

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**  
**March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 – 9:30 AM**

**WELCOME**



Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

- ✝ Preacher – Chaplain Liz Lahti-Rosensaft
- ✝ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider
- ✝ Worship Leaders – Brian, Liz & Jessy Griswold

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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 your life and peace. **Amen.**

**OPENING HYMN 1: When Morning Gilds the Skies**

When morning gilds the skies,  
my heart awaking cries:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
When evening shadows fall,  
this rings my curfew call:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

Let all of humankind  
in this their concord find:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!  
Let all the earth around  
ring joyous with the sound:  
may Jesus Christ be praised!

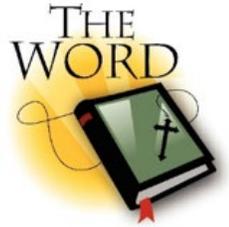
Sing, sun and stars of space,  
sing, all who see his face,  
sing, "Jesus Christ be praised!"  
God's whole creation o'er,  
today and evermore  
shall Jesus Christ be praised!

**Prayer of the Day** - Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us 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.**

## **GOD'S HOLY WORD**

### **FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

<sup>15</sup>The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."



<sup>3:1</sup>Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' "

<sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves. The Word of the Lord...**Thanks be to God!**

### **Psalm 32**

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit, there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding, who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."



**10 Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**

**11 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.**

### 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.

### HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Matthew 4: 1 - 11; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread."

<sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" <sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying 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, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'"

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" <sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

### SERMON – Chaplain Liz Lahti-Rosensaft

#### OFFERING HYMN: ELW#638 – Blessed Assurance

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| <p>1. Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!<br/>Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!<br/>Heir of salvation, purchase of God,<br/>Born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> <p>2. Perfect submission, perfect delight,<br/>Visions of rapture now burst on my sight,<br/>Angels descending bring from above<br/>Echoes of mercy, whispers of love.<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> | <p>3. Perfect submission, all is at rest;<br/>I in my Savior am happy and blest,<br/>Watching and waiting, looking above,<br/>Filled with his goodness, lost in his love.<br/><b>Chorus</b></p> <p><b>Chorus:</b><br/>This is my story, this is my song,<br/>Praising my Savior all the day long,<br/>This is my story, this is my song,<br/>Praising my Savior all the day long.</p> |
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## OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, thank you that you can satisfy our every desire and need. Your word says that we should give honor to you with the first fruits of our wealth. Accept our tithes and offerings as a gift of worship to you. Multiply what we give for the effective growth of your kingdom. May Christ dwell in our hearts through faith so that we, being rooted and grounded in love, may have the strength to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge. May we be filled with all the fullness of God. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen.**

## PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

✠ We recognize those joining us via Facebook Live and give voice to any greetings or prayer requests submitted for our worship.

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

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud, with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).* Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

*(Additional Petitions may be offered.)*

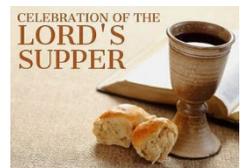
Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

## THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus the Christ, who was born a man, who lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.

Who 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.



Make us one with him and with one another, that we may live for others as he lived for us until that day when we shall feast with him in glory. And hear us as we pray the prayer he taught us to pray,

**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.**

**Invitation to Communion** There is a place for you at the table of God. Come, receive the food that does not perish, a taste of life eternal.

### **OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!**

#### **COMMUNION HYMN 1: Lord, You are more Precious**

Lord, you are more precious than silver,  
Lord, you are more costly than gold,  
Lord, you are more beautiful than diamonds,  
And nothing I desire compares with you,  
And nothing I desire compares with you.

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#### **COMMUNION HYMN 2: Glorify Thy Name**

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| 1. Father we love You,<br>We praise and adore You,<br>Glorify Thy name in all the earth.<br>Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,<br>Glorify Thy name in all the earth. | 3. Spirit we love You<br>We praise and adore You,<br>Glorify Thy name in all the earth.<br>Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,<br>Glorify Thy name in all the earth. |
| 2. Jesus we love You<br>We praise and adore You,<br>Glorify Thy name in all the earth.<br>Glorify Thy name, Glorify Thy name,<br>Glorify Thy name in all the earth.   |                                                                                                                                                                      |

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**Closing Prayer** - 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.**

**Blessing** - 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. **Amen.**

**CLOSING HYMN: ELW#325 – I Want Jesus to Walk with Me**

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me;  
I want Jesus to walk with me;  
all along my pilgrim journey,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;  
when my heart is almost breaking,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;  
when my head is bowed in sorrow,  
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

**Song of Blessing**

May God’s blessing surround you each day,  
As you trust God and walk in God’s way.  
May God’s presence within guard and keep you from sin,  
Go in peace, go in joy, go in love.

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



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