

First Evangelical Lutheran Church

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First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

9:30 am

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

MARCH 9, 2025

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

First Reading: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

Second Reading: Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

Gospel: Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called "the Son of God."

Prelude

Please stand when the () indicates standing. Know the communion of Saints, both living & departed, stand for you if you should choose to remain seated for any reason.*

***The Pastoral Greeting**

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

A: **And also with you.**

***Confession and Forgiveness**

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

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God's arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In † Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;

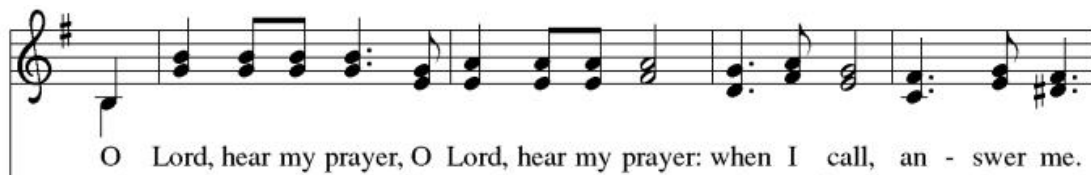


I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - 'ling days are done.

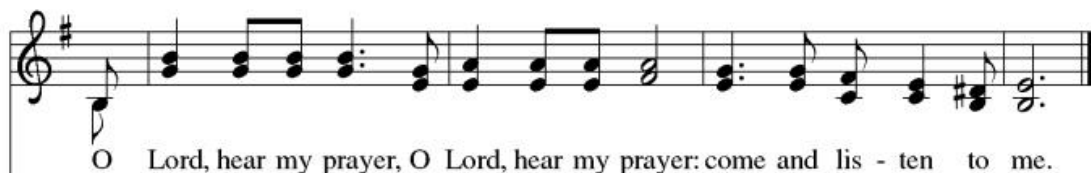
*Kyrie

O Lord, Hear My Prayer

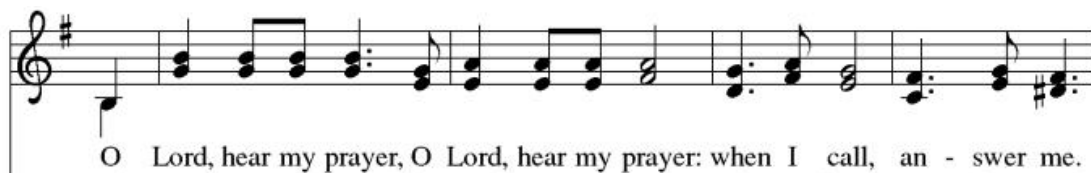
ELW 751



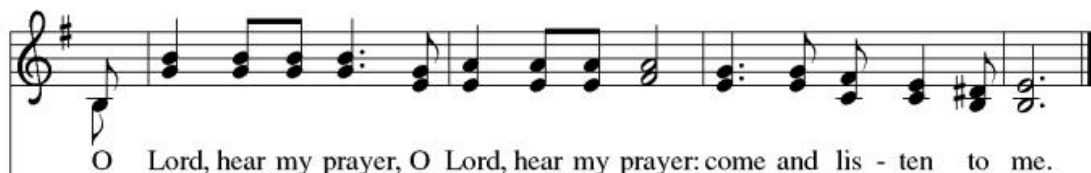
O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.



O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

Text: Psalm 102:1-2; Taizé Community, adapt.

Music: HEAR MY PRAYER, Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994

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*The Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray.

P: O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

A: Amen.

The First Reading

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us."

⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey.

¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

R: Word of God; Word of Life.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

(sung responsively)

The accompanist will play the refrain, and then the Cantor will sing it once. The congregation is then invited to sing it once with the Cantor. We will repeat the refrain each time there is an R at the end of a line.

God will give the an gels
charge o ver you, to guard you in all your ways.

- ¹ You who dwell in the shelter of | the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of | the Almighty—
- ² **you will say to the LORD, “My refuge | and my stronghold,
my God in whom I | put my trust.” R**
- ⁹ Because you have made the | LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your | habitation,
- ¹⁰ **no evil | will befall you,
nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.**
- ¹¹ For God will give the angels charge | over you,
to guard you in | all your ways.
- ¹² **Upon their hands they will | bear you up,
lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone. R**
- ¹³ You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.
- ¹⁴ **I will deliver those who | cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they | know my name.**

¹⁵ They will call me, and I will ^l answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and ^l honor them.
¹⁶ **With long life will I ^l satisfy them,
and show them ^l my salvation. R**

The Second Reading

Romans 10:8b-13

^{8b} “The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips
that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you
will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one
confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who
believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and
Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For,
“Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

R: Word of God; Word of Life.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

*The Announcement of the Gospel Reading

ELW Setting 10



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.



One does not live by ¹ bread alone, * but by every word that comes
from the ¹ mouth of God.

Repeat Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to St Luke.

A: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

***The Reading of the Gospel**

Luke 4:1-13

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,'"

¹¹ and

‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

¹² Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

P: The Gospel of our Lord.

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

The Sermon

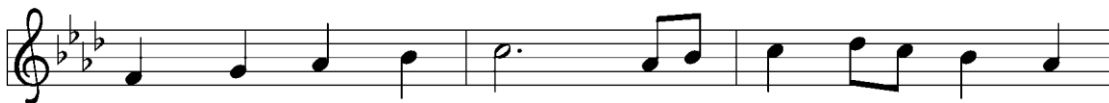
We observe a brief silence for reflection



O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
 2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
 3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
 4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
 faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
 fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
 all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
 skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
 ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
 Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816

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***The Apostle's 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.

The Prayers of the People

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations.

God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill (*especially Peggy*). God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
Amen.

***The Peace**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

A: And also with you.

P: Let us offer one another the sign of the Risen Christ's peace.

As a Reconciling in Christ congregation, we welcome all because God welcomes all, and we recognize that our differences are gifts to our communal life.

***The Offering Prayer**

P: Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

A: **Amen.**

*The offering plates will be available on the table in the Narthex.
Please place your offering there, as you leave.*

***The 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.

P: 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;
who on this day overcame death and the grave
and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.
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:

***Holy, Holy, Holy**

ELW Setting 10



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. 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, ho - san - na in the high - est.

***Words of Institution**

- P: 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. For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.
- A: **Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

***Lord's Prayer**

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

The Celebration of Holy Communion

Please remain standing during the singing of the Lamb of God.

*Lamb of God

ELW Setting 10



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

The Invitation to Communion

P: All who are hungry, come!
The feast of grace is spread.

Please come to the communion rail and kneel (or stand). We will receive communion by intinction. Receive the bread, dip into the wine or white grape juice, then take and eat.

The Communion Music

ELW 325

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

***The Communion Blessing**

P: May the nourishment of the body and blood of our Savior
Jesus Christ give you renewed strength and life.

A: **Amen.**

***The Prayer After Communion**

P: Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

A: **Amen.**

Please be seated

Announcements & Community Updates

***The Blessing**

P: God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
✝ bless you now and forever.

A: **Amen.**

As the Winter Days Grow Longer



1 As the win - ter days grow long - er, draw - ing short the hours of night;
2 As the vines burst in - to blos - som, fra - grant in the morn - ing air,
3 As we jour - ney through this sea - son, pil - grims through a thirst - y land,



as our ea - ger ex - pec - ta - tion waits for Eas - ter's dawn - ing light—
lift - ing spir - its with their sweet - ness, lur - ing hearts to thank - ful prayer—
quench us with your liv - ing pres - ence; guide us with your lov - ing hand.



yearn - ing peo - ple, here we gath - er, turn - ing watch - ful eyes to you:
Lent - en peo - ple, here we gath - er, seek - ing lives re - freshed from sin.
Wan - d'ring peo - ple, here we gath - er, called to rest a - long our way.



God who bless - es earth with spring - time, shine with - in our world a - new!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, bloom with - in our hearts a - gain!
God who bless - es earth with spring - time, grant us sab - bath joy this day!

Text: Mary Louise Bringle, b. 1953

Music: SUO GÂN, Welsh melody

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***Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

A: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Worship Assistants

Reader & Communion Assistant: *Sara Brightwell*

Crucifer: *Bruce Torkelson* Usher(s): *Bruce & Nat Torkelson*

Music: *Gail Flack*

Cantor: *Sara Brightwell*

First Lutheran church **strives to inspire hope**
for a wounded world;

Gathers in worship
that both **uplifts** and **challenges**;

And **builds life-affirming relationships**
inside and outside the walls of our building.

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