GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

1200 River Road, Teaneck, New Jersey 07666 (201) 836-0994 THE REV. MARGARET NIEDERER – PASTOR 201-403-4341 KAREN BARTHOLOMEW – GUEST ORGANIST

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT March 23, 2025 10 AM



Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

VISIT US AT:
WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG
and on FACEBOOK

Masking is optional but recommended while indoors.

PRELUDE Prélude Modal Jean Langlais

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand and face the baptismal font near the entrance of the church.

- P Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
- C Amen.
- P Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- P Compassionate One,
- you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.
 We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us.
 We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.

We oppress others,

even though you have set us free again and again.

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Transform our lives

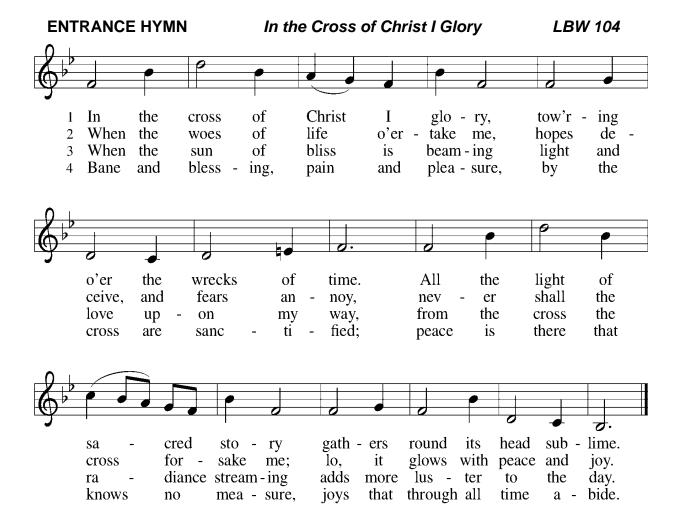
and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

- P Beloved in Christ.
 - God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In + Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.



Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

THE GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C And also with you.

Cantor sings "Leader" Parts; Congregation sings "All".



Text: Jiří Tranovský, 1591–1637; tr. Jaroslav J. Vajda, b. 1919 Music: ZŃAME TO, PANE BOŽE NÁŠ, *Tranoscius*, 1636 Tr. © 1970 Concordia Publishing House

PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray.

Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Please be seated.

FIRST READING Isaiah 55:1-9

To those who have experienced long years in exile, the return to their homeland is a celebration of abundant life. God calls them into an everlasting covenant of love. Those who return to God will enjoy new life and forgiveness, because God's ways are not our ways.

A A reading from Isaiah, the 55th chapter.

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters: and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me: listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.
⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

- A The Word of God. The Word of life.
- C Thanks be to God.

PSALM 63:1-8

- ¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- ²Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.
- ³For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.
- ⁴So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name.
- ⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- ⁶when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.
- ⁷For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- ⁸My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

Paul uses images from Hebrew Scriptures and prophecy to speak the truth of Jesus Christ: He is our rock, our water, our food, and our drink. Christ is the living sign of God's faithfulness.

A reading from 1 Corinthians, the 10th chapter.

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness.

⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

- A The Word of God. The Word of life.
- C: Thanks be to God.

Please stand.

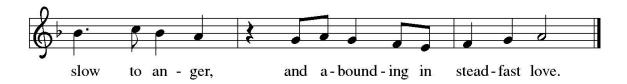
LENTEN ACCLAMATION

SUNG BY ALL

ELW Setting 4



Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



GOSPEL Luke 13:1-9

Asked about current tragic events, Jesus turns a lesson about whether suffering is deserved into a hard call to obedience. He then tells a parable that holds out hope that the timeline for ultimate judgment will be tempered by patience.

- P The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.
- C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did."

⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

- P The Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor Peggy Niederer

Silence for Meditation

Please stand.

HYMN OF THE DAY

As the Deer Runs to the River

ELW 331



- 1 As the deer runs to the riv er, parched and wea ry from the chase,
- 2 When your Is rael crossed the des ert where no stream or spring was seen,
- 3 "Come and drink," I sa iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer cy plead!
- 4 Christ, we come from des ert plac es, deep est thirst un sat is fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace. Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean. God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need." Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923 Music: JULION, David Hurd, b. 1950 Text © 2002 GIA Publications, Inc.

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NICENE CREED

- Α Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using the Nicene Creed.
- C We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation

he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate:

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again

in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.

He has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead,

and the life of the world to come. Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Kaitlin Shinholster

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

A brief silence.

We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions.

God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for our partners in ministry, called to preach and proclaim God's message of hope here in *Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, the New Jersey Synod, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian community, our friends from the Light & Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere as they live out their callings to serve.*

God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home.

God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

We pray for those in need, called to receive your compassion and healing, including those we pray for in silence or aloud (*pause*). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural disasters and human conflict. Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild.

God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst.

God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your Gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended. May their witness inspire our own.

God, in your mercy, receive our prayer.

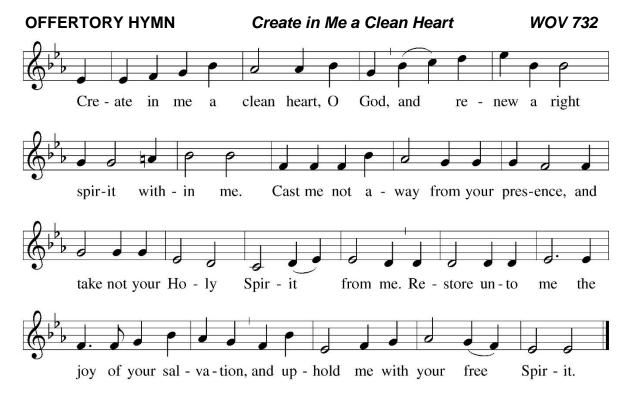
- P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
- C Amen.

PEACE <u>Stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.</u>

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

OFFERING Please place your offering in the plate located on the table at the back of the sanctuary before or after Worship.

Please be seated.



Text: Psalm 51:10-12

Music: FRANCKE, J.A. Freylinghausen, 1670–1739

Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A 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.

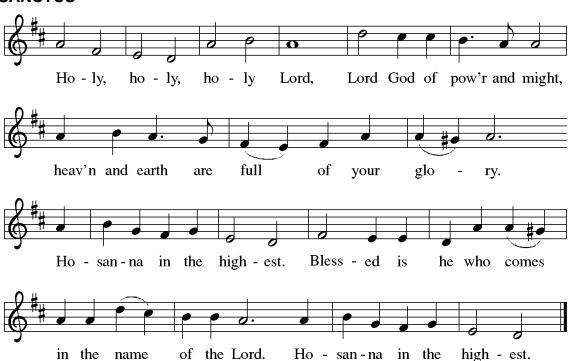
GREAT THANKSGIVING

- P The Lord be with you,
- C And also with you.
- P Lift up your hearts.
- C We lift them to the Lord.
- P Let us give thanks to the Lord.
- C It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Please kneel or sit.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

- P Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer Jesus has taught us:
- C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,

Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is 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:

P All who are hungry, come!
The feast of God's grace is ready.
Come to the table where all are welcome.



Text: German, 1528, based on the Agnus Dei; tr. unknown

Music: CHRISTE, DU LAMM GOTTES, Kirchenordnung, Braunschweig, 1528



CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please come forward for Communion, beginning with those in the back pews, from alternating sides, leaving adequate space between you and the person in front of you.

Masking is optional but recommended as you come forward to receive the wafer & cup until you step away from the communion tray.

A tray with individual cups is located in front of each pew section.

The center contains purple grape juice.

White wine is in the remainder of the tray.

After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section.

Baptized Christians who recognize the presence of Christ in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life are welcome to receive communion. If you have not yet been baptized or have never before received Holy Communion, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Fold your arms across your chest to let the Pastor know you wish to receive a blessing.

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

- P May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in Christ's grace.
- C Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

A 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.

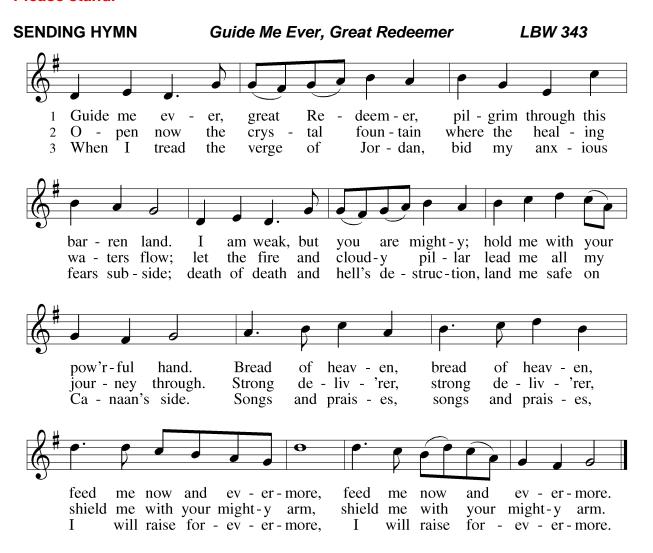
BLESSING:

- P May God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever.
- C Amen.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand.



Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt. Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

DISMISSAL

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

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE: Toccata in C Major Johann Pachelbel

OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY TO

Karen Bartholomew, Guest Organist
Donna Maxwell, Greeter
Jack Martinez, Crucifer
Julie Buckingham, Liturgical Cantor
Janet Thalmann, Liturgist & Reader
Kaitlin Shinholster, Prayers of Intercession
Janet Thalmann and Lynn Buckingham, Altar Guild



Lent Devotionals & Ashes are available on the table near the entrance of the church.



Coffee & Conversation Following Mass Today
In the Memorial Room



Shared Weekly Lent Worship at Noon Wednesdays

March 12th - April 9th

Trinity Lutheran Church 167 Palisade Avenue Bogota, NJ

Theme: Jesus as Savior, Servant, Friend. Light luncheon following Mass.



Via Zoom Thursday, March 27th, at Noon

Joshua 5:9-12

Israel eats bread and grain, the produce of the land Psalm 32

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD. (Ps. 32:11)

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

The mystery and ministry of reconciliation

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

The parable of the prodigal father and the repentant son Connection link will be emailed



PRAYERS

Joan Costello (Jackie's mother-in-law & Kaitlin's & Lindsay's grandmother): Doris Baumann, Dale Lambson, and Family as they grieve the loss of Carol; Darla Lambson (leukemia); Brad Gohmann (cancer); Zulema's friends and family: Donald Lazlear and his family, Katie and Surella Borowski; Rose Davis (cancer); Marc & Bella Yaffe and Leslyn Cooke; Susan Bethke (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); Marion **Soohoo** (Will's Mother-in-law recovering from surgery); Sue Papera's friends and Arlene Rizzo (cancer) and Arlene's family; Chris Palmer (health concerns); Caleb (mental health issues); Jenny L. (health issues); Carol Mulvaney (breast cancer): Michael Mulvaney (prostate cancer): Edward Foley (back surgery); Janet's family and friends: Jason and Paul Thalmann; Beverly Philip (severe dementia), Kathy O'Brien, Bert Maltz (health concerns), Michele Rusciano: Al & Mark Crovatto: Anita & Harold Bontekoe (health concerns), Mary Ellen's family and friends: Susan Beever; Dominick Capalba (6 year old with brain cancer); Patty Fitzgerald (terminal lung cancer); Kay Roseen's family: Jessica and Casey O'Neil (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law who work for the State Department); Marcia & Chuck Hendron (Kay's parents – memory care); John Steffen (Lorli's brother with health concerns); Tammy (Lorli's niece with an immune disorder); Judy Letwink (Lorli's nephew's Mother-in-law recovering from a stroke); James Ilgenfritz (Erika's son); Peter Schelbli (Erika's nephew with cancer): Friends of the congregation: Kevin (cancer). Arouss Darpinian (health concerns); Chris Niederer (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); Nancy Barbee (Pastor's friend with lung cancer); Dennis Keohane (Catherine's uncle); Willi Lewis' Aunt Kelly (health concerns); Donna Maxwell, James Mingo (Donna's grandson - health concerns); Hana Kim (health concerns): Mary Sue Kaplow (health concerns): (baby) Chris (Ruth DiCicco's daughter) & Bob Wheeler; Ha Na Kim (Anita & Harold's daughter); Jeanne H. (Lorli's sister with health issues); Erika Ilgenfritz (health concerns); the hostages in Gaza; Christians under persecution and all experiencing violence, captivity, or war: the people of Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Sudan and organizations and individuals who are providing resources and care for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health care workers; national and regional relief workers and firefighters and all affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Let Lynn or Pastor know of changes needed on the prayer list.



COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Oscar Arnulfo Romero, Bishop of El Salvador, martyr, died 1980 Monday, March 24, 2025

Romero was deeply concerned with injustices evident toward the poor and powerless in El Salvador, and worked forthrightly against political repression. He was assassinated while presiding at the eucharist in a chapel near the cathedral in San Salvador.

Annunciation of Our Lord Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Nine months before Christmas we celebrate the annunciation, in which the angel Gabriel announced to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God. The ancient church believed that this was also the date of the world's creation and of Jesus' death on the cross.

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824 Saturday, March 29, 2025

Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

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