



**Old Testament Window
Second Sunday in Lent
March 1, 2026**

**Arlington Hills Lutheran Church
1115 Greenbrier Street
St. Paul, MN 55106**

The South Window

In the top window is David playing on his golden harp.



In the middle section of the window are people associated with music: Moses and Miriam (Exodus 15), Hannah (1Samuel2), and Simeon (Luke2:29)



In the bottom section are four instruments mentioned in Psalm 150.



The south window was a gift of the Senior Choir
and was installed in 1942.
All were the work of artist Andres Larson of Minneapolis.

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Second Sunday in Lent

Introduction

During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

Welcome and Announcements

(Please take some time to prepare for worship in the quiet as we light the altar candles.... If you are worshipping online, we invite you to have something to eat and something to drink, ready for communion)

Prelude

"Blessed Assurance"

arr, Robert A. Hobby

GATHERING

Greeting

John 3:14-15

P: The Son of Man must be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

All: Amen.

Confession and Forgiveness

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

All: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses. Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

AM: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

AM: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

AM: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

AM: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

AM: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

AM: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

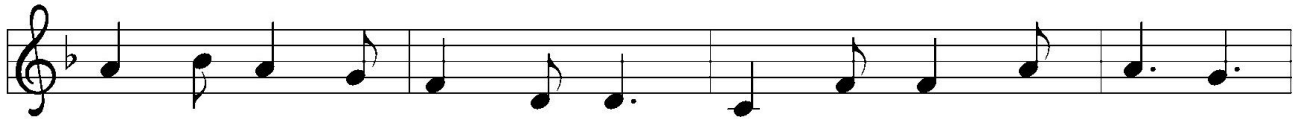
ALL: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

AM: 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 you life and peace.

All: Amen.

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Gathering Hymn

Verses 1, 2, 3 and 4 – Large print words found on page 21



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

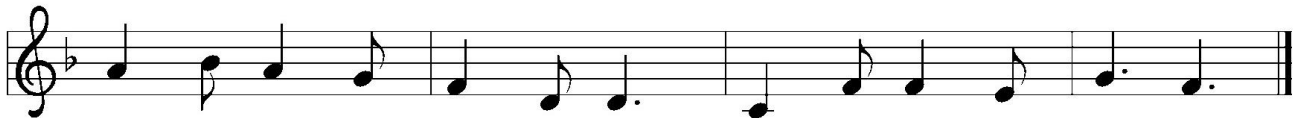


free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

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

All: **And also with you.**

Please be seated

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

P: 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.

All: Amen.

WORD

First Reading:

Genesis 12:1-4a

Assisting Minister

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.

AM: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 121

Read responsively by whole verse

AM: ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

All: ² **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

AM: ³ The LORD will not let your ^l foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you ^l fall asleep.

All: ⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

AM: ⁵ the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

All: ⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

AM: ⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

All: ⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

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.

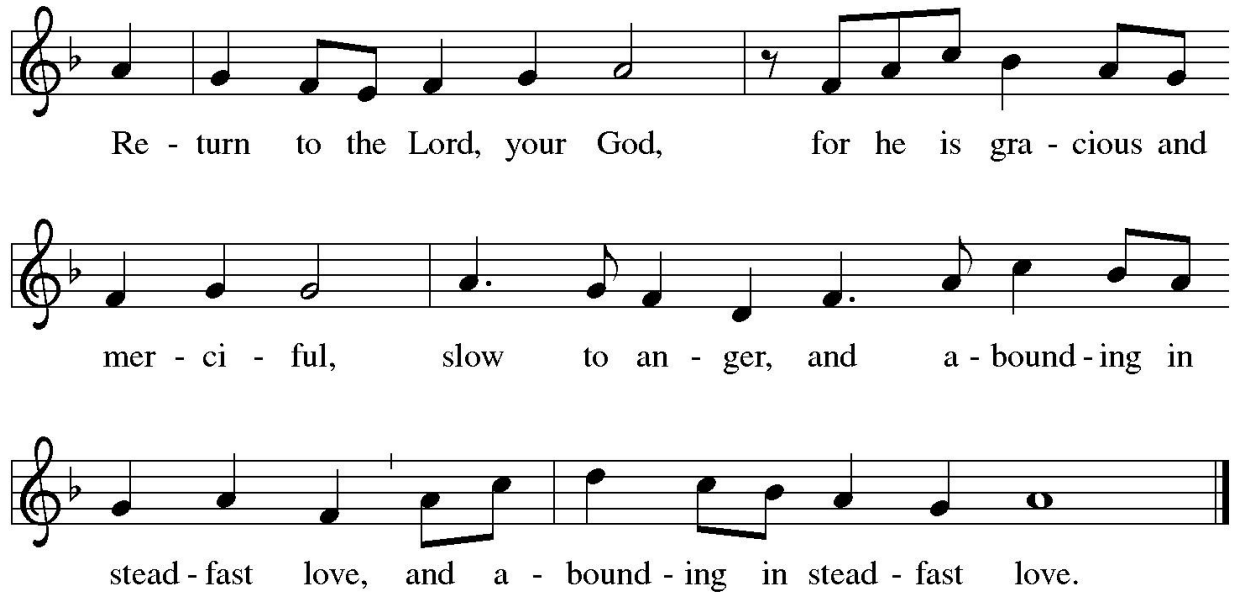
¹⁶ For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷ as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), 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.

AM: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Gospel reading

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.

P: The holy gospel according to John the 3rd Chapter

All: **Glory to you, O Lord**

Gospel: John 3: 1-17

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.”

P: The gospel of the Lord,

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated.

Sermon

Pastor Walter Still

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Hymn of the Day



Verses 1, 2, 4 and 5 – Large print words found on page 22



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846–1923, alt.
 Music: ROCKINGHAM OLD, Edward Miller, 1731–1807, adapt.

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.

Please be seated for the Installation of Council and Prayers of Intercession

Installation of Congregation Council

Congregation Council Members come forward for installation

Prayers of Intercession

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

A brief silence.

Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel condemned and lift up any brought low by hatred and exclusion. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss we pray especially for: Marjorie Anderson, Sven & Marion Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Carolyn Brusseau, Kurt Dyrhaug, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Jan Frankenberg, Wayne Hansen, Betty Hasse, Marcia Imsdahl, Patricia James, Jim Jaszczak, Eugene Karls, Gisela Koegh, Velta Krauze, Marilyn Nelson, Dennis Rasmusson, Priscilla Reeve, Marnie Rose, Bev Stickler, Ivanka Vicic, Ken Wagner, MaryAnn Wistrom and those we name in our hearts. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless the Congregational Council members who have volunteered to serve this year. We are grateful for them. Be with them as they work, guided by you, on decisions made for this congregation. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

AM: Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love, we pray especially for the families of Tom Watters and Russell Boogren. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

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

All: Amen.

Please stand for the Sharing of the Peace.

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Please be seated for the Offertory Music

MEAL

Offering Music

“Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land”

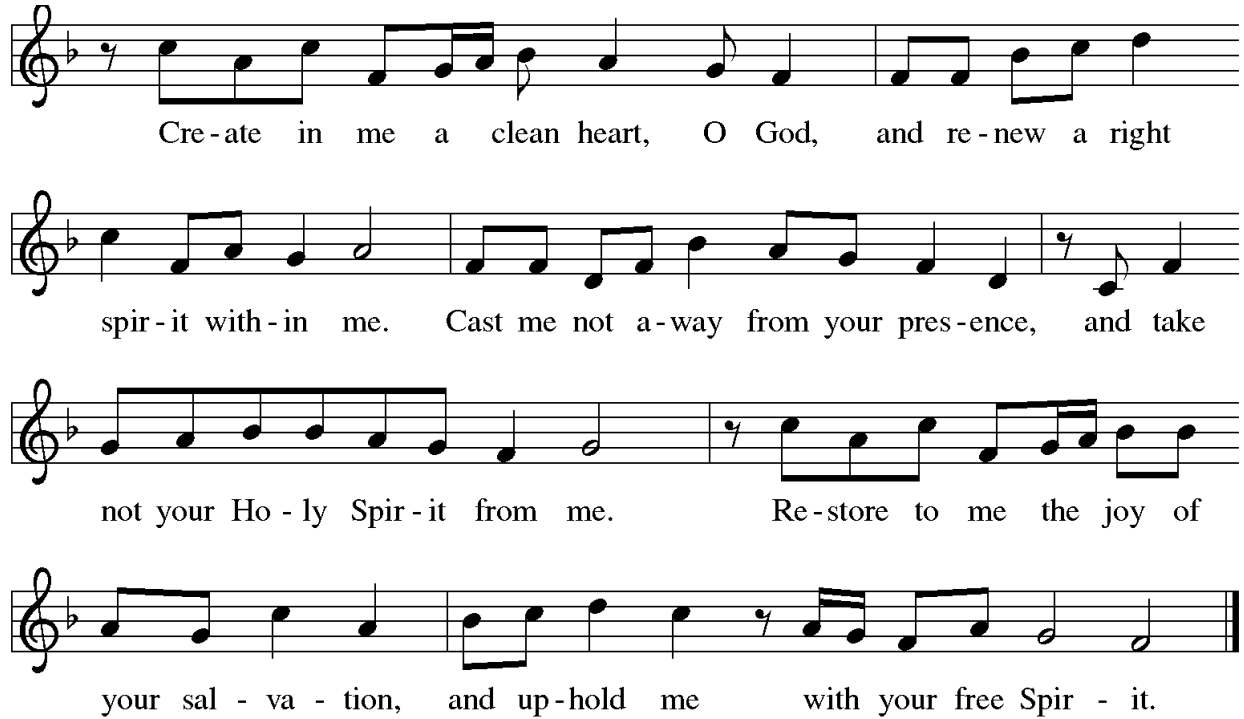
arr. Thomas Keesecker

Sunday Morning Choir

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Offering Song.

Offering Song

Create in Me a Clean Heart



Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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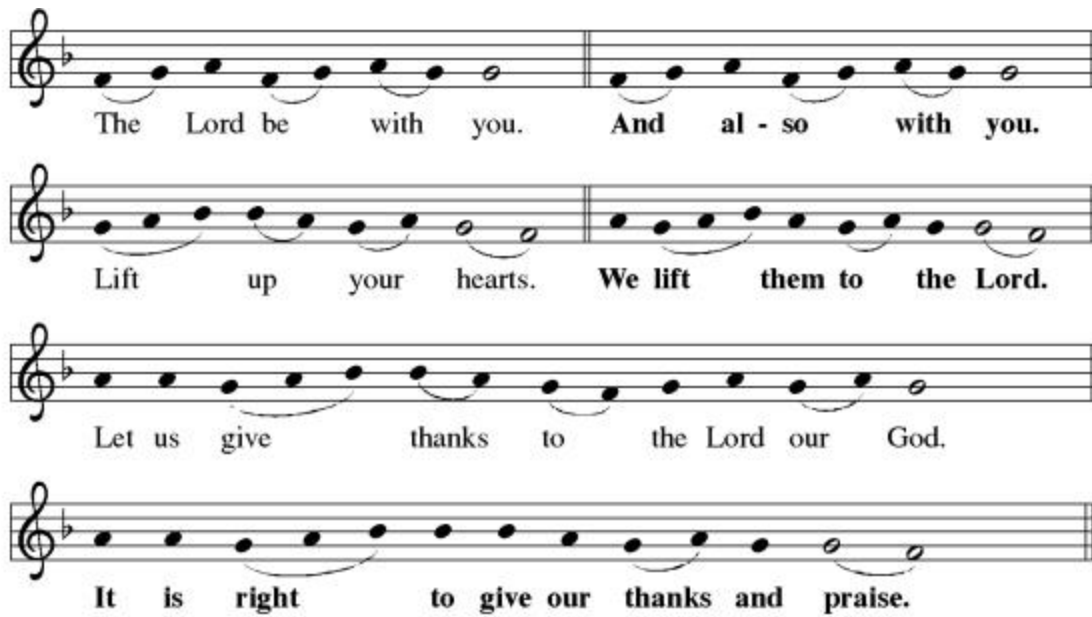
Offertory Prayer

P: 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.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

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.

Pastor will sing the Preface:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All:



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.

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation. Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light. Blessed are you for your promise to your people. Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams. Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will. Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us, full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and resurrection. We look with hope for his coming. **All: Come, Lord Jesus.**

P: Holy God, we long for your Spirit. Come among us. Bless this meal. May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light. Bring the gift of peace on earth. **All: Come, Holy Spirit.**

P: All praise and glory are yours. Holy One of Israel, Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High, one God, now and forever. **All: Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, they 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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

The Pastor will invite those worshipping with us at home to share Christ's presence in the bread/wine/juice that they have prepared. Then the congregation will sing "Lamb of God".

Lamb of God

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.

Communion

As pastor comes down to serve communion you may come forward. Please form a single line to receive the bread from him by holding out your palms to receive the wafer. Once you receive the bread, you may go to the communion assistant on the side closest to where you were seated to receive the wine. If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know, and we will bring communion to you. Please feel free to say "Amen" after you receive each element if you wish.

Table Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: **Amen**

Prayer after Communion

P: 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.

All: **Amen.**

Sending

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Sending Hymn.



Verses 1, 2, and 3- Large, printed words found on page 23



1 Bless-ed as-sur - ance, Je - sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di - vine!
 2 Per - fect sub-mis - sion, per - fect de - light, vi - sions of rap - ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per - fect sub-mis - sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav - ior am hap - py and blest,



Heir of sal - va - tion, pur - chase of God, born of his Spir - it, washed in his blood.
 an - gels de - scend - ing bring from a - bove ech - oes of mer - cy, whis - pers of love.
 watch - ing and wait - ing, look - ing a - bove, filled with his good - ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long:



this is my sto - ry, this is my song, prais - ing my Sav - ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
 Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Blessing

P: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise ✝ bless you now and forever.

Postlude

“Maestoso in E Minor”

F. Walczynski

Dismissal

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

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Leading Worship Today

Pastor: Dr. Rev. Walter Still

Organ/Piano: Barbara Rossow

Assisting Ministers: Mary Kowitz and Dana Nelson

Communion Assistants: Janine Almquist and Dana Nelson

Ushers: Tom Brackey and David Almquist

Hospitality: Mary Kowitz and Kathy Brackey

Livestream Producer: Silvester Vicic, Jim Persoon or Ryan Henk

Church Member Wayne Hansen is offering his Tax Knowledge and Expertise to church members again and you can always refer my services to others to file a complete and accurate 2025 tax return. If anyone has questions about taxes you may contact Wayne at cell 651-219-2938 (call or text) or his email is wkhanse@comcast.net

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR AHLC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Marjorie Anderson, Sven Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Carolyn Brusseau, Kurt Dyrhaug, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Jan Frankenberg, Wayne Hansen, Betty Hasse, Marcia Imsdahl, Patricia James, Jim Jaszczak, Eugene Karls, Gisela Koegh, Velta Krauze, Marilyn Nelson, Dennis Rasmusson, Priscilla Reeve, Marnie Rose, Bev Stickler, Ivanka Vicic, Ken Wagner, and MaryAnn Wistrom.

If you wish to have Pastor Walter visit with you, please contact Mary in the church office to set up a time.

Upcoming Events this Week

March 1	Sunday Morning Worship	9:30 a.m.
March 3	WMA Board Meeting –10:00 a.m.	Reception Room
	Building User Meeting – 2:00 p.m.	Reception Room
March 4	Soup and Scripture – 10:00 a.m. –	Reception Room
March 6-15	Mary on Vacation	

Congratulations to our Council Members

President – Paul Kowitz, Vice President – Ryan Henk, Secretary - Kathy Brackey and Treasurer – Wayne Hansen

Council Members: Janine Almquist, Tom Brockway, Cheryl Hollman, Barb Schmidt, Silvester Vicic and Pam Wiehe.

We appreciate your willingness to serve our congregation. Our prayers are with you.

Gathering Hymn

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

Hymn of the Day

God Loved the World

- 1 God loved the world so that he gave
his only Son the lost to save,
that all who would in him believe
should everlasting life receive.

- 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith,
who was made flesh and suffered death;
all who confide in Christ alone
are built on this chief cornerstone.

- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son
forgives all sins that you have done,
and justified by Jesus' blood,
your baptism grants the highest good.

- 5 All glory to the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

Sending Hymn

Blessed Assurance

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine!
Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God,
born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song,
praising my Savior all the day long.

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight,
visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above
echoes of mercy, whispers of love. Refrain
- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest;
I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above,
filled with his goodness, lost in his love. Refrain

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

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