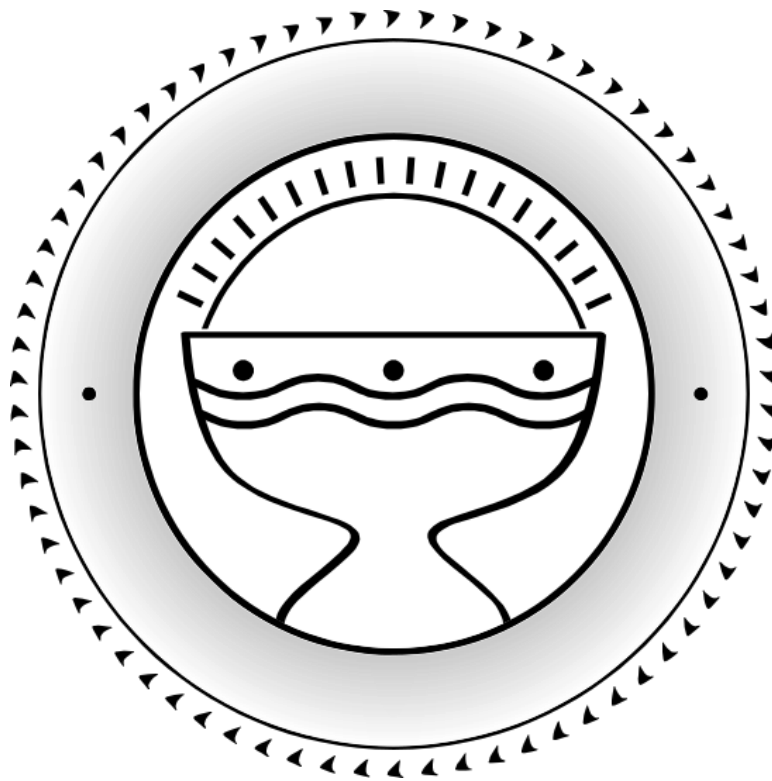


New Jerusalem Lutheran Church



**Second Sunday in Lent
March 5, 2023
Worship Service**



New Jerusalem Lutheran Church

12942 Lutheran Church Road, Lovettsville, Virginia 20180

www.njlclovettsville.org

Church Office
Pastor

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OUR MISSION

Responding to God's grace, we are a welcoming congregation growing in Christian faith through worship, learning, serving, and fellowship.

OUR VISION

NJLC is a compassionate community of disciples that values everyone & expresses faith by connecting with God, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, & all creation.

WELCOME TO NEW JERUSALEM

A few items of note to help you in your time here today:

- Masks are now optional for worship or other events at New Jerusalem, though we encourage mask wearing for anyone who chooses to do so.
- Newcomers are always welcome here. If you would be comfortable to do so, please take a moment to sign our guestbook located in the entryway or fill out a blue pew card in the pew racks in front of you.
- Handicap accessible restrooms are located downstairs at the back of our Fellowship Hall or across in our Education Building. Someone is available to run the lift should you need to get up and down between levels.
- We seek to be a family-friendly congregation who enjoys having children among us, including the littler ones. If you should need or desire, we currently offer a staffed Sunday Morning Nursery on the far end of the Education Building. We also have a Cherub's Corner downstairs in the front corner of the Fellowship Hall with age appropriate toys, books, etc. and the worship service can be heard over the speakers.
- We hope that in your time among us, you will encounter the love of God in Spirit and in tangible form.



ALTAR FLOWERS

The altar flowers today are provided by the Heffern family. They are given to the glory of God and in memory of Linda's mother, Blanche Mae Newman.

To provide altar flowers for an upcoming Sunday, sign-up on the 2023 Flower Chart located in the church hallway or contact the church office.

Questions Come to Light

What is it about the night that invites questions? As our head rests on the pillow and shadows stretch out on the bedroom wall, questions, like field mice, begin to emerge from the nooks and crannies of our mind. At first, the questions are utilitarian: Did someone let the dog out this evening? Are the kids' lunches packed for school? When am I going to get to the grocery store this week? And then, without warning, the questions morph: Is Grandma going to recover from this illness? Why are my prayers so short these days? Does Jesus really care about us—about me? At this point we know that night has truly descended. Truth uttered in darkness. Naked honesty feels much safer, much less exposed when light's reach seems a day away. Maybe that is why we can relate to Nicodemus. For when did Nicodemus come to Jesus? By night! Though we can easily skip over the setting's description in this gospel encounter, it is so very important. With shadows dancing in the torchlight, Nicodemus makes his way to Jesus, beset by questions he can ask only under cover of darkness. Though the darkness is Nicodemus' security blanket, he cannot help himself. Like a moth fluttering in the night sky, Nicodemus is irresistibly drawn to the light. Not just any light: Jesus, the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. As people filled with our own questions, we follow in the furtive footsteps of Nicodemus, falsely believing our naked honesty will remain hidden in the gloom of night. But the Spirit, through the light of Christ, calls us out from the shadows, and in fact, exposes us to the brilliance of God's love—a love that meets our questioning hearts with nothing less than life eternal.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

“Erbarm dich mein, o Herre Gott”

Mark A. Fletcher

(by: Johann Sebastian Bach)

Let us prepare our hearts and minds for worship by observing silence through the music.

WELCOME

Please stand as you are able.

GREETING & PASSING OF PEACE

Pastor: The grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Having been greeted in love and peace by our Triune Godhead, I invite us to greet one another in like manner as we gather this day.

All are invited to share a sign and greeting of God's peace with one another.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

Pastor: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: 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.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness... Most merciful God,

People: **we confess that we are in bondage 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.**

Pastor: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, 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.

People: Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

“A Mighty Fortress Is Our God”
(verses 1, 2, 4)

ELW 504



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 vour us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*
 Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther
 Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress
 Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Let us pray...

People: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Please be seated.

THE WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

Reader: The first reading for today is recorded in the book of Genesis...

¹The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.” ^{4a}So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

Reader: The second reading for today is recorded in the book of Romans...

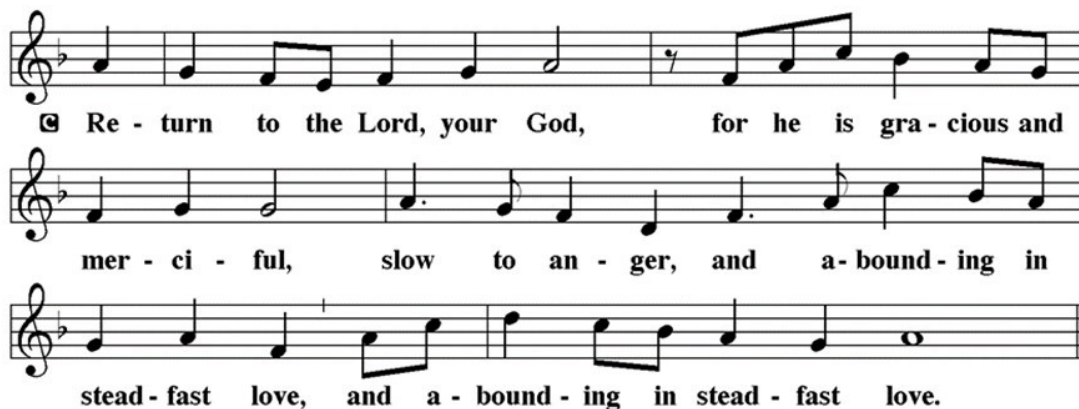
¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” ⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness... ¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation. ¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.

LENTEN VERSE



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 3:1-17

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to John, the third chapter.

People: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. ¹⁷“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Pastor Phil Carl

THE PRAYGROUND

Children are invited to The Prayground for Bible lessons, activities, crafts and prayers.

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

ELW 338

1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
 2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
 3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;

the shad - ow of a might-y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
 the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
 I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;

a home with-in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
 And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
 con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,

from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
 the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
 my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830–1869
 Music: ST. CHRISTOPHER, Frederick C. Maker, 1844–1927

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Reader: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation... O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: Gracious God, as we strive to call a new pastor for this congregation, send your Spirit to guide our decisions and those of all others in that process, so that the outcome reflects your will for our future. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Reader: O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God,

People: receive our prayer.

Reader: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

People: Amen.

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERTORY

Mark A. Fletcher

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Pastor: God of good gifts,

People: receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

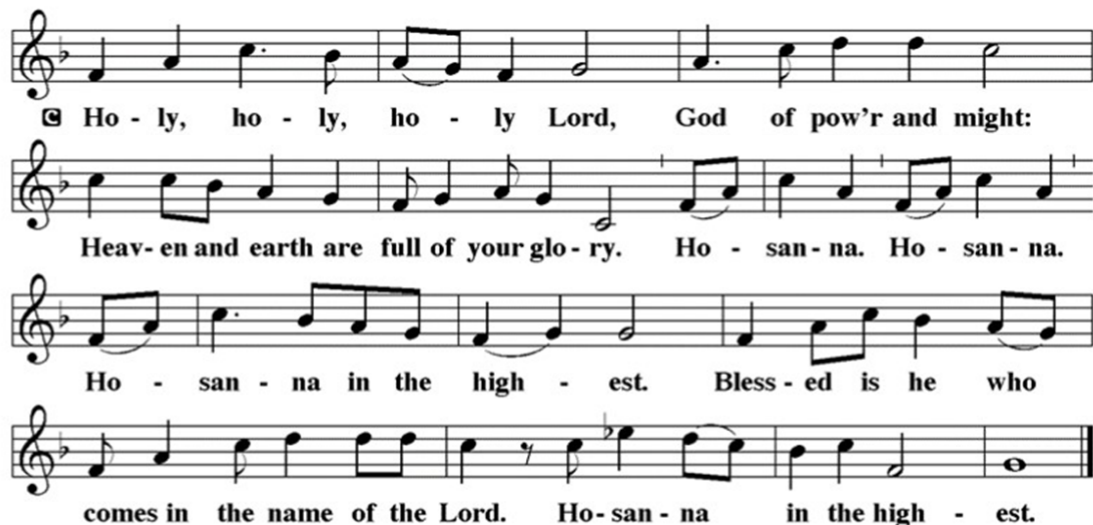
People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Pastor: 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, 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:

HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
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 AT THE TABLE

Pastor: Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth. In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him should not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ. Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts, that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Pastor: 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

Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

People: **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 TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Please be seated.

HOLY COMMUNION

Welcome to the table of Christ where we believe Christ is fully present to us in, with, and under these elements of bread and wine. You are invited to participate whether a member here or come to us from any other denominational tradition. Those not ready to receive Christ in body and blood, may still come forward to receive Christ in blessing. Follow the directions of the ushers who will dismiss each pew. As you come to the top of the center aisle, the pastor will place a wafer in your hands and invite you to step to the side to take an individual cup of wine (first tray) or grape juice (second). Please receive and then discard cups in the receptacle provided along the altar rail. If you cannot come forward, communion can be brought to you after all have communed at the front. Please maintain safe distances as you come forward and return to your seats.

COMMUNION MUSIC

Mark A. Fletcher

"Lamb of God" (verse 2)

ELW 336

1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have

sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
brought me to your side to be led by your staff and

Refrain

sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.
 God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me
 in your pre-cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958
 Music: Twila Paris

Text and music © 1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music

YOUR ONLY SON
 LMD

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you always in His grace.

People: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Pastor: Let us pray... Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love.

People: **Amen.**

SENDING

BLESSING

Pastor: God, the giver of love, Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

People: **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

"In the Cross of Christ I Glory"
(music on next page; verses 1, 2, 4)

ELW 324

DISMISSAL

Pastor: Renewed and strengthened by our worship together, go forth in peace to serve to the world.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

Mark A. Fletcher

Following today's service, we invite you to find fellowship downstairs in the fellowship hall.

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1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
 2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
 3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
 4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the

o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
 ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
 love, up - on my way, from the cross the
 cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that

sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
 cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
 ra - dianc e stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
 knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792-1872
 Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815-1867

PSALM OF THE DAY: Psalm 121

(not read during today's service)

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come? ²My help comes from the LORD, who made heaven and earth. ³He will not let your foot be moved; he who keeps you will not slumber. ⁴He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. ⁵The LORD is your keeper; the LORD is your shade at your right hand. ⁶The sun shall not strike you by day, nor the moon by night. ⁷The LORD will keep you from all evil; he will keep your life. ⁸The LORD will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore.