

# **Welcome to House of Prayer Lutheran Church**

***“My house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples.”***

***Isaiah 56:7b***



***Third Sunday in Lent***

***March 15, 2020***

*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.*

***++ Please be sure cell phones and pagers are turned off during the worship service as they can interfere with the sound system. Thank you. ++***

House of Prayer Lutheran Church

9:30 a.m. Setting 4

(\* Indicates Congregation Standing)

**Congregation parts are in bold**

**GATHERING**

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

♪ *Your quiet reverence is appreciated as we use the prelude to prepare our hearts and minds for worship.* ♪

Prelude

Welcome

\* Confession and Forgiveness

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

\* Gathering Song

**"Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"**

777

1. **"Come to me, all pilgrims thirsty;  
drink the water I will give.  
If you knew what gift I offer,  
you would come to me and live."**

*Refrain: Jesus, ever flowing fountain,  
give us water from your well.  
In the gracious gift you offer  
there is joy no tongue can tell.*

2. **"Come to me, all trav'lers weary;  
come that I may give you rest.  
Drink the cup of life I offer;  
at this table be my guest." Refrain**
3. **"Come to me, believers burdened;  
find refreshment in this place.  
Come, receive the gift I offer,  
turn to me and seek my face." Refrain**
4. **"Come to me, repentant sinners;  
leave behind your guilt and shame.  
Come and know divine compassion,  
turn to me, I call your name." Refrain**

5. **"Come to me, distressed and needy;  
I would be your trusted friend.  
Come and seek the gift I offer,  
come, your open hands extend." Refrain**
6. **"Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;  
lonely ways no longer roam.  
Come and take the gift I offer,  
let me make in you my home." Refrain**

\* Greeting

The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

\* Kyrie (*Sing alternating with the Cantor*)

(p. 147)

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

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.**

Lenten Symbol: Whip Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. John 19:1

**"Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery" verse 1 and Lent 3**

(334)

**Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,  
in your death we are reborn;  
though you die in all of hist'ry,  
still you rise with ev'ry morn,  
still you rise with ev'ry morn.**

**Living Water of salvation,  
be the fountain of each soul;  
springing up in new creation,  
flow in us and make us whole,  
flow in us and make us whole.**

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

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.*

<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?”

*Reader:* Word of God, Word of life.

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

Psalmody (*Sing alternating with the cantor*) **Psalm 95** Tone #1

(p. 337)

<sup>1</sup>Come, let us sing | to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of | our salvation.

<sup>2</sup>**Let us come before God’s presence | with thanksgiving  
and raise a loud shout to the | LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup>For you, LORD, | are a great God,  
and a great ruler a- | bove all gods.

<sup>4</sup>**In your hand are the caverns | of the earth;  
the heights of the hills are | also yours.**

<sup>5</sup>The sea is yours, | for you made it,  
and your hands have molded | the dry land.

<sup>6</sup>**Come, let us worship | and bow down,  
let us kneel before the | LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup>For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep | of God’s hand.  
Oh, that today you would | hear God’s voice!

<sup>8</sup>**“Harden | not your hearts,  
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah | in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup>There your ancestors | tested me,  
they put me to the test, though they had | seen my works.

<sup>10</sup>**Forty years I loathed that gener- | ation, saying,  
‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not | know my ways.’**

<sup>11</sup>Indeed I swore | in my anger,  
‘They shall never come | to my rest.’”

\* Gospel Acclamation

(p. 151)

**Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

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

The Holy Gospel according to 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.**

*[All children are invited to come to the front of the church as we sing the refrain to "Jesus Loves Me"]*

Sermon

Pastor Henry

Silence for reflection

Hymn

**"O Lord, You Called Disciples"** Tune:Lancashire

© Carolyn W. Gillette

**O Lord, you called disciples, proclaiming, "Come and see!"**

**And so an invitation began your ministry.**

**Then Andrew called his brother, and Peter came to you;**

**More men and women followed, and little children, too.**

**You met a busy woman out in the noon-day sun.**

**You shared God's love, you listened; you told all she had done.**

**She called her friends and neighbors and brought them face to face**

**With you, the living water, the bearer of God's grace.**

**O Christ, your invitation has reached from year to year!**

**Through some who heard you calling, a church was founded here.**

**As faithful people served you so many years ago,\***

**They soon invited others; your church began to grow.**

**God, by your Holy Spirit, now send us in your name**

**To serve the lost and outcast, the poor for whom you came.**

**Through gifts of hope and healing, through loving ministry,**

**May we reach out, inviting the world to "Come and see!"**

Biblical References: John 1:35-51, 4:1-45; Matthew 4:18-22; Mark 1:16-20; Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3; Matthew 25:31-

46 Text: Copyright © 2002 by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. From **Songs of Grace: New Hymns for God & Neighbor** by Carolyn Winfrey Gillette (Upper Room Books, 2009).

\* Apostles' Creed

(p. 105)

**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 into hell.**

**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.**

\* The Prayers

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 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. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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. We pray especially for Kris Leary, The Lupino family and Stephen Tooker. Assure those questioning your presence in the midst of doubt or suffering.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

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

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

God, our peace and our strength, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who serve our country near and far: for our President and Congress, for military personnel, leaders and diplomats, chaplains and caregivers. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

We pray for those who have no one else to pray for them. Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

*(Leader will complete the prayers)*

For whom and for what else does this community pray?

*(The congregation may offer, silently or aloud, any concerns they may have.)*

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

\* Sharing of the Peace

(p.152)

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*(The congregation greets one another with a sign of God's peace.)*

*With an elbow bump, a nod, or a two-finger peace sign, share the peace but not germs. (Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.)*

## MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering  
Offertory Anthem

“All Who Are Thirsty”  
Adult Choir

...Handel (Arr. Wiley/Ehret)

\* Offertory

### “Create in Me a Clean Heart”

(185)

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your  
pres - ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me.  
Re - store to me the joy of your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me  
with your free Spir - it. Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God,  
and re - new a right spir - it with - in me.

\* Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

**Merciful God, receive the sacrifice of our praise and thanksgiving and the offering of our lives, that following in the way of the cross, we may know the joy of the resurrection; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

*Lutherans practice what is called Eucharistic hospitality, and all who desire to receive the body and blood of Christ are welcome at the Lord's table. After you receive the bread (or a wafer, if you prefer), you may either dip it into the wine or grape juice or you may eat the bread and then drink from the common cup of wine or grape juice. The first two chalices on each side are for intinction - for dipping the bread. The second two chalices are the common cup - for drinking. The silver chalices have wine, the pottery chalices grape juice. Gluten-free rice wafers are available; simply ask when you come to receive the bread. If you do not wish to commune, you are welcome to come forward and ask for a blessing instead.*

\* Great Thanksgiving (p. 152)  
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.**  
The Pastor continues and concludes with: ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

(Sung) **Holy, holy, holy Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:  
Heav'n and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

\* Words of Institution

\* Lord's Prayer (p. 154)  
**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.**

All is ready, and all are welcome. Receive what you are: the body of Christ.  
**May we become what we receive.**

\* Lamb of God (p. 154)  
**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us. (Repeat)  
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.**

Holy Communion

Communion Hymn "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" (Text: 332)

**1 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest;  
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast."  
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;  
I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.**

**2 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give  
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live."  
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;  
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.**

**3 I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light;  
look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."  
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.**

\* Blessing after Communion

\* Prayer after Communion

## SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

\* Blessing

Announcements

Jen McCready

\* Hymn

**"Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness"**

**843**

- 1 Praise the One who breaks the darkness with a liberating light;  
praise the One who frees the pris'ners, turning blindness into sight.  
Praise the One who preached the gospel, healing ev'ry dread disease,  
calming storms and feeding thousands with the very bread of peace.**
  
- 2 Praise the One who blessed the children with a strong yet gentle word;  
praise the One who drove out demons with a piercing, two-edged sword.  
Praise the One who brings cool water to the desert's burning sand;  
from this well comes living water quenching thirst in ev'ry land.**
  
- 3 Praise the one true love incarnate: Christ, who suffered in our place;  
Jesus died and rose for many that we may know God by grace.  
Let us sing for joy and gladness, seeing what our God has done.  
Praise the one redeeming glory; praise the One who makes us one.**

\* Dismissal

Marked with the cross of Christ, let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

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*Next week's readings: see the announcement sheet*

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## Announcements & Events March 14 & 15

### Sunday

- 8:30 Adult Choir rehearsal. All singing adults are welcome!
- Activity packets are available on the back pew. At the end of worship please leave the packet on the back pew with the label facing the back. There is a supervised nursery available for children ages 4 and under.
- Coffee Hour/Sunday School/Adult Forum

### This Week

#### **Wednesday, March 18**

- 11:30 a.m. Staff meeting
- 2:15 p.m. **NO** Art & Sacred Story
- 6:00 p.m. **NO** Soup Supper
- 6:45 p.m. **NO** Midweek Lenten Worship with Holden Evening Prayer

#### **Thursday, March 19**

- 9:30 a.m. **NO** Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. **NO** Children's Choir rehearsal

#### **Saturday, March 21**

- 4:30 p.m. **NO** Worship Service

### Looking Ahead

#### **Sunday, March 22**

- 9:30 a.m. **NO** Worship service

#### **Wednesday, March 25**

- 2:15 p.m. **NO** Art & Sacred Story
- 6:00 p.m. **NO** Soup Supper
- 6:45 p.m. **NO** Midweek Lenten Worship with Holden Evening Prayer

#### **Thursday, March 26**

- 9:30 a.m. **NO** Bible Study
- 6:00 p.m. **NO** Children's Choir rehearsal

#### **Friday, March 27**

- 6:00 p.m. Church Council Retreat **POSTPONED until the fall**

#### **Saturday, March 28**

- 3:00 p.m. Saturday Musicians Rehearsal
- 4:30 p.m. Worship Service

#### **Sunday, March 29 – Easter flower orders due**

- 8:30 a.m. Adult Choir Rehearsal
- 9:30 a.m. Worship service

### Please Note

- In Stitches is cancelled this month.
- Oops! The Oktoberfest Committee has two positions, Parking Coordinator and Public Relations still open. The sign-up sheet is in the hallway if you are willing to serve in one of these roles.
- The Shepherd Committee cookie mailing is canceled for now.
- FYI- For now, recovery groups will continue to meet and staff will continue to wipe down door handles, light switches and hard surfaces each day.
- Lilies and tulips can be ordered for Easter Sunday, in honor or in memory of a special person. Order forms are on the table in the hallway. Forms and payment are due by March 29<sup>th</sup>.
- The list of food items for Easter Dinner boxes for Wellspring's food pantry is on the table in the hallway. Copy paper boxes with the cover are needed. They can be left (or taken to make a box) on the shelf over the coat rack across from the rest rooms. The boxes are due on Palm Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup>.
- A note from the Financial Secretary: Some offering envelope numbers have changed since 2019. Please use your 2020 envelopes only.
- The 2020 flower and candle sign-up chart is in the hallway outside Pastor's office. Flowers are \$25 per week and can be taken home after Sunday worship. The candle is \$20 for the month. Please note the occasion on the chart. Payment can be put in the offering plate (note that it is for the candle or flowers.)
- Remember to bring your recyclable items to our recycling dumpster. The gray multi-use dumpster accepts a variety of items, including textiles not suitable for donating, i.e. stained, ripped, etc. See the chart on the bulletin board in the hallway for a listing of acceptable items for the multi-use dumpster.

- Are you looking for the *Word in Season* devotional book? It can be found in the mailbox grid (far left side). If it is empty, contact Kristen in the office.

### **Other Events & Announcements**

- The Unicorn Singers and Broad Cove Chorale will be performing Craig Hella Johnson's contemporary passion oratorio *Considering Matthew Shepard* at the United Church of Christ Norwell on Saturday, March 28, at 8:00 and Sunday, March 29, at 4:00. This beautiful, significant work, so well-suited to the needs of our times, recounts the brutal slaying of a young, gay Wyoming college student in 1998 and the hate-filled, anti-gay protest staged by members of the Westboro Baptist Church at his funeral several days later. While it tells a deeply disturbing story, often in difficult language, the music is glorious and it ultimately affirms love, life, unity and acceptance. Student tickets can be purchased at the door and online in advance at [bcc-us.org](http://bcc-us.org) for \$10. Regular tickets are \$20 if purchased online in advance at [bcc-us.org](http://bcc-us.org), and \$25 if purchased at the door.
- Interfaith Social Services will hold its annual "Stop the Stigma 5K" of mental illness, on Saturday, May 2, in North Quincy. Visit [www.interfaithsocialservices.org](http://www.interfaithsocialservices.org) for more information or to participate.
- Visit [calumet.org](http://calumet.org) for a full listing of Camp Calumet events!
- The Cancer Support Community of the South Shore is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing support, free of charge, to people affected by cancer, their families and their caregivers. Visit their website for a full listing of available programs and meetings at [www.cancersupportcommunityma.org](http://www.cancersupportcommunityma.org).

*Next week's readings: 1 Samuel 16:1-13*

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.*

*John 9:1-41*

*Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.*