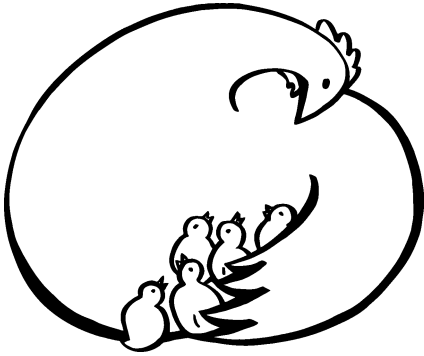


**Sunday, March 16, 2025**  
*Second Sunday in Lent, Year C*



*Ring of Bell*

PRELUDE

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.*

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

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the  
assurance of God's abiding love.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Compassionate One,

**C: you are slow to anger and abounding in  
steadfast love, but our lives do not always  
reflect you and your love for the world. We  
do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us. We do not welcome  
others with the radical hospitality you grant  
to all people. We oppress others, even  
though you have set us free again and  
again. We squander the abundant gifts of  
the earth. Transform our lives and guide us  
again in the way of the cross. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always  
stretched open wide to welcome the wandering  
ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven.  
You have a place in God's house forever.

**C: Amen.**

HYMN *Gather Us In* v. 1,3,4 No. 532

**1 Here in this place the new light is streaming,  
now is the darkness vanished away; see in this  
space our fears and our dreamings, brought**

**here to you in the light of this day. Gather us  
in, the lost and forsaken, gather us in, the blind  
and the lame; call to us now, and we shall  
awaken, we shall arise at the sound of our  
name.**

**3 Here we will take the wine and the water,  
here we will take the bread of new birth, here  
you shall call your sons and your daughters,  
call us anew to be salt for the earth. Give us to  
drink the wine of compassion, give us to eat  
the bread that is you; nourish us well, and  
teach us to fashion lives that are holy and  
hearts that are true.**

**4 Not in the dark of buildings confining, not in  
some heaven, light years away—here in this  
place the new light is shining, now is the  
kingdom, and now is the day. Gather us in and  
hold us forever, gather us in and make us your  
own; gather us in, all peoples together, fire of  
love in our flesh and our bone.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY *We pray together*

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

L: God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross  
you promise everlasting life to the world.

**C: Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter  
us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the  
life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our  
Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with  
you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and  
forever. Amen.**

*Please be seated for the readings*

FIRST READING: GENESIS 15:1-12, 17-18

*The covenant with Abram and his descendants*

<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: 4-5, 7-10, 13-14 *We read responsively*

One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek:

**to live in the house of the Lord all the days  
of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord,  
and to inquire in his temple.**

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

**he will conceal me under the cover of his  
tent; he will set me high on a rock.**

Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

**"Come," my heart says, "seek his face!"  
Your face, Lord, do I seek. Do not hide your  
face from me.**

Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help.

**Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,  
O God of my salvation! If my father and  
mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.**

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

**Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your  
heart take courage; wait for the Lord!**

SECOND READING: PHILIPPIANS 3:17—4:1

*Our citizenship is in heaven.*

<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.**

◆ THE HOLY GOSPEL: LUKE 13:31-35

**C: GLORY TO YOU, O LORD.**

*"I have desired to gather Jerusalem  
as a hen gathers her brood."*

<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.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD. **PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST.**

*Please be seated*

CHILDREN'S WORD

SERMON Pastor D.J. Chatelaine

HYMN OF THE DAY *Thy Holy Wings* No. 613

- 1 **Thy holy wings, O Savior, spread gently over me, and let me rest securely through good and ill in thee. Oh, be my strength and portion, my rock and hiding place, and let my ev'ry moment be lived within thy grace.**
- 2 **Oh, let me nestle near thee, within thy downy breast where I will find sweet comfort and peace within thy nest. Oh, close thy wings around me and keep me safely there, for I am but a newborn and need thy tender care.**
- 3 **Oh, wash me in the waters of Noah's cleansing flood. Give me a willing spirit, a heart both clean and good. Oh, take into thy keeping thy children great and small, and while we sweetly slumber, enfold us one and all.**

## 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

God in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

## SHARING OF PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
**And also with you.**

## OFFERTORY—OFFERING—GLOBE OFFERING

*Children are invited to bring an offering to the globe in the front of the church.*

## ◆ OFFERING PRAYER

P: Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world.

**C: As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## GREAT THANKSGIVING *Spoken*

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.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION & LORD'S PRAYER

### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

*All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.*

*Please be seated*

## DISTRIBUTION AND HYMN

*Around You O Lord Jesus* No. 468

**1 Around you, O Lord Jesus, your own you gather still to share the feast you give us with grace our lives to fill. You say to us so lovingly, "Take, eat! This is my body! Take, drink! This is my blood!"**

**2 We hear your invitation, and heed, O Lord, your call; your word of consolation is spoken here to all. It draws us to your loving heart; it brings to us your blessing, which never will depart.**

**3 We are your own forever; until our final breath we will be true and never in joy, in grief, in death depart from you, for you are still among your people dwelling, as you have said you will.**

## TABLE BLESSING

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

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

P: Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

**C: 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.**

## BENEDICTION

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit, ✠ bless you now  
and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## ◆ HYMN *Guide Me Ever Great Redeemer* No. 618

- 1 Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land. I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'rful hand. Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.**
- 2 Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow; let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through. Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm, shield me with your mighty arm.**
- 3 When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside; death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore, I will raise forevermore.**

*Ring of Bell*

## DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Live in hope.  
Care for others as God cares for you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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## PARTICIPANTS

PASTOR—D.J. Chatelaine  
WORSHIP ASSISTANT—Harris Haugen  
ORGANIST—Tammy Hanson  
ACOLYTE—William Noland  
COMMUNION SET-UP—Paul & Sharon Rechtzigel  
GREETERS—Cora Lee Monroe  
COMMUNION SERVERS— Erica Aronson, Cora Lee Monroe. **+1**  
COFFEE SERVER—Spidahls  
TECH CREW—Heidi Haugen, Barb Groth, Steve Johnson, Holly Aldorfer, Jack Aronson, Luke Cordes.

## REMEMBER IN PRAYER

*Jennifer Lurfald, Lavon Underdahl, Kevin Hildebrandt, Jim Fountaine, Brent Ashland, Dick Overby, Dax Eggert, Hannah Michelsen, Larry Walker, Ken Wold.*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OL/SKU#00031 *Gather Us In* ELW 532  
OL/SKU#02378 *Thy Holy Wings (harm)* ELW 613  
OL/SKU#25950 *Thy Holy Wings (text)*  
OL/SKU#05738 *Around You O Lord Jesus* ELW 468

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**LENT SOUP SUPPERS** - Sign up to provide food or help serve at our Lenten Soup Suppers on Wednesday Nights at 5:30 pm. Followed by worship at 6:30  
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GET ORGAN—IZED GARAGE SALE: **SATURDAY MARCH 29** - See flyer for donation details. **Helpers Needed on event week— See sign-up link e-mailed, or use sign-up posted at church.**  
Contacts: Susan Hoversten 907-854-5959 or Christine Ersland 507-319-4754  
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**CHRIST IN OUR HOME DEVOTION BOOKS** for Apr/May/Jun are available now.  
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**THRIVENT MEMBERS:** If you have a \$250 Action Team Grant available, please contact Bryana Lothert to discuss how this money could be used to support children and youth ministry here at First Lutheran.

## CALENDAR

Su 3-16	9 AM WORSHIP - <i>TRANSFIGURATION</i> 10 AM Sun. School; & 10 AM Coffee <b>Intergenerational BINGO</b>
We 3-19	5:30 PM Soup Supper 6:30 PM WORSHIP —@ FIRST - in the Sanctuary — Holden Ev. Prayer w/Claire Larson, Elsie Braaten & Pastor D.J.
Th 3-20	3-6 PM <b>March Madness</b> Youth Event 7 PM AA
Su 3-23	9 AM WORSHIP — <i>Bell Choir</i> 10 AM Coffee -&- Sun. School

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