

**Family of Christ Lutheran Church  
Second Sunday in Lent  
March 16, 2025**

**Welcome, Announcements and Prayer Requests**

**Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be our Triune God, † whose presence with us on our pilgrim journey brings us grace and mercy. **Amen.**

Let us confess before our God with humility, knowing that like a mother hen gathers her chicks, the divine gathers us to comfort and forgive.

*A brief silence*

**Abiding God, we confess that we have strayed from your Way of costly grace. We prefer the lure of wealth and power to acts of mercy and love. We are captivated by earthly things rather than heavenly things. We revel in the suffering of others while refusing to see our own failures. We accuse our siblings of sinful indulgence to raise up our own image in the eyes of others. We focus on what is lacking and reject the radical hospitality that is offered to all. Forgive us, O God, and raise us up as your children, that we may find ourselves renewed in Spirit for our journey through the cross. Amen.**

Beloved, know that Jesus walks with us even as we wander from the road stretched before us. Our God runs to us with arms

outstretched, welcoming us home, telling us we are loved and † forgiven, and renewing a right spirit within us. **Amen.**

## **Gathering Hymn: ELW 834**

### Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise



1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,  
2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,  
3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;  
4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,  
nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;  
in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;  
thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,  
thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove  
we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,  
all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!  
thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.  
and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.  
'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

Text: Walter Chalmers Smith, 1824–1908, alt.  
Music: ST. DENIO, Welsh traditional

*Please be seated*

### **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.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

God of all, you call us to walk this pilgrim road of Lent.

**As we journey, help us to stand with courage in the face of those who wish us harm.**

Protect us in your loving embrace.

**Gather us that we may find strength to continue in your covenant of love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18**

*God promises a childless and doubting Abram that he will have a child, that his descendants will be as numerous as the stars, and that the land of Canaan will be their inheritance. Abram's trust in God is sealed with a covenant-making ceremony, a sign of God's promise.*

<sup>1</sup> After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup> But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup> And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup> But the

word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.”<sup>5</sup> He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.”<sup>6</sup> And he believed the LORD, and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup> Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.”<sup>8</sup> But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?”<sup>9</sup> He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.”<sup>10</sup> He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two.<sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces.<sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.”

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## **Psalm 27**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD is my light and my salvation; whom then shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

<sup>2</sup> **When evildoers close in against me to devour my flesh, they, my foes and my enemies, will stumble and fall.**

<sup>3</sup> Though an army encamp against me, my heart will not fear.

Though war rise up against me, my trust will not be shaken.

<sup>4</sup> **One thing I ask of the LORD; one thing I seek; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life; to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to seek God in the temple.**

<sup>5</sup> For in the day of trouble God will give me shelter, hide me in the hidden places of the sanctuary, and raise me high upon a rock.

<sup>6</sup> **Even now my head is lifted up above my enemies who surround me.**

**Therefore I will offer sacrifice in the sanctuary, sacrifices of rejoicing; I will sing and make music to the LORD.**

<sup>7</sup> Hear my voice, O LORD, when I call; have mercy on me and answer me.

<sup>8</sup> **My heart speaks your message— “Seek my face.” Your face, O LORD, I will seek.**

<sup>9</sup> Hide not your face from me, turn not away from your servant in anger.

Cast me not away—you have been my helper; forsake me not, O God of my salvation.

<sup>10</sup> **Though my father and my mother forsake me, the LORD will take me in.**

<sup>11</sup> Teach me your way, O LORD;  
lead me on a level path, because of my oppressors.

<sup>12</sup> **Subject me not to the will of my foes,  
for they rise up against me, false witnesses breathing  
violence.**

<sup>13</sup> This I believe—that I will see the goodness of the LORD  
in the land of the living!

<sup>14</sup> **Wait for the LORD and be strong.  
Take heart and wait for the LORD!**

### **Second Reading: Philippians 3:17—4:1**

*Although Paul's devotion to Christ has caused him to be persecuted, he does not regret the course he has taken. Writing from prison, he expresses confidence in a glorious future and encourages other Christians to follow in his footsteps.*

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and

long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please rise as you are able.*

**Gospel Acclamation: Sing Verse 1 of ELW 325**

I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

**Gospel: Luke 13:31-35**

The Gospel according to Luke, the 13th chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Neither Herod's plotting nor Jerusalem's resistance to maternal love will deter Jesus from his sacrificial mission.*

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." <sup>32</sup> He said to them, "Go and tell that fox for me, 'Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work.' <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.'" <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a

hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing!  
<sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, 'Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.' ”

This is the Gospel of our Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon**



## Hymn of the Day: ELW 613

### Thy Holy Wings



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent-ly o - ver me,  
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down-y breast  
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No-ah's cleans-ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.  
where I will find sweet com-fort and peace with - in thy nest.  
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,  
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,  
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with-in thy grace.  
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.  
and while we sweet-ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832–1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite

Music: BRED DINA VIDA VINGAR, Swedish folk tune

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## **Affirmation of Faith**

On this road of Lent, we proclaim our belief in the One who called creation into being from darkened chaos.

**“Light” became “Life” and “Love.” All nature echoes God’s worth. The desert bursts forth with abundance. We rejoice.**

On this road of Lent, we meet the One who traveled in the wilderness of the world.

**In stable born, in manger laid, he was hurried past Sinai into Egypt. He was cast into the wilderness to be tempted. He gave himself to the throng; he shared his life with the enemy; he offered himself on Golgotha. He provided new life from death — all tombs are opened by his might.**

On this road of Lent we welcome the One who enters the desolate chambers of our own hearts, our own communities, our own gatherings, our own families.

**By the Spirit’s transforming power, we live in abundant love, knowing that we are not alone on this journey and rejoicing in the abundance we have to share.**

*Please be seated*

## **Prayers of the People**

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

*A brief silence.*

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that

your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today's leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need, especially those on our prayer list and those whose names and needs we lift before you now, either silently or aloud. May all know they are not alone. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

Holy God, you are our light and our salvation. We give thanks for the saints who have gone before us (*especially*). Help us to trust in you as they did and to live according to their example. God, in your mercy,

**receive our prayer.**

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

**Amen.**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of Christ be with you all.

**And also with you.**

Please share a sign of Christ's peace with those around you.

### **Offering Is Collected**

### **Offering and Elements Are Brought to the Table**

## Offering Song: ELW 182

### Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful *Offering Song*



Let the vine - yards be fruit - ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of  
bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be  
fed with the bread of life. Gath - er the hopes and the dreams of all; u -  
nite them with the prayers we of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your  
pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

Text: John W. Arthur, 1922-1980  
Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923  
Text and music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## Offering Prayer

God of mercy, **we bring you our gifts, meager though they may be. Let our whole lives be offerings poured out at your feet. You welcome us to this feast no matter how long we have been gone or how far afield we have roamed. As we gather at your table, may this meal remind us of the home we have in you and encourage our generosity and hospitality to others, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## Communion

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 God thanks and praise.**

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

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

Holy God, merciful and mighty, with all of creation we praise you. You set the universe in motion, fixing the stars in their firmament to guide our path when the shadow of night falls.

You led your people from bondage to freedom, leading in a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night so that even as we wandered, we could find our way back to you.

You called your priests and prophets, to be ebezers for the people, reminders of your steadfast love and faithfulness that kept us strong in times of trial.

You came and lived among us, calling us to gather under your motherly wings, strengthening us and pruning us that we might bear fruit, running to us and rejoicing as we are found, offering us a place to abide as beloved.

You entered Jerusalem, where the joyful pilgrims who spread their cloaks on the road would later all cry “crucify!” You were then led to where your love would be poured out for all upon the cross.

In the night in which he was handed over, our Lord Jesus took bread. He blessed it, 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.”

In the same way he took the cup. And when he had blessed it, he 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.”

We remember Your Son, His walk with your people, His lovingkindness and mercy, His death upon the cross and His victorious rising, and we await that day when all shall find salvation along life’s pilgrim journey.

Send now your Spirit into your beloved and into this bread and wine we share. Strengthen us for the days ahead; cleanse us from our sin; create in us clean hearts by the love of Christ, through whom all glory and honor belong to You, Holy Trinity, in your church, now and forever. **Amen.**

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

### **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, eat and find strength for the journey. Know that Christ is with you. **Amen.**

*(All are welcome at the Table. Gluten-free wafers are available. Both wine and juice are available. The juice is the*



*innermost circle on the tray. Reminder: You commune fully even if you consume just one of the elements.)*

## **Communion Hymn: ELW 597**

### My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than  
2 When dark - ness veils his love - ly face, I  
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus -  
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness; no mer - it of my  
rest on his un - chang - ing grace; in ev - 'ry high and  
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are  
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.  
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

#### *Refrain*



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.  
Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823–1876

### **Post-Communion Blessing**

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

### **Prayer after Communion**

God, our Host, **you have shared your feast with us, and we are made new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities. May your liberating love nourish the world into freedom in the name of the crucified and risen one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

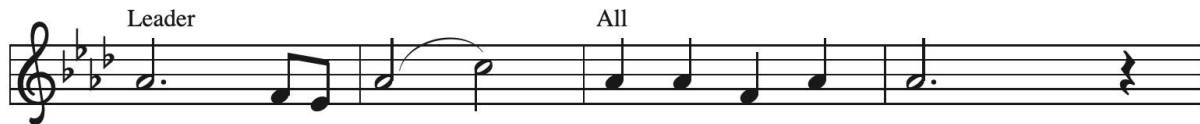
### **Blessing**

May God, who is love, guide your feet on the path before you.  
May Jesus, who is love incarnate, light the way and fill your hearts with peace.

May the Spirit, who is love in action, inspire you to keep going when the road feels long. **Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: ACS 987

### Guide My Feet



1 Guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand  
3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
4 I'm your child  
5 Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart



for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual

## **Dismissal**

Go now to travel in the Way of Jesus. **Thanks be to God.**

## **Announcements:**

- **Midweek Lenten dinners and Lutheran 101 class:**  
Wednesdays, March 19, 26, April 2 and 9, 6 to 7:45ish p.m.  
Sign up sheet in the narthex.
- **Council Meeting:** Today, March 16<sup>th</sup>
- **Electronics Recycling Event:** March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- **Book Club:** March 27, 7 p.m.
- **Community Easter Egg Hunt:** April 13<sup>th</sup> at noon. Please consider donating candy for the plastic eggs (non-chocolate candy please) and small prizes (stuffed animals, coloring books, craft kits, etc.) for the prize table.

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Pastor Jane Brda, SAM

Ellen Mueller — Music

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