

Sanctuary Worship Service
Second Sunday in Lent – March 1, 2026, 8:00 AM

PRELUDE

O How He Loves You and Me

O how He Loves you and me! O how He Loves you and me!
He gave His life; what more could He give?
O how He Loves you; O how He Loves me; O how He Loves you and me!

Jesus to Calvary did go; His love for sinners to show.
What He did there brought hope from despair
O how He Loves you; O how He Loves me; O how He Loves you and me!

Text Kurt Kaiser copyright 1975 Word Music

WELCOME

PASTOR

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

PASTOR

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 you life and peace.
Amen.

OPENING HYMN

Oh, Love, How Deep **ELW 322 (vs. 1, 4,5,6,7) (tune ELW 557)**

Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high,
beyond all thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake!

For us he prayed; for us he taught;
for us his daily works he wrought,
by words and signs and actions thus
still seeking not himself, but us.

For us by wickedness betrayed,
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death;
for us he gave his dying breath.

For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad;
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.

Text: Thomas á Kempis, 1380-1471; tr. Benjamin Webb, 1819-1885, alt.

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



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, 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 ho - ly house, and for all who of - fer here their wor - ship and praise,

HYMN OF PRAISE

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

ELW 334 (1,3)

Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,
in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of hist'ry,
still you rise with ev'ry morn,
still you rise with ev'ry morn.

Christ, you lead and we shall follow,
stumbling though our steps may be;
one with you in joy and sorrow,
we the river, you the sea,
we the river, you the sea.

Light of life beyond conceiving,
mighty Spirit of our Lord;
give new strength to our believing,
give us faith to live your word.

From the dawning of creation
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950 Text © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved.
Used by permission. ONELICENSE #731020-A

PRAYER OF THE DAY

PASTOR

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.

Amen.

FIRST READING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Genesis 12:1-4a

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

RESPONSIVE READING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Psalm 121

- ¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?
² **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**
³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.
⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**
⁵ the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;
⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**
⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.
⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

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.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Return to the Lord, your God for
He is gracious and merciful,
Slow to anger, and abounding
in steadfast love.

The holy gospel according to John the 3rd chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

GOSPEL

PASTOR

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.”

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

God Loved the World ELW 323

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.

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.

If you are ill, if death draws near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus rescues us from death;
that is the firmest ground of faith.

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.

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

Text: Gesangbuch, Bollhagen, 1791; tr. August Crull, 1846-1923, alt. ONELICENSE #731020-A

APOSTLES' CREED

PASTOR

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.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ASSISTING MINISTER

Hear us, O God.
Your mercy is great.

OFFERING

ASSISTING MINISTER

Ways to digitally give:

- Text: "ILC" to 73256 and fill out the form
- Online at www.ilcville.org
- Realm app

SHARING OF THE PEACE OF THE LORD

OFFERTORY HYMN

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW 666 (vs. 1,3,4)

What wondrous love is this,
O my soul, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this, O my soul!
What wondrous love is this
that caused the Lord of bliss
to bear the dreadful curse
for my soul, for my soul,
to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
To God and to the Lamb
I will sing, I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb I will sing;
to God and to the Lamb,
who is the great I AM,
while millions join the theme,
I will sing, I will sing,
while millions join the theme, I will sing.

And when from death I'm free,
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on;
and when from death I'm free,
I'll sing God's love for me,
and through eternity
I'll sing on, I'll sing on;
and through eternity I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt. ONELICENSE #731020-A

OFFERING PRAYER

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.
Amen.

PASTOR

GREAT THANKSGIVING

ELW p. 190

The Lord be with you.

And Also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We have them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY

ELW 190

Holy, Holy, Holy
Great Thanksgiving



Music: *Deutsche Messe*, Franz Schubert, 1797–1828; adapt. Richard Proulx, b. 1937
Adapt. © 1985, 1989 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 www.giamusic.com
800.442.3358 All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

PASTOR

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

LAMB OF GOD

ELW 336

Your only Son, no sin to hide, but you have
Sent him from your side to walk upon this guilty
Sod and to become the lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of
God. Oh, wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the
Lamb of God.

Your gift of love we crucified, We laughed and scorned him as
he died. The humble king we named a fraud and sacrificed the
Lamb of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of
God. Oh, wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the
Lamb of God.

I was so lost, I should have died, but you have brought me to
your side to be led by your staff and rod and to be called a lamb
of God.

O Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of
God. Oh, wash me in your precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the
Lamb of God.

Text: Twila Paris, b. 1958 Music: Twila Paris ©1985 Straightway Music/Mountain Spring Music

COMMUNION

PASTOR

COMMUNION HYMN

Jesus Loves Me!

ELW 595

Jesus loves me! this I know,
for the Bible tells me so;
little ones to him belong,
they are weak, but he is strong.

Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! he who died
heaven's gates to open wide;
he will wash away my sin,
let his little child come in.

Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

Jesus loves me! he will stay
close beside me all the way;
when at last I come to die,
he will take me home on high.

Yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
yes, Jesus loves me,
the Bible tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt. ONELICENSE #731020-A

Love Consecrates the Humblest Act **ELW 360**

Love consecrates the humblest act
and haloes mercy's deeds;
it sheds a benediction sweet
and hallows human needs.

When in the shadow of the cross
Christ knelt and washed the feet
of his disciples, he gave us
a sign of love complete.

Love serves and willing stoops to serve;
what Christ in love so true
has freely done for one and all,
let us now gladly do!

Text: Silas B. McManus, 1845-1917. ONELICENSE #731020-A

Great God, Your Love Has Called Us
ELW 358 (tune 812)

Great God, your love has called us here
as we, by love, for love were made.

Your living likeness still we bear,
though marred, dishonored, disobeyed.
We come, with all our heart and mind
your call to hear, your love to find.

We come with self-inflicted pains
of broken trust and chosen wrong,
half-free, half-bound by inner chains,
by social forces swept along,
by powers and systems close confined
yet seeking hope for humankind.

Great God, in Christ you call our name
and then receive us as your own
not through some merit, right, or claim,
but by your gracious love alone.
We strain to glimpse your mercy seat
and find you kneeling at our feet.

Then take the towel, and break the bread,
and humble us, and call us friends.
Suffer and serve till all are fed,
and show how grandly love intends
to work till all creation sings,
to fill all worlds, to crown all things.

Great God, in Christ you set us free
your life to live, your joy to share.
Give us your Spirit's liberty
to turn from guilt and dull despair,
and offer all that faith can do
while love is making all things new.

Text: Brian A. Wren, b. 1936 Text © 1977, rev. 1995 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission
ONELICENSE #731020-A

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PASTOR

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

PASTOR

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

I Love to Tell the Story **ELW 661**

I love to tell the story
of unseen things above,
of Jesus and his glory,
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
because I know it's true;
it satisfies my longings
as nothing else would do.

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

I love to tell the story:
how pleasant to repeat
what seems, each time I tell it,
more wonderfully sweet!
I love to tell the story,
for some have never heard
the message of salvation
from God's own holy word.

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.
I love to tell the story,
for those who know it best
seem hungering and thirsting
to hear it like the rest.
And when, in scenes of glory,

I sing the new, new song,
I'll sing the old, old story
that I have loved so long.

I love to tell the story;
'twill be my theme in glory
to tell the old, old story
of Jesus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911 ONELICENSE #731020-A

TEMPLE TALK

**SHARION TANNER
WELCA**

GOOD NEWS

ASSISTING MINISTER

**Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross
ELW 335 (refrain)**

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

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915 ONELICENSE #731020-A

DISMISSAL

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

ASSISTING MINISTER