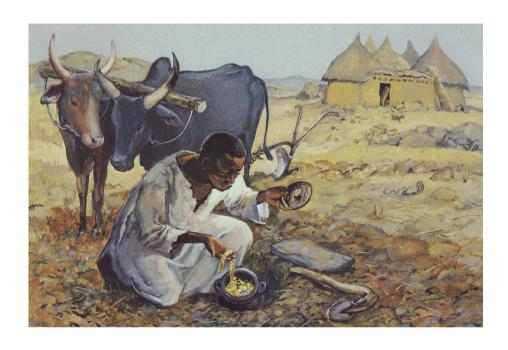
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF GENEVA

THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION WORSHIP SERVICE AT 11H00 23 MARCH 2025

THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CONGREGATION OF THE ELCG WELCOMES YOU!

We are a home away-from-home,

with people from different places becoming sisters and brothers in Christ.

Our members come from 40 countries and six continents. Some are in Geneva for decades, others for only a few months. All help the parish to be a community of shared beliefs, experiences and concerns. Opportunities for fellowship, spiritual growth and recreation bring families, friends and acquaintances together. Such bonds are precious in a city of so many welcomes and farewells.

Read more about who we are at: www.genevalutheran.church

If you are worshipping with us for the first time or if you have been here before and would like to know more about our community, please fill out a connection card. You can scan this QR code to submit one online, or you can fill out the card on the back of the bulletin and place it in the offering basket or give it to one of the ushers.



We are glad you are here—welcome!

Thank you to those sharing in worship leadership this morning:

Scribe: Pascal Krieger

Reader: Bethany Rosenkrans Prayer leader: Kiki Lawal

Altar care: Aleida Auld-Brun, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler

Assisting ministers: Elisabeth Benn, Vivien Liu, Ana Villanueva,

Maarten Wilbers

Ushers: Ben, Natalya and Nico Le Geyt

Offering counters: Tom Taylor

Church school: Ritu Suna, Grete Willis, Gladys Yegon, Jelimo Yegon

Flowers: Faith Fookes

Videgraphers: Breanna Ndwiga, Ray Woodcock

Evangelical Lutheran Church of Geneva

English-Speaking Congregation 20, rue Verdaine CH1204 Geneva, Switzerland Telephone / Fax: 022 310 50 89

pastor@genevalutheran.ch office@genevalutheran.ch www.genevalutheran.ch Pastor: Rev. Andrew Willis

Music Director: Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Third Sunday of Lent + 23 March 2025, 11h00

Ecumenical Prayer Cycle: Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania

The Lord's Prayer:

"Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven."

Welcome

Prelude

Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg

Greeting

On earth, as in heaven, we pray God's will be done. On earth, not just in heaven, we await God's coming reign, around us, among us, with us, in us. We gather as citizens of God's heaven, without borders or walls. as members of God's extended family of grace, giving glory and dominion to the one who loves us and freed us from our sin, praising the Alpha and the Omega, who was and who is and who is to come. We are drawn close in the mothering arms of the Eternal. who has made us to be a kingdom, grounded in the blessed Trinity, one God, now and ever. Amen.

Hymn Lord Christ, when first you came to earth

During this hymn, children who wish to go to church school are invited to do so.



Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 65:17-25

For I am about to create new heavens and a new earth; the former things shall not be remembered or come to mind.
But be glad and rejoice for ever

But be glad and rejoice for ever in what I am creating;

for I am about to create Jerusalem as a joy,

and its people as a delight. I will rejoice in Jerusalem,

and delight in my people;

no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.

No more shall there be in it

an infant that lives but a few days,

or an old person who does not live out a lifetime;

for one who dies at a hundred years will be considered a youth, and one who falls short of a hundred will be considered accursed.

They shall build houses and inhabit them;

they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.

They shall not build and another inhabit;

they shall not plant and another eat;

for like the days of a tree shall the days of my people be,

and my chosen shall long enjoy the work of their hands.

They shall not labor in vain,

or bear children for calamity;*

for they shall be offspring blessed by the Lord—and their descendants as well.

Before they call I will answer,

while they are yet speaking I will hear.

The wolf and the lamb shall feed together, the lion shall eat straw like the ox;

but the serpent—its food shall be dust!

They shall not hurt or destroy

on all my holy mountain, says the Lord.

This is God's holy word, *life for all people*.

Call to Prayer

Prayer of Lament

The uncertainties keep crashing over us and our world, holy God, whose will is love and whose reign is justice.

Morality, empathy, communal responsibility, love seem to have been abandoned.

We are left breathless at the destruction of what we had cherished.

A corrosive flood courses through our lives,

as if a dam had burst and we are tossed about like cars washed downstream in the mud.

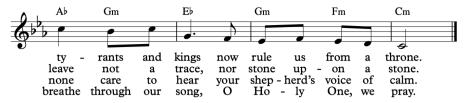
Your kingdom come, your kingdom, yours.

Sung Prayer

How can we sing

verse 1





English, Andrew Donaldson © 2025 GIA Publications

We grieve for those losing their jobs, their dreams, their hope.

We grieve for those who now face the long demise of starvation because someone powerful thought their food was worthy of cuts.

We grieve the babies who will be born with HIV and the mothers who will die.

We grieve the loss of trust, the loss of cooperation, the loss of openness to others.

Gracious God, we name before you, either silently or aloud, other things for which we grieve this day...

Your will be done, God, Your will be done, your will, yours.

Sung Prayer

How can we sing

verse 2

The lies tumble over us, like bushels of weedy pollen.

We cannot breathe for all the dust.

The sirens wail of danger,

but the warnings howl only betrayal.

Where is your voice in all the tumult?

On earth, as in heaven, on earth your will be done, on earth, your will, spoken, done.

Sung Prayer

How can we sing

verse 3

We need you, God of life.

We become exhausted from gasping,

unless you breathe in us a new spirit.

Sing us courage.

Sing us compassion.

Sing us into community.

Sing us the perfect love that casts out fear.

Sing us life that, even in the confusion,

reaches toward us from the new earth and the new heavens you bring in Jesus Christ.

Your Kingdom come.

Yours.

Your will be done.

Yours.

On earth,

Yours.

Sung Prayer

How can we sing

verse 4

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

Epistle Reading

Revelation 1:4-8

John to the seven churches that are in Asia:

Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn of the dead, and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and freed us from our sins by his blood, and made us to be a kingdom, priests serving his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds;

every eye will see him,

even those who pierced him;

and on his account all the tribes of the earth will wail.

So it is to be. Amen.

'I am the Alpha and the Omega', says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty.

This is God's holy word, *life for all people*.

Gospel Acclamation May your cross, Christ



May your cross, Christ, be a bless - ing for those bound in tyr-an - ny;



by the power of res - ur - rec - tion loose them from cap - tiv - i - ty.

Arrangement by John Ylvisaker and English, Ewald Bash © 1964 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, USA.

Gospel

Matthew 13:31-33, 44-50

The Gospel according to Matthew, chapter 13. *Glory to you, O Lord.*

[Jesus] put before them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.'

He told them another parable: 'The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened.'

'The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.

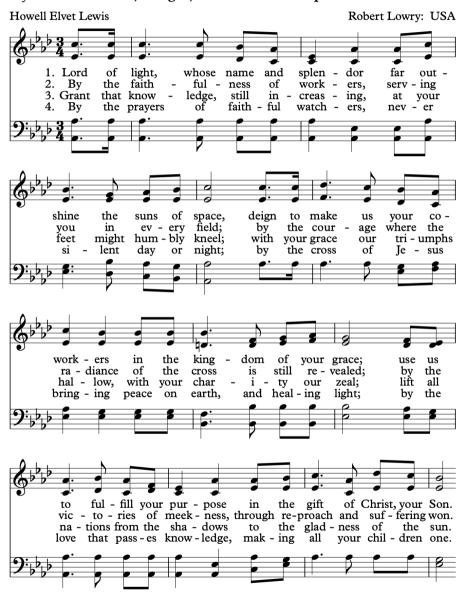
'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'

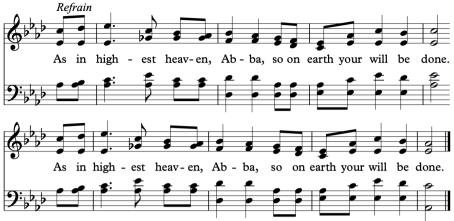
The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Andy Willis

Hymn Lord, of light, whose name and splendor





English © 1916 Howell Elvet Lewis. Used by permission of Piers Morgan.

Apostles' Creed

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 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.

Prayers of Intercession

God, in your mercy, *hear our prayer*.

Passing of the Peace

The peace of Christ be with you. *And also with you.*

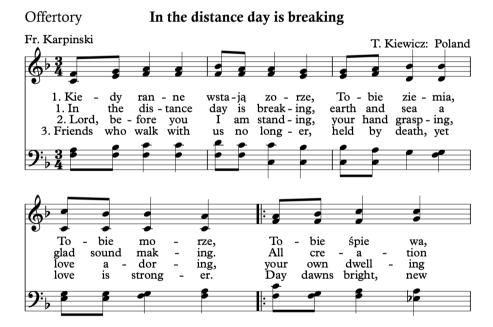
Gathering of Gifts

Your gifts are essential to our congregation's ministry. You can give in several ways: by placing money in the offering bag, by bank transfer (details on the back of the bulletin), or by TWINT.



Gathering of Gifts

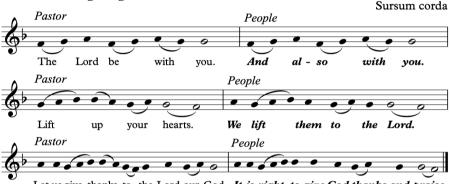
The Lord's Prayer Music by Rihards Dubra, Latvia Choir





Music © T. Kiewicz, notation Hartmut Bietz © Strube Verlag GmbH, Pettenkoferstraße 24, 80336 München, Germany, English, © Jeffrey T. Myers, Alte Mainzer Gasse 2, 60311 Frankfurt am Main, Deutschland.

Great Thanksgiving



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Preface

When you spoke light and created the world, vour will was done.

When you made humanity in your image,

your will was done.

When slaves defied their tyrants and walked through the waters free, *your will was done.*

When in the desert you gave your law,

your will was done.

When prophets raised their voice and cried out your word, *your will was done.*

When you sent Love to dwell with us, as one of us, so we might learn love, live love, become love, *your will was done.*

Therefore with all the saints who throughout the centuries have done your will, we join their hymn of praise, praying that your reign might come.





Music Urmas Sisask, Estonia © 1993 Fazer Music Estonia Inc. Espoo, Finland.

Eucharistic Prayer

Words of Institution

Remembering

This is the bread we need for today, the bread that satisfies.

This is the wine poured out, so that sins are forgiven.

At this table we become Christ's body and blood.

We remember the death of Christ until he comes.

Lord's Prayer

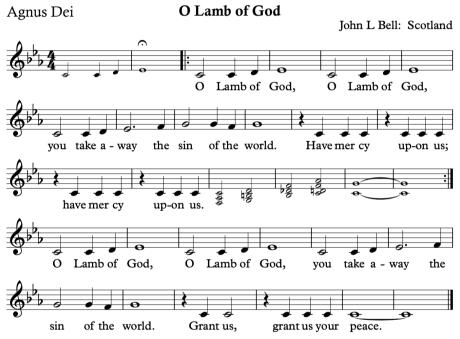
in our many languages

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, vour 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.



Music © 1986, 2008 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Glasgow G2 3DH Scotland

Invitation to Communion

All are welcome for communion.

Come and take any empty space around the altar. You will receive the bread. Then choose a cup: a dark cup for wine, a lighter cup for grape juice. Place the used cup on the next tray before returning to your seat.

Songs during Communion



as taught by George Mxadana. Arranged by John Bell. Arr. © 1988 Wild Goose Resource Group, Iona Community, Glasgow G51 3UU, Scotland.

Touch me, God's Spirit eternal



Finnish © Pia Perkiö. English © Matti Kilpiö

- 2. Kosketa, Jumalan Henki, syvälle sydämeen. Sinne paina hiliaa luottamus Ieesukseen.
 - 3. Rohkaise minua, Henki, murenna pelkoni. Tässä maailmassa osoita paikkani.
 - 4. Valaise, Jumalan Henki, silmäni aukaise, että voisin olla ystävä toisille.
 - 5. Kosketa minua, Henki! Herätä kiittämään, sinun lähelläsi armosta elämään.



Music J. Berthier © Ateliers et Presses de Taizé, 71250 Taizé, France. Our Father, who is in heaven

Sending forth

Benediction

Introduction of Visitors and Announcements

Dismissal.

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord *Thanks he to God*.

Writing on the Lord's Prayer Card: "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven."

On the altar retrieve your card from previous weeks. If you were not here before in Lent, take a blank card. Invite one other person to draw on your card, "Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven" in their own language. Maybe at the same time you write on theirs. Pens with different colors are on the tables and on the altar for drawing. You might use the printed graphic as a model, but feel free to add your own artistry. We all become scribes. Other phrases of the prayer will be added during the services to come.

When the drawing is complete, put your card back its envelope and put it in the box in alphabetical order so you can retrieve it when you next come to church. If you were not here before in Lent, take an envelope, put your name on it, and add it to the others. If you are a visitor, you might ask more than one person to write on the card. Then take the card with you as a reminder of the service and as an invitation to pray.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Season of Lent and the Lord's Prayer

This year for the season of Lent, our congregation is focusing on the Lord's Prayer. We'll move slowly through this central prayer of our faith, focusing on a single line each week. In a time with more than its share of uncertainty and tumult, we root ourselves deeply in communion with God and with one another.

New Church School Time

For the remainder of the school year, we'll be trying out a different schedule for church school: church school for ages 3 to 12 will meet during a portion of the worship service (instead of at 10h00). Children will begin the service with their families and return in time for Communion. We'll give this schedule a try for the coming months—contact Andy Willis or the church office with any questions.

Renewing Andy Willis's Contract - Forum today

Andy Willis's contract with the English-Speaking Congregation of the ELCG will expire in March of 2026, and all members are now invited to participate in the process of evaluating whether to renew the contract for an additional three-year term. Here are two ways to participate:

- A survey has been sent to all members (open until 31 March).
- A forum on this topic will be held after worship today, where
 congregation members who prefer to give feedback in person will have
 an opportunity to discuss Pastor Andy's leadership role in our church or
 ask questions about the process. The forum will be held in the sanctuary
 following the worship service, in an informal setting and guided by the
 CC.

Following the survey and the forum, the Council will make a recommendation on whether or not to renew Andy's contract, and the congregation will vote at our assembly on 25 May. If you have any questions about the process, please contact Nina Kiderlin, congregation president.

Planning for the Harvest Festival – Meeting on 30 March

This year's Harvest Festival will be held on Saturday 17 May—and it's time to get planning! A planning team will meet after worship on Sunday 30 March to work on preparations for the event. If you'd like to help with this annual event in our congregation focused on raising funds for churches and organizations helping the most vulnerable, come and join the meeting—all are welcome!

Lent Book Study – The Practice of Prayer

In keeping with our Lenten theme this year, the community is invited to join in reading and discussing *The Practice of Prayer* by Margaret Guenther. This lovely book addresses practical questions around topics like listening for God, finding God in the ordinary, and praying through times when God does not seem to be listening. It promises to be a rich and rewarding study, grounding us in a core practice of our faith. Groups meet weekly (mostly online) for discussion through the six week of Lent. If you'd like to join, please contact Andy Willis: pastor@genevalutheran.ch

The church still has a small number of copies of the book available—if you'd like to purchase one, please contact the office.

Lunch and Games for Teens - Sunday 30 March

Following worship on Sunday 30 March, teens are invited to spend the afternoon together at the church. We'll have lunch as a group and play board games together. All youth ages 13-19 are welcome to join! Please contact Andy Willis to sign up.

Lent Quiet Day - Saturday 5 April, 10h00-16h00

Time without a phone, or a list of things to do, time to reflect, to pray, to take account, time to step back, to consider new steps, to wonder what steps Christ might put before you, the gift of time, healing time, holy time, time set apart with others from our church taking time,

...time will be the gift we offer each other as we meet on Saturday, 5 April at Le Cénacle, a former monastery in Geneva from 10h00 to 16h00. Bring a simple lunch, a Bible, a friend, who also needs some time. While we will have moments of common prayer, most of the day will be for reading, walking, reflecting. Le Cénacle will be responsible for the breaks during the day, so we need to give them an idea of how many might be coming. It will help us if you register on the sign-up sheet available this morning.

Women's Circle Invitation

Ladies, come and join our Women's Circle! We gather in our church, our village, on one Saturday each month from 10am to 12pm for coffee and croissants and for fellowship and fun. All women church members and regular attendees are welcome. Dates for the coming months: **19 April**, **10 May**. Please contact Marit Bauer-Moore, Cynthia Wilbers, Gladys Yegon, Margaret Kehoe-Winkler or the office for more information.

Children's Choir - 12 and 13 April

On Saturday 12 April, Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg will be offering a children's choir rehearsal at the church from 10h to 12h. The children will learn a song that they will then sing during the worship service on 13 April. Kids of all ages are welcome! Contact Katharina with any questions: katharina@genevalutheran.ch

Music Camp this Summer

From Sunday, 10 August to Friday, 15 August 2025, there will be a summer camp organized by our music director Katharina Mainberger-Dellweg at Maison de Jeunesse de Vers-l'Eglise in Les Diablerets in Vaud. The camp is for children ages 7 to 13, and previous musical knowledge is not required. The whole team together with the children will create a musical with Noah's arc as the theme, and the performance of the musical will be held on Sunday, 17 August at 16h00 at the ELCG. The cost for the week is CHF 550 per child (all-inclusive) with a discount for multiple children from the same family. Contact Katharina (katharina@genevalutheran.ch) to sign up or for more information.

Serving Weekly Coffee Hour

Our congregation holds a simple coffee hour after worship each Sunday. Preparation for coffee hour is by neighborhood groups:

30 March – Group E 6 April – Group A 13 April – Group B 20 April – Group C

If you can help on a week when your group is assigned, please let your group's coordinator know.



Cover Image:

JESUS MAFA. The Hidden Treasure,

This Week's Schedule:

Thurs, 27 March	19h30	Choir rehearsal	
Sat, 29 March	18h00	Asian dinner fundraiser	
Sun, 30 March	11h00	Worship on the Fourth Sunday in Lent	
	11h00	Church school	
	12h30	Fellowship group meeting	
	12h30	Lunch and games for teens	
	13h00	Congregation Council meeting	
Office hours: Tuesday 9h30-17h30, Thursday 9h30-17h30, Friday 9h30-13h30			

Our church is entirely self-supporting. Our ministry is entirely funded by the contributions of members and friends of the congregation. There are three ways you can donate today:

By bank transfer: Using the banking app on your phone, scan one of the QR codes below:



Banque Cantonale de Genève CH26 0078 8000 0510 7337 8



Post Finance CH13 0900 0000 1200 9677 6

By cash: Place your contribution in the offering bags during worship.

By U.S. dollar check: Make the check payable to "Evangelical Lutheran Church in America," and on the memo portion, write "GMG 0858".

Thank you for your support of our ministry together!

If you are a guest in our congregation today, *please fill out the connection card below—you can place it in the offering bag or hand it to the pastor or one of the ushers.* We'd love to be in touch and answer any questions you might have about the church.

	ELCG Connection	n Card
Name		
Phone		
Email		
Comme	nts	
New to 0	Geneva? Y/N	Date