

# AES MINISTRIES ~ AUGUSTANA LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Organist: Heidi Engel Lector: Kari Miest Greeters: Darrick & Kari Miest

Missionary Sponsor for the Month of March: Gene & Carol Zarn

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The Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026 9:00 AM

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*"Congregations joined in faith and fellowship to spread God's love."*

AES Ministries mission statement

Welcome to all who worship with us today! All are welcome at the Lord's Table

## PRELUDE, WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

LEFT COLUMN, ELW p. 94

*The assembly stands. All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father,  
and of the ✠ Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

*The presiding minister may lead one of the following or another prayer of preparation.*

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.  
**Amen.**

*One of the following or another confession is prayed.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,  
**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.

*The presiding minister announces God's forgiveness with these or similar words.*

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.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

*"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"*

ELW #335



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

**GREETING**

ELW p. 138

*During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.*

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.**

**KYRIE**

*A Kyrie may be sung in dialogue between an assisting minister and the assembly.*

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.**

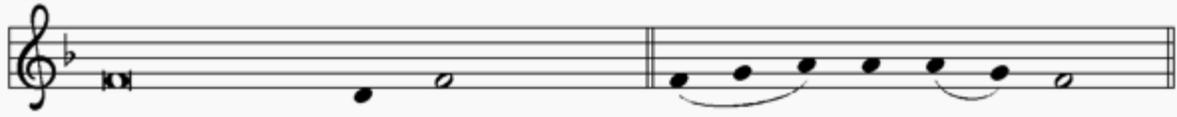
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

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

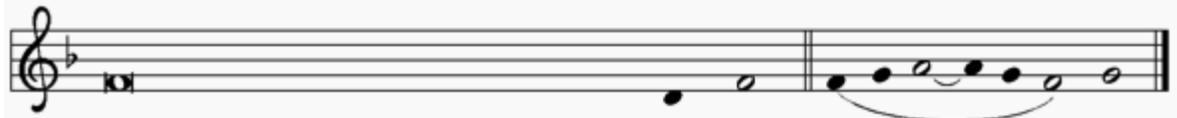
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



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



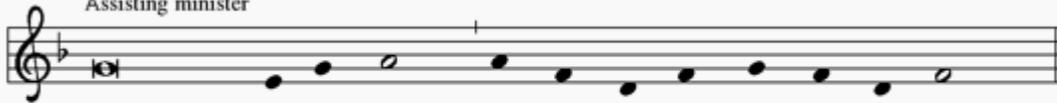
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

CANTICLE OF PRAISE

“Glory to God”

ELW p. 140

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor - ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



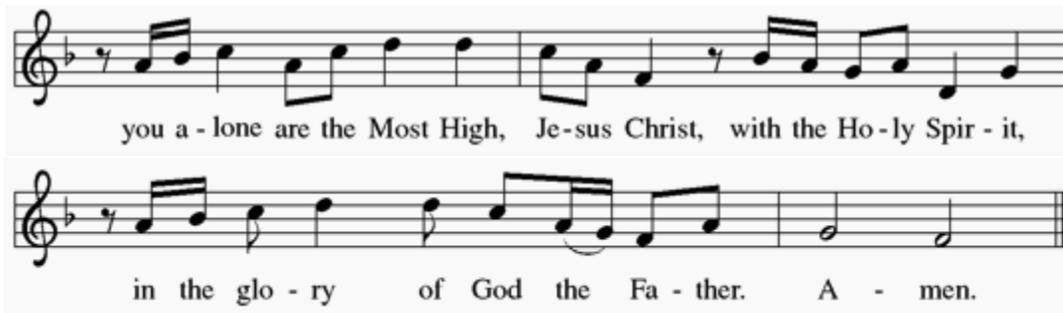
you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



## PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray....

**C: O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." <sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

**L: Word of God, Word of Life. C: Thanks be to God**

## PSALM: PSALM 121

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

## SECOND READING: ROMANS 4:1-5, 13-17

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. <sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. <sup>16</sup> For this reason

the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*“Return to the Lord, Your God”*

ELW p. 142

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: JOHN 3:1-17**

P: The Holy Gospel According to St. John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Chapter

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

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

<sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? <sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one

who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. <sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. <sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

“God Loved the World”

ELW #323

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

**APOSTLE’S CREED**

**ELW p. 105**

**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.**

**PRAYER’S OF INTERCESSION**

L: Lord in your Mercy . . .

C: Hear our Prayer

**SHARING GOD’S PEACE**

**OFFERING**

**Offertory Hymn**

*“Create in Me a Clean Heart”*

**ELW #186**

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
 spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
 not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
 your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

**Offertory Prayer**

**Scan this QR Code to give Electronically!**



## HOLY COMMUNION

*Here at Augustana we are committed to the inclusion of all God's people, with no exception. Therefore, we practice open communion, welcoming all to the table to receive the sacrament of Holy Communion. Juice (light color) and wine (dark red) are both available. Individually wrapped gluten free wafers are available as well. If you would like to receive communion, but are unable to physically come forward, please indicate that to an usher and communion will be brought to you.*

### Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

### Congregation Responds: "Holy, Holy, Holy"

ELW p. 144

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.

THE 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.

Distribution

Post Communion Prayer

Communion Hymn

*“Let Us Break Bread Together”*

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Let Us Break Bread Together". It consists of two systems of music, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature has two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The lyrics are as follows:

1 Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;  
 2 Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;  
 3 Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.  
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

*Refrain*

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing  
 sun, O Lord, have mer - cy on me.

**BLESSING**

P: Almighty God, Father, ✝ Son, and Holy Spirit,  
 bless you now and forever.

C: Amen

**SENDING HYMN**

*“For All the Faithful Women”*

vs. 1, 2 ELW #419

1 For all the faith - ful wom - en who served in days of old,  
 2 *(Insert one or more stanzas from the bottom of this page as desired)*  
 3 O God, for saints and serv - ants, those named and those un - known,  
 to you shall thanks be giv - en; to all, their sto - ry told.  
 in whom through all the a - ges your light of glo - ry shone,  
 They served with strength and glad - ness in tasks your wis - dom gave.  
 we of - fer glad thanks - giv - ing and fer - vent prayer we raise  
 To you their lives bore wit - ness, pro - claimed your pow'r to save.  
 that, faith - ful in your ser - vice our lives may sing your praise.

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. You are God's beloved.

C: Thanks be to God.

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**Prayer Concerns:** *Lucy Christenson, Lindsey Kulseth, Debbie McGuire, Roger Hagen, Nolan O'Connor, Judy Berg, Darrell Ask, Dennis Johnson, Mike Larson, Jamie (Noren) Seiner, Marie Christenson, Darryl Jensen, Phyllis Jurgens, Dave Finnegan, Tim Knaak, Don Flater, Bruce Ohland, Sam Christenson, Melissa Anderson, Steven Olson, Tom Anderson, Chloe Anderson, Orval Larson, Dennis Madison, Linda Madison, and Emma Overson.*

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**General Offering: \$3,179.00**  
**Vanco/Online Offering: \$ 105.00**  
**Total Offering for February 22<sup>nd</sup>: \$3,284.00**  
**Amount needed each week is \$3,867 to make budget.**

**Activities this week: March 2 – March 8**

Monday 9:30am – Rebecca Circle  
3:00 pm – (E) Study Group  
Tuesday 2:15 pm – Augustana worship on cable tv  
Wednesday 9:00 am – Martha Circle  
5:30 pm – (E) Supper  
6:00 pm – (E) ROAR  
6:30 pm – (E) Lenten Service  
Thursday 7:00 pm – (E) AES Joint Council  
Sunday 9:00 am – (A) Communion Worship  
10:00 am – (A) Coffee Hour  
10:30 am – (E) Communion Worship  
11:30 am – Radio Broadcast on 1370AM  
2:00 pm – Youth Bingo @ Pleasant View  
6:00 pm – (A) Education Meeting

**2026 Lenten Schedule**

**March 4** - “Water From a Rock” – Deacon Lyla. 5:30 pm Supper; 6:30 pm Service at **East**  
**March 11** - “Jesus Calms the Storm” – Pastor Mandy. 5:30 pm Supper; 6:30 pm Service at **Augustana**  
**March 18** - “Jesus Walks on Water” – Deacon Lyla. 5:30 pm Supper; 6:30 pm Service at **East**  
**March 25** - “River of Life” – Pastor Mandy. 5:30 pm Supper; 6:30 pm Service at **Augustana**

**Church Announcements**

- ✠ **Today is Bold Women’s Sunday!** Thank Offering envelopes will be by bulletins and all are invited to coffee hour for muffins following the service.
- ✠ **Rebecca Circle will now meet on Mondays starting Monday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at 9:30 am.**
- ✠ **AES Meeting will be Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm at East Sveadahl.**
- ✠ **Education Committee will meet Sunday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm.**
- ✠ Youth are hosting **Bingo at the Nursing home** on Sun **March 8th** from 2 PM - 3 PM. We are asking all youth grades 6th -12th grade for help! Please let Sandy Berg know if you are able to help or not by TODAY! residents look forward to playing bingo but really enjoy seeing all the youth.
- ✠ **Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>,** there is a **National Youth Gathering Meeting** for youth and 1 Parent at 6:30 pm @ Augustana.
- ✠ **AES Youth are hosting a St, Patrick's Breakfast and Bingo Fundraiser** Sunday **March 15th** following 9 AM service at Augustana. Breakfast Menu: Build your own Breakfast Sandwich, and Yogurt Parfaits. Breakfast is free will-donation and Bingo will be \$5 for 5 games. Hope to see you all!
- ✠ **Youth in Grades 6-8** are invited are invited to **Ecumenical Youth Night** at First Lutheran Church Sunday, March 22 from 6-7 pm.