |
| | Rock of Ages, Clef for Me | #623 |

*Post Communion Blessing

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray.

**Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Please be seated.

SENDING

God Blesses Us and Sends Us in Mission to the World.

Our Life Together (pg. 16)

*Blessing & Benediction

As you leave this place,
may you find God in every messy middle.
May you know that the world is bigger than two sides.
May you trust that you are made in the image of God,
and therefore, you contain multitudes.
So may you move through this world with an open heart,
with a curious mind, and with confidence that you do not go alone.
God is with you in the mountains,
in the valleys, and everywhere in between.
Believe that good news and go in peace.
Amen.

Sending Song

Jesus Calls Us O'er the Tumult

#696

Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Bob Brown

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First Sunday in Lent: March 9, 2025

Assisting Minister: Casey White

Lector: Dannie Gavros

Counters: Dave Warren, Chris Jensen

Usher: Dave Warren

Altar Ministry: Becki Kaiser

Music Director: Bob Brown

AV Technicians: Duane: Lee, Lee Kreutzer

Remote Office Assistant: Brenda Wardle

Presiding Minister: Rev. Christine Higuera-Street

Our Life Together Announcements

Please join us as we begin our Lenten journey, please join us for fellowship and food at 6 pm before the Wednesday 7 pm service. **We are asking volunteers to provide soups (2 +1 vegetarian), bread, and beverages. Please sign up on the sheet in the kitchen** for one of these dates: March 12, March 19, March 26, April 2, and April 9.

"Dinner At Vinnies" service opportunity is Tuesday, March 11th from 4:30-6:30pm at the St Vincent DePaul Dining Hall at the Weigand Center downtown. Come and share Tabor's gracious and loving hospitality with our hungry neighbors living on the streets. We always have room for more volunteers! Please see Casey White if you have any questions.

The council meets on **Sunday, March 16th** following worship.

OAKS (Older Adults Knowing Strength) bible study and luncheon. On Tuesday, March 18th at noon. Please let Stephanie Wilson know if you plan on attending by Sunday, March 16th. Subsequent OAKS will be on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, all are welcome.

Senior Food Box Distribution Our distribution of USDA food boxes to seniors in our neighborhood continues with our next distribution set for **Wednesday, March 19th**. Boxes are available for those who meet eligibility guidelines and have signed up through the Utah Food Bank.

Pastor Christine is available by text or email. Her contact information is pastor@mttaborslc.org or 801-215-9208.