

Peace Lutheran Church

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026

9:00 a.m.



GOOD MORNING AND WELCOME!

Thank you for joining in Worship today.

Whether you regularly worship with us, are here for the first time, or are returning after a time away, your presence is important for the worship we offer to the glory of God. May your experience of God's love be a blessing in your life. If you are visiting with us, please sign the guest register in the Narthex, near the front door. All are welcome at Jesus' table. The center ring in the communion tray has grape juice and the other two rings have wine.

Information in italics | **Congregation responses in bold** | * indicates please stand as you are able
Worship services may involve photography, as well as audio and video recording.

Welcome & Announcements to Prepare Us for Worship

Diminishing Light of Lenten Candles

We have come together this morning for renewal—in worship and as a community of faith. We've greeted one another, laughed and hugged. But now the time of reflection and stillness is upon us. It is the first Sunday in Lent—the season for journeys of the heart. Close your eyes. Be still. Listen. We are entering a holy time. The Lenten candles have been lit, but over the next six weeks the light will slowly fade into darkness. For we are retelling the story of Jesus' betrayal and suffering and death.

We do this not to be morbid, but because in the story of Jesus' death and resurrection, God is revealed—in the amazing transformation of death into life, in endings transformed into beginnings, and in dead-ends that become a source for new possibilities.

This is the sacred center of our faith—the truth made manifest in Jesus Christ—that God is in each and every one of us, quietly transforming us and the world. In his pain and suffering, Jesus speaks to every pain and loss you have endured and offers you the promise of transformation. It's an old story, but it still has the power to reveal, to heal, and to redeem. Jesus is at the heart of our faith, in the depth of our souls. He is waiting for us, inviting us to leave ordinary time and follow along with him on the journey that brought him to the Cross. Listen in silence, for Jesus is calling you. *(A brief silence.)*

As we extinguish this light, we acknowledge the darkness and pain of injustice in the world. *(A candle is extinguished.)*

Let us pray...

**Loving God, as we journey
through this Holy season of Lent,
give us strength and courage
to make the changes
that are needed in our lives.
Open our hearts and our minds
to your steadfast presence
and help us to put our trust in you. Amen.**



*** Confession and Forgiveness**

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 disdainning 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.



*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.**

The musical score is written in a single system with eight staves. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are printed below the notes. The first staff contains the opening phrase: "In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy." The second staff continues: "For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord." The third staff: "Lord, have mer - cy." The fourth staff: "For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God," The fifth staff: "and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord." The sixth staff: "Lord, have mer - cy." The seventh staff: "For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise," The eighth staff: "let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy." The final line of the score, spanning the eighth staff, reads: "Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men." The word "Amen" is written with a long horizontal line above it, indicating a sustained note.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mer - cy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

***The 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.

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-13

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷but 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.”

^{3:1}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?’” ²The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but 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.’” ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So 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. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

⁸They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰He said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid

myself.”¹¹ He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”¹² The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.”¹³ Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent tricked me, and I ate.”

...the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

**² Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

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

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

⁵ 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.

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

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

**⁸ “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ 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.”

**¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

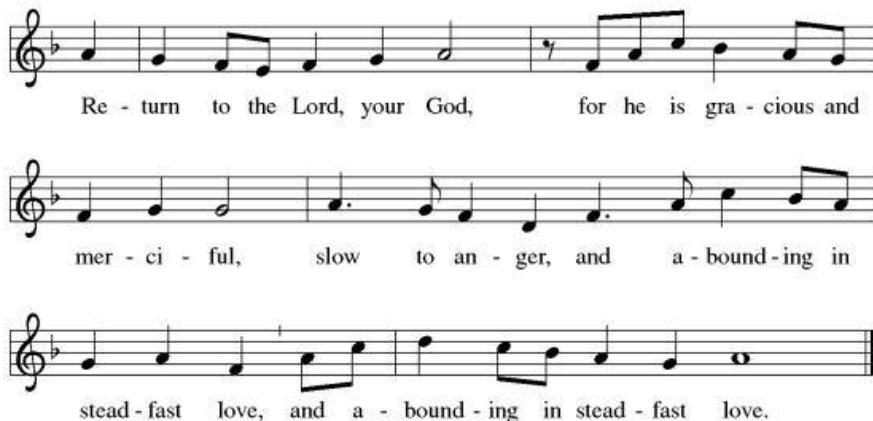
¹²Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in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

¹⁵But 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. ¹⁶And 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. ¹⁷If, 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.

¹⁸Therefore 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. ¹⁹For 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



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

*Gospel: Matthew 5:13-20

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th chapter.



...**Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ 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.’” ⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

Sermon – Pastor Carol Jeunnette



***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. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sin, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***Prayers of Intercession**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

(A brief silence.)

Each petition ends with: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We pray for Dianna, Michael, Bill, Lynn and Phil, Diane, Pam & Rich.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.
Amen.

***Sharing of the Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

Share the peace with each other as you are comfortable.

*** Offering Prayer**

Let us pray... **O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

*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 him thanks and praise.

*Proper Preface



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
san-na. 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.

* Words of Institution & Lord's Prayer (*modern version*)

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.

Please come forward as you are able to receive communion.

Lamb of God – found on Liturgy Sheet

***Post-Communion Blessing**

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace, now and forever.

***Prayer after Communion**

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.**

***Blessing**

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. **Amen.**



** Chief of Sinners Though I Be*

ELW 609

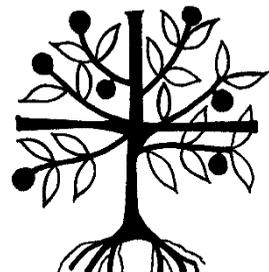
Announcements for the Good of All

Offering - Please place your gifts in the baskets in the back of the Sanctuary.

***Dismissal**

Grow in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.



Peace Lutheran Announcements for February 22, 2026

Church Website: www.peacelutheranburlington.org

Church Email: peacelca@gmail.com

Pastor Carol's email: pastorcarol.peace@gmail.com

*Attendance for Sunday, February 15, 2026 – 26 confirmed, 1 virtual
General Offerings \$610.00*

*Worship Assistants for today – Council member in charge: Renee Knapton,
Lector: Janet McGinty, Communion Assistant: Janet McGinty, Offering
counter: Sharon Ryd, Tech: Sean McGinty*

Office Hours... Pastor Carol's office hours are Wednesdays from 9am-noon. Drop in and say "Hi"!

Growing Relationships... Please contact Renee Knapton by phone (262-492-0718) or by e-mail at reneeknapton@gmail.com with any joys, sorrows, prayer requests, etc. that you wish shared with fellow members.

Christian Nationalism class beginning March 1 following worship, led by Pastor Carol... Christian nationalism is the belief that America was founded as and must remain a "Christian" nation. Unfortunately, there is no single understanding of Christianity, nor was America established as a Christian nation. Beginning March 1, after worship we will look into what Christian nationalism is, what the early founders of our nation intended in terms of freedom of religion, and the dangers of this ideology. We also will consider parallels of Christian nationalism and white nationalism.

Lent... Wednesday soup luncheon-noon. Bring a can of soup.
Worship 1:00-1:30.

Burlington Senior Center... Looking ahead we will begin collecting in February for the Burlington Senior Center. They are in need of paper cups (no Styrofoam), small paper plates and napkins to be delivered March 1.

Salvation Army... Please collect your newspapers and place them in the box in the narthex.