

Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

Greetings and Welcome

Prelude by Susan Roegge – “We Will Glorify,” arr. Mark Hayes

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 – “Here I Am to Worship” *(piano)*

**Light of the world, You stepped down into darkness, opened my eyes, let me see.
Beauty that made this heart adore You, hope of a life spent with You.**

Refrain: **Here I am to worship; Here I am to bow down; Here I am to say that
You're my God.**

You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy, altogether wonderful to me.

King of all days, oh so highly exalted, glorious in heaven above.

Humbly you came to the earth you created, all for love's sake became poor. *Refrain*

And I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross.

And I'll never know how much it cost To see my sin upon that cross. *Refrain*

**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: Holy God,
we, like Peter, often turn our backs on you. Forgive us and show us a new way to live,
walking boldly and passionately toward you. Amen.

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: “Chief of Sinners though I Be” ELW 609, vv. 1-3 *(organ)*

- 1 Chief of sinners though I be, Jesus shed his blood for me,
died that I might live on high, lives that I might never die.
As the branch is to the vine, I am his, and he is mine.**

- 2 **Oh, the height of Jesus' love! Higher than the heav'ns above,
deeper than the depths of sea, lasting as eternity.
Love that found me—wondrous thought—found me when I sought him not.**
- 3 **Only Jesus can impart balm to heal the wounded heart,
peace that flows from sin forgiv'n, joy that lifts the soul to heav'n,
faith and hope to walk with God in the way that Enoch trod.**

WORD

Reading: Psalm 17:1-7

Reader: Angela Spray

- ¹Hear a just cause, O Lord; attend to my cry;
give ear to my prayer from lips free of deceit.
- ²From you let my vindication come;
let your eyes see the right.
- ³If you try my heart, if you visit me by night,
if you test me, you will find no wickedness in me;
my mouth does not transgress.
- ⁴As for what others do, by the word of your lips
I have avoided the ways of the violent.
- ⁵My steps have held fast to your paths;
my feet have not slipped.
- ⁶I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;
incline your ear to me; hear my words.
- ⁷Wondrously show your steadfast love,
O savior of those who seek refuge
from their adversaries at your right hand.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

**Gospel Reading:* John 18:12-27

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 18th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹²So the soldiers, their officer, and the Jewish police arrested Jesus and bound him. ¹³First they took him to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year.

¹⁴Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it was better to have one person die for the people.

¹⁵Simon Peter and another disciple followed Jesus. Since that disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the courtyard of the high priest, ¹⁶but Peter was standing outside at the gate. So the other disciple, who was known to the high priest, went out, spoke to the woman who guarded the gate, and brought Peter in. ¹⁷The woman said to Peter, “You are not also one of this man’s disciples, are you?” He said, “I am not.” ¹⁸Now the slaves and the police had made a charcoal fire because it was cold, and they were standing around it and warming themselves. Peter also was standing with them and warming himself.

¹⁹Then the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and about his teaching. ²⁰Jesus answered, “I have spoken openly to the world; I have always taught in synagogues and in the temple, where all the Jews come together. I have said nothing in secret. ²¹Why do you ask me? Ask those who heard what I said to them; they know what I said.” ²²When he had said this, one of the police standing nearby struck Jesus on the face, saying, “Is that how you answer the high priest?” ²³Jesus answered, “If I have spoken wrongly, testify to the wrong. But if I have spoken rightly, why do you strike me?” ²⁴Then Annas sent him bound to Caiaphas the high priest.

²⁵Now Simon Peter was standing and warming himself. They asked him, “You are not also one of his disciples, are you?” He denied it and said, “I am not.” ²⁶One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, “Did I not see you in the garden with him?” ²⁷Again Peter denied it, and at that moment the cock crowed.

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

Song – “When We are Tested” (ACS 922)

(organ)

- 1 **When we are tested and wrestle alone,
famished for bread when the world offers stone,
nourish us, God, by your word and your way,
food that sustains us by night and by day.**
- 2 **When in the desert we cry for relief,
pleading for paths marked by certain belief,
lift us to love you beyond sign and test,
trusting your presence, our only true rest.**

- 3 **When we are tempted to barter our souls,
trading the truth for the pow'r to control,
teach us to worship and praise only you,
seeking your will in the work that we do.**
- 4 **When we have struggled and searched through the night,
sorting and sifting the wrong from the right,
Savior, surround us with circles of care,
angels of healing, of hope, and of prayer.**

Sermon: "Peter's Denial"

Song of the Day – "Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song" ELW 808 *(piano)*

- 1 **Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.**
- 2 **Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.**
- 3 **As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.
As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.**
- 4 **I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.**

**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

“Here at this Table,” arr. Whitaker
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

“There is a Redeemer”

(piano)

**1. There is a Redeemer, Jesus, God's own Son;
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.**

*Refrain: Thank You, oh my Father, for giving us Your Son,
and leaving Your Spirit 'til the work on earth is done.*

**2. Jesus, my Redeemer, Name above all names,
Precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Hope for sinners slain. Refrain**

**3. When I stand in Glory, I will see His face.
There I'll serve my King forever In that holy place. Refrain**

- 1 **What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?**
- 2 **When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down, sinking down,
when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul,
Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.**
- 3 **To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.**
- 4 **And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.**

**Post-Communion Blessing*

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

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.**

- 1 **O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the works thy hand hath made,
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;**

*Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,
how great thou art! How great thou art!*

- 2 **When through the woods and forest glades I wander,
I hear the birds sing sweetly in the trees;
when I look down from lofty mountain grandeur
and hear the brook and feel the gentle breeze; *Refrain***
- 3 **But when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross my burden gladly bearing
he bled and died to take away my sin; *Refrain***
- 4 **When Christ shall come, with shout of acclamation,
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration
and there proclaim, “My God, how great thou art!” *Refrain***

**Dismissal*

P: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Song Credits

“Here I Am to Worship,” words and music by Tim Hughes, ThankYou Music © 2001. CCLI#973583
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“There Is a Redeemer,” from **Songs for Praise & Worship**, Word Music, © 1992. CCLI#973583

Worship Assistants

Communion Assistant: Karen Sibert
Greeter: Liddy Stark
Reader: Angela Spray
Ushers: Judy Dillard & Vicki Robson
Pastor: Adam Dichsen
Music Director: Jean Welch
Musician: Susan Roegge
Guitarist: Marilyn Dichsen
Drummers: John Demien & Louis Dichsen
Financial Assistants: Malinda Carlson & Monica Proefrock
Chancel Committee: Karen Sibert
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	Monica Proefrock	Cory Street
Greg Kimler	Patty Nelson	Kay Schnitker	John Williams

What's Coming Up at Faith?

Sunday, March 8, 9:30am: Worship

11:00am: Discussion Group in the Justice Room

Wednesday, March 11, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

6:00pm: Mission Meal in the Great Room

7:00pm: Lenten Service

Thursday, March 12, 1:00pm: Discipleship Core Team

3:00pm: Outreach Core Team

Sunday, March 15, 9:30am: Worship + Baptisms

11:00am: Discussion Group in the Justice Room

4:30pm: Bible Boot Camp

6:00pm: Faith Inkubators/Confirmation

Wednesday, March 18, 10:00am: Read the Bible in a Year Group – Faith Library

6:00pm: Mission Meal in the Great Room

7:00pm: Lenten Service

Thursday, March 19, 6:00pm: Church Council Meeting

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.

During the month of March, Faith's Little Flock will continue our Lenten journey as we learn about the final days of Jesus' ministry and His great love for us. Through stories from the Gospel of John, the children will explore important moments that help us understand why Easter is such a joyful celebration.

Each week includes simple Bible lessons, coloring pages, snacks, and activities that help the children understand these important stories in a meaningful and age-appropriate way. Please keep Faith's Little Flock in your prayers as we prepare our Hearts for the joy of Easter. 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.

Palm Sunday Cantata -- *It Is Finished*

This choral Tenebrae service will be presented by the choir and chamber orchestra of St. John's Lutheran Church from Springfield under the direction of Matt Woodson on Palm Sunday, March 29th. We will have a small luncheon at 1:00pm followed by the cantata at 2:00pm. The luncheon is \$5 and will include soup, sandwich, and a cookie. This very moving cantata will lead us into Holy Week. **We could use some volunteers to help with the luncheon – making soup and cookies, set up/serve/clean up, taking money, and serving drinks.** Please sign up at the counter by the coffee sales.

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.

Post-Service Discussions

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 remaining schedule for midweek worship services this year – **March 11, 18, & 25**

Outreach Meal at 6:00 pm

Midweek Worship in the sanctuary at 7:00 pm

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. 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.

March 11 - Liddy Stark and friends support Spirit of Faith Soup Kitchen

March 18 - HUGS Team supports their ministry with the children in Uganda

March 25 - Hillary Waddle and friends support PAWS

"Go. Together!" Synod Relation Trip, April 18, 9:00am – 4:30pm

Join this one-day, synod-wide relation trip (formerly the synod-wide mission trip) to the Champaign-Urbana area, where we will serve neighbors in need and build relationships across our communities of disciples. Projects include work at Sola Gratia Farm, a bike rodeo with St. Matthew's Lutheran, Urbana, work at a clothing distribution center, painting and building projects at St. Andrew's Campus Center, projects with LSSI, and more. You pick your projects when you register! All projects are within a five-mile/15-minute drive of Good Shepherd.

Registration is open at CSIS-ELCA.org/gotogether. **Please register before March 20**.