



8 & 10:45 AM

February 22, 2026

1st Sunday in Lent



CONNECT CARDS

Guests and members, please:

- ◆ fill out a Connect card, or
- ◆ scan the QR code to connect with us online

Cards are in the pew racks in front of you. These methods include a space to share prayer requests with our pastors.

We look forward to praying for and connecting personally with YOU!

Serving Today...

Message:

Pastor Ben Oesch

Liturgist:

8:00 Pastor Stoltenow

Worship Assistant:

10:45 David Renner

Organist:

Gail Black



The Season of Lent is part of the Easter Cycle in the Church Year. Lent is an ancient word meaning: "lengthen"--the lengthening [of daylight hours], interpreted as springtime. Lent is a time to reflect especially on the holy sufferings and death of our Lord Jesus Christ. From ancient times, Lent has been kept by faithful Christians as a 40-day period of special devotion, self-denial, repentance, and giving. Even in this solemn season, we have hope as an anchor for our souls, knowing we have God's Promise that our salvation is already won, our sins are forgiven, and we have the gift of eternal life!

✠ IN THE NAME OF JESUS ✠

RINGING OF THE BELL ~ CALL TO WORSHIP *Please quiet voices as we prepare to worship.*

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

Divine Service, Setting 1 ~ LSB p. 151; Matthew 28:19b

Pastor (P): We call on the name of the triune God, the name into which we have been baptized: In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation (C): Amen!

CONFESSION OF SINS

Psalm 32:1-7; John 1:8-9

P: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Blessed is the one against whom the LORD counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

C: **For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

P: Just as King David understood the weight of deceit and hiding his sin, if we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

C: **I acknowledged my sin to You, LORD, and I did not cover my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination)

P: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father:

C: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

ABSOLUTION ~ FORGIVENESS OF SINS

John 20:19-23

P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen!

KYRIE ~ LORD [HAVE MERCY]

Mark 10:47; LSB # 942

P: In the Absolution, God has given us mercy through the merits of Christ Jesus our Lord. We now ask God to give mercy to all, especially to the Church, that we might be His instruments of mercy in the world: Kyrie! God, Father in heaven above, You abound in gracious love, of all things the maker and preserver.

C: **Lord, have mercy!**

P: Kyrie! O Christ, our king, salvation for all You came to bring. O Lord Jesus, God's own Son, our mediator at the heavenly throne: Hear our cry and grant our supplication.

C: **Lord, have mercy!**

P: Kyrie! O God the Holy Spirit, guard our faith, the gift we need the most, and bless our life's last hour, that we leave this sinful world with gladness.

C: **Lord, have mercy!**

ALL: AMEN

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

The **Hymn of Praise** is omitted in Lent; we will raise our Alleluias again at the Resurrection of our Lord!

¹Offering—Mites Sunday (4th Sundays of the month): A mite was a small coin of little value. Tiny amounts of money gathered together and given in faith and trust back to the Lord do "mite-y" acts in His kingdom!

For a history and explanation of mite boxes, and to deposit your change for this vital mission, look for the Mite Box in the sanctuary Welcome Center. You may add your coins to this mission box at any time of the month!

²In Hebrew "you" is plural in verses 1-5; in verses 9 and 11, it is singular.



³Justification: The word *justified* means "pronounced or treated as righteous." For a Christian, justification is the act of God not only forgiving the believer's sins but covering him with the righteousness of Christ. It cannot be earned through our own works.

The teaching of justification by faith is what separates biblical Christianity from all other belief systems. In every other religion, humans are working their way to their god. Only in biblical Christianity are we saved as a result of grace through faith. See:

Romans 5:1
Galatians 3:24
Ephesians 2:8
Titus 3:5

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray: O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

GUESTS AND MEMBERS CONNECT Please fill out the Connect Card, either by hand or with the QR code. You may also add prayer requests to your information. Thank you!



CHILDREN'S CHAT Jodie Stoltenow

Children's Bulletins are available on the Usher Stands.

OFFERING¹ AND PRAYER

OLD TESTAMENT READING Genesis 3:1-21

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You² shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 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. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?"² And he said, "I heard the sound of You in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

To the woman He said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you."

And to Adam He said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

HYMN # 562 "All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall" *Please use the hymnal for the tune and lyrics.*

EPISTLE READING Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the One who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.³ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free

gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God!**

ACCLAMATION

Hebrews 12:2

A: O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

C: **AMEN**

A: The Holy Gospel, according to St. Matthew, the 4th chapter.

C: **Glory to You, O Lord!**

THE HOLY GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11

A: [After He was baptized] then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, He was hungry. And the tempter came and said to Him, "If You are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But Jesus answered,

C: **"It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"**

A: Then the devil took Jesus to the holy city and set Him on the pinnacle of the temple and said 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him,

C: **"Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'"**

A: Again, the devil took Jesus to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to Him, "All these I will give You if You will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him,

C: **"Be gone, Satan! For it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve.'"**

A: Then the devil left Jesus, and behold, angels came and were ministering to Him.

RESPONSE

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to You, O Christ!**

HYMN # 424 "O Christ, You Walked the Road"

O Christ, You walked the road our wand'ring feet must go.

You faced with us temptation's pow'r and fought our ancient foe.

No bread of earth alone can fill our hung'ring hearts.

Lord, help us seek Your living Word, the food Your grace imparts.

No blinding sign we ask, no wonder from above.

Lord, help us place our trust alone in Your unswerving love.

When lures of easy gain with promise brightly shine,

Lord, help us seek Your kingdom first; our wills with Yours align.

O Christ, You walked the road our wand'ring feet must go.

Stay with us through temptation's hour to fight our ancient foe.

MESSAGE "Field Trip with the Devil" text: Matthew 4:1-11

Sundays in Lent:

During the season of Lent, we observe 40 days of repentance and preparation for the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter. The Sundays during this season are not counted among the 40 days; instead, they are days of grace, known as "little Easters."

While each Sunday in Lent is a "little Easter" and therefore singing Alleluias would not be incorrect, at the same time, from Ash Wednesday to Good Friday, we walk the darkening road to the cross with Christ, and so we wait and watch as He suffers for our sins.

We will rejoice with great Alleluias on Easter Sunday when we celebrate His resurrection!



God's Word is an exceedingly effective help against the devil, the world, the flesh, and all evil thoughts. Without a doubt you cannot offer a more effective method to vex the devil than busying yourself with God's commandments and words, speaking, singing, or thinking of them. The devil cannot hear or endure God's Word.

Nor is the Word of God an idle tale. As St. Paul says, it is the power of God. It causes the devil the deepest anguish but strengthens, comforts, and helps us beyond measure.

~Martin Luther, in his introductory remarks to his Large Catechism

The **Nicene Creed** is historically connected with the celebration of the Lord's Supper, because it stresses more fully the Biblical teaching that Jesus Christ is true God, which is intimately connected with Christ's true body and blood being present in Holy Communion. It dates back to the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD.

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE NICENE CREED

ALL: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered, and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen!

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

In February, we pray with open hearts for our government.

PREPARATION FOR HOLY COMMUNION

One should examine himself before he eats the bread and drinks the cup; one who eats and drinks without recognizing the body of the Lord eats and drinks judgment on himself.

1Corinthians 11:28-29

Since those who take Christ's body and blood without understanding His true presence do so to their harm, and since the sacrament of Holy Communion is a faith statement confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt or hold a confession differing from that of this church and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod and desire to receive the sacrament are asked first to speak with a pastor.

HOLY COMMUNION ~ PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136

P: The Lord be with you!

C: **And also with you!**

P: Lift up your hearts!

C: **We lift them to the Lord!**

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

C: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise!**

PROPER PREFACE FOR LENT

P: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who overcame the assaults of the devil and gave His life as a ransom for many that, with cleansed hearts, we might be prepared joyfully to celebrate the Easter feast in sincerity and truth. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and singing:

SANCTUS ~ HOLY

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9; Revelation 4:8

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
 Heav-en and earth are 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 in the high - est.



Sanctus is Latin and means "holy is." The Sanctus is a hymn of praise to the Trinity; very often we see words repeated three times to emphasize this. The Sanctus is one of the highest points and has some of the grandest music in the Divine Service, because we are joining our voices not only with our own church family but with all Christians all over the world, with the saints in heaven—the great cloud of witnesses who have died in Jesus and are now in heaven, and with all the angel hosts.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13; Luke 11:2-4

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!

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Mt 26:26-28; Mk 14:22-24; Lk 22:19,20; 1 Cor 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI ~ THE PEACE OF THE LORD

John 20:19

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always!

C: And also with you!

AGNUS DEI ~ LAMB OF GOD

John 1:29

☐ 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.

DISTRIBUTION

- ◆ You will be ushered forward for Communion.
- ◆ When receiving the bread, please extend your hand palm up.
- ◆ If you are not communing but wish to come up and receive a blessing, you may keep your hands folded.
- ◆ Wine without alcohol is in the center of each tray; you may also request a gluten-free wafer.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

572 "In the Shattered Bliss of Eden" *alternate tune*

For meditation: # 561 "The Tree of Life"

The tree of life with every good in Eden's holy orchard stood,
And of its fruit so pure and sweet God let the man and woman eat.
Yet in this garden also grew another tree, of which they knew;
Its lovely limbs with fruit adorned against whose eating God had warned.

The stillness of that sacred grove was broken, as the serpent strove
With tempting voice Eve to beguile and Adam, too, by sin defile.
O day of sadness when the breath of fear and darkness, doubt and death,
Its awful poison first displayed within the world so newly made.

What mercy God showed to our race, a plan of rescue by His grace:
In sending One from woman's seed, the One to fill our greatest need—
For on a tree uplifted high His only Son for sin would die,
Would drink the cup of scorn and dread to crush the ancient serpent's head!
Now from that tree of Jesus' shame flows life eternal in His name;
For all who trust and will believe, salvation's living fruit receive.
And of this fruit so pure and sweet the Lord invites the world to eat,
To find within this cross of wood the tree of life with every good.



Given,
with
great love,
for you!

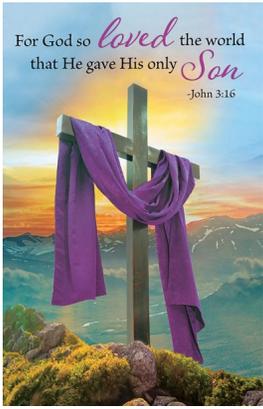
Agnus Dei means "Lamb of God." Ancient believers ate the sacrificial lamb at the Passover. We partake of Christ, who was sacrificed for us to make full atonement for all our sins. Christ is our Good Shepherd, the Lamb of God, and the Priest who offers the sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. Truly, Jesus is Our All!

Come, Lord Jesus,
be our Guest,
and let these gifts of
forgiveness, salvation,
and renewed life
to us be blessed.
Amen!

The Tree of Life:
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Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.

~Revelation 22:1-2



POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: God the Father, fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

BENEDICTION ~ GOD’S GOOD-CREATING WORD OF BLESSING

Numbers 6:24-26

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen!

HYMN # 418 “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

**O Lord, throughout these forty days You prayed and kept the fast;
Inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.**

**You strove with Satan, and You won; Your faithfulness endured;
Lend us Your nerve, Your skill and trust in God’s eternal Word.**

**Though parched and hungry, yet You prayed and fixed Your mind above;
So teach us to deny ourselves, since we have known God’s love.**

**Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,
That when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven’s praise!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

✠ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ✠



✠ ✠ ✠

Lord,
lay some soul
upon my heart
and love that soul
through me;
and may I gladly
do my part
to win that soul
for Thee.
Amen!

This year at Shepherd of the Hills, connecting with our theme of *Praying with an Open Heart*, we will spend Lent evening services studying God’s gift of the best prayer outline, *The Lord’s Prayer*. Each week will focus on a petition of the prayer, concluding with Easter Sunday.

May this time of study and rededication be a blessing to all of us as we make the Lenten journey and reach its joyous destination: the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Lent Wednesday Schedule

- ◆ Soup Supper | 5:15pm
- ◆ Quiet Prayer | 6:15pm, Sanctuary
- ◆ Worship | 6:30pm, with Children’s Chat

Holy Week Worship

- ◆ Palm Sunday | March 29, 8 & 10:45am
- ◆ Maundy Thursday | April 2, 7pm
- ◆ Good Friday Tre-Ore | April 3, 12-3pm
- ◆ Good Friday Tenebrae | April 3, 7pm
- ◆ Easter Sunrise | April 5, 6:30am
- ◆ Resurrection of Our Lord | April 5, 8 & 10:45am

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