

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Sandi Watts

GATHERING

Call to Worship

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

C: Amen.

Confession

P: 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.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence

P: Most merciful God,

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

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

C: Amen.

Gathering Song – “Firm Foundation”

(piano)

*Chorus: Jesus, You’re my firm foundation, I know I can stand secure.
Jesus, You’re my firm foundation, I put my hope in your holy Word,
I put my hope in your holy Word.*

1. (I have a living hope) I have a living hope
(I have a future) I have a future
(God has a plan for me) God has a plan for me
(Of this I’m sure) Of this I’m sure. *Chorus*
2. (Your Word is faithful) Your Word is faithful
(Mighty in power) Mighty in power
(God will deliver me) God will deliver me
(Of this I’m sure) Of this I’m sure. *Chorus*

**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.

**Prayer of the Day*

P: God of new life, as Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, renew and restore us to new life. Free us from the graves of all that prevents us from loving you. Use our hands and feet to bring the good news of your grace to our neighbors, rolling away stones, unbinding them, and setting them free to live in you.

C: Amen.

**Sharing Christ’s Peace*

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

All are invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

Children’s Sermon

Hymn of Praise: "Great is the Lord"

(piano)

**Great is the Lord, he is holy and just. By his power we trust in his love.
Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true. By his mercy he proves he is love.
Great is the Lord and worthy of glory. Great is the Lord and worthy of praise.
Great is the Lord, I lift up my voice, I lift up my voice.
Great is the Lord, great is the Lord. Repeat**

WORD

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-44

Readers: Barb Davenport, Jessica Hendricker, Adam Krohe, Patty Nelson, & John Williams

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill. ³So the sisters sent to him, saying, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴But when Jesus heard it he said, "This illness is not to death; it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by means of it."

⁵Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶So when he heard that he was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go into Judea again." ⁸The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were but now seeking to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? If any one walks in the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. ¹⁰But if any one walks in the night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him." ¹¹Thus he spoke, and then he said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I go to awake him out of sleep." ¹²The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will recover." ¹³Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that he meant taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead; ¹⁵and for your sake I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶Thomas, called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him."

¹⁷Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, ¹⁹and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. ²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary sat in the house. ²¹Martha said to

Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²And even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." ²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." ²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, ²⁶and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world."

²⁸When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying quietly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. ³⁰Now Jesus had not yet come to the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³²Then Mary, when she came where Jesus was and saw him, fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; ³⁴and he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵Jesus wept. ³⁶So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?"

³⁸Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb; it was a cave, and a stone lay upon it. ³⁹Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴²I knew that you hear me always, but I have said this on account of the people standing by, that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." ⁴⁴The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with bandages, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

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

Song – "Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death" ELW 452 *(organ)*

- 1 **Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
so learn his love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth, and height.**
- 2 **To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear release,
to give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.**

- 3 **There is one body and one hope, one Spirit and one call,
one Lord, one faith, and one baptism, one God who made us all.**
- 4 **Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
with kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.**
- 5 **For us Christ lived, for us he died, and conquered in the strife.
Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.**

Sermon: “Jesus Raises Lazarus”

Song of the Day – “City of God”

(piano)

1. **Awake from your slumber! Arise from your sleep!
A new day is dawning for all those who weep.
The people in darkness have seen a great light.
The Lord of our longing has conquered the night.**

*Refrain: Let us build the city of God. May our tears be turned into dancing!
For the Lord, our light and our love, has turned the night into day!*

2. **We are sons of the morning; we are daughters of day.
The one who has loved us has brightened our way.
The Lord of all kindness has called us to be
A light for his people to set their hearts free. Refrain twice**

**The 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 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 Intercession*

Stewardship Time

“Jesus Is a Rock,” arr. Robert Olson
Faith Singers

*—We now have Worship Cards in the pews. Please let us know if you are
communing, share a prayer request, and place your card in the offering plate
as a gesture of stewardship as we grow in relationship with God
through the use of our time, talents, and finances—*

**Offering Prayer*

P: Merciful God,

**C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our
time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake
of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

**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 our God.

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

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,
who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out your Holy Spirit, that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty God, now and forever.

Amen

**Lord's Prayer*

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.

Communion Songs

“I Am the Bread of Life” ELW 485 *(piano)*

- 1 **"I am the Bread of life. You who come to me shall not hunger, and who believe in me shall not thirst.
No one can come to me unless the Father beckons."**

*Refrain: "And I will raise you up, and I will raise you up,
and I will raise you up on the last day."*

- 2 **"The bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world, and if you eat of this bread, you shall live forever, you shall live forever."**

Refrain

- 3 **"Unless you eat of the flesh of the Son of Man and drink of his blood, and drink of his blood, you shall not have life within you." *Refrain***

- 4 **"I am the resurrection, I am the life.
If you believe in me, even though you die, you shall live forever."** *Refrain*
- 5 **Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ,
the Son of God, who have come into the world.** *Refrain*

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” ELW 742 *(organ)*

1. **What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; Oh, what needless pain we bear –
All because we do not carry everything to God in prayer!**
2. **Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged -- take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our every weakness -- take it to the Lord in prayer.**
3. **Are we weak and heavy laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge -- take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer!
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: **Amen.**

**Communion Sending*

*Today we send communion to our homebound members,
Helen Cumby, Linda Berghaus, and Marilyn Bradley*

P: Gracious God, you welcome all to your table and extend your grace to those who cannot gather with us today. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this sacrament, that with the help of the Body of Christ, and through the body and blood of your Son, we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence.
C: **Amen.**

**Closing Prayer*

SENDING

**Benediction*

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor, and + give you peace.

C: Amen.

**Sending Song* – “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days” ELW 319 (organ)

- 1 **O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.**
- 2 **You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust in God's eternal word.**
- 3 **Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.**
- 4 **Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.**

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

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Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Kay Schnitker

Greeter: Barb Fishback

Readers: Barb Davenport, Jessica Hendricker, Adam Krohe, Patty Nelson, & John Williams

Usher: Paul Scheerer

Pastor: Adam Dichsen

Music Director: Jean Welch

Pianist: Jean Welch

Organist: Sandi Watts

Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen

Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen

Financial Assistants: Monica Proefrock & Kay Schnitker

Chancel Committee: Martha Krohe

Coffee Host: Karen Sibert



Singers:

Maddie Crossin

Kelly Hartz

Adam Krohe

Cole Street

Benen Dichsen

Terri Kimler

Kris Roth

Melissa Street

Church Council Members:

Malinda Carlson

Kevin Krohe

Kay Schnitker

Marilyn Dichsen

Patty Nelson

Cory Street

Greg Kimler

Monica Proefrock

John Williams

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, February 22, 9:30am: Worship

Friends from Faith

11:00am: Discussion Group in the Justice Room

Wednesday, February 25, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

6:00pm: Mission Meal in the Great Room

7:00pm: Lenten Service

Sunday, March 1, 9:30am: Worship

11:00am: Discussion Group in the Justice Room

Wednesday, March 4, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

6:00pm: Mission Meal in the Great Room

7:00pm: Lenten Service

Saturday, March 7, 8:00am: Cooking for
9:00am: Men's Breakfast

News Updates

Lay Ministry Sign-Up Sheets

Sign-Up Sheets are available at the podium in the gathering area. Please take a moment to sign up to be an Usher, Reader, Greeter, Communion Assistant, Coffee Host, Chancel Committee volunteer, and to Donate Altar Plants. **Thank You!** *We are Gifted to Serve!*

Faith's Little Flock — (Ages 2–7)

gathers each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and returns to the sanctuary in time for Communion.

This February, Faith's Little Flock will continue the journey through the book of John alongside the rest of our congregation. Through simple storytelling, hands-on activities, and music, our youngest learners (and big-kid helpers) will explore what it means that Jesus is our Good Shepherd and discover the hope found in the story of Lazarus. As the Lenten season begins, we will focus on themes of love, trust, and new life, helping children understand that Jesus is always near, guiding and caring for them.

We look forward to walking this meaningful season together with your children through stories, creativity, and faith-filled fun.

If you would like to help with FLF, please contact Melissa Street, Pam Devlin, or Liddy Stark. Blessings, *Melissa*

Contribution Envelopes for 2026 are available in the gathering area. If you don't see a box with your name on it, please talk to Kris Roth, Barb Davenport, or Pam Devlin.

Financial Statements

for 2025 are available in the office.

Read the Bible in a Year

Join us in reading the Bible over the course of a year, **Wednesdays at 10:00am in the Faith Library** (this new group will take the place of the Discipleship Group). We gather weekly to discuss our insights and reflections. We are utilizing The Bible Recap by Tara-Leigh Cobble, available on the YouVersion Bible app, to guide our journey. For more information, feel free to reach out to Pam Devlin. A sign-up sheet is available in the Gathering Area. People should read assigned daily readings from The Bible Recap so that we can discuss what we read.

Music is a Great Way to Connect!

We are always looking for people to sing or play special music for a prelude or a stewardship offering. Please contact Jean Welch if you are interested in sharing your musical gifts. jrwelch53@msn.com or 217-652-7009 (phone/text)

Post-Service Discussions after Worship

After the service, grab some refreshments and join us in the Justice Room to further encounter the readings – and the sermon. *Naomi Hahn*

Bible Boot Camp and Faith Inkubators

Pastor Adam is available to lead gatherings on March 15 & 22, & April 12 & 19. If others would like to help provide a meal or lead a fun activity, please contact Pam Devlin, Carol Freesen, or Celeste Hill on our Discipleship Core Team or **sign up on the sheet in the Gathering Area**. Our typical schedule is for Bible Boot Camp from 4:30-5:30, a meal for 15 people from 5:30-6:00, and Faith Inkubators from 6:00-7:30.

Lenten Midweek Worship Schedule

Our schedule for midweek worship services this year –

February 25, March 4, 11, 18, & 25

Outreach Meal at 6:00 p.m.

Midweek Worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 p.m.

Midweek Worship: “Be Still and Know”

Do you ever need to put on the brakes after a busy day? Do you need a time in the middle of the week to reorient your focus? Join us on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 for our Lenten midweek worship services under the theme, "Be still and know." Psalm 46 reminds us that God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in times of trouble. Our worship will follow Holden Evening Prayer, a beautiful sung liturgy, with scripture and time to pray, reflect, be still, and know that God is God.

Midweek Supper and Worship with “Outreach Meals”

Our Lenten tradition continues with Wednesday night meals and worship, and we will again provide Mission Meals. The meals will not be pot-luck style but will be a provided meal with a free-will offering. **Groups are invited to sign up for a Wednesday to provide the meal.** Faith will reimburse them \$200 in outreach funds to cover their cost. The group can select a charity to receive the funds, and all of the offering will go towards that ministry. Sign up your group and charity at the counter outside the Total Ministry Center. Join us for these wonderful outreach meals at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays and all

are invited to chip in and help with clean up in the kitchen. Worship will start at 7:00 to make time for all to be ready after the meal.

Fairly-Traded Coffee/Tea

Check out the coffee display from Equal Exchange. Simply select the product(s) you would like to purchase, and place the money in the container provided by the display (**\$9.00** regular & decaf; **\$3.00** tea). Checks should be made out to Faith Lutheran Church with “*coffee*” designated in the memo area.

Conference of Churches Collecting Dry Goods for Area Food Bank

to support the Food Center "Grains" event. Please bring your donations by February 22 – Hamburger Helper, Mac n Cheese, Crackers, Dry Pasta, Cereal – and place them in the box in the Mission and Ministry Center. Thank You!

Kids Act – Build Confidence and Faith through Performing Arts

First Presbyterian Church (870 W. College, Jacksonville) is hosting a theater camp for kids grades 3-6, on Wednesday, February 25, from 5:30-6:30pm. The hour will include theater, improv, games, music, and movement. For more information, call First Presbyterian Church (217-245-4189).

Prayer and Meditation

Prayer and meditation are ways that we invite God into our lives and into those for whom we pray. The health challenges facing Marilyn Dichsen have focused our congregation's attention on the importance of prayers for healing cancer in a gifted young woman. Marilyn's challenges have also brought to our attention all who are struggling with physical and mental health issues. Faith members are encouraged to pray for all who are in need wherever you might find yourself. The church sanctuary is open during regular church office hours (Tuesday-Friday, 9:00-1:00) for members to stop by and spend quiet time praying for Marilyn, her family, and all those who are in need of prayer. A prayer book is available at the back of the sanctuary by the tech station, along with the names of those who have been included in worship prayers and our prayer chain. Please sign your name and record your prayers or words of encouragement, if you so desire.