

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Fifth Sunday in Lent — Setting XII

March 17, 2024 / 10:00 am

The Rev. Christophor Gilbert, presiding



Worship begins and ends with music.

The assembly is invited into the practice of silence at these times.

*At the *, please rise in body and spirit*

*Congregation responses are in **bold***

✠ GATHERING ✠

PRELUDE

A Celtic Set for Lent

Thomas Keesecker

WELCOME

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who writes the law on our hearts,
who draws all people together through Jesus.
Amen.

Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin
in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection

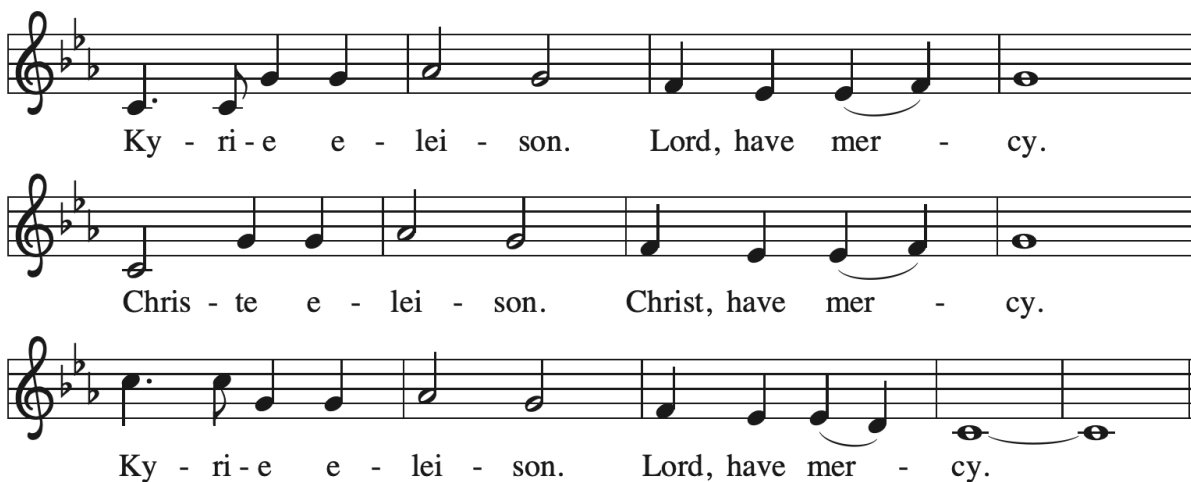
Holy God,
we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord. Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,
breaks every snare of sin,
washes away our wrongs,
and restores the promise of life through ✕ Jesus Christ.
Amen.

***GREETING**

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with you.

***KYRIE**



The Prayer of the Day uses images from the day's lessons to point us toward the scripture readings

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Sovereign, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

✕ WORD ✕

*In the “Word” section of worship, we hear stories from the full history of our faith,
from ancient Israel, to the time of Jesus*

READING FROM THE FIRST TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 119:9-16



How shall the young keep | their way clean?

By keeping | to your word.

With my whole | heart I seek you;

let me not stray from | your commandments.

I treasure your promise¹ in my heart,

that I may not | sin against you.

Blessed are | you, O Lord;

instruct me | in your statutes.

With my lips | I recite

all the judgments¹ of your mouth.

I take greater delight in the way of¹ your decrees

than in all man- | ner of riches.

I will meditate on | your commandments

and give attention ¹ to your ways.

My delight is | in your statutes;

I will not for- | get your word.

READING FROM THE EPISTLES: Hebrews 5:5-10

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

*The Gospel is read in the midst of the assembly, which is the Body of Christ
The Word is proclaimed, and Christ is present in our midst*

*GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

The assembly is seated. Silence for reflection follows the sermon.

The Hymn of the Day serves as a congregational response to the sermon

*HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of All Hopefulness

ELW 765

*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 power of 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 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 THE PEOPLE**

Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence

God of the covenant, through the church you draw us into community. We give thanks for the means of grace around which we gather. Inspire writers, musicians, and artists whose creative gifts adorn our worship.

Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

God of all that exists, you lavish the earth with extravagant beauty. Preserve the rich and complex diversity of living things. Support local, national, and international efforts to protect the environment for future generations.

Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

God of the nations, you desire peace and plenty for all people. Defend those who challenge oppression and expose corruption. Support advocates for human rights, social justice, and the welfare of children.

Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

God of good will, you restore what is broken. We pray for any experiencing estrangement, conflict, or abuse in families and intimate relationships. Protect and comfort all who are vulnerable, especially those living in institutions. We pray especially for Jim Aberth, Curt Blodgett, Edith Blodgett, Kay Bolles, Martin Carlson, Kwai Lin Chan, Steven Chartier, Steven Chin, Brad Gentry, Karin Gustafson, Giovanna Ferretti, Barbara Fitzpatrick, Joy Honen, Richard Hurst, Gayle Jaffe, Susan Kane, Richard Krueger, Mary and Earl Kunstman, Chui Yuk Lee, Phillip Liu, Edie Lohr, Matt M, Norma Nail, Roberta Nestaas, Katrina Neufeld, Arvind Raja, Mary Rife, Nadia Salerno, Shannon Ripp, Danny Scheffel, Alexandru Simovici, Adam Tocci, Bruce and Polly Weston, and Mary Jane Young. Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

God of every time and place, you are with us. Support ministries of prayer and presence in this congregation. Move us to reach out to any who are homebound, lonely, grieving, in treatment, or ill. Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

For what else does this community pray, aloud or in your hearts?

Silence is kept. The assembly is invited to speak additional prayer concerns aloud.

Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

God of promise, we give thanks for the saints whose faith inspires us. Grant us faith to trust in your everlasting love. Holy God, **your mercy is great.**

Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

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

*We bring to God the offering of our entire lives: our time, our talent, and our possessions,
recognizing that they are all gifts from God*

✕ MEAL ✕

OFFERTORY MUSIC

Thy Kingdom Come

Karen Marrolli

*OFFERTORY HYMN

Now Is the Time of Grace

The image shows the musical notation for the hymn 'Now Is the Time of Grace'. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp). The first staff has a first ending bracket over the first four measures and a second ending bracket over the last four measures. The lyrics are: 'Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.' The second staff continues the melody with the lyrics: 'Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.'

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.

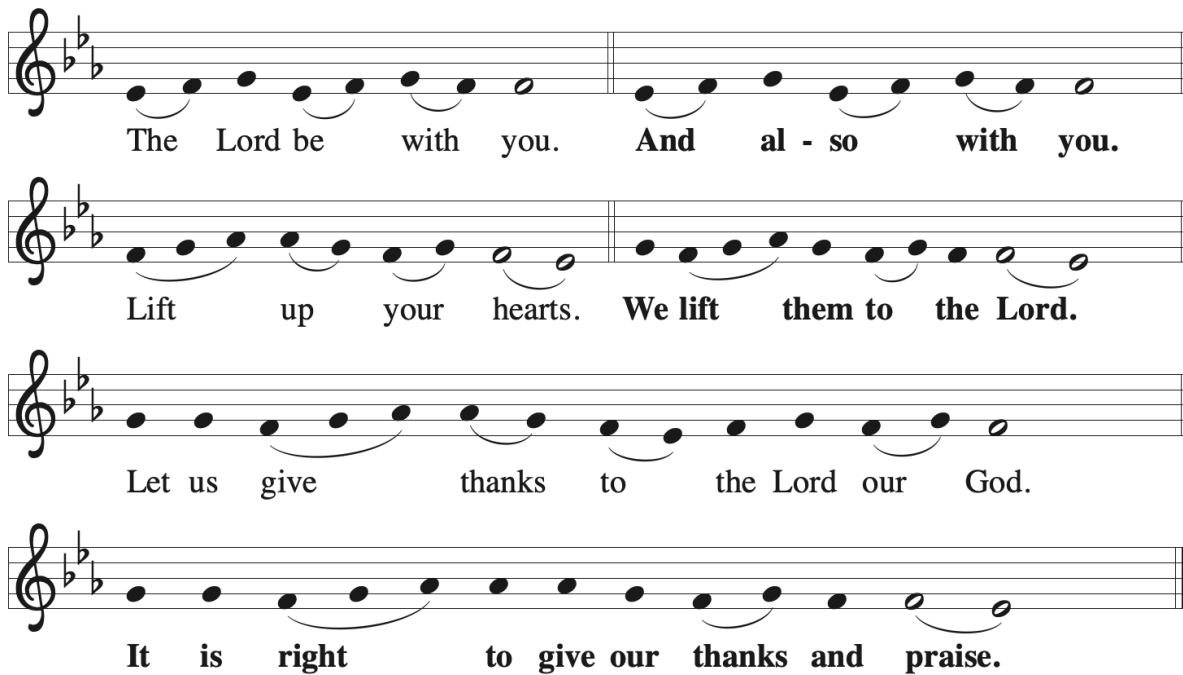
Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.

*This prayer is a pivot from the Word portion of worship,
pointing us toward the Communion Table*

***OFFERING PRAYER**

Jesus, you are the bread of life
and the host of this meal.
Bless these gifts that we have gathered
that all people may know your goodness.
Feed us not only with this holy food
but with hunger for justice and peace.
We pray this in your name. Amen.

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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 presiding minister continues with the preface, the congregation responds:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and

God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the

Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, Let us pray as Jesus taught us

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,

your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.

Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we

for-give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al

and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,

and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION

Christ Lutheran Church practices Eucharistic hospitality; all baptized Christians who trust in Christ's presence in the sacrament of Holy Communion are welcome at the table where Christ is both host and food. Communicants normally receive pita or a gluten-free wafer in open, cupped palms (sometimes laid one over the other in the shape of the cross). Wine (light colored) or grape juice (red/purple) is offered in an individual glass.

COMMUNION HYMN

We, Who Once Were Dead

ELW 495

*TABLE BLESSING

May the body and blood of our Sovereign and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

*Another pivot point, this prayer takes us from the table and
points us toward the world into which we are about to be sent*

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Generous God, at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace.
As grains of wheat are gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf
to feed the world; in the name of Jesus, the Bread of life. **Amen.**

✠ SENDING ✠

*Having had an encounter with the living Christ, we are sent back into the world
not as individuals, but as a powerful collective: The Body of Christ*

ANNOUNCEMENTS

***BLESSING**

Beloved, we are God's own people, holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you, shower you with mercy, fill you with courage,
and ✠ give you peace. **Amen.**

***SENDING HYMN**

Lord, Dismiss Us

ELW 545

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Share your bread.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Allegro, from Concerto in a minor

J.S. Bach

ANNOUNCEMENTS



A vertical poster for Holy Week at Christ Lutheran Church. The title 'HOLY WEEK' is written vertically on the left. The church name 'Christ Lutheran Church' is at the top right. A table lists the events for March 24 to 31, including Jazz Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Vigil of Easter, and Easter Sunday, with their respective times. A footer box provides a website for more information.

Christ Lutheran Church		
MAR 24	JAZZ PALM SUNDAY	10:00 AM
MAR 28	MAUNDY THURSDAY	7:30 PM
MAR 29	GOOD FRIDAY	7:30 PM
MAR 30	VIGIL OF EASTER	8:00 PM
MAR 31	EASTER SUNDAY	10:00 AM

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.CHRISTNATICK.ORG

Church Directory | We are in the process of updating the church directory. We will be sending drafts to our parishioners via email.

We ask that you check for correctness/completeness of your information and email any changes back to **the office** by Palm Sunday (**March 24**).

1. Is there anything that needs to be changed/updated/deleted?
2. Is your email up to date? Is there a personal email that could be added for each member?
3. Cell phone numbers can be listed in addition to a home number? Do we have yours?
4. Are there adult children who should be listed as a separate household?
5. Is there someone who should be removed or added?

If you would like to update your information in person at the church, a draft copy of the directory will be in the Narthex.

We are also asking that each of you provide Pastor with an emergency contact name and number. **THIS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED IN THE DIRECTORY.** Pastor would know who to contact in case of an emergency. (As an example: Carol and Jay Virshbo don't have family in the area - so if something horrible happened Pastor would know who to contact).

MUSIC NOTES | St. Patrick's Day is not typically observed in the Lutheran calendar, but we do have some Irish music to offer this Sunday, March 17. "Lord of all hopefulness" (ELW 765) serves as the Hymn of the Day on Sunday, March 17. This beautiful traditional Irish tune, *Slane*, is also included in the Offertory Music, "Thy Kingdom Come" by Karen Marrolli using the words "Be thou my vision" (ELW 793). The Prelude is "A Celtic Set for Lent" by Thomas Keesecker, commenting on three Irish hymn tunes: *Rockingham Old* "God loved the world" (ELW 323), *Irish* "Thy kingdom come" and *Slane*.

The ***Remember Alice Parker*** event today at 5 pm is an opportunity especially for choral singers to read through a selection of music by Ms. Parker. There is no rehearsal. No audience. No charge. A social time will follow the reading session. Pianist, Rob Humphreville will accompany the singers.

Tom Berryman, Music Director

Natick Town Election | The town election is on Tuesday, March 26. The only contested race in this election is for School Committee seats. Four candidates, including two incumbents, will compete for two open seats on the five person committee.

Why should you care about this election even if you don't have kids in the Natick public schools? Natick has a positive history of providing an inclusive learning environment for all students, however a small but very vocal group is trying to limit this, particularly for LGBTQ+ children. Turnout is usually very low for town elections, so every vote matters.

Here's what Natick residents can do:

- Learn more about the candidates on their websites: **Catherine Brunell, Shai Fuxman, Donna McKenzie, and James Roberts.**
- VOTE on March 26 for candidates committed to keeping our schools safe and supportive for all students!

COMMEMORATIONS

Sunday, March 17 | Patrick, bishop, missionary to Ireland, died 461

A native of Britain, Patrick was kidnapped by pirates at age sixteen and sold into slavery in Ireland. After a few years, he escaped, returned home, and entered the ministry. Returning to Ireland, he successfully served as a bishop and missionary there.

Tuesday, March 19 | Joseph, Guardian of Jesus

Though the Bible tells us little about the husband of Jesus' mother Mary, we know that he was a carpenter or builder by trade. He is also shown as being devoted both to God and to Mary and Jesus. It is assumed that he died before Jesus became an adult.

The paraments for Lent are a gift from Grace Lutheran Church, Needham, upon the conclusion of their ministry in 2023. We are blessed to steward a piece of their legacy.

Land and People Acknowledgement | Christ Lutheran Church is located on the original and ancestral homelands of the Massachusett and Nipmuc Tribes, and we give thanks for their presence here since time immemorial. We are located on land settled by the Praying Indians of Natick and give thanks for their continuing presence in this area. We wish to recognize and honor all our Indigenous siblings who have and continue to call this land their home.

CALENDAR FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 17, 2024

SUNDAY	Mar 17	10:00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Sacrament (Lent V)
		11:15 am	Fellowship Hour
		11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Bells Rehearsal
		5:00 pm	Remembering Alice Parker
MONDAY	Mar 18	10:00 am – 3:00 pm	Office Hours
TUESDAY	Mar 19	10:00 am – 12:00 pm	Office Hours
		7:00 pm – 8:30 pm	SLAA 12-Step Group: Pentecost
WEDNESDAY	Mar 20		Office Closed
THURSDAY	Mar 21	8:00 am – 1:00 pm	Office Hours
		11:30 am – 1:30 pm	Bells Rehearsal
		7:00 pm	Mutual Ministry: Pentecost
		7:30 pm – 9:00 pm	Choir Rehearsal
		7:30 pm – 8:45 pm	Clean and Serene: Memorial
FRIDAY	Mar 22	8:00 am – 1:00 pm	Office Hours
		8:00 pm – 9:30 pm	SLAA Augustinian Fellowship: Pentecost
SATURDAY	Mar 23	12:00 pm – 5:00 pm	Mixed Media Crafts: Fellowship
		4:00 pm – 5:30 pm	Bells Rehearsal
SUNDAY	Mar 24	10:00 am	Liturgy of the Word and Sacrament (Palm/Passion Sunday)
		11:15 am	Fellowship Hour

LOOKING AHEAD

Sunday, March 17 @ 5:00 pm: Remembering Alice Parker

Tuesday, March 19 @ 7:30 pm: Council Meeting

Thursday, March 28 @ 7:30 pm: Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 29 @ 7:30 pm: Good Friday Service

Saturday, March 30 @ 8:00 pm: Vigil of Easter

Sunday, March 31 @ 10:00 am: Easter Sunday Service

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Rev Christephor Gilbert, Pastor

Tom Berryman, Music Director

Gail Weston-Roberts, Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator

Kim Petot, Bell Choir Director

Today's Worship Leaders:

Assisting Minister	George Hall
Communion Assistant	Robin Hurst
Reader	Pam Bathen
Cantor	Kim Petot
Musicians	CLC Choir; Anne Weaver, flute
Altar Guild	Phil Roberts and Carol Virshbo
Greeters	David Ripp and Deb Bianco
Tellers	Phil Roberts and Juliet Seaberg
Broadcast Team	Peter Miller and Phil Roberts
Fellowship Hosts	Edie Lohr and Robin Hurst

LEADERS OF THE CONGREGATION

Frank Miller, Financial Secretary
Celeste Larson, Social Justice
Phil Roberts, Worship, Music,
and the Visual Arts
Russell Pollard, Mutual Ministry
Mary Avalos and Robin Hurst, Family Promise
Cathy Gallagher, Altar Guild
Lisa Chan, Card Ministry
Carol Virshbo, Fellowship Hour
John Whitlock, Finance and Property
Kathleen Kirleis, Endowment
George Hall, Stewardship
Lisa Chan, Visitation

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Celeste Larson (2026), President
Edie Lohr (2025), Treasurer
David Ripp (2025), Vice President
Ellen Zagajeski (2025), Secretary
Mary Avalos (2024)
Elinor Holm (2024)
Sandy Smith (2024)
Diane Stevens (2024)
John Whitlock (2025)
Audrey Colson (2026)
Martha Cronin (2026)
Carol Virshbo (2026)

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