

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Building up God's people through His word for His world

First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church, Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

We especially welcome our guests who are worshipping here today. What a privilege to greet you! If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to participate in the life and ministry of Good Shepherd. For information about our congregation, visit gslcva.org. Also, please fill out a Welcome card, which you'll find near the hymnals, and place it in the basket on the Welcome/resource table or hand it to an usher.

Our worship reflects the liturgical tradition of the Christian church. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Our informal worship service features contemporary music and is held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with communion celebrated on fourth Sundays.

To all worshippers: The presence of children in worship is a gift to the Body of Christ and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Remember that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Please welcome our young ones and give their parents a smile of encouragement or a helping hand, if needed.

To the parents of young ones, here are a few suggestions for worshipping with your children: Relax! God put the wiggles and giggles in kids; don't feel that you have to suppress them in His house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front, where it is easier to see and hear what's going on. Quietly explain the parts of the worship service and actions of the pastor, ushers, communion assistants, etc. Sing the hymns and songs, pray, and voice the responses aloud. Children learn worshipful behavior by copying you. If you have to leave the worship service with your child or stand up and walk around the back of the sanctuary, feel free to do so, but please come back! And finally, if you so choose, . . .

You are welcome to use our nursery, as well as our parents' room next to the nursery, if your young ones need a break from the service. The Parents' Room is also a comfortable place where mothers may nurse their babies. The worship service is livestreamed to a monitor in the Parents' Room.

We offer Sunday School and a variety of Bible studies and spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings. All Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 a.m. See News and Announcements for class information.

Flowers and plants in our worship areas are supported by financial donations to the Flower Fund. These floral offerings beautify the church, uplift service participants, and remind us of God's good creation. You can find information about being a flower sponsor on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall and at gslcva.org/giving (look for the sponsorship form at the bottom of that page). Today's flowers are sponsored by Philip and Regina Benjamin in memory of Gail Dobberfuhl.

SUNDAY/PRAISE

GATHERING SONG "O Come to the Altar"

Are you hurting and broken within
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin
Jesus is calling
Have you come to the end of yourself
Do you thirst for a drink from the well
Jesus is calling

Chorus:

O come to the altar

The Father's arms are open wide

Forgiveness was bought with

The precious blood of Jesus Christ

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes
Come today there's no reason to wait
Jesus is calling
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy

From the ashes a new life is born
Jesus is calling

Chorus (2x)

Oh what a Savior
Isn't he wonderful
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
Bow down before him
For he is Lord of all
Sing alleluia Christ is risen
(Repeat)

Chorus (2x)

Bear your cross as you wait for the crown
Tell the world of the treasure you've found

"O Come to the Altar." Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade Joye. © 2015 Music by Elevation Worship Publishing (Essential Music Publishing LLC).
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WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

SHARING OF GOD'S PEACE

SONG OF PRAISE "Great Are You, Lord"

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that
is broken
And great are You Lord

Chorus:

It's Your breath in our lungs

So we pour out our praise

We pour out our praise

It's Your breath in our lungs

So we pour out our praise to You only

You give life You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope You restore ev'ry heart that
is broken
And great are You Lord

Chorus (2x)

And all the earth will shout Your praise
Our hearts will cry these bones will sing
Great are You Lord
(Repeat 2x)

Chorus (2x)

"Great Are You, Lord." David Leonard, Jason Ingram, Leslie Jordan. © 2012 Integrity's Alleluia! Music, Integrity's Praise! Music, Open Hands Music, So Essential Tunes.
CCLI #858354.

RESPONSIVE READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Psalm 32

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

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

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

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

P: 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.

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

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

C: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

P: 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."

C: Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

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

READING FROM GOD'S WORD

Matthew 4:1-11

¹ Jesus 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.

KIDS’ MESSAGE “The Sneaky Snake” Pastor James

RESPONSE SONG: “Lord, I Need You”

Lord I come I confess
Bowing here I find my rest
And without You I fall apart
You’re the one that guides my heart

Chorus:
Lord I need You oh I need You
Ev’ry hour I need You
My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

Where sin runs deep Your grace is more
Where grace is found is where You are
And where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Where You are Lord I am free
Holiness is Christ in me

Chorus

So teach my song to rise to You
When temptation comes my way
And when I cannot stand I’ll fall on You
Jesus You’re my hope and stay
And when I cannot stand I’ll fall on You
Jesus You’re my hope and stay

Chorus

My one defense my righteousness
Oh God how I need You

“Lord, I Need You.” Christy Nockels, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves, Kristian Stanfill, Matt Maher. © 2011 sixsteps Music, Sweater Weather Music, Thankyou Music, Valley Of Songs Music, worshiptogether.com songs. CCLI #858354.

MESSAGE “Whose Are You” Pastor James

MUSICAL REFLECTION

OFFERINGS & OPPORTUNITIES Communications Director Jeff Donahue

*Please take this opportunity to fill out the Welcome Card and hand it to one of the ushers or place it
in the basket on the Welcome/resource table as you leave.*

PRAYERS OF GOD’S PEOPLE

After the pastor says “Lord, hear our prayer,” we respond by singing:

Band: You hear us calling, You hear us calling, Abba Father
 You hear us calling, You hear us calling, Abba Father

People: **Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy**
 Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy

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.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

[We confess together] **God of grace and mercy, we confess that we have sinned against You in our thoughts, words, and actions; time and time again we have failed to love You with all that we have; we have failed to love our neighbors and those in need. Forgive the wrong we have done, and the good we have left undone. For our sins we deserve separation from you. But Lord, You are overflowing with mercy. Bring back to life within us the joy of Your saving grace; heal our brokenness, give light to our path, and rest to our souls. Give us the desire and the power to grow in Your image, through Jesus Christ, the Light of the world. Amen.**

COMMUNION

Some notes about Holy Communion

We believe that Jesus Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, according to His Word: “This is My body ... this is My blood” (Matthew 26:26–27), and that in this sacrament our Lord gives us forgiveness of our sins, unity with God, and strength for a life of service.

We invite all baptized Christians who have received their First Communion, examined themselves, acknowledge the true body and blood of Jesus Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us in this holy meal.

The cups in the innermost circle of the communion tray contain juice for those who do not wish to drink wine.

COMMUNION SONG “Even If”

They say sometimes you win some
Sometimes you lose some
And right now right now I’m losing bad
I’ve stood on this stage night after night
Reminding the broken it’ll be alright
But right now oh right now I just can’t

Pre-Chorus 1:

*It’s easy to sing
When there’s nothing to bring me down
But what will I say
When I’m held to the flame like I am right
now*

Chorus 1:

*I know You’re able and I know You can
Save through the fire with Your mighty hand
But even if You don’t*

My hope is You alone

They say it only takes a little faith
To move a mountain
Well good thing
A little faith is all I have right now

Pre-Chorus 2:

*But God when You choose
To leave mountains unmovable
Oh give me the strength to be able to sing
It is well with my soul*

Chorus 1

Chorus 2:

*I know the sorrow and I know the hurt
Would all go away if You just say the word
But even if You don’t*

My hope is You alone

You've been faithful
You've been good all of my days
Jesus I will cling to You
Come what may
'Cause I know You're able

I know You care

Chorus 1

Chorus 2

It is well with my soul
It is well it is well with my soul

"Even If." Bart Millard, Ben Glover, Crystal Lewis, David Arthur Garcia, Tim Timmons. © 2017 Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publishing; 9t One Songs; Arioso Music; D Soul Music; All Essential Music; Letsbebeautiful; Tunes of MercyMe; Crystallized. CCLI #858354.

BLESSING & SENDING

SENDING SONG

"Firm Foundation (He Won't)"

Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now

Chorus 1:

He won't He won't

I've still got joy in chaos
I've got peace that makes no sense
So I won't be going under
I'm not held by my own strength
'Cause I've built my life on Jesus
He's never let me down
He's faithful in every season
So why would He fail now

Chorus 2:

He won't He won't

He won't fail

He won't fail (no)

Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus

'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now

Chorus 2

(Oh) Rain came and wind blew
But my house was built on You
(And) I'm safe with You
I'm going to make it through

Yeah I'm going to make it through
'Cause I'm standing strong on You
Yeah I'm going to make it through
'Cause my house is built on You

Christ is my firm foundation
The rock on which I stand
When everything around me is shaken
I've never been more glad
That I put my faith in Jesus
'Cause He's never let me down
He's faithful through generations
So why would He fail now

Chorus 3:

He won't He won't

He won't fail

He won't fail

He won't

"Firm Foundation (He Won't)." Austin Davis, Chandler Moore, Cody Carnes. © 2021 A.L.K.D. Music; Capitol CMG Paragon; Writer's Roof Publishing; For Humans Publishing; Maverick City Publishing. CCLI #858354

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Connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' message, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org

Serving Today	
Worship Leader	Pastor Johann
Preacher	Pastor James
Ushers	Jim Ellis (lead) Martin Farley
Greeter	Bill Ciesar (door) Deb Ciesar (door)
Guest Welcome	Heidi Cooper
Engagement	Heidi Cooper
Praise Team	Tara Planeta (violin) MaryAnn Perkel (cello) Peter Revell (bass) Paul Jung (drums) Jackie Huffman (vocals) Matt Hardy (leader; piano)
Altar Care	Sharon Gurtz
Projectionist	Jen Pelletier
Audio Engineer	Scott Shepherd
Livestream Manager	Adam Sherman
Closer	Martin Farley
Kitchen Cleanup	*

* = unfilled as of February 17

Be a part of the SUNDAY/PRAISE community by serving in our worship gatherings as greeters, ushers, singers, instrumentalists, AV support, and others. Interested? Contact us by emailing gslc@gslcva.org or calling 703-437-5020.

Board of Servant Leaders

Rob Fekete, chair
Tony Esse, vice-chair
John Purtilo, secretary

Larry Austin
Drew Lipman
Jennifer Pelletier
Bernie Schoch

Core Ministry Areas

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann
The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Matt Hardy), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James
The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper
The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

Mission

Team Leader: Pastor Johann
Through this core ministry area, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: financial and prayerful partnering with missionaries, worldwide and local (Randy and Melanie Stockman); synod/district, social ministry, and community service (Holly Vanderhoof); evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue).

Congregational Care and Nurture

Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann
The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann
This team is in charge of property and contracts (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Frankner), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

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Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

ADDITIONAL READINGS FOR THIS WEEK FROM GOD'S WORD

From the Old Testament

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

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

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

^{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?'" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ 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.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

From the New Testament

Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

¹² 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 ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ 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.

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.