



# WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD

MATTHEW 4:10



## First Sunday in Lent

Saturday, February 21, 2026—5:00 pm

Sunday, February 22, 2026—9:00 am

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*Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.*

### GATHERING

### WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.  
**Amen.**

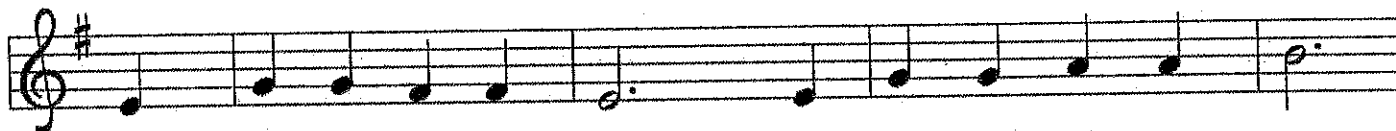
**GATHERING SONG "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" ELW #319**

**GREETING**

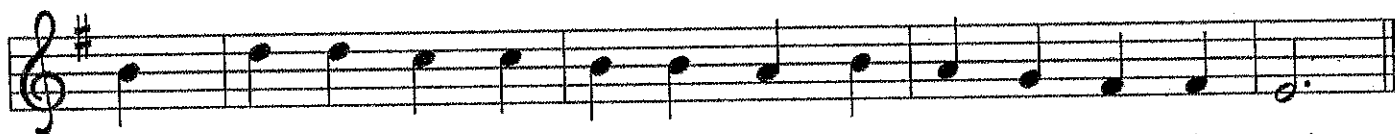
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**KYRIE**



- 1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.
- 2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.
- 3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.  
Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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.**

**ANTHEM (9:00 am)**

**"Wondrous Love"**

**People of Praise**

## CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

### FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from Genesis.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

<sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

### PSALM: Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt  
of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”
- <sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## SECOND READING: Romans 5:12 - 19

A reading from Romans.

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

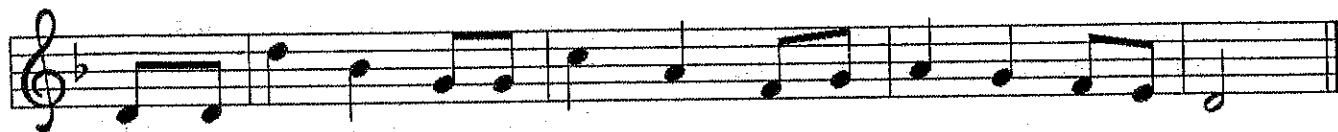
<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.  
Thanks be to God.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

## **GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'

and 'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.' "

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

## **SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY "God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens" ELW #322**

## **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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 CHURCH

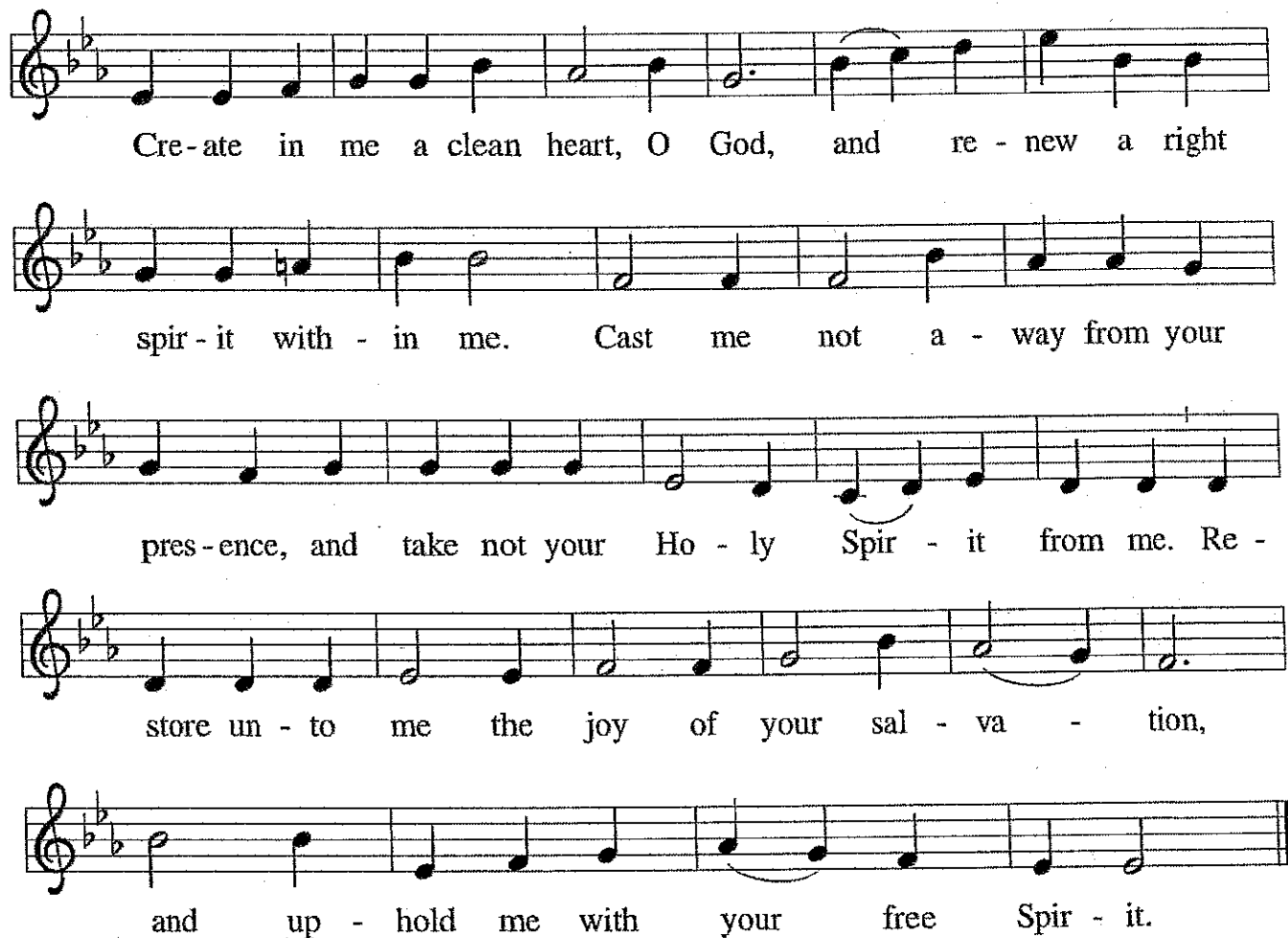
*Each petition will conclude, "Hear us, O God.,"*

*The congregation responds, "Your mercy is great."*

## SHARING OF THE PEACE

## OFFERING

### OFFERING SONG "Create in Me A Clean Heart"



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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,  
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: J. A. Freylinghausen, 1670-1739

## OFFERING PRAYER

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

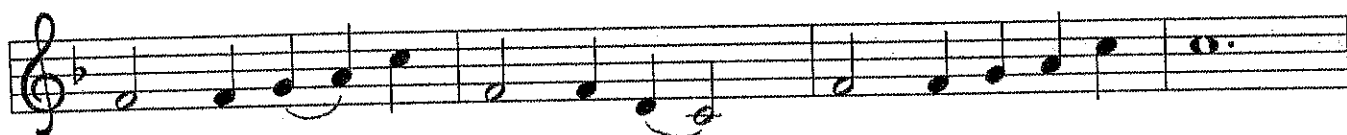
The Lord be with you.

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.**

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho-san-na in the high-est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

## COMMUNION SONG

### "Lamb of God"



- 1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

## DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

*Believing in the real presence of Christ, we invite all present to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion. All who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ is present in the gifts of bread and wine are welcome at the Lord's table. Those who do not wish to receive communion and children who are not yet receiving communion may come forward for a blessing. Those who are unable to come forward for communion, please let an usher know, and we will bring communion to you.*

*The ushers will direct you to come forward by the center aisle to receive the bread from the pastors. Gluten-free wafers are available in the small gold dish on the paten. Both wine and grape juice are available for communion. The grape juice is the darker color in the middle of the tray. There are baskets at the end of the front pews where you can deposit your cups as you return to your seat. Those who are worshipping with us online are invited to have bread and wine or juice available for worship, and we will commune you at the end of communion.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS "Lord Jesus Think on Me"

ELW #599

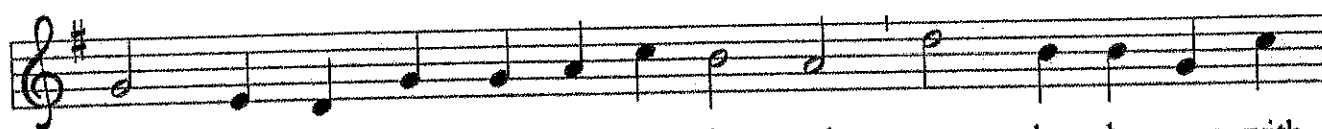
## "By Your Hand You Feed Your People"

ELW #469

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in his grace.  
**Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION SONG "Father, We Thank You"



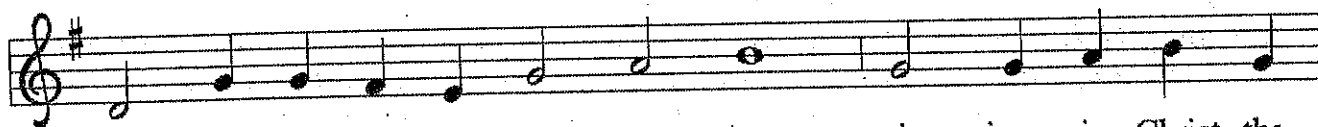
1 Fa - ther, we thank you that you plant - ed your ho - ly name with -  
2 Watch o'er your church, O Lord, in mer - cy, save it from e - vil,



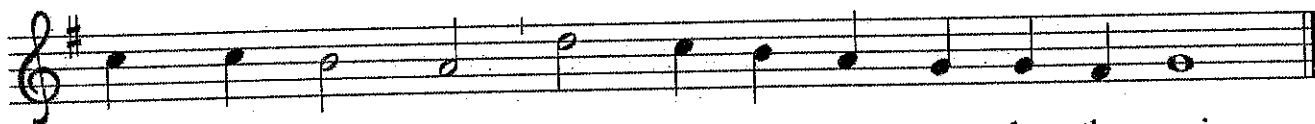
in our hearts. Knowl - edge and faith and life im - mor - tal Je - sus your  
guard it still; per - fect it in your love, u - nite it, cleansed and con -



Son to us im - parts. Lord, you have made all for your plea - sure,  
formed un - to your will. As grain, once scat - tered on the hill - sides,



and giv'n us food for all our days, giv - ing in Christ the  
was in this bro - ken bread made one, so from all lands your



bread e - ter - nal; yours is the pow'r, yours be the praise.  
church be gath - ered in - to your king - dom by your Son.

Text: Didache, 2nd cent.; para. F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984, alt.  
Music: RENDEZ À DIEU, attr. Louis Bourgeois, 1510-1561  
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## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.

**Amen.**

## BLESSING

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## SENDING SONG

**"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"**

**ELW #325**

## DISMISSAL

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always.

**Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

### THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO SHARE IN OUR WORSHIP

|                              | <b>5:00 pm Worship Service</b>                                          | <b>9:00 am Worship Service</b> |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Ushers</b>                | Gary & Joni King                                                        | Doug & Shari Garner            |
| <b>Reader</b>                | Joni King                                                               | Addyson Yanke                  |
| <b>Communion Assistant</b>   | Gretchen Small                                                          | Alexis Yanke                   |
| <b>Counters</b>              | Gary & Joni King                                                        | Jared & Kelly Penning          |
| <b>Choir Director</b>        | Susan Becker                                                            |                                |
| <b>Organist</b>              | Susan Becker                                                            |                                |
| <b>Jubilation Leader</b>     | Neal Becker                                                             |                                |
| <b>Online Streaming Crew</b> | Craig Bloomingdale, Lucas Golinghorst, Scott LaPlante, & Kevin Zidarich |                                |

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## Forty Days of Humility

The devil gives Jesus three opportunities to assert himself as powerful and exceptional: to turn rocks into bread, to be saved by the angels, and to rule over all the earth. Three times Jesus rebuffs the devil, turning his attention to God and refusing to take the bait.

Anthony the Great, a desert father whose life mirrored the experience of Jesus in this text, once said, “I saw the snares that the enemy spreads out over the world and I said groaning, ‘What can get through from such snares?’ Then I heard a voice saying to me, ‘Humility’” (Benedicta Ward, trans., *The Sayings of the Desert Fathers*, Cistercian, 1975). This is exactly how Jesus responds to the temptations offered by the devil: turning his attention back to God in humility, refusing the temptation to prove himself through miracles and acts of power.

During Lent, we are invited to engage in practices like fasting, almsgiving, and prayer to discipline our minds and bodies so we can return our full attention to the abiding love of God in Jesus. There will be a temptation to engage these practices as ways of puffing ourselves up, performing, or proving our worth. But Jesus calls us back to a Lent rooted in humility, engaging practices not for the sake of proving ourselves, but for deepening our trust in God.

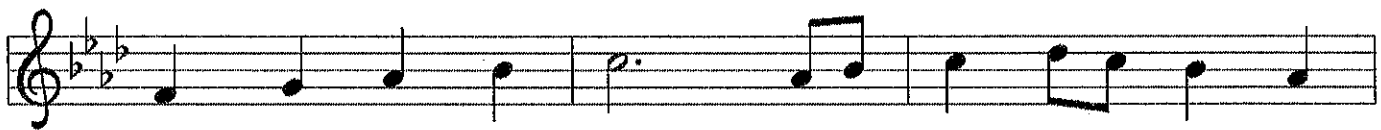
Where might we be experiencing that temptation to puff ourselves up, perform, or prove our greatness? What practices might support a posture of humility, reminding us that God is the author of all good things, and that we are loved and sustained by a God who humbly took on flesh for the sake of the world?

May these forty days teach us to embrace humility and to trust that God walks with us, making all things new.

# O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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# God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens



- 1 God, who stretched the span - gled heav - ens in - fi - nite in time and place,
- 2 We have ven - tured worlds un - dreamed of since the child-hood of our race;
- 3 As each far ho - ri - zon beck - ons, may it chal-lenge us a - new:



flung the suns in burn-ing ra - diance through the si - lent fields of space;  
known the ec - sta - sy of wing-ing through un - trav-eled realms of space;  
chil - dren of cre - a - tive pur - pose, serv - ing oth - ers, hon - 'ring you.



we, your chil - dren in your like-ness, share in - ven - tive pow'rs with you;  
probed the se - crets of the at - om, yield-ing un - i - mag - ined pow'r,  
May our dreams prove rich with prom-ise; each en-deav-or well be - gun;



great Cre - a - tor, still cre - at - ing, show us what we yet may do.  
fac - ing us with life's de - struc - tion or our most tri - um - phant hour.  
great Cre - a - tor, give us guid - ance till our goals and yours are one.

Text: Catherine Cameron, b. 1927

Music: HOLY MANNA, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

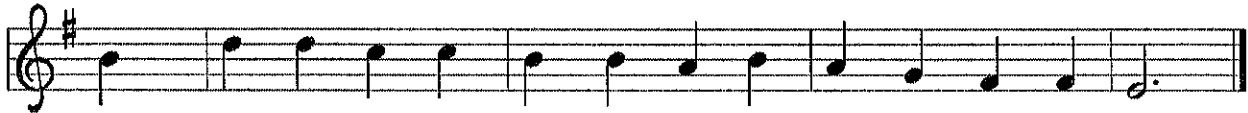
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## Lord Jesus, Think on Me



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
 2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;  
 3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;  
 4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.  
 let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.  
 through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.  
 I may the e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375–430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–1896, alt.  
 Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalms of David*, 1579, alt.

## By Your Hand You Feed Your People



1 By your hand you feed your peo - ple, food of an - gels, heav - en's bread.  
 2 In this meal we taste your sweet - ness, bread for hun - ger, wine of peace.  
 3 Send us now with faith and cour - age to the hun - gry, lost, be - reaved.



For these gifts we did not la - bor, by your grace have we been fed:  
 Ho - ly word and ho - ly wis - dom sat - is - fy our deep - est needs.  
 In our liv - ing and our dy - ing, we be - come what we re - ceive:



Christ's own bod - y, blessed and bro - ken, cup o'er - flow - ing, life out - poured,



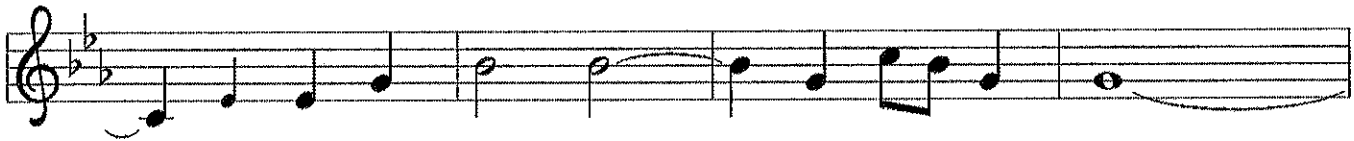
giv - en as a liv - ing to - ken of your world re - deemed, re - stored.

Text: Susan R. Briehl, b. 1952  
 Music: CAMROSE, Marty Haugen, b. 1950  
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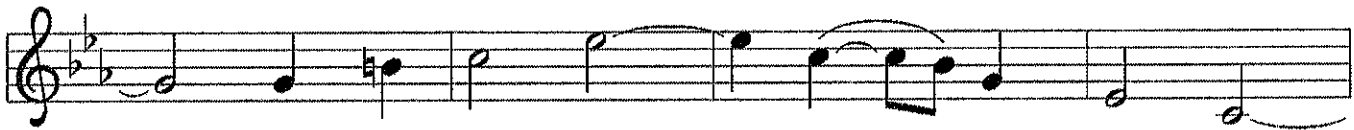
# I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

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**FAITH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**Senior Pastor Carrie La Plante      Pastor Heather Geest**  
Worship: Saturday 5 pm   Sunday 9 am  
Telephone: (563) 285-4501   Email: [faitheldridge@netins.net](mailto:faitheldridge@netins.net)



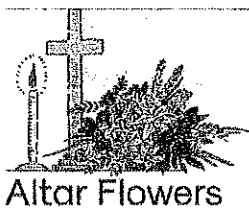
**GRACE - GIFTED      FAITH - LIFTED**  
**CALLED TO SHARE, SEEK AND SERVE CHRIST.**

First Sunday in Lent  
February 21 & 22, 2026

**WELCOME TO WORSHIP** Today we gather to celebrate God's love and grace as revealed to us through Jesus Christ. For those that might be interested in knowing more about the ministries and activities of the congregation there are some printed materials available for you to take. The materials are located on the counter just inside the east entrance of this building. You can also find more information through the church website at [faithlutheranelldridge.com](http://faithlutheranelldridge.com).

**CHILDREN** are always welcome in worship. Special children's bulletins are available for their use.

**VISITOR? CHANGE OF ADDRESS? INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEER ACTIVITIES? HAVE A PRAYER REQUEST?** Please feel free to complete the information card located in front of you next to the hymnals and pass the card to the outer aisle during announcements and an usher will pick them up during the call to worship.



*If you are interested in providing altar flowers, please sign up on the bulletin board in the narthex, or by using the link on our web site, [www.faithlutheranelldridge.com](http://www.faithlutheranelldridge.com)*



Trusting that God hears our prayers, we keep these people and all who are in need in our prayers.

|                |                |       |       |
|----------------|----------------|-------|-------|
| Steve Mixdorf  | June Mephram   | Kelly | Donna |
| Patty Denner   | Anna Mundy     | James | Julie |
| Barb Conklen   | Rebecca Casson | Cindy | Judy  |
| Meyer Mixdorf  | Cherri Grimes  | Thad  |       |
| Cheryl Torey   | Judy Rigg      | Dave  |       |
| Anderson Sears | Marilyn        | Linda |       |

# WELCOME TO church



NOISY OFFERING

This weekend we will be collecting a "noisy" offering for ELCA World Hunger. Please drop any change into the cans and make a joyful noise to the Lord!



## Cheeseburger in Paradise



Cheeseburger In Paradise Potluck will be held in the Fellowship Hall on **Saturday, February 28, 2026!** The Fellowship Team will provide cheeseburgers, condiments, table service and drinks. **Please sign up today** either on the bulletin board or on-line and include what side dish you plan to bring, so we can plan accordingly for the cheeseburgers! There will be games for the kids to play. Sign up in the Gathering Space. Hope to see you all there! – *The Fellowship Team*



PASTORAL CARE  
& COUNSELING

Pastor Carrie and Pastor Heather are available for Pastoral Care, but ***we need your help to know when and where that is needed.*** Even though the medical facilities might ask about notifying your church, they do not actually contact us unless a situation is dire. Please contact us at the church office at **(563) 285-4501**. **For after-hour emergencies**, please contact **Pastor Carrie at (641) 275-1326** or **Pastor Heather at (563) 639-9606**.



Do you knit, crochet, or quilt? The May 2026 Synod Assembly will be collecting donations of prayer shawls and lap quilts. We would like to send several of these items with our pastors and delegates to the assembly. If you have any questions or need a prayer shawl pattern, contact Linda Szemkus.



**Feed Our Children** During the month of February, we are requesting granola bars and pop tarts



**February 14 & 15 - 5:00 pm: 34, 9:00 am: 59, Online: 74, Total: 167**  
**February 18 - 7:00 pm: 120, Online: 42, Total: 162**



## All In Lenten Series

Join us this Lent as we consider how we go all in for God. Have you ever decided to go all in for something? Maybe it was when you chose a profession or a partner. Perhaps you made the decision to become a homeowner. Maybe it was when you joined this congregation, or if you came to faith later in life, when you decided to be baptized.

As Christians, God calls us to a life of commitment and caring for our neighbors and our world, even when the cultures around us view our caring as naïve and our commitment as pointless. In the face of the condition of the world around us, it can sometimes seem easier to detach from the need around us, to go numb and to care less as we try to guard our hearts and our expectations. But God calls us to deep engagement instead, to care more in the world trying to protect itself by caring less.

Before we can go all in, God shows us the way. God knows that going all in for this beautiful broken world is a challenge, so God goes all in on our behalf first, revealing what it is like to bet it all on love. This Lent, as we learn about God's own commitment, we'll explore how the elements of our liturgy prepare us for active engagement in the world God so loves. Our preaching, prayer, and devotional time help connect us to our neighbors, to the planet we share, and to God.

This Lent, God is all in for us. Let's go all in for God's love, too. Each Saturday and Sunday, we will use the lectionary text as we consider the various ways we can go all in for God's love. Then, on Wednesdays, we will have conversations about ministries in which we are participating, either as a congregation or in partnership with others. There will also be a daily devotion available that will further help us consider each week's theme:

February 18, Ash Wednesday: All In for Repentance – Going all in on the culturally unpopular idea of repentance brings us back to God.

The week of February 22: All In for Creation – Being all in for creation begins with acknowledging that we are part of it.

The week of March 1: All In for the Unknown – Answering any call from God involves entering whole-heartedly into the unknown.

The week of March 8: All In for Wonder – Relationship with God draws out our questions, wonder, and a true sense of awe.

The week of March 15: All In for Relationship – God does not hesitate to enter into the messiness of human relationships, and calls us to do the same.

The week of March 22: All In for Letting Go – Letting go of expectations allows us to make way for God to do something wondrous and new, taking flight on a leap of faith.

The week of March 29, Holy Week: All In for the Highs and Lows – Balancing Palm Procession and Passion on this day practices entering into all the highs and lows of human life with our congregations and with Christ.

April 5, Easter Sunday: All In for Resurrection – Embracing resurrection as a key part of our faith frees us to embrace the good news that no part of life or death is out of God's life-giving reach.

Sunday      Friday      Saturday

# WEEKLY

## *Sneak Peek*

### **Saturday, February 21 Noisy Offering**

5:00 pm      Worship in Sanctuary &  
Online

### **Sunday, February 22 Noisy Offering**

9:00 am      Worship in Sanctuary  
10:15 am      Fellowship  
10:15 am      Sunday School  
10:15 am      First Communion Class  
5:00 pm      North Scott Singers Concert

### **Monday, February 23 Office Closed**

### **Tuesday, February 24**

1:00 pm      Bible Study  
5:30 pm      Food Pantry  
6:30 pm      Jubilation  
6:30 pm      Sacred Self- Care

### **Wednesday, February 25**

#### **Office 9am-noon**

10:45 am      Resounding Joy  
5:15 pm      Confirmation Meal  
5:45 pm      Confirmation Conversations  
6:00 pm      People of Praise  
7:00 pm      Lent Worship Service  
7:30 pm      High School Youth

### **Thursday, February 26 Office 9am-noon**

9:00 am      Ambassador Folding  
6:30 pm      Church Council

### **Friday, February 27**

9:30 pm      Food Pantry  
1:00 pm      Friday Fun Club

### **Saturday, February 28**

5:00 pm      Worship in Sanctuary &  
Online

### **Sunday, March 1**

9:00 am      Worship in Sanctuary  
10:15 am      Fellowship  
10:15 am      Sunday School



## **Guest Choir Concert featuring North Scott Singers**

Special Concert  
North Scott Singers



North Scott Singers from the high school has earned regional recognition as one of six high school choirs selected from a ten-state area to perform at the Midwestern Choral Directors Conference in Milwaukee on February 26. In preparation for the event, they are presenting their concert program at Faith for our congregation and neighbors **THIS SUNDAY, February 22, at 5:00 pm** in the Sanctuary. Some of our own former Children's Choir members are now members of North Scott Singers! Please plan to attend and give them a warm welcome!