

Our Mission

“to serve God and share the good news of Jesus Christ”
First Sunday in Lent – 9:00 am Worship
February 22, 2026

Introduction

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.

Prelude

“Leaning on Jesus” (by A. Schowalter, arr. Ron Loree)

Kathleen Cuvelier, piano

Welcome

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Greeting:

P: We gather in the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. **C: Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

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

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Gracious God,

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

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

Gracious God,

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

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

Gracious God,

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

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Kyrie

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P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord

C: Lord, have mercy.

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

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: 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.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, Let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen, amen.

Gathering Hymn

"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

ELW 504

A mighty fortress is our God, a sword and shield victorious.
he breads the cruel oppressor's rod and
wins salvation glorious. The old satanic foe
has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dreadful might
he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal.

No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected.

But now a champion comes to fight, whom
God himself elected. You ask who this may be?
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Jesus, mighty Lord.
God's only Son, adored. He holds the field victorious.

God's Word forever shall abide, no thanks to foes, who
Fear it; for God himself fights by our side with
Weapons of the Spirit. Were they to take our house,
Goods, honor, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched away,
They cannot win the day. The kingdom's ours forever!

Prayer of the Day

P: Let us pray:

C: 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.

Children's Message

WORD

First Reading:

Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

Psalm 32

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is¹ put away!

Happy are they to whom the Lord im-putes no guilt, and in whose spirit there¹ is no guile!

While I held my tongue, my bones with-^lered away, because of my groaning all day long.
For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was dried up as in the^l heat of summer.
Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con-^lceal my guilt. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.” Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they^l shall not reach them.

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts^l of deliverance.
“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

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.”
Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice^l in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are^l true of heart.

Second Reading:

Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God!

P: The holy gospel according to

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel Acclamation

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Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord
Save us as you promised: we will trust your word.

Gospel:

Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

“Whose at the Center?”

Pastor Tricia Lowe

Sermon Hymn

“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days” (vs. 1, 2 & 4)

ELW 319

O Lord, throughout these forty days you
prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance
for our sin, and free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and you won; your
faithfulness endured; lend us your nerve, your
skill and trust in God’s eternal word.

Be with us through this season, Lord, and
all our earthly days, that when the final
Easter dawns, we join in heaven’s praise.

Creed ~ Statement of Faith

P: Let us join together in proclaiming our faith:

C: We believe in you, O God, who spoke all life into being, author of heaven and earth, architect of time, quilter of the cosmos. You shape our bodies from the dust of the ground, and by your breath we are given life.

We believe in you, O God, who became incarnate in Christ Jesus, the Word made flesh, truly divine and truly human. You lived among us to reveal your justice, died among us to break the bonds of sin and death, and were raised among us to bring abundant life.

We believe in you, O God, who transforms us by the Holy Spirit, draws us into community, moves us to action, and inspires us to hope against hope. You breathe new life into a fallen world and equip us to proclaim the good news of resurrecting love. All thanks and praise to you, O God, our beginning and our end. Amen.

Prayers of the People

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

A brief silence.

P: 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.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and self-interest threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: 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. Protect those in war torn countries such as Congo, Israel and Gaza, Myanmar, Sudan, Syria and Ukraine. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: 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. Especially we pray for those in recovery or waiting for or recovering from surgery. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who are hungry bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

L: Please take this time to offer any other intercessions, either aloud or in your heart.

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

C: Amen.

Sharing of the Peace *(Remember to ask for consent)*

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Offertory

“We Praise You, O God” (verse 1)

ELW 870

We praise you, O God, our redeemer, creator;
in grateful devotion our tribute we bring,

We lay it before you; we kneel and adore you;
we bless your holy name; glad praises we sing.

Offering 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.

C: Amen.

MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving (spoken)

page 107

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy “sing”

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Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.
blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

Words of Institution

P: Blessed are you, O God, Creator of this wild and wonderful world. In the beginning, you called forth light from the shadows; You filled land and sea with life; You filled us with your own Spirit. You so loved your own creation that you set your bow in the sky; You promised life in a world that brings death; You sent Jesus, your Son to gather us close to you. Who, on the night in which he was betrayed, took bread, gave thanks, broke it and said: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this and remember me. Again, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to those gathered at the table, saying: This cup is the new promise in my blood, shed for your and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this, and remember me.

P: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

P: O God of many names, pour out your Spirit upon us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this meal of shared life for the sake of the world, and fill us with your own thirst for beauty and hunger for justice, that we might continue in the ways of your Son, Jesus Christ. All things bright and beautiful are entrusted to us by you, and with all creation we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and always.

C: Amen.

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us:

C: Our Father, who are 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. Amen.

L: This table belongs to Jesus, and the meal is offered by Jesus, and so all of God's children are welcome to celebrate. Jesus is made known to us in the breaking of the bread and the pouring of the wine. Come and eat.

Lamb of God (sing)

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Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion:

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Communion Hymn

"In Christ There Is No East or West" (all verses)

ELW 650

In Christ there is no east or west,
in him no south or north,
but one community of love
throughout the whole wide earth.

Join hands, disciples of the faith,
wherever your race may be.
All children of the living God
are surly kin to me.

In Christ shall true hearts everywhere
their high communion find;
his service is the golden cord
close binding humankind.

In Christ now meet both east and west,
in him meet south and north;
all Christly souls are one in him
throughout the whole wide earth.

Communion Blessing

Communion Prayer

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. **C: Amen.**

SENDING

Announcements

Blessing

P: 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. **C: Amen.**

Sending Hymn

"Lift Every Voice and Sing" (all verses)

ELW 841

Lift every voice and sing till earth and heaven ring,
ring with the harmonies of liberty.

Let our rejoicing rise high as the listening skies,
let it resound loud as the rolling sea.

Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us;
sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us;
facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
let us march on till victory is won.

Stony the road we trod, bitter the chastening rod,
felt in the days when hope unborn had died;
yet with a steady beat, have not our weary feet
come to the place for which our parents sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered;
we have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,
out from the gloomy past, till now we stand at last
where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of our weary years, God of our silent tears,
thou who hast brought us thus far on the way;
thou who hast by thy might led us into the light,
keep us forever in the path, we pray.
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met thee;
lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget thee;
shadowed beneath thy hand, may we forever stand,
true to our God, true to our native land.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude *“A Mighty Fortress is Our God”* (by Martin Luther arr. by R. Hughes) Kathleen Cuvelier, piano

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CHURCH OFFICE IS STAFFED Monday through Friday 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. except Wednesdays, 9:00 a.m.– 1:00 p.m. Please call 928-772-4135 about room use availability.

MISSION OUTREACH for the month of February **is Prescott Valley Library Literacy Program.** Their mission is to be a viable organization within the community by providing opportunities for the education of adults in reading, writing and math. These services will be provided by trained volunteers and staff under the direction of an executive director.

NEXT INTERFAITH MEAL is February 27. If you would like to help, please give the church office a call. Food costs are continuing to go up, if you have a Thrivent Action Card you would like to donate, it would be very much appreciated. Each member is allocated two \$250.00 cards per year. We are now looking for cards for the rest of the 2026 year.

WOMEN’S BIBLE STUDY meets each Tuesday at 10:00 am on zoom or in person.

WEDNESDAY 9:45 AM BIBLE STUDY meets in the Fellowship Hall and is led by Larry Gordon and retired Pastor Hal Vogelaar.

THURSDAY 7:00 PM BIBLE STUDY meets at Rebholz’s. Come at 6:30 for dessert.

GRIEF GROUP meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday of each month at 1:00 pm. Next meeting is February 26.

JOIN THE LUNCH BUNCH on Tuesday, February 24, at 11:30 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

ART SHOW COMMITTEE MEETING March 1 in the Nursery at 10:15 am.

Fine Artist, Steve Baker, has graciously allowed us to display his colorful collection of 20 acrylic paintings for a month in honor of our Reconciling In Christ celebration. Steve is one of the Peacock Party participants in the GBT Men's group set up by Gene Fougner in the quad city gay community, which was patterned after Emmanuel's Dinner for 8 program. Steve retired to Prescott after working for the Salt Lake Tribune as a newspaper artist. His paintings weave movement, emotion, and place to feel the pulse of the local land he loves.

February is **Black History Month** and in honor of this, Emmanuel is singing African American spirituals from our hymnal during communion for the four Sundays and inviting local people of color to share their gifts of music and song with us each week. Pr. Tricia will share a brief history of each communion hymn before the communion litany begins. The contemporary service is offering special recorded music during communion.



As a Congregation, we pray for God's guidance on our journey of service to our membership, our community, and our world. Pray for Pastor Tricia, the Church Council, and the Ministry Leadership. The church office reviews this list monthly. Please call if your prayer concern is removed earlier than you wish.

Please keep the following in your prayers during this week:

Members

Cheryl & Kevin Miller
Colleen Bradley
Deborah Delmastro
Doris & Roger MacGregor
Hill Barrington
Howard Lisack
Inge Scholl

Irene Clute
Jackie Poling
Julie Doering
Larry & Sonya Mahler
Mary Watts
Nance Busboom
Nancy Renner

Ramona Walker
Ron Eide
Ryan Intlekofer
Sue Smith
Willie Hermann

Our Family Members in Military and Deployed

Anne Northrup

Family Members and Friends

Adrian Villalobos, son-in law of Julie Doering
Barbara Freeland – friend of Ellen Rosfeld & Emmanuel
Bob Renner – husband of Nancy Renner
Bobbie Embry – friend of Emmanuel
Bonnie – friend of Violet Lowe
Brett Adams – grandson of Isabel Benell
Carmen Escareno – daughter-in-law of Clara Farmer
Cassie Goats – sister-in-law of Kimberly Goats
Cinco Feuille – nephew of Georgianne Farness
Dan & Carol Cwach – friends of Emmanuel
Dan Busboom – brother of Roger Busboom
Douglas – son of Inge Scholl
Dot Camero – cousin of Wendy Woolley
Ellie – granddaughter of Mary Wakimoto
Hazel Maldonado – friend of Rosemary Hellene
Heather White – daughter of Michael & Karen Johnson
Jania – friend of the Rebholz family

John Wade – father of Sarah Mulligan and husband of former member Carol Wade
Jerry Oium – friend of Jackie Poling
Jim – friend of Ellen Rosfeld
Katy Rost – cousin of Kimberly Goats
Kristin Moraga – daughter of Marcy Pfitzer
Lincoln: - Violet & Phoenix Lowe's cousin
Loren Reser – friend of Georgianne Farness
Lori St Louis – daughter of Jackie Poling
Miranda Rebholz – granddaughter of Jim & Carole Rebholz
Molly Aulman – friend of Woolley's & Northrup's
Roger Hersey – father of Leigh Quinn
Sally Kozuch – sister of Ellen Rosfeld
Sam Crifasi – friend of Larry Mahler
Shanna Tischaefter – mother of Sam Tischaefter
Shirley Bowman – wife of Wayne Stithem
Tayler Ferguson – daughter of Julie Doering
Wayne Stithem – friend of Emmanuel
Wilma – friend of Anita Wagner

Sign-ups are underway for volunteers to bring soups for the **WEDNESDAY EVENING LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS, beginning February 25**. For 5 Wednesdays we will gather in Fellowship Hall for a soup supper followed by a Bible Study and brief service of communion. See the Information table in the narthex to sign up. Last year we averaged over 30 folks a meal, so we hope to have at least 1 vegetarian and 3 other soups each week. We are asking those who are bringing soup to please bring a copy of the recipe, and Pr. Tricia will make copies available for those who ask!

ECUMENICAL WORSHIP DURING LENT: Emmanuel Lutheran Church has been invited to again share **Lent Special Worship services** with Mingus View Presbyterian and Prescott Valley United Methodist Church. Emmanuel will host the **Ash Wednesday service at 6pm on Wednesday, February 18th**; Mingus View Presbyterian will do Maudy Thursday service at 5:00pm on April 2nd and PV United Methodist Church will host Good Friday service at 5:00pm on April 3rd. **(Please note the new Holy Week service times)** It was wonderful last year to worship together with our ecumenical partners, and I know this year will be very meaningful as well.

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