

First Sunday of Lent - February 22, 2026

8:30 & 11:00 a.m. and Livestream



**FAITH . DISCIPLESHIP . COMMUNITY**

**THE LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD**

The Rev. Drew McCaffery, Pastor

At The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, we embrace the uniqueness of every individual and respect their dignity and worth, for all are created in the image of God.

We strive to welcome everyone in the fullness of who they are.

Let us call together for reconciliation, and live out God's vision of love for people of every sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, socio-economic status, age, physical or mental ability, political persuasion, race, ethnicity, and personal history.

Let us walk together to strive for racial equity, as Jesus calls us to do.

All people are welcome here to worship, build community, and grow together as Jesus' disciples at this place.



## ✦ GATHERING ✦

### Prelude

### Confession and Forgiveness

**P** *You may have heard, “All is fair in love and war,”  
or “An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.”  
But God says, “Forgive seventy times seven.”  
God says, “I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.”  
God says, “Turn the other cheek.”  
God’s mercy catches us by surprise.  
So with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer.  
Let us be surprised by God’s grace all over again.*

*Silence for reflection*

**P** *Friends, let us pray: Loving God,*  
**C** **somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious. We have to pray on our knees without ceasing. We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies. We have to check our wiggles *and* our questions at the door.**

**But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—  
unruly and untamed.**

**You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.  
And all of a sudden, we wonder: Can we be like that mustard  
seed? Can we be faithful and unruly? Can we be playful and  
curious? Can we be messy and still be yours?**

**We know the answer already. The Spirit whispers: *of course, of  
course, of course.* Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your  
embrace. With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.**

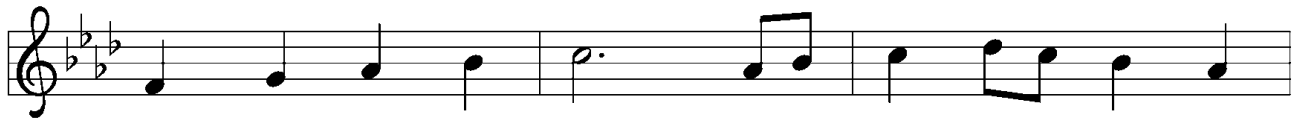
**P** *God's grace is wild and unruly.  
 God's mercy is abundant and surprising.  
 God's love is expansive and unending.  
 So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?"  
 the answer is and always will be:  
 of course, of course, of course.  
 This is the good news of the gospel.*

**C** **Thanks be to God! Amen.**

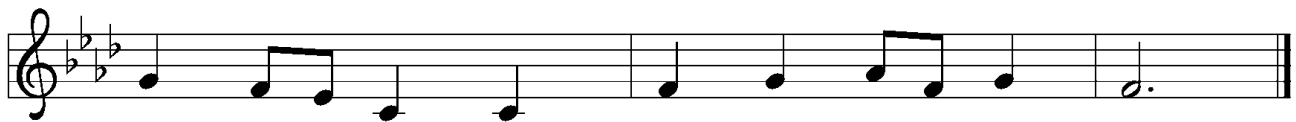
**Gathering Hymn**      *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*      No. 319



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.

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

**C** **And also with you.**

Amazing grace how sweet the sound  
That saved a wretch like me  
I once was lost but now I'm found  
Was blind but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear  
And grace my fears relieved  
How precious did that grace appear  
The hour I first believed

**Refrain**

My chains are gone I've been set free  
My God my Savior has ransomed me  
And like a flood His mercy rains  
Unending love amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me  
His word my hope secures  
He will my shield and portion be  
As long as life endures

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow  
The sun forbear to shine  
But God who called me here below  
Will be forever mine  
Will be forever mine  
You are forever mine

**P** *The Lord be with you.*

**C** **And also with you.**

**A** *Let us pray. Holy One,*  
**C** **it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed.**  
**It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it.**  
**It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst.**  
**So as we turn to your text today, we pray,**  
**surprise us.**  
**Speak to us.**  
**Move through us.**  
**Draw us closer to your good news.**  
**We wait with bated breath. Amen.**

✦ **THE WORD** ✦

*Please rise, as you are able.*



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.

**Gospel**

Matthew 13:31-32

**P** *The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the thirteenth chapter.*  
**C** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*<sup>31</sup> He put before them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; <sup>32</sup> it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest*

*of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches.”*

*<sup>44</sup> “The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which a man found and reburied; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.*

*<sup>45</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; <sup>46</sup> on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it.*

*<sup>47</sup> “Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; <sup>48</sup> when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. <sup>49</sup> So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous <sup>50</sup> and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

*<sup>51</sup> “Have you understood all this?” They answered, “Yes.” <sup>52</sup> And he said to them, “Therefore every scribe who has become a disciple in the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old.”*

**P**    *The Gospel of the Lord.*  
**C**    **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please be seated.*

**Sermon**

The Rev. Drew McCaffery

*Please rise, as you are able.*

*Visual Art Project*

*Tell Me Something Good!*

*Each week this Lent, we are practicing the art of noticing goodness. In a world where bad news is loud and constant, we are choosing to listen for the good news Jesus proclaimed and embodied. So, we ask one simple question: Tell me something good? Take a moment to reflect on the question this week, write your response on a leaf, and as you come up for communion place it in the leaf basket. As we name goodness together, we trust that it will take root among us and grow.*

Today's question

*What small or surprising moment of goodness caught you off guard this week?*

**Hymn of the Day**

*Seed That in Earth is Dying*

No. 330



1 Seed that in earth is dy - ing grows in - to ears of  
 2 We were bap - tized in Je - sus, in - to his death and  
 3 Seed that in earth is dy - ing ris - es to bear much



grain.  
 grave,  
 fruit.                      Grapes that are crushed in the ves - sel  
 to res - ur - rec - tion's prom - ise:  
 Christ, as we meet at your ta - ble,

*Please be seated.*

- A** *Let us confess our faith using the words of the Nicene Creed.*
- C** **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

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

*A brief silence.*

*After each portion of the prayers:*

**A** *Hear us O God,*

**C** **Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

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

**C** **Amen.**

**P** *The peace of the Lord be with you always.*

**C** **And also with you.**

**Offering Anthem**

*Incline thine Ear*

Aee. Alan Ridout

*As the gifts are presented, please stand, as you are able.*



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble



with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

**A** *Let us pray. O God, maker of heaven and earth,*  
**C** **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.**

✦ **THE EUCHARIST** ✦

**P** *The Lord be with you.*  
**C** **And also with you.**

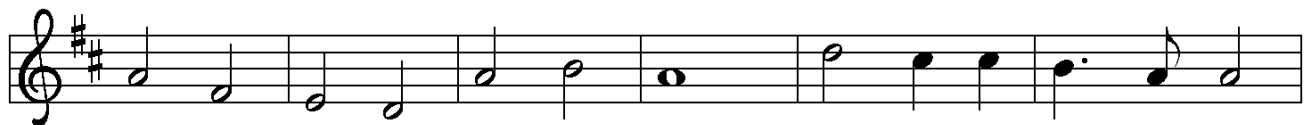
**P** *Lift up your hearts.*

**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.**

**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. 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:*



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r 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.

**P** *Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.*

*Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.*

*Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.*

*Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.*

*Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.*

*Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.*

*Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.*

*Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.*

*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.*

**P** *With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:*

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

**P** *O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence.*

**C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P** *Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.*

**C** **Come, Holy Spirit.**

**P** *With your holy ones of all times and places, with the earth and all its creatures, with sun and moon and stars, we praise you, O God, blessed and holy Trinity, now and forever.*

**C** **Amen.**

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

**C** **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.**

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

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

*Please be seated.*

*All are welcome at the Lord's Table! Whether you are a member of this church or a visitor, the Communion celebrated here is "open" to all who trust that our Lord Jesus Christ—his true Body and his true Blood—is present for All of God's People.*

*(Note: should you prefer, we also offer gluten free wafers and grape juice.)*

*During the distribution, the following is sung:*



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, grant us peace.

*Refrain*



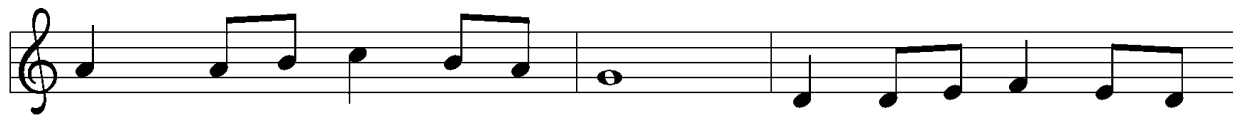
Bread of life from heav-en, your blood and bod - y giv - en, we



eat this bread and drink this cup un - til you come a - gain.



1	Break	now	the	bread	of	Christ's	sac - ri - fice;	giv - ing
2	Seek	not	the	food	that	will	pass	a - way;
3	Love	as	the	one	who,	in	love	for
4	Dwell	in	the	one	who	now	dwells	in
5	Drink	of	this	cup	and	de - clare	his	death;



thanks,	hun - gry	ones,	gath - er	round.	Eat,	all	of	you,
hearts	on	the	food	that	en - dures.	Come,	learn	the
self	for	the	life	of	the	world.	Come	to
home	in	the	life - giv - ing	Word.	Know	on - ly	Christ,	Ho - ly
bread	and	be - lieve	Eas - ter	morn;	trust	his	re - turn	and,



sat - is - fied;	in	Christ's	pres - ence	the	loaves	will	a - bound.
liv - ing	way,	that	the	full - ness	of	life	may
food	for	you,	that	your	hun - ger	and	thirst
One	of	God,	and	be - lieve	in	the	truth
ev - 'ry	breath,	praise	the	one	in	whom	you

*Refrain*

*After all have communed, please rise, as you are able.*

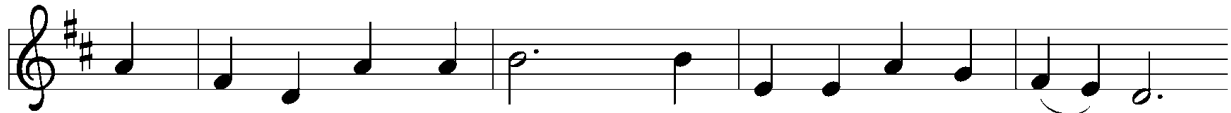
**P** *The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**C** **Amen.**

**A** *Let us pray. God of our Salvation,*  
**C** **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**

✦ **SENDING** ✦

**P** *As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love. When you meet fear, speak with hope. When you meet pain, speak with gentleness. But no matter what, speak this good news. For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all. It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms. The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking. For if you won't, then who will? Thanks be to God for this good, good news.*  
**C** **Amen.**



1 O God, my faith - ful God, true foun-tain ev - er flow - ing,  
2 Give me the strength to do with read - y heart and will - ing  
3 Keep me from say - ing words that lat - er need re - call - ing;  
4 When dan-gers gath - er round, oh, keep me calm and fear - less;



with - out whom noth-ing is, all per-fect gifts be - stow - ing:  
what - ev - er you com-mand, my call-ing here ful - fill - ing—  
guard me, lest i - dle speech may from my lips be fall - ing;  
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheer-less;



give me a health - y frame, and may I have with - in  
to do it when I ought, with all my might—and bless  
but when, with - in my place, I must and ought to speak,  
help me, as you have taught, to love both great and small,



a con-science free from blame, a soul un - stained by sin.  
what - ev - er I have wrought, for you must give suc - cess.  
then to my words give grace, lest I of - fend the weak.  
and, by your Spir - it's might, to live at peace with all.

**A** *Go in peace. Believe the good news.*

**C** **Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude**

**Pray for Those That Need God's Healing**

*Gail, Phyllis, Paul, Ann, Kathy, Donna, Andrea, Al,  
Joan, Teri, Betty, Carol, Merrill, Joan, Jean, Joan S., Jocelyn,  
Karen, Nick, Lois, Linda, Barbara & Bruce*

**The Altar Flowers are Given to the Glory of God**

*by Tricia Horst in thanksgiving of Al's birthday.*

*and*

*by Dick Hoffman in memory of Bonnie Hoffman on their anniversary.*





## CONTACT INFORMATION

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**Opportunities to Serve**

We invite you to scan the QR code to add yourself to the worship assistant Sign-up for any upcoming worship services.

**Thank you for being the Church together!**

**SERVE**

## SERVING TODAY

**8:30 a.m.**

**11:00 a.m.**

Assisting Minister

Sherman Canapp, OSSD

Betsey Foster

Communion Assistant

Tina Zimmerman

Ushers

Doyle McCracken

Peggy Thomas  
John Helmick

Livestream

Joel Raedeke