

# THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT



*March 8, 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**

By Quiet Waters

Gwyneth Walker

**Welcome**

## Thanksgiving at the Font

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness,  
let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

...

*(Refrain)*

Your steadfast love fills the earth.

**Your steadfast love fills the earth.**

**Opening Hymn** Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

#807

## 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.**



## Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through 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 Epistle Reading is from Romans, chapter 5

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person — though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die.

<sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God.

<sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Word of God, Word of Life.

Thanks be to God!

**Anthem**            *It is Well with My Soul*  
When peace like a river, attendeth my way,  
When sorrows like sea billows roll,  
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,  
"It is well, it is well, with my soul."

arr. Lloyd Larson

It is well (it is well),  
With my soul (with my soul),  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

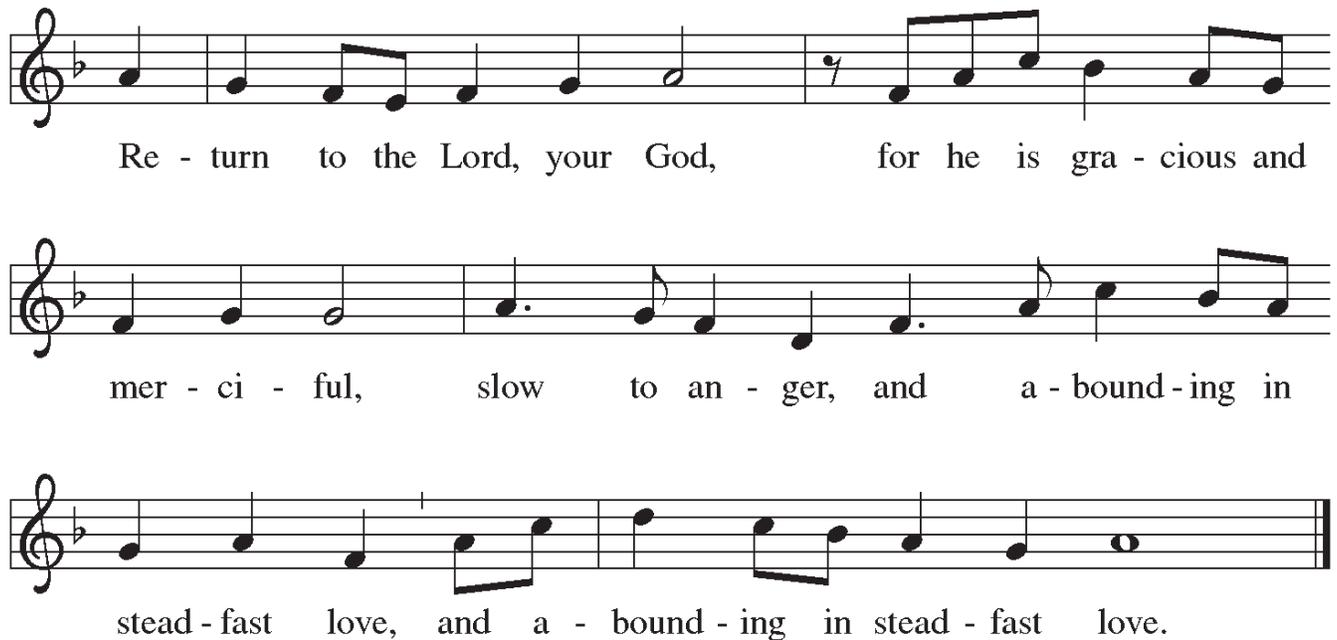
My sin, O, the bliss of this glorious thought,  
My sin, not in part, but the whole,

Is nailed to the cross, and I bear it no more.  
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, o my soul!

It is well (it is well)  
With my soul (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.  
And Lord, haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,  
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,  
Even so, it is well with my soul.

It is well (it is well)  
With my soul (with my soul)  
It is well, it is well with my soul.

### 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 4  
Glory to you, O Lord.

<sup>5</sup> Jesus came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)

<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)

<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."

<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"

<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."

<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband."

Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"

<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city.

She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days.

<sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word.

<sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

Hymn For All the Faithful Women (verse 1, 8, & last)

#419

### 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

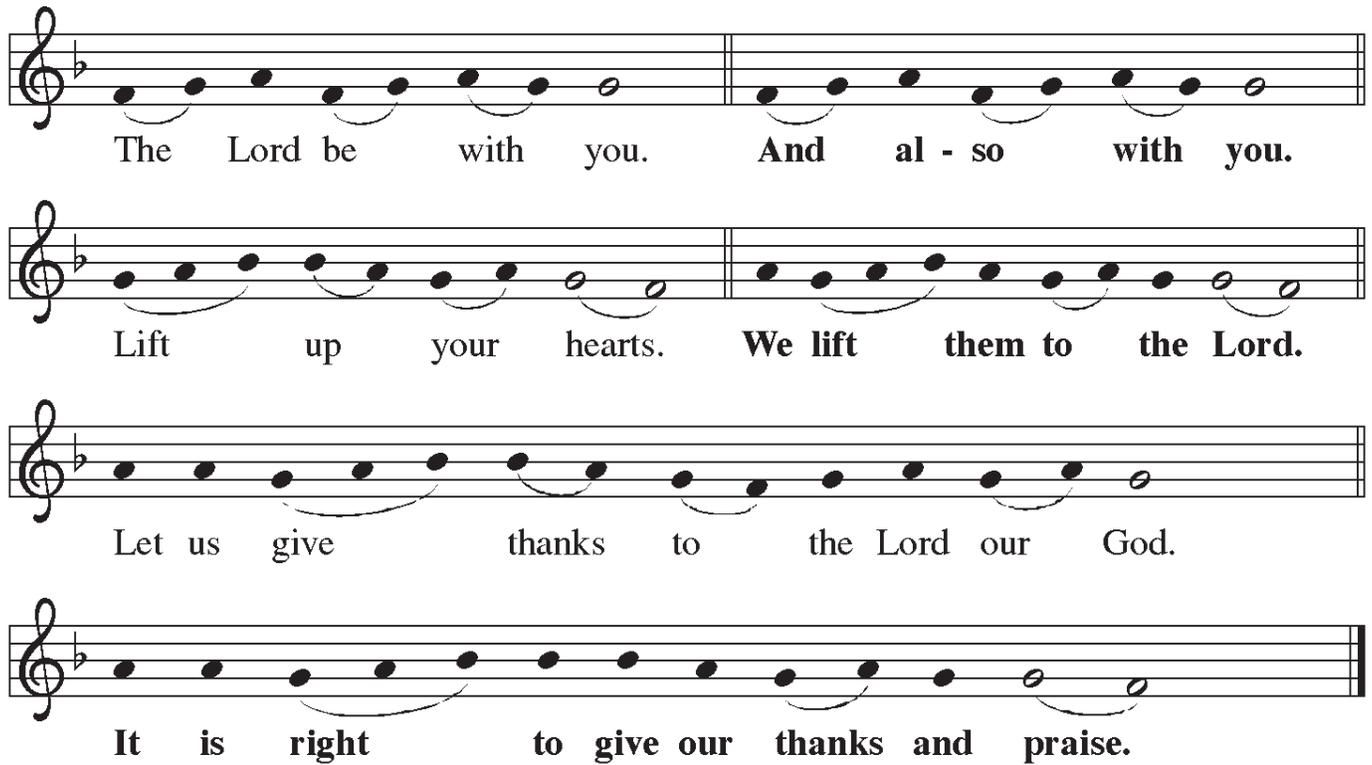
Offering Meditation on "Beecher"

Jaebon Hwang

### Offering Prayer

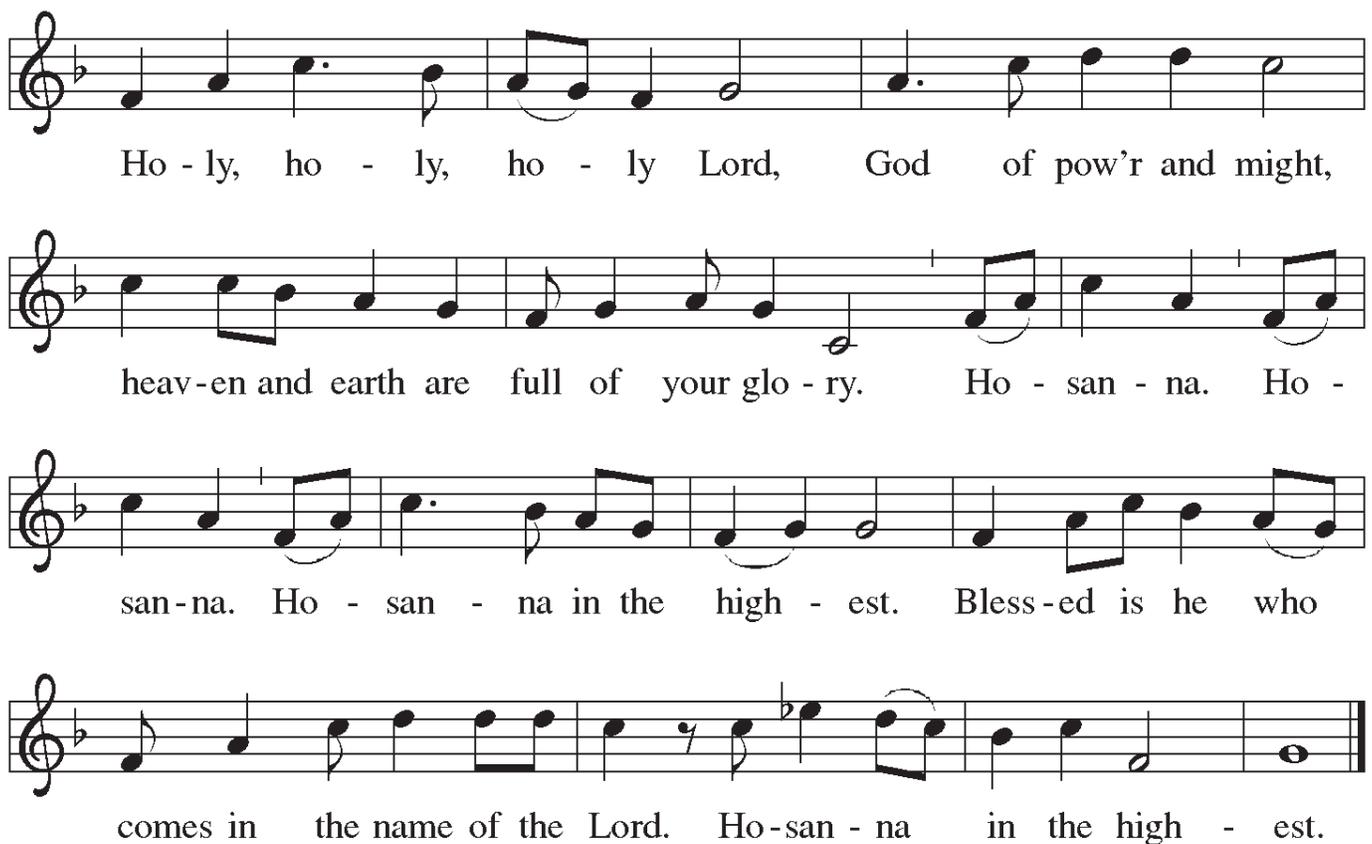
O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation.  
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty.  
Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your  
Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.  
Amen.

## Great Thanksgiving



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.  
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.  
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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.

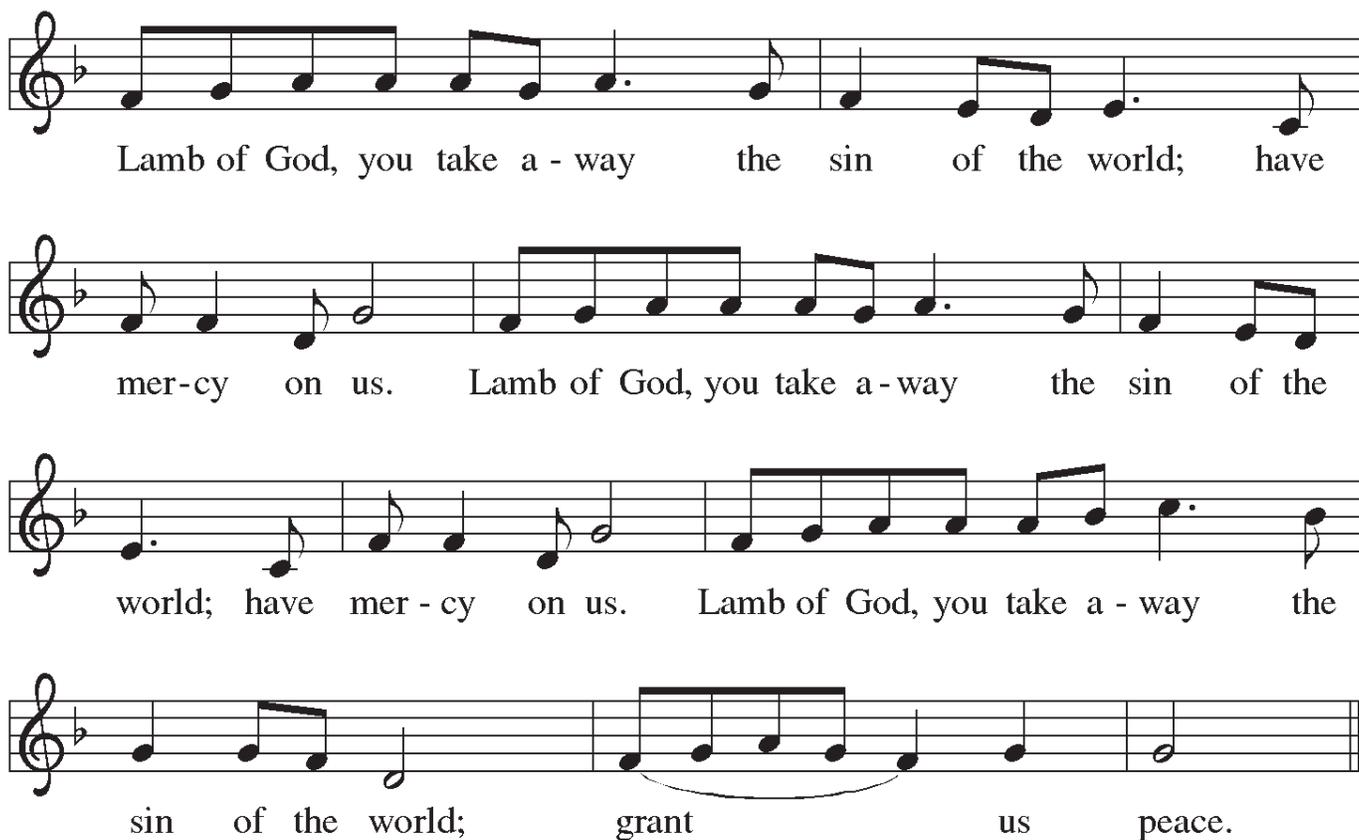
## Eucharistic Prayer

### 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.

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## SENDING

### Blessing

Sending Hymn *I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

#611

### Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

### Postlude

*Fugue on "Passion Chorale"*

Brenda Portman

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*For All the Faithful Women*, c. Augsburg Fortress

*It is Well with My Soul*, c. 2011, The Lorenz Corp.

**Minister:** Pastor Phil Ruge-Jones

**Assisting Minister:** Bev Page

**Reader:** Jan Adams

**Organist:** Elaine Mann

**Choir Director:** Micah Bland

**Pacibells Director:** Karen Lionberger

—Woman Composer Sunday, observed on March 8, 2026, is a global event originated by the Society of Women Organists and Royal College of Organists in the U.K., and adopted by the AGO, to encourage the use of music by women composers in worship services and concerts on the Sunday nearest International Women's Day. Today's communion music was one of the winning compositions in an AGO sponsored composition contest for 2026 Woman Composer Sunday.

## Weekly Calendar

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

Daylight Saving Time Starts  
Coffee Hour – 9:30am  
Worship – 10am  
North Dakota State University  
Choral Concert – 3pm

### MONDAY

Elizabeth Circle – 10am  
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

### SUNDAY (15<sup>th</sup>)

Coffee Hour – 9:30am  
Worship – 10am

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



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## 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

Even though the weather is warming, 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

Tammy Tannler gave in memory of Amy Benson.

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/ethnicity, sex, sexual orientation, spousal relationship to current employee, or veteran status, as applicable. Direct inquiries to: Vice President, Title IX/ADA Coordinator, Old Main 201, 701.221.7708, [nbsuusa@ndsu.edu](mailto:nbsuusa@ndsu.edu).

## 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