

Lenten
Midweek
Worship

March 4, 2026
12 noon



Prelude Welcome

Gathering

P: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ,
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Opening Prayer

P: Let us pray. O God, rich in mercy, ...
... Christ, through whom we pray.

All: Amen.

Opening Hymn: ELW #407 "O Living Breath of God"

**1 O living Breath of God, wind at the beginning upon the waters;
O living Breath of God, bearing the creation to wondrous birth; Refrain**

**Refrain: Come now, and fill our spirits; pour out your gifts abundant.
O living Breath of God, Holy Spirit, breathe in us as we pray.**

**2 O living Breath of God, by whose pow'r the Son came to birth among us;
O living Breath of God, who to the creation gives life anew; Refrain**

**3 O living Breath of God, bearing us to life through baptismal waters;
O living Breath of God, sighing with creation for freedom's birth; Refrain**

The Gospel Reading: John 3:2-9 NRSVue

P: 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.” 3 Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 4 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?” 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6 What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7 Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 8 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.” 9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Meditation: Pastor Craig Brown

Prayers of Intercession: *after each petition, please respond:*

P: ... we pray,

All: ...hear us and have mercy.

Time of Healing & Prayer *Those who wish to receive the laying on of hands or anointing with oil may come forward.*

The Lord’s Prayer

**All: 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.**

Closing Song: ELW #397 "Loving Spirit"

- 1 Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.**
- 2 Like a mother you enfold me, hold my life within your own,
feed me with your very body, form me of your flesh and bone.**
- 3 Like a father you protect me, teach me the discerning eye,
hoist me up upon your shoulder, let me see the world from high.**
- 4 Friend and lover, in your closeness I am known and held and blessed:
in your promise is my comfort, in your presence I may rest.**
- 5 Loving Spirit, loving Spirit, you have chosen me to be—
you have drawn me to your wonder, you have set your sign on me.**

Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Follow in the way of Christ.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

You are invited for a light lunch to stay or to go which is offered following worship.

We invite you to participate in noon worship each Wednesday through March 25;
and especially for our next Spring Serenades: March 11 - Steve Shanley, Jazz Piano Duo
with student Chase Beightler and March 25 - Hsin-Hui Liu, Piano and Zongxi Li, Trombone



Our Worship & Study Series during Lent, *Conversations with Jesus*, is bringing us closer to Christ by studying the conversations he had with people throughout the Gospels. Study Guides that follow our Lenten scriptures and worship services are available in print at the church, or can be found on our website, firstlutherancr.org/lent.

Come Together in Prayer during Lent

Prayer Service for the Healing of the Nations

Tuesday, March 10, 12 Noon

Join our hearts and raise our voices to God in a special service of prayer for peoples, lands, and nations, based on Isaiah 65 and Revelation 21. We will gather around a large map of the world with opportunity to place a votive candle on the map as a way of bringing the light of Christ and the promise of peace and healing to the world. We gather in the light of God's promise and for the sake of praying for all in need.

Prayer around the Cross

After this weekend, we will have a prayer station in the front of the worship space with votive candles around the cross. During Wednesday worship, at noon and at ECHO worship, you are invited to light a candle as a prayer to God. There will be a time of healing and prayer and noon worship. At ECHO, at the time of communion, worshippers can go to the cross and light a candle.

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