

First Sunday in Lent
February 22, 2026
Lord of Life Lutheran Church



WELCOME

GATHERING HYMN

Let Justice Flow like Streams

#717

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

We confess to you, most loving God,
the sins that both bind and scatter us.

We have knowingly believed dishonest words.

We have questioned your gracious power again and again.

We have given into temptation.

We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart.

In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves.

Gather us back to you.

Forgive us, free us, and make us whole
for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.

Friends, beloved of God,

Jesus came not to condemn the world but that all might be saved through him.

In the name of + Christ your sins are forgiven.

May God unbind your guilt and shame,

lead you by the Spirit,

and bring you to wholeness in abundant life.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God our Creator, we long for wholeness in our hearts and in our lives. When we are tempted by quick fixes or twisted promises, remind us that true sustenance, protection, and power is found only in you. Lead us by your Spirit to rest confidently in your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PSALM: Psalm 32



Mer-cy em - brac - es those who trust in the LORD.

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

² Happy are they to whom the Lord im- ¹ putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ¹ is no guile!

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

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

⁵ 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 ¹ of my sin.
⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in ¹ time of trouble;**
when the great waters overflow, they ¹ shall not reach them.
⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve ¹ me from trouble;
 you surround me with shouts ¹ of deliverance.
⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that ¹ you should go;**
I will guide you ¹ with my eye. R

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no ¹ understanding;
 who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will ¹ not stay near you."
¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations ¹ of the wicked;**
but mercy embraces those who trust ¹ in the Lord.
¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice ¹ in the Lord;
 shout for joy, all who are ¹ true of heart. R

SCRIPTURE READING: Romans 5:12-19

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#210

Bless-ed be God, the source of all life, the word of sal -
 va - tion, the spir - it of mer - - cy.

HOLY GOSPEL: 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.

SERMON

MUSICAL OFFERING

Suzanne Bowen

HYMN OF THE DAY

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

#484

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart

#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

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

COMMUNION BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

#338

THE BLESSING

May the God of faithful promises, bless and protect you always. Amen.

SENDING

Go in peace, forgiven, whole, and free.

Thanks be to God!

Psalm 32:10 from *Psalter for the Year A* © 2007 Augsburg Fortress.

Reprinted and streamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS002100 All rights reserved.

Blessed Be God, the Source of All Life

Carl F. Schalk, 1929-2021

Text © 2002 and music © 2003 Augsburg Fortress

Used by permission under ONE LICENSE # A-709586 All Rights Reserved.

Create in Me a Clean Heart

Music: Richard W. Hillert

Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Used by permission under ONE LICENSE # A-709586 All Rights Reserved.

Liturgical Items Copyright © 2026 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted and streamed by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS002100.

New Revised Standard Version Bible, Updated Edition © 2021 National Council of the Churches of Christ in the United States of America.
Used by permission. All rights reserved.