



8 & 10:45 AM

March 15, 2026

4th 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 Travis Jarvi

Musicians:

Gail Black, organ
Mary Brown, piano
Sing One Sunday



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 There Is a Redeemer *S.O.S.*

There is a Redeemer—Jesus, God's own Son; precious Lamb of God, Messiah, Holy One.

Jesus, my Redeemer, name above all names; precious Lamb of God, Messiah, hope for sinners slain.

When I stand in glory, I will see His face; there I'll serve my King forever in that holy place.

Thank You, O my Father, for giving us Your Son and leaving Your Spirit till the work on earth is done.

Melody Green © 1982 Ears To Hear Music CCLI License # 271089

Please stand.

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 AND ABSOLUTION ~ FORGIVENESS OF SINS *Ps. 142:1, 5; 1 Jn. 1:8-9; Jn. 20:19-23*

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: With my voice I cry out to the LORD;

C: with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD. I cry to You, O LORD; I say, "You are my refuge."

(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.

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!

Please be seated.

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!



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." Today is the Lord's Day, a Sunday in Lent, but not part of it—a little Easter. Let us rejoice and be glad in it!



Scripture Readings:

The Lord is grieved by the spiritual blindness of His people, but He does not forsake them. Instead, He promises to turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. The Lord does not give up on His servant, Israel, but sends another Servant who is the Light of the world: Jesus. Jesus' Word, His Baptism, and His Supper are His means for opening our eyes to see and to live as children of light.

Creative Worship for the Lutheran Parish, Series A, Quarter 2 © 2026 CPH. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; 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 *Sina Williams* Children's Bulletins are available on the Usher Stands.

OFFERING AND PRAYER For giving options: ShepherdHillsChurch.org/Give

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 42:14-21

For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods."

Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The LORD was pleased, for His righteousness' sake, to magnify His law and make it glorious.

RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

EPISTLE READING Ephesians 5:8-14

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

RESPONSE

A: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HYMN # 720:1-2, 4-5 "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight" *alternate tune*

**We walk by faith and not by sight, no gracious words we hear
From Him who spoke as none e'er spoke, but we believe Him near.**

**We may not touch His hands and side, nor follow where He trod;
But in His promise we rejoice and cry "My Lord and God!"**

**For You, O resurrected Lord, are found in means divine:
Beneath the water and the Word, beneath the bread and wine.**

**Lord, when our life of faith is done, in realms of clearer light
We may behold You as You are, with full and endless sight.**

Please stand.

ACCLAMATION

Hebrews 12:2

A: 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. John, the 9th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord!

THE HOLY GOSPEL John Ch. 9

As Jesus passed by, He saw a man blind from birth. And His disciples asked Him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents,

but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I AM the Light of the world.” Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then He anointed the man’s eyes with the mud and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is He?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for He does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about Him, since He has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “Whether He is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did He do to you? How did He open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become His disciples?” And they reviled him, saying, “You are His disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where He comes from.”

The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where He comes from, and yet He opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does His will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, He could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would *you* teach *us*?!” And they cast him out.

Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him He said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is He, sir, that I may believe in Him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen Him, and it is He who is speaking to you.” He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped Jesus. Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near Jesus heard these things, and said to Him, “Are we also blind?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

RESPONSE

A: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Please be seated.

HYMN # 551 “When to Our World the Savior Came”

**When to our world the Savior came the sick and helpless heard His name,
And in their weakness longed to see the healing Christ of Galilee.**

**That good physician! Night and day the people thronged about His way;
And wonder ran from soul to soul, “The touch of Christ has made us whole!”**

**His praises then were heard and sung by opened ears and loosened tongue,
While lightened eyes could see and know the healing Christ of long ago.**

**Of long ago: yet living still, who died for us on Calv’ry’s hill;
Who triumphed over cross and grave, His healing hands stretched forth to save.**

**His sov’reign purpose still remains who rose in pow’r, and lives and reigns;
Till ev’ry tongue confess His praise, the healing Christ of all our days.**



Be Thou my vision,
O Lord of my heart,
Naught be all else to me
save that Thou art;
Be thou my best
thoughts
in the day and night,
Waking and sleeping
Thy presence my light.

Be Thou my wisdom,
be Thou my true word,
I ever with Thee
and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father,
and I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling,
and I with Thee one.

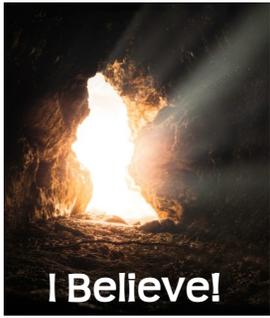
Be Thou
my breast-plate,
my sword for the fight,
Be Thou my armor,
and be Thou my might,
Thou my soul’s shelter,
and Thou
my high tower,
Raise Thou me
heavenward,
O Power of my power.

Riches I heed not,
nor man’s empty praise,
Thou mine inheritance
through all my days;
Thou, and Thou only,
the first in my heart,
High King of heaven,
my treasure Thou art!

High King of heaven,
when battle is done,
Grant heaven’s joy
to me
O bright heaven’s sun,
Christ of my own heart,
whatever befall,
Still be my vision,
O Ruler of all.

~Gaelic, 8th century;
translated by Eleanor Hull

Our lives are arenas for
God’s work to be
displayed.
~Jenni Catron



A **Creed** is a statement of faith and can be a great outline for sharing

HIStory with others! We confess our Christian faith using the words of this ancient creed, dating in history to the 2nd century. The Apostles' Creed is connected from ancient times with Baptism and with those receiving instruction in the Christian faith.



In this Divine Service, by faith the Holy Spirit has opened our hearts and minds to receive His graces. We now leave this house of worship to share the love of Jesus and **HIS**tory!

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!

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MESSAGE “Jesus In the Mud” text: John 9:1-41

Jesus gets His hands dirty in the mud of our lives so that all may truly see Him.

Please stand.

STATEMENT OF FAITH ~ THE APOSTLES' CREED

ALL: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life ☩ everlasting. Amen!

Please be seated.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

1 Timothy 2:1-4

In our March prayers, we Pray with an Open Heart for pre-believers.

Please stand.

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!

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 upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and ☩ give you peace.

C: Amen!

Please be seated.

HYMN # 697 “Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death”

Awake, O sleeper, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
So learn His love, its length and breadth, its fullness, depth, and height.
To us on earth He came to bring from sin and fear release,
To give the Spirit's unity, the very bond of peace.
Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that He might save;
With kind and gentle hearts forgive as God in Christ forgave.
For us Christ lived, for us He died, and conquered in the strife;
Awake, arise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

POSTLUDE

☩ TO GOD ALONE ALL GLORY! ☩



This year at Shepherd of the Hills, connecting with our theme of *Praying with an Open Heart*, we are spending 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.

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

Lent Wednesday Schedule

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