

March 14-15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent

5p/9a Worship Service



First Lutheran
discover more : **together**

When We Must Bear Persistent Pain



1 When we must bear per - sis - tent pain and suf - fer
2 Sup - port us as we learn new ways to care for
3 We thank you for the bet - ter days when we may
4 In ease or pain, in life and death, to you our



with no cure in sight, come, Ho - ly Pres - ence,
bod - ies new - ly frail. Help us en - dure, and
smile to greet the sun, to do your work with
frag - ile lives be - long, and so we trust you



breathe your peace with gifts of warmth and heal - ing light.
live and love. Hear our com - plaint when pa - tience fails.
clear - ing mind, and bless your name when day is done.
in all things. You are our hope, our health, our song.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: PROSPECT, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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Prelude: Variations on "O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"
Arr. Burkhardt, Miller, Travis

Welcome

Stand

Confession and Forgiveness

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

(brief silence) Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the
Spirit: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living
water Christ offers: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing
and hope in the world: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's
call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith,
the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who
raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.

All: Amen.

Opening Hymn: ACS #1014

"When We Must Bear Persistent Pain"

Refrain



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, on our world and on our way.



Ky-ri-e e-lei-son, ev-'ry day.



- 1 For peace in the world, for the health of the church, for the
- 2 That we may live out your im-passioned re-sponse to the
- 3 For peace in our hearts, . . . for peace in our homes, . . for
- 4 For your Spir-it to guide; that you cen-ter our lives in the



u - ni - ty of all; for
 hun - gry and the poor; that
 friends and fam - i - ly; for
 wa - ter and the word; that you



this ho - ly house, for all who wor-ship and praise,
 we may live out truth and jus - tice and grace,
 life and for love, for our work and our play,
 nour-ish our souls . . . with your bod - y and blood,

Refrain



let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.

Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

← Kyrie ... pg. 184

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray. (*brief silence*)

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

All: Amen.

(9am) Children's Message

Sit

Intro to the Reading:

L: Jesus heals a man blind from birth, challenging assumptions about sin, suffering, and judgment. The story is a series of conversations that move the man born blind to the sight of faith. Psalm 27 is a psalm of trust in God. Join with me in reading responsively, Psalm 27

First Reading: Psalm 27 *NRSVue*

L: ¹The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

**All: ²When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—they shall stumble and fall.**

L: ³Though an army encamp against me, my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

**All: ⁴One thing I asked of the Lord; this I seek:
to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.**

L: ⁵For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

**All: ⁶Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the Lord.**

Continued →

L: ⁷ Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud; be gracious to me and answer me!

All: ⁸“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!” Your face, Lord, do I seek.

L: ⁹ Do not hide your face from me. Do not turn your servant away in anger, you who have been my help. Do not cast me off; do not forsake me, O God of my salvation!

All: ¹⁰ If my father and mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

L: ¹¹ Teach me your way, O Lord, and lead me on a level path because of my enemies.

All: ¹² Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries, for false witnesses have risen against me, and they are breathing out violence.

L: ¹³ I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

All: ¹⁴ Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

L: The word of the Lord

All: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation pg. 189



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

P: The Gospel according St. John, the ninth chapter...

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

Continued →

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate



- 1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
- 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
- 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
- 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

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The Gospel: John 9:1-11, 35-41 *NRSVue*

P: ¹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?”
³ Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷ saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.” He kept saying, “I am he.” ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.”

³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.” ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.

P: The Gospel of the Lord

All: Praise to you

Sermon ... Pr. Steve Knudson

Stand

Hymn of the Day: *ELW* #722

"O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"

Lector: Go to the Ambo for the Prayers

The Apostles' Creed...Page 105

All: 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.**

THE PRAYERS →

L: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Passing of the Peace:

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you

P: Let us turn to one another, offering a sign of Christ's peace.

Offering of Gratitude:

(Sit) P: You may be seated.

We give God our thanks and praise in response to God's mercy and abundance.

We invite you to place your gratitude card along with any offering you have in the plate at this time or make an offering electronically.

Would the ushers please come forward.

Lector—Go to Ambo before Prayer; remain up front for communion.

(9) Special Music: "Amazing Grace" - Arr. Douglas Wagner; Handbell Ensemble

(9) Offertory Hymn: *ELW* #803 "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" (st. 4)

All: Were the whole realm of nature mine,

that were a present far too small;

love so amazing, so divine,

demands my soul, my life, my all.

Offertory Prayer:

L: *(5p) Please Stand and*

(9a) Let us pray.

O God, maker of heaven and earth, 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.

All: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving: ... page 190

P: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

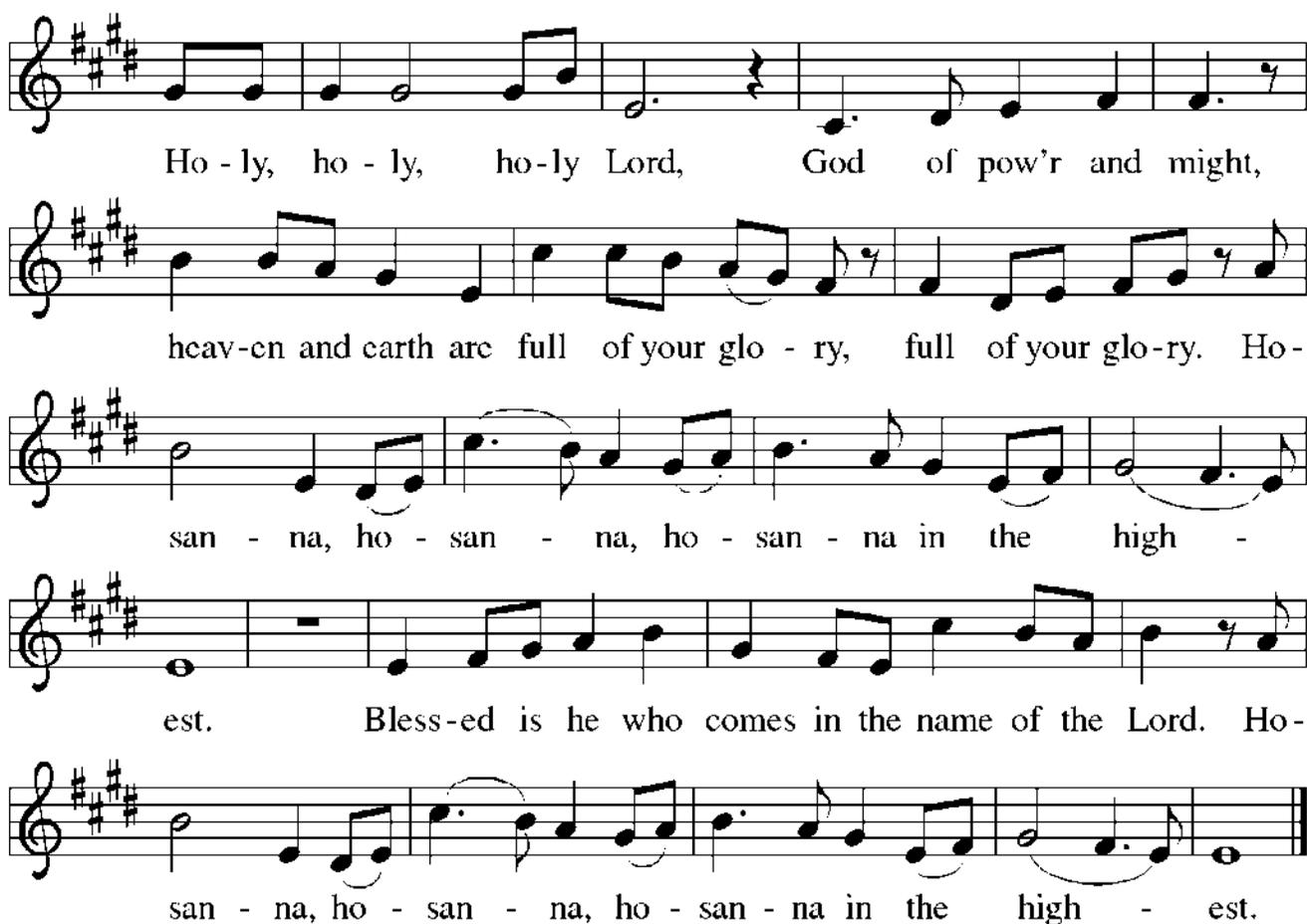
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Lent Preface:

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus: "Holy, Holy, Holy"... page 190



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, 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, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

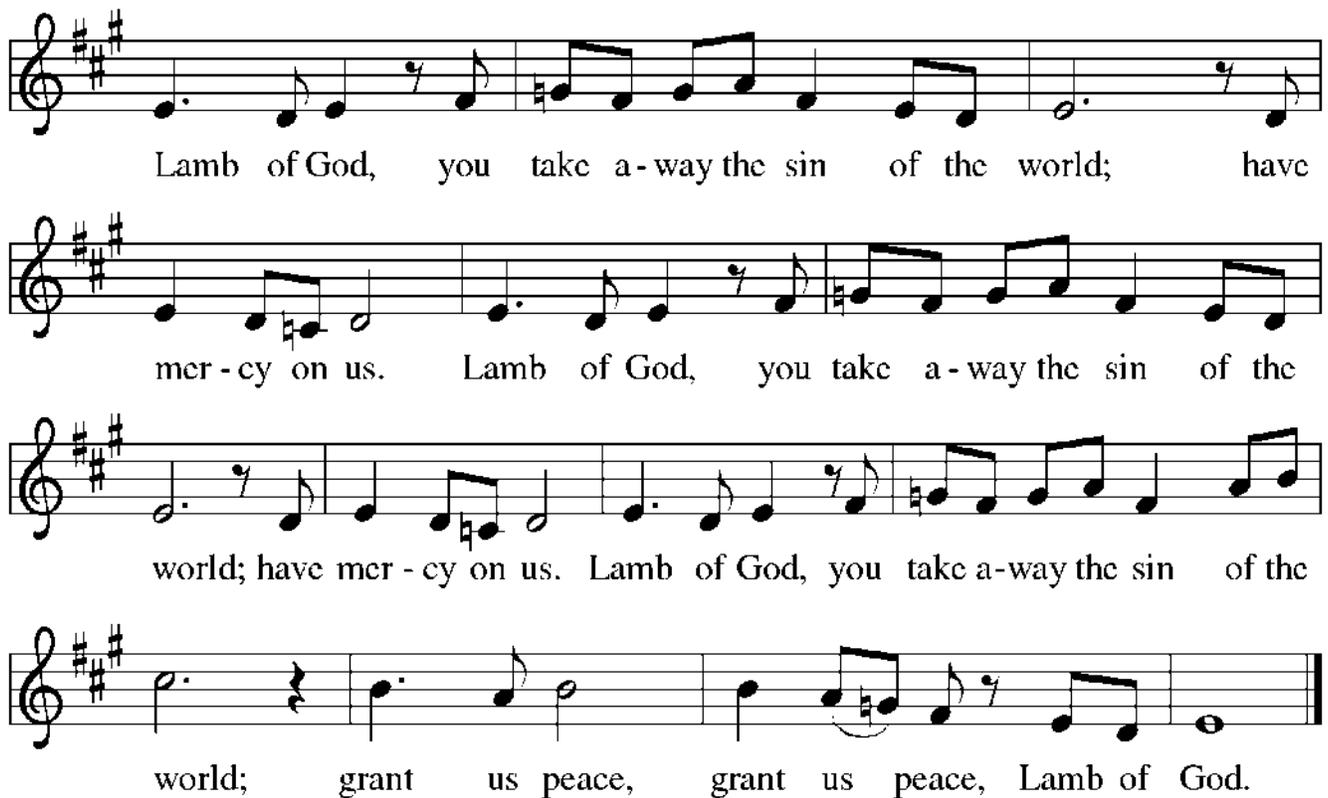
Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

**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.**

P: You may be seated. Please follow the direction of the ushers to come forward.
There is gluten free bread and juice available upon request. The table is set
and all are welcome. (optional) Taste and see that the Lord is good.

Distribution of Holy Communion

The Lamb of God ... page 191



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

Communion Hymn: ELW #779 “Amazing Grace”

Lector—go to the ambo as Pastor covers communion elements.

Stand

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

The Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you,
and keep you in his grace.

All: Amen.

Post-Communion Prayer

L: God of our salvation,

we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

All: Amen.

- Sending -

Benediction:

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
† bless you now and always.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn: *ELW* #793

“Be Thou My Vision”

Dismissal:

L: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude: "Fugue in G Minor" BuxWV149 – Buxtehude

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Prayer & Financial Support: Worshipers like you!