

Celebration Lutheran Church

Pastor: Sarah Toney

Pianist: Susan Gubsch

1st Sunday in Lent

Worship: 10:00am February 22, 2026

Prelude Music

Welcome and Announcements

We Gather to Encounter God

Confession and Forgiveness

L: Blessed be the holy Trinity, [☩] one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

L: Let us acknowledge before God and one another our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Brief silence is kept for reflection.

L: Holy God,

C: ... we confess to you our faults and failings. Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word; we take for ourselves instead of giving to others; we spoil rather than steward your creation; we cause hurt though you call us to heal; we choose fear over compassion. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, as we seek to follow in your way of life. Amen.

L: Hear the good news! God so loved the world that God gave the only Son, so that all may receive life. This promise is for you! God embraces you with divine mercy, [☩] forgives you in Christ's name, and revives you in the Spirit's power.

C: Amen.

Gathering Hymn: I Want Jesus to Walk With Me # 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.

Greeting

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

We Pray in Song:

Kyrie

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Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Prayer of the Day

L: Lord God,

C: ... 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

We Hear God's Word

First Lesson: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

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.

Psalm 32

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

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

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

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

⁵Then 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.

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

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

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

⁹Do 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."

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

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

Second Lesson: 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.

¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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.

¹⁸ 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.

¹⁹ 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.

Gospel Acclamation

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Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep-a-rate us from the love of God.

Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

L: The holy gospel according to St. Matthew in the 4th chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested 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.

L: The gospel of our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

We Respond to God's Word

Hymn of the Day: The Glory of These Forty Days # 320

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered
 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in

brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

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.

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.**

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. (*Especially we pray for . . .*) 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.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

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 (*especially*). Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

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

Amen.

L: Hear us, O God.

C: **Your mercy is great.**

Greeting of Peace

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

We Offer Our Gifts

Presentation Hymn: On My Heart Imprint Your Image # 811

On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, king of grace,
that life's troubles nor its pleasures ever may your work erase.
Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
is my life, my hope's foundation, all my glory and salvation!

Prayer of Thanksgiving

L: Oh God, maker of heaven and earth,
C: ... 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.

We Share Christ's Meal

The Great Thanksgiving

L: The Lord be with you. C: And also with you.
L: Lift up your hearts. C: We lift them to the Lord.
L: Let us give thanks and praise to the Lord our God.
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise to the Lord!

Communion Prayers and the story of our Lord's Supper

The Lord's Prayer

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.
C: 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 of Our Lord's Supper

Communion Hymns:

Lamb of God

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Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Thy Holy Wings

613

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.

Post-Communion Prayer and Blessing

Sending Hymn: Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song # 808

1 Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;

Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry bod - y a - bout you wher-ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.

car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - ly you saved by your love,

Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

Dismissal

L: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: Thanks be to God!

We Go to Love as Jesus Loves Us!

Our Focus During Lent

We live in tempestuous times, as did Jesus and the prophets of the Old Testament. Their call during their ministries was always for repentance and to remember that the Lord your God is indeed your God, regardless of what is and was happening in the world. Lent is a special time of renewal in faith and practices when we refocus our lives on Christ.

This Lent, we'll be going back to the basics and asking simple, yet profound questions to find grounding in the ancient practices of the church. What is the nature of sin? What does repentance and living in right relationship with God really mean in my life? Am I open and willing to suffer the path that God and the realities of life have in store for me, including aging and dying? Are grace and love sometimes too much? What does Jesus' death and resurrection teach me about how to live and behave toward others?

Jesus taught us to become like children to enter the Kingdom. So, let's go back to the basics, get curious, ask questions, and watch for God's action in our days as we prepare for Jesus' journey through betrayal, death, and resurrection. What would God have us learn from these holy days of return and renewal?

Lent and Holy Week Schedules

Mid-Week Services at 6:30 pm

February 18 – Ashes and Humility

25 – Giving Something Up

March 4 – Sin

11 – Repentance

18 – Lament

25 – Righteousness

Holy Week

April 2 – Maundy Thursday

April 3 – Good Friday

April 5 – Easter Sunday