

## Postlude

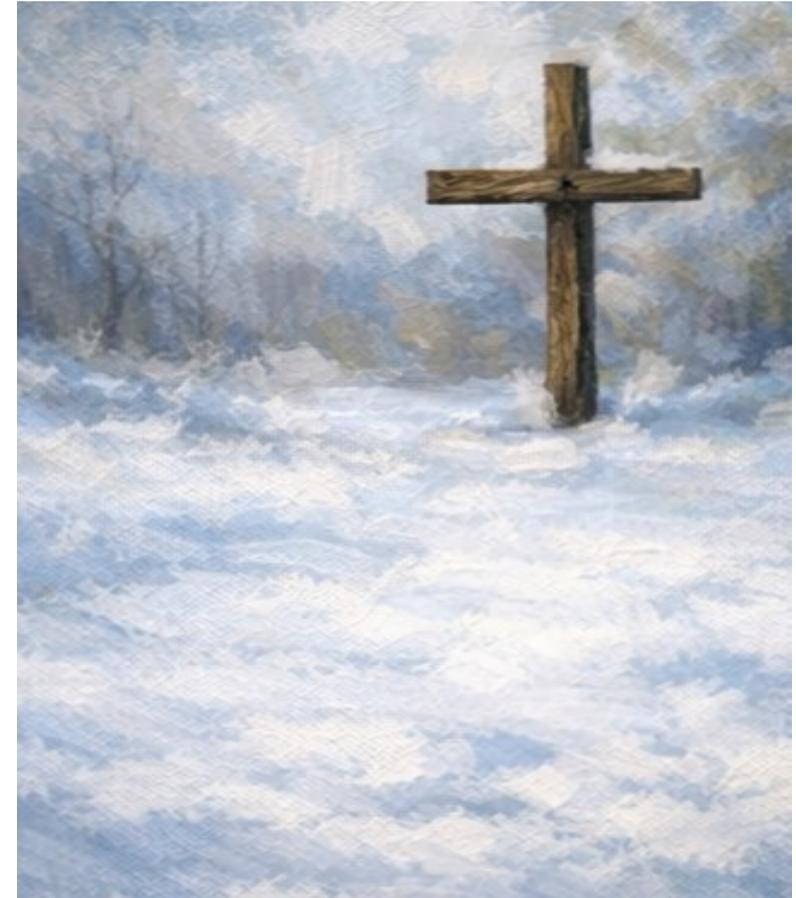
## Praying Together

**... for those who are homebound, ill, hospitalized or recuperating:**

Gayle Agg, Nora Beach, Vince Besesdnjak, Joan Clarke, Chuck Dickey, Bill Flick, Eddie Flick, Barbara Fossa, Alan Fugo and family, Donna Franz, Risa Gabor, Barb Gaglione, Michelle Garnett, Rosa Garnett, Jane Gradert, Dorrie Kearns, Dylan King, Karen Kipfsthul, Elaine Knerem, Nel Lanese, Jennifer Lewane, Barbara Mingee, Phyllis Nemeth, Dick Ptak, Madeline Ptak, Ginny Robinson, Steve Senderak, Arlene Stoltz, Barb Toth, Maud Wright, Charlotte Zaranka, Wilma Dancy, Bill Helmick, Nancy Helmick, Robert Lambrecht, Laura Mele, Judy Morgan, Kris Sandor, Lois Williams, Eugene Winfrey, the Copeland/Lane Family.

### Last Week

**General Fund receipts for week ending 2/15/2026:\$ 2517.00**



## First Sunday in Lent

**Sunday, February 22, 2026**

**9:00 am**

Welcome to the Lutheran Church of the Covenant!

Here are a few notes to make you feel more at home as we praise the God of new life!

Bulletins are available to be picked up at the back of the sanctuary. We encourage you to participate throughout worship by speaking the **bold** print and singing along with the hymns. An asterisk \* indicates when you are invited to stand, as you are comfortable.

All are welcome to come forward for communion. The ushers will guide you. Juice and gluten-free wafers are available; please let your server know if you need either of these.

A basket for offerings is at the rear of the sanctuary.

A children's table is located at the back of the sanctuary, where you'll find some books and activities to help children feel more at home in worship.

### Serving in Worship Today

Organist	Gerry Mass
Assisting Minister	Allan Treichel
Assisting Minister	Jen Lasher-Dobush
Lector	Mark Gabor
Crucifer	Adrian Bernardo
Parish Administrator	Jennifer Lasher-Dobush
Custodian	Vince Besednjak

### \*Sending Hymn: I Want Jesus to Walk With Me ELW # 325

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

### \*Dismissal

Go in peace. Trust that what has been planted will bloom. **Thanks be to God.**

## First Sunday in Lent— February 22, 2026

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### \*Offertory Prayer

Our treasures, O Lord, come from your hand.  
Out of your goodness toward us we have received so much.  
Knowing that we came into this life with nothing, and will go out the same way, we give of the time, talents, and resources we have now.  
Use them, use us, as you will, for your Son's sake. **Amen.**

### \*The Lord's Prayer

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

**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.**

### \*Blessing

The blessing of God, who hears when you call; the grace of Christ, who reconciles you; the power of the Holy Spirit, who sustains you; remain with you in these Lenten days and ✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

### Litany: A Special Lenten Fast

Give up harsh words: use generous ones.  
Give up unhappiness: take up gratitude.  
Give up anger: take up gentleness and patience.  
Give up pessimism: take up hope and optimism.  
Give up worrying: take up trust in God.  
Give up complaining: value what you have.  
Give up stress: take up prayer.  
Give up judging others: discover Jesus within them.  
Give up sorrow and bitterness: fill your heart with joy.  
Give up selfishness: take up compassion for others.  
Give up being unforgiving: learn reconciliation.  
Give up words: fill yourself with silence, and listen to others.

— anonymous, Latin America. Posted on the CAFOD website

### Prelude

## \*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.**

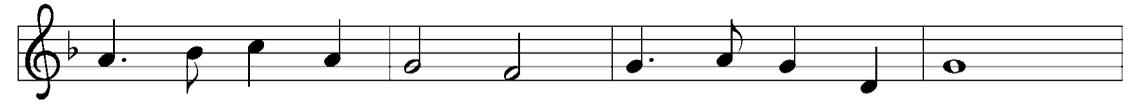
For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain-  
ing the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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 righteous-

## \*Offertory Hymn: In The Bleak Midwinter ELW # 294



1 In the bleak mid - win - ter, frost - y wind made moan,  
2 Heav - en can - not hold him, nor . . . earth sus - tain;  
3 What . . . can I give him, poor . . . as I am?



earth stood hard as i - ron, wa - ter like a stone;  
heav'n and earth shall flee a - way when he comes to reign;  
If I were a shep - herd I would bring a lamb;



snow had fall - en, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
in the bleak mid - win - ter a sta - ble place suf - ficed  
if I were a wise . . . man I would do my part;



in the bleak mid - win - ter, long a - go.  
the Lord . . . God al - might - y, Je - sus Christ.  
yet what I can I give him— give my heart.

Text: Christina Georgina Rossetti, 1830–1894  
Music: CRANHAM, Gustav Holst, 1874–1934

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

ness of Christ. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, our sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in us, pours God's love into our hearts, and gives us life and peace. **Amen.**

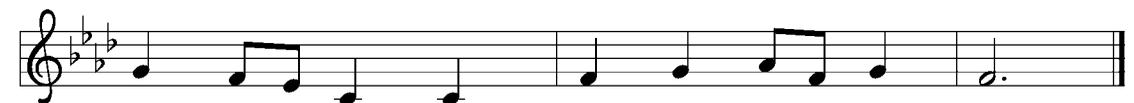
**\*Gathering Hymn: O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days  
ELW #319**



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930  
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816  
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**\*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 our salvation, we long to be reconciled to you. Help us to clear away any obstacle that prevents us from accepting the grace of Christ. No matter what we face in this life, increase in us knowledge and patience, kindness and holiness of spirit, genuine love and truthful speech, so that, by the power of God at work in us, we may live even as we are dying and rejoice even in our sorrows. Though it may seem that we have nothing, if we are reconciled to you, we possess everything, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### **First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

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

<sup>3:1</sup> 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?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but 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.’” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like

### **\*Hymn of the Day: Lord Jesus Think On Me ELW # 599**



1 Lord Je - sus, think on me, and purge a - way my sin;  
2 Lord Je - sus, think on me, by anx - ious thoughts op - pressed;  
3 Lord Je - sus, think on me, nor let me go a - stray;  
4 Lord Je - sus, think on me, that, when the flood is past,



from self - ish pas - sions set me free and make me pure with - in.  
let me your lov - ing ser - vant be and taste your prom - ised rest.  
through dark - ness and per - plex - i - ty point out your cho - sen way.  
I may the\_e - ter - nal bright - ness see and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375–430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808–1896, alt.  
Music: SOUTHWELL, W. Daman, *The Psalms of David*, 1579, alt.

### **Prayers of the People**

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

*A brief silence.*

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

## \*Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> 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.'

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.'

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ**

### Reflection

God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So 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. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

## Psalm 2

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions<sup>1</sup> are forgiven,  
and whose sin is<sup>1</sup> put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD im-<sup>1</sup>putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there<sup>1</sup> is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with-<sup>1</sup>ered away,  
because of my groaning<sup>1</sup> all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me<sup>1</sup> day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the<sup>1</sup> heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con-<sup>1</sup>ceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt<sup>1</sup> of my sin.

<sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in<sup>1</sup> time of trouble;**

**when the great waters overflow, they<sup>1</sup> shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve<sup>1</sup> me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts<sup>1</sup> of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup> **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;**

**I will guide you | with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> 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.”

<sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

## Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet 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.

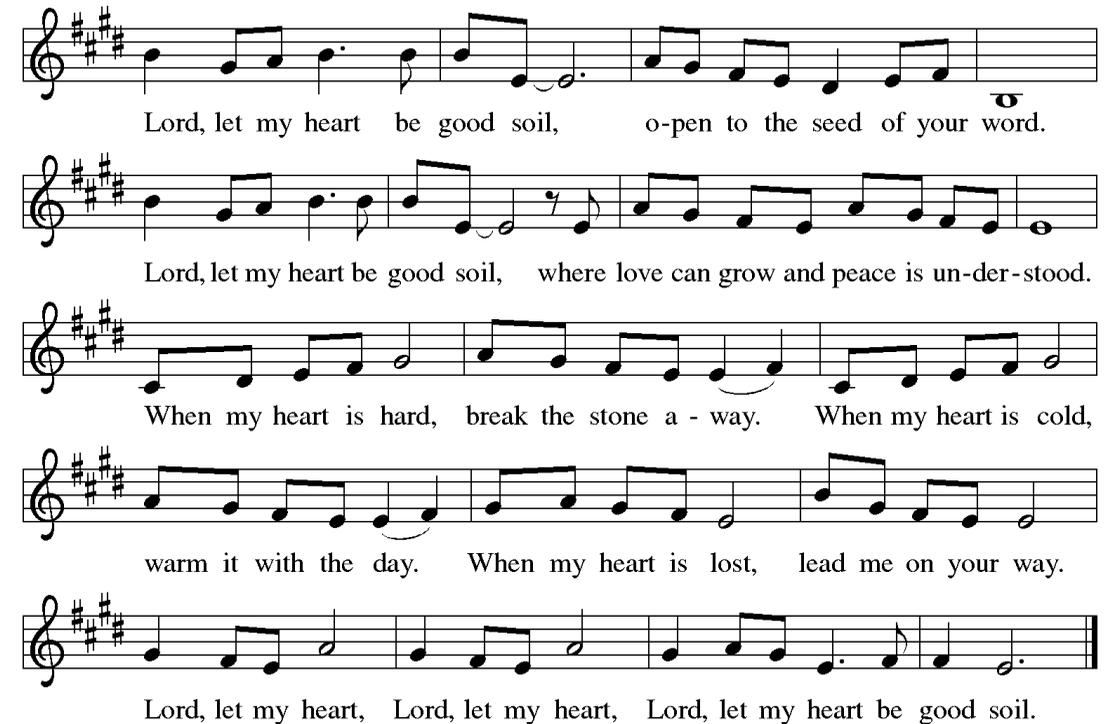
<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, 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.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore 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. <sup>19</sup> For 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



Lord, let my heart be good soil, o-pen to the seed of your word.

Lord, let my heart be good soil, where love can grow and peace is un-der-stood.

When my heart is hard, break the stone a - way. When my heart is cold,

warm it with the day. When my heart is lost, lead me on your way.

Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart, Lord, let my heart be good soil.

Text: Handt Hanson, b. 1950  
Music: GOOD SOIL, Handt Hanson  
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