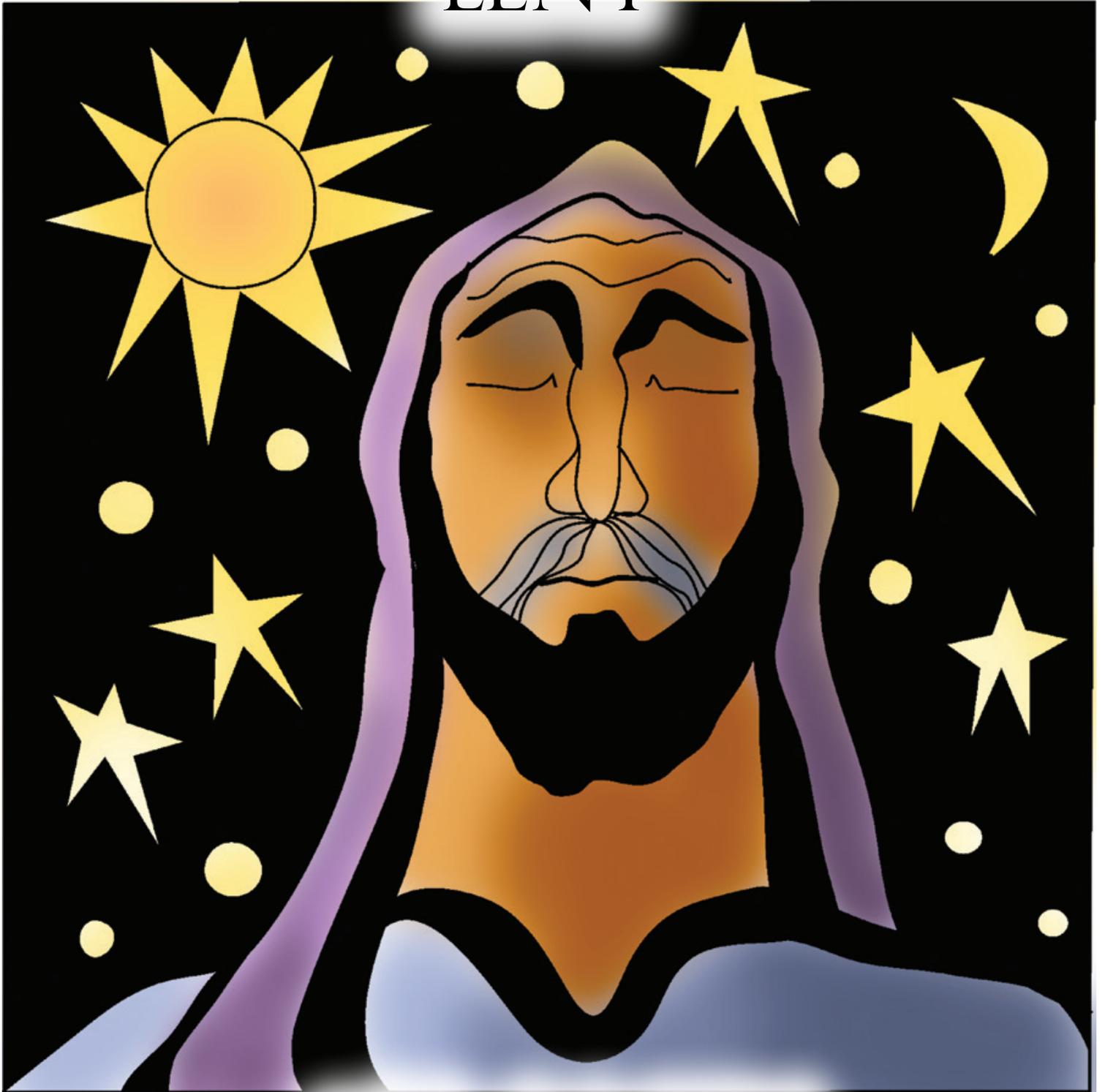


SECOND SUNDAY IN  
LENT



*March 1, 2026*

*10:00am*

THIS  
LENTEN  
SERIES

# Sensing the Gospel

"We declare to you what was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the word of life ... "(1 John 1:1)

**Ash Wednesday**  
**February 18, 6:15pm in the Sanctuary**

**Wednesdays 6:15pm-7pm, in the Chapel**

Touching - February 25

Seeing - March 4

Tasting - March 11

Hearing - March 18

Smelling - March 25

## Land Acknowledgment

We recognize that we gather on the ancestral lands of the Ojibwe, Ho Chunk, and Dakota. We acknowledge their leaders, past, present, and emerging.

## GATHERING

**Prelude**

Symphony V: Adagio

Charles-Marie Widor

**Welcome**

## Confession and Forgiveness

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

**Amen.**

Almighty God,  
to whom all hearts are open,  
all desires known,  
and from whom no secrets are hid:  
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts  
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,  
that we may perfectly love you  
and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God,  
have mercy on us.  
We confess  
that we have turned from you  
and given ourselves  
into the power of sin.  
We are truly sorry  
and humbly repent.  
In your compassion  
forgive us our sins,  
known and unknown,  
things we have done  
and things we have failed to do.  
Turn us again to you,  
and uphold us by your Spirit,  
so that we may live and serve you  
in newness of life  
through Jesus Christ  
our Savior and Lord.  
Amen.

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us  
even when we were dead in sin,  
and made us alive  
together with Christ.  
By grace you have been saved.  
In the name of † Jesus Christ,  
your sins are forgiven.  
Almighty God  
strengthen you with power  
through the Holy Spirit,  
that Christ may live in your hearts  
through faith.  
Amen.

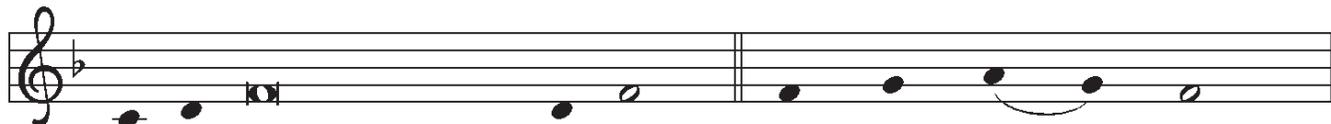
**Opening Hymn** God, Who Stretched the Spangled Heavens

#771

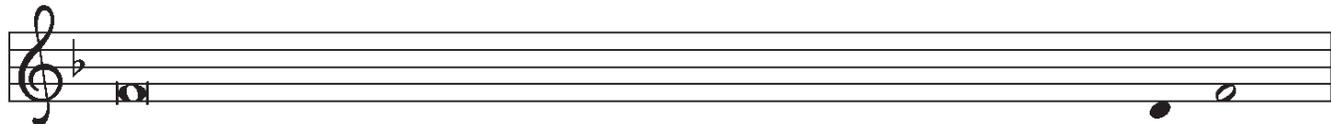
### **Apostolic Greeting**

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

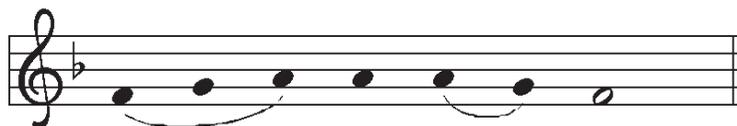
# Kyrie



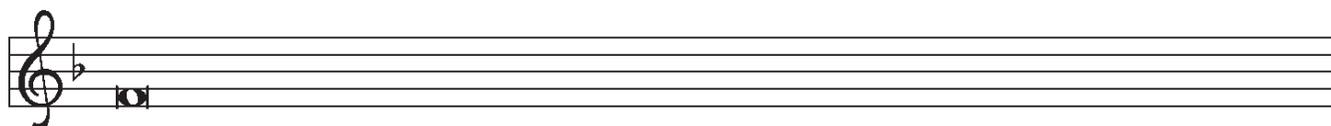
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



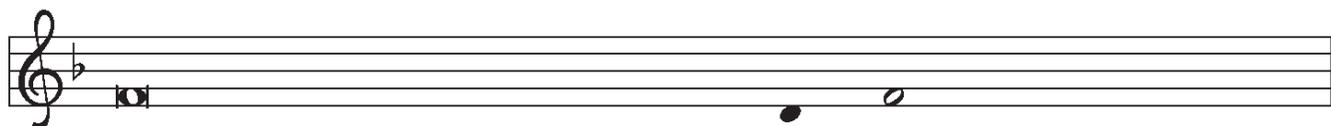
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



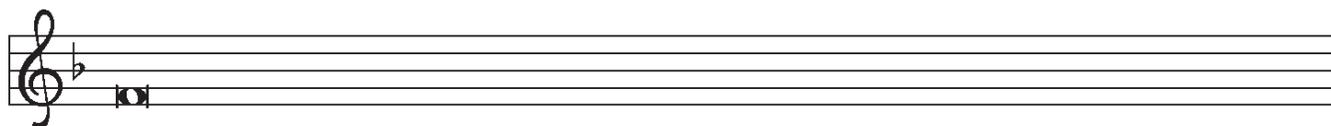
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



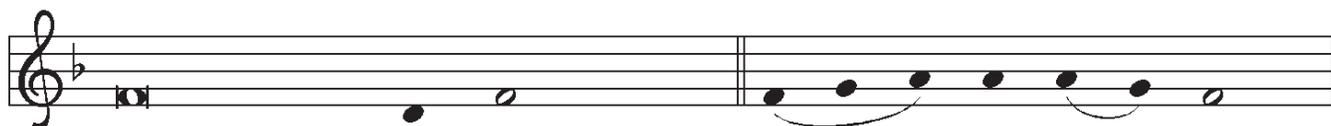
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



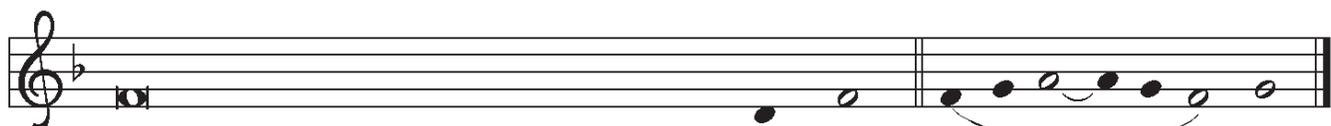
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## Prayer of the Day

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen

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## WORD

### Children's Message

#### The First Reading is from Genesis, chapter 12

1 The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. 2 I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

3 I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

4a So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

#### The Second Reading is from Romans, chapter 4

1 What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? 2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3 For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

4 Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. 5 But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

13 For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith.

14 For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15 For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

16 For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, 17 as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), Abraham had faith in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

**Anthem**

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

Arr. Joel Raney

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me!  
I once was lost, but now I'm found,  
Was blind, but now I see.

And like a flood, His mercy reigns;  
Unending love, amazing grace.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,  
And grace my fears relieved;  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed!

The Lord has promised good to me,  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures.

My chains are gone, I've been set free.  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me,

My chains are gone, I've been set free.  
My God, my Savior has ransomed me,  
And like a flood, His mercy reigns;  
Unending love, amazing grace.

**Gospel Acclamation**



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and



mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in



stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**The Gospel for today comes from John, chapter 3  
Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews.

2 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?" 10 Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? 11 "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. 12 If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13 No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14 And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15 that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. 16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. 17 "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon                      Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn                        Bless Now, O God, the Journey

#326

Apostles' Creed

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.

## Prayers of the Church

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

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## MEAL

Offering

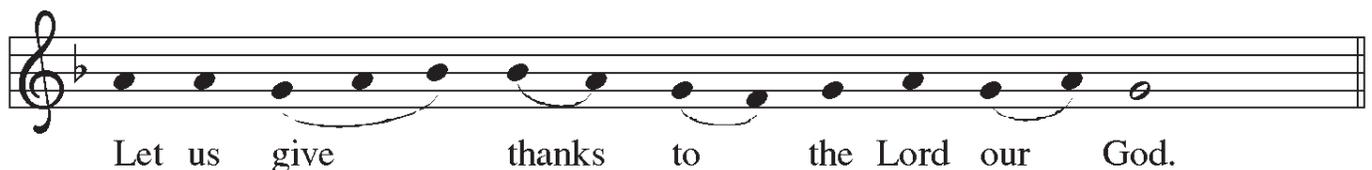
Rock of Ages

Austin Lovelace

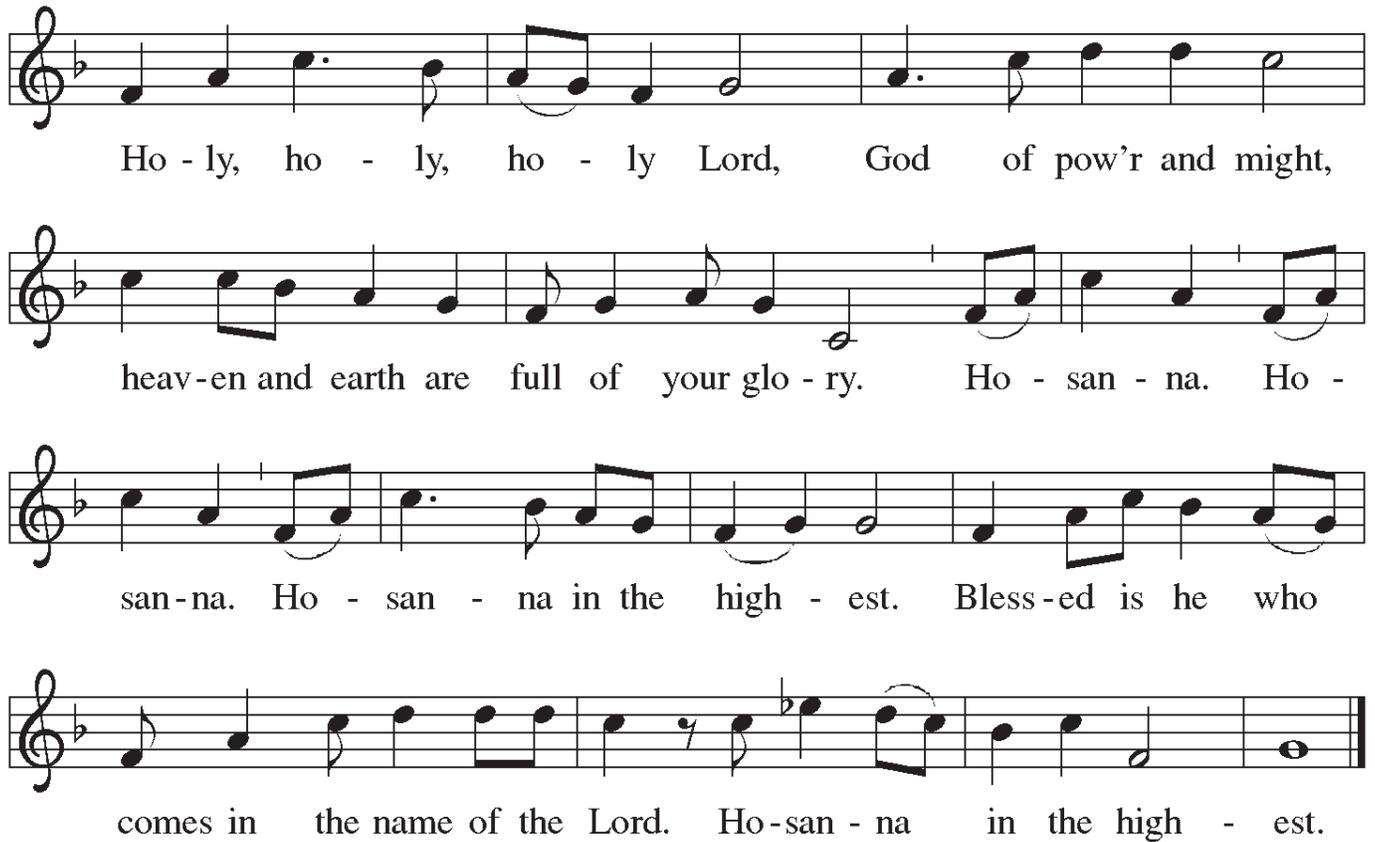
### Offering Prayer

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. Amen.

### Great Thanksgiving



It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, ... we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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.

## Eucharistic Prayer

### Lord's Prayer

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.

### Communion

*Our communion bread is gluten free and the communion cups with clear liquid have grape juice instead of wine.*

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.

### Prayer After Communion

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.

Amen.

## SENDING

### Blessing

Sending Hymn My Faith Looks Up to Thee

#759

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.  
Thanks be to God.

### Postlude

Be Thou My Vision

Dale Wood

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*Rock of Ages*, Austin Lovelace, Eight Hymn Preludes, ©1979 Augsburg Fortress

*Amazing Grace*, Tomlin & Giglio & Newton/Arr. Joel Raney, © 2010, Hope Publishing Company

**Minister:** Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

**Organist:** Elaine Mann

**Assisting Minister:** Pete Lokken

**Choir Director:** Micah Bland

**Reader:** Randy Adams

**Pacibells Director:** Karen Lionberger



GRACE  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH

2026-3-1

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## Weekly Calendar

### SUNDAY (1<sup>st</sup>)

President Wilson releases  
the Zimmermann  
telegram - 1917

Coffee Hour - 9:30am

Worship - 10am

### MONDAY

Scouts - 6pm

### TUESDAY

Prayer Group - 11am

ADRC - Strong Bodies - 1pm

### WEDNESDAY

Crafters - 10am

Text Study - 12noon

Lenten Service - 6:15pm

Choir Rehearsal - 7pm

### THURSDAY

ADRC - Strong Bodies - 1pm

Pacibells Rehearsal - 6pm

### FRIDAY

Scouts Lock-in - 6pm

### SUNDAY (8<sup>th</sup>)

Coffee Hour - 9:30am

Worship - 10am

North Dakota State University

Choral Concert - 3pm

Other groups using the building this week: Eau Claire Tenant-Landlord Resource Center,  
Brighter than Sunshine, Scouts, ECWiT, Theater Guild

## Blessing Box

Our Blessing Box is open all year and we would like to keep it stocked especially in the cold winter months. Here are some of the items we need:

- cereal
- crackers
- soap
- hats
- packaged soup
- packaged noodles
- toothpaste
- hand warmers
- tuna pouches
- packaged potatoes
- scarves
- socks
- granola bars
- peanut butter
- gloves

As the weather turns colder, we will not be collecting any canned goods or liquid items that may freeze and explode.

You can drop off any donations outside the church office or at the Friendship Door. You are also always welcome to put any donations directly into the Blessing Box at any time.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Elizabeth Circle

Elizabeth Circle will meet at 10 AM on Monday, March 9, 2026, in the Lounge at Grace. It is a morning filled with fun, fellowship, food and Bible Study. All women are invited. No prep needed, as we read, study and discuss together this month's bible study from the Gather magazine.

## Spring Cleaning

On March 26 from 10am to noon we will have a Spring Cleaning for Grace Lutheran. All who are available and willing are invited to join us as we freshen up the church building.

## New Members

We will be receiving New Members in April. If you are interested in joining Grace, please talk to the pastor.

## Memorials

Elizabeth Baribeau gave in memory of Grace Fitzpatrick Panzer and Mary Panzer Tharp.

Randy & Jan Adams, Karen Benson, Joni Franson, Roxanne Gehring Jeff & Deb Heath, Karen Hoyle, Ron Huse, Norma Lionberger, Pete Lokken, Michael & Sigrid Myers, David & Patricia Nuesse, Mark Olson, Jim & Bev Page, Mitch & Barb Piper, Roger & Diane Pomplun, Barb Radke, Paul & Carla Reppert-Lokken, John Schaaf, Roger & Shirley Shepler, Gordon Thorpe, Jon Thorpe & Suzette Peltier, and Ken & Lynne Ziehr gave in memory of Amy Benson.

Roger & Shirley Shepler gave in memory of Jennifer Linn.

Thank you to everyone for your generosity.

# FOR LOVE OF NEIGHBOR

A PALM SUNDAY PATH TO UNITY,  
WELCOME, AND INCLUSION



**MARCH 29, 2026**

**3:00-4:00PM**

**TRINITY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PARKING LOT**

1314 E LEXINGTON BLVD,  
EAU CLAIRE WI

Communities gathering in solidarity for:

- Peaceful witness of faith
- Building community with our neighbors
- Uplifting the core Christian values to care for the hungry, the thirsty, the strangers, the sick, the naked, the prisoners (Matt 25:31-47)



**NORTH DAKOTA STATE UNIVERSITY**

# Concert Choir and Madrigal Singers

## 2026 REGIONAL TOUR

**GRAND FORKS** THURSDAY, MARCH 5, 7:30 P.M.  
Calvary Lutheran Church, 1405 S 9th St

**DETROIT LAKES** FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 7 P.M.  
Holy Rosary Catholic Church, 1043 Lake Ave

**MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL** SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 7 P.M.  
First Lutheran Church, 1555 40th Ave NE, Columbia Heights

**EAU CLAIRE** SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 3 P.M.  
Grace Lutheran Church, 202 West Grand Avenue

**LITTLE FALLS** MONDAY, MARCH 9, 3:30 P.M. (30-MINUTE PROGRAM)  
Chapel of the Sacred Heart, Franciscan Sisters of Little Falls Convent, 116 8th Ave SE

**FARGO** MONDAY, MARCH 16, 7:30 P.M.  
Sts. Anne and Joachim Catholic Church, 5202 25th St S

All concerts are free and open to the public.

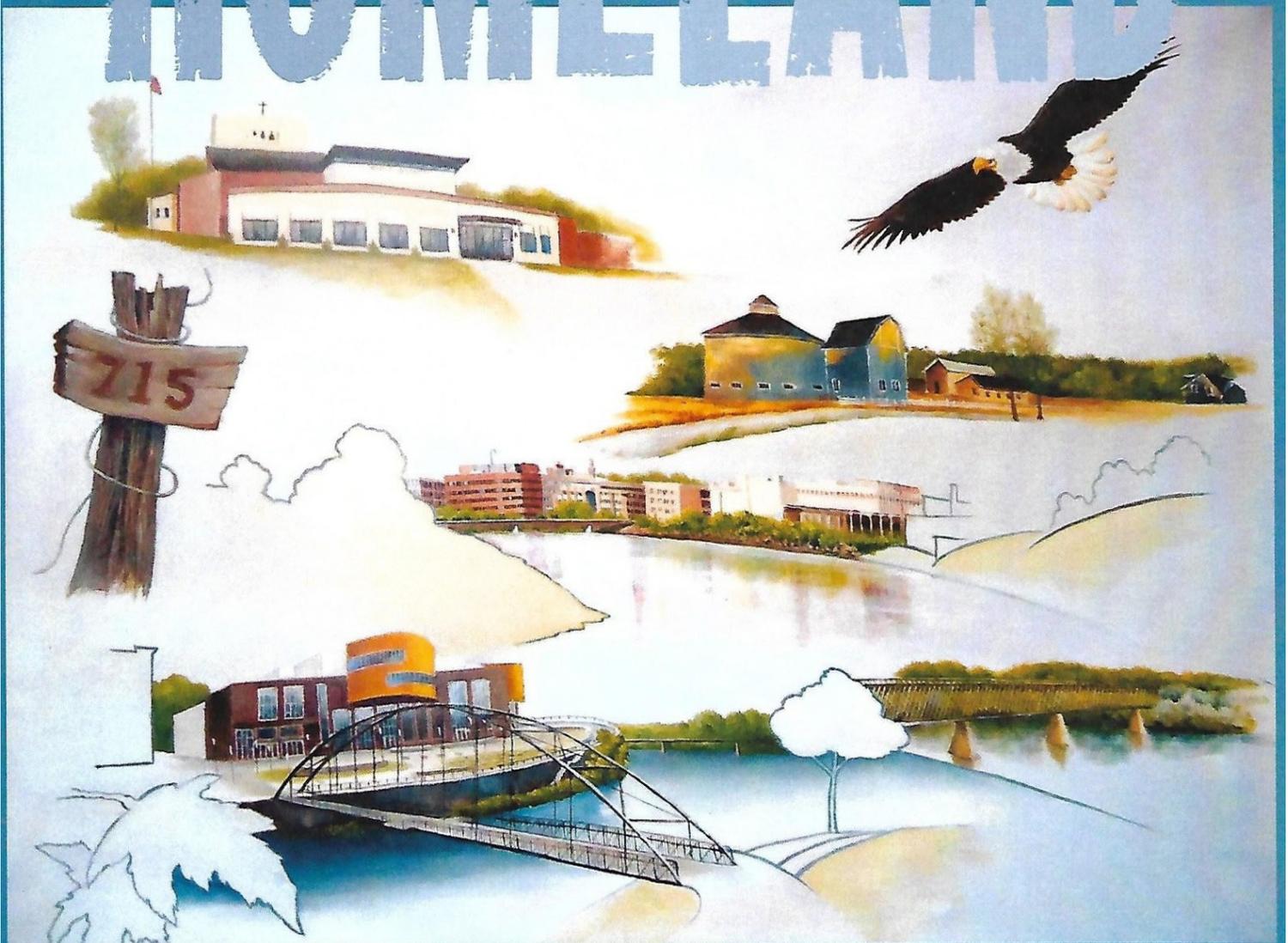
A free will offering will be taken to support student travel costs for the upcoming tour to Norway and Sweden in May.

NDSU does not discriminate in its programs and activities on the basis of age, color, gender expression/identity, genetic information, marital status, national origin, participation in lawful off-campus activity, physical or mental disability, pregnancy, public assistance status, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to: Vice Provost, Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 201, 701-231-7708, ndsu.eoaa@ndsu.edu.

## Food Serving

Pastor Phil is looking for a couple of people willing to serve food to the NDSU choir at 11:30 next Sunday and several folks to provide homemade desserts. Please talk to him if you are willing.

# HOMELAND



## CVASING 2026

Directed by Gary Rambo  
Dale Anderson, Accompanist

March 1, 2026 at 2pm & 7pm

Trinity Lutheran Church • 1314 East Lexington Blvd • Eau Claire, WI 54701

Tickets \$10 at the Door or from CVASing Members

All concert proceeds go to benefit Feed My People Food Bank

## Church Office Hours

Monday — Thursday : 10AM — 2PM

Phone: 715-832-9713

Email: [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org)

Rev. Dr. Phil Ruge-Jones: [pastorphil@grace-church.org](mailto:pastorphil@grace-church.org)



Services are live streamed Sundays at 10am on:

- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/gracelutheraneauclaire/>
- Youtube embedded in our website: <https://grace-church.org/our-ministry> Bulletins may also be found on the same page.

Recordings of worship services are broadcast Sundays 10:30am on WQOW Channel 18, Cable 9, 618HD (every other week)

Past services are posted at “Grace Lutheran Church ELCA Eau Claire Wisconsin” YouTube page — <http://grace-church.org/our-ministry>

Do you have information for the bulletin and Grace at a Glance? Deadline is Wednesday by 2:00 p.m. by emailing Andrew at [info@grace-church.org](mailto:info@grace-church.org) or by calling the office at 715-832-9713