



# WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD

MATTHEW 4:10

## First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026 - 9:30 a.m.



### Grace Lutheran Church

313 S. Prospect Avenue, Champaign, IL 61820

(217) 356-6232 • [office@glccu.org](mailto:office@glccu.org)

[www.glccu.org](http://www.glccu.org) • Pastor: Chris Repp

# Welcome to Grace!

At Grace Lutheran Church, we strive to be a community of acceptance, reconciliation and hope. Following in the way of Jesus, we welcome all people regardless of race, ethnicity, nationality, sexual orientation, gender identity, or age. God's acceptance of all compels us to stand against racism, sexism and all forms of hate and prejudice. We welcome your questions, your gifts, and your being.

## Connecting People to God, One Another, and the World

We believe that God is at work in this worship service, through Word and Sacrament, to create and sustain faith in God's promises of love, forgiveness, and reconciliation in Jesus Christ, and to bless us to be blessings. We use a rich, traditional pattern of worship that dates to the early days of Christianity. We recognize that it comes with a learning curve, but we're convinced that it's worth the effort. Don't feel like you have to get everything the first time. This way of worshipping may also include postures like standing and kneeling that may not be possible or comfortable for everyone. Please know that you are welcome to do what works for you.

### KEY TO THE ORDER OF SERVICE:

Regular type: spoken by a leader

**Bold type: spoken by the people**

*Regular Italics: sung/chanted by a leader*

***Bold Italics: sung/chanted by the people***

*Small Italics: liturgical directions and information*

✙ the sign of the cross may be made

ELW: Evangelical Lutheran Worship (Red Hymnal)

ACS: All Creation Sings (Purple Hymnal)

♪ Favorite Hymn request

### HELPFUL INFORMATION FOR VISITORS:

- Restrooms are down the hall to the left of the entrance, opposite the elevator.
- Hand sanitizer is available on the sanctuary windowsills.
- Large print bulletins are available
- Please sign our guest book at the entrance.

## As We Gather:

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.

# Gathering

## Prelude

*Jesus, I will ponder now (ELW 345)*

Robert Below (1934-2020)

## Welcome

*The assembly stands.*

## Confession and Absolution

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

In the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.

*The assembly kneels or is seated.*

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

**Amen.**

The assembly stands.

# Gathering Hymn

*O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days*

ELW 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

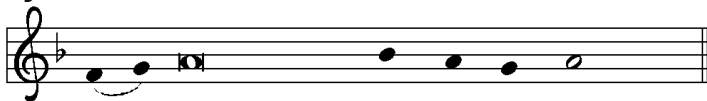
for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

# Greeting

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.**

## Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



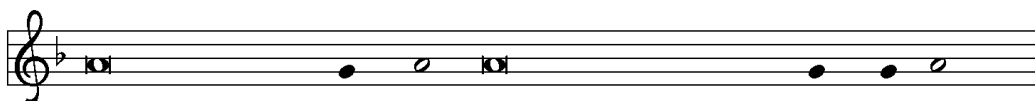
Lord, have mer - cy.



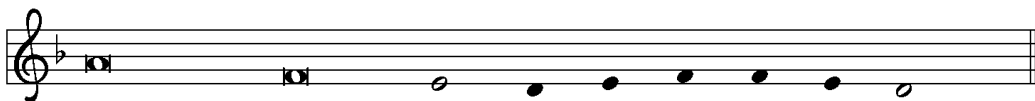
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - va - tion, let us pray to the Lord.



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,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray. 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# Word

Children's Sermon

Pastor Chris Repp

## 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.*

<sup>15</sup> The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

<sup>3:1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup> So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**



## Psalmody

Psalm 32

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!
- <sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD." Then you forgave me the  
guilt of my sin.
- <sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup> **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**
- <sup>9</sup> 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."
- <sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.**
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD;  
shout for joy, all who are 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.*

<sup>12</sup> Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

<sup>15</sup> But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one

man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. <sup>16</sup> And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. <sup>17</sup> If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

<sup>18</sup> Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. <sup>19</sup> For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands.*

## Gospel Procession



Tree of Life and awe-some mys - t'ry, in your  
death we are re - born; though you die in all of his - t'ry, still you  
rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn.

## 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.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said

to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.”<sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,  
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,  
‘He will command his angels concerning you,’  
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,  
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

From the dawn - ing of cre - a - tion you have  
loved us as your own; stay with us through all temp - ta - tion, make us  
turn to you a - lone, make us turn to you a - lone.

The image shows a musical score for the hymn 'Praise to you, O Christ.' It consists of three staves of music in a single system, all written on a treble clef staff with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the lyrics 'From the dawn - ing of cre - a - tion you have'. The second staff contains 'loved us as your own; stay with us through all temp - ta - tion, make us'. The third staff contains 'turn to you a - lone, make us turn to you a - lone.' The music is in a simple, hymn-like style with a mix of quarter and eighth notes.

*The assembly is seated.*

Sermon

Pastor Chris Repp

# Hymn of the Day

*Jesus, Still Lead On*

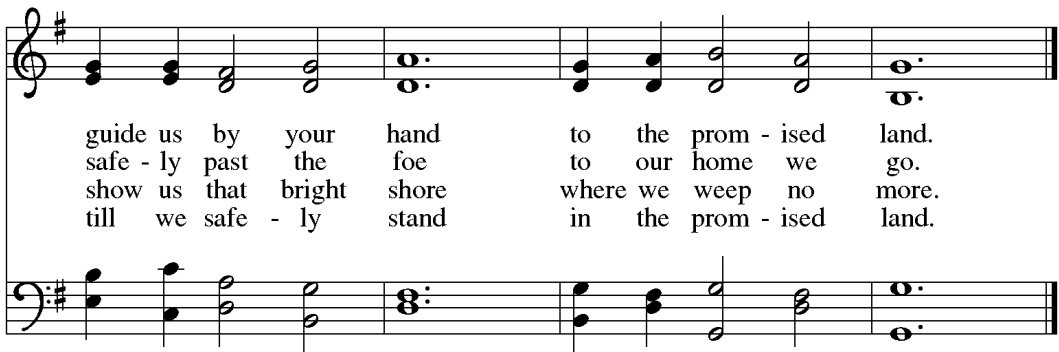
ELW 624



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the  
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions  
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,



way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,



guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.  
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

## Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 Intercession

With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,  
let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

*The assembly kneels or is seated. Each petition concludes:*

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

*The prayers conclude:*

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray,  
Trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our savior.

**Amen.**

*The assembly stands.*

## Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

*The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace, and may say, "Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*After the Peace, the assembly is seated.*



## Meal

### Offering

*Please place your offering in the plate on the table in the aisle as you leave.*

*You may also give online at <http://glccu.org/donate> or scan the QR code with your photos app to connect to the donation page on the GLC website.*



# Offertory

*Hear My Prayer*

by Moses Hogan arr. by Roger Emerson

*O Lord, please hear my prayer,  
In the mornin' when I rise.  
It's Your servant bound for glory.  
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.*

*O Lord, please hear my prayer,  
Keep me safe within Your arms  
It's Your servant bound for glory.  
O dear Lord, please hear my prayer.*

*When my work on earth is done,  
And You come to take me home  
Just to know I'm bound for glory.  
And to hear you say well done.  
Done with sin and sorrow, have mercy. Amen.*

Moses Hogan's *Hear My Prayer* is a dramatic spiritual that transforms a simple plea for mercy into a powerful communal cry of repentance and trust. Through dynamic contrasts and expressive harmonies, the work moves from introspective supplication to confident assurance in God's faithfulness. This trajectory resonates with the Lenten themes found in Genesis 3 and Psalm 32, where human sin is met with confession and the promise of forgiveness. Paired with Romans 5 and Matthew 4, the piece underscores both humanity's need for redemption and steadfast reliance on God amid temptation.

Moses Hogan (1957–2003) was an American composer, arranger, pianist, and conductor best known for his virtuosic settings of African American spirituals. A graduate of the Oberlin Conservatory of Music and the Juilliard School, he combined classical training with a deep stylistic understanding of the spiritual tradition. As founder of the Moses Hogan Chorale, he elevated the concert spiritual to international prominence through performances, recordings, and publications that remain central to the choral canon.

*The assembly stands.*

Offering Verse *Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW 188

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

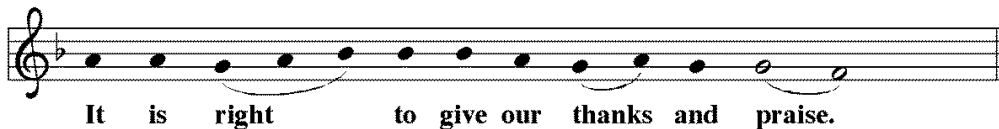
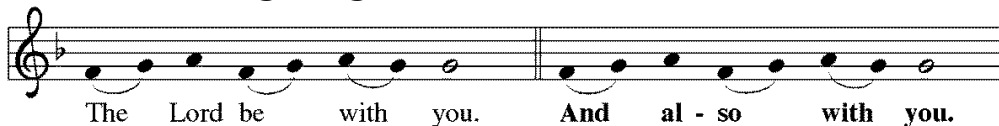
# Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

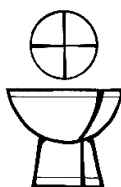
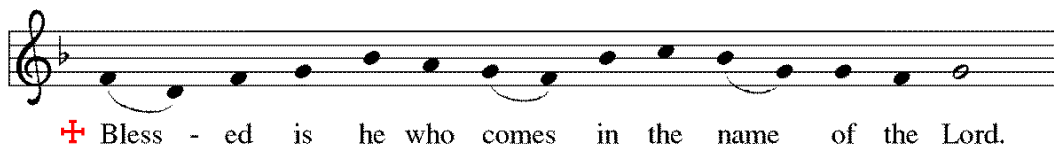
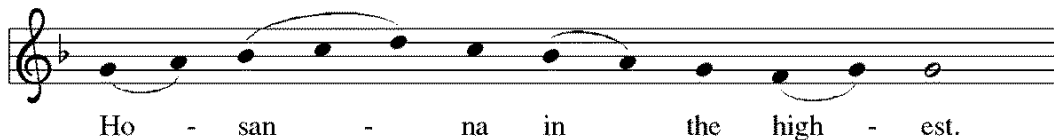
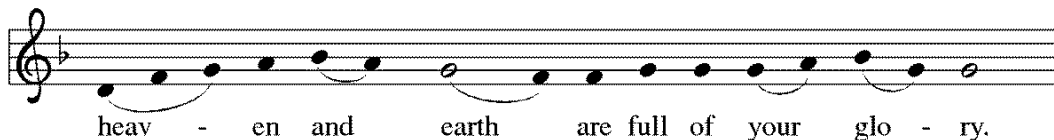
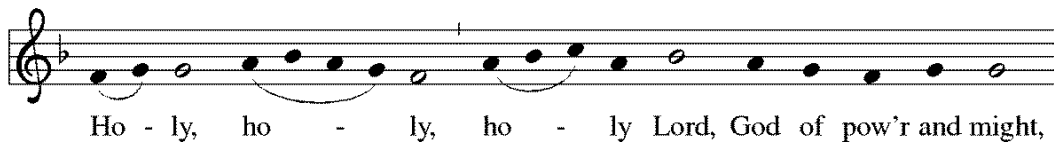
**O God, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, that we may bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**



## Great Thanksgiving



*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:*



## Words of Institution

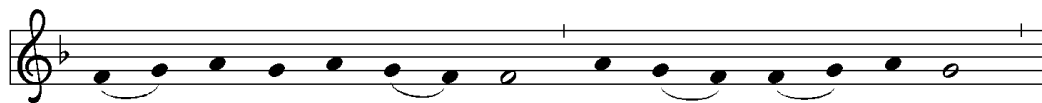
*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*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.*

# The Lord's Prayer



Gathered into one by the Ho-ly Spir - it, let us pray as Je-sus taught us.



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,



your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.



Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we



for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al



and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,



and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

The gifts of God for the people of God.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly is seated.*

# Communion

*We believe that Christ is truly present for us in the bread and wine of Holy Communion, forming us into his body for the sake of the world. We welcome to the Lord's table all baptized Christians. Those who are not baptized we invite to explore with us the Christian faith and consider baptism. Those who do not commune are invited to come forward to receive a blessing. Please hold this bulletin in your hands as a sign that you would like a blessing.*

*To receive communion, please join the line in the center aisle and proceed to the pastor. (Note: gluten-free wafers are available. Just ask the pastor.) After receiving the bread, proceed to your left or right to receive the wine, taking a pre-filled glass from the tray. (Grape juice is also available.) Place your used glass in the basket provided near the stairs on the side you leave.*

## 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. A - men.

# Communion Hymn *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

ELW 325

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

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

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

*The assembly stands.*

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

## Prayer After Communion

Let us pray. We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**



## Sending

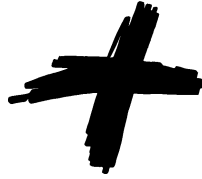
### (Sending Of Communion)

*A prayer may be said for the sending of communion to those who are absent.*

## Blessing

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✚ give you peace.

**Amen.**



## Sending Hymn

*If God My Lord Be for Me*

ELW 788

1 If God my Lord be for me, I may a host de - fy;  
2 I build on this foun - da - tion, that Je - sus and his blood  
3 Christ Je - sus is my splen - dor, my sun, my light, a - lone;  
4 For joy my heart is ring - ing; all sor - row dis - ap - pears;

for when I pray, be - fore me my foes, con - found - ed, fly.  
a - lone are my sal - va - tion, the true, e - ter - nal good.  
were he not my de - fend - er be - fore the judg - ment throne,  
and full of mirth and sing - ing, it wipes a - way all tears.

If Christ, my head and mas - ter, be - friend me from a - bove,  
With - out him all that pleas - es will vain and emp - ty prove.  
I nev - er should find fa - vor and mer - cy in God's sight,  
The sun that cheers my spir - it is Je - sus Christ, my king;



what foe or what di - sas - ter can drive me from his love?  
 The gifts I have from Je - sus a - lone are worth my love.  
 but be de - stroyed for - ev - er as dark - ness by the light.  
 the heav'n I shall in - her - it makes me re - joice and sing.

## Announcements

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Postlude

*Chaconne in G minor*

Louis Couperin (c.1626-1661)

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## Worship Support

*The ministry of the church is carried out by all of its people, and Christian worship is a communal activity of the whole assembly. We give thanks to the following for their worship leadership and support today.*

Presiding Minister:	<b>Pastor Chris Repp</b>	Livestream:	<b>Michael Miller</b>
Assisting Minister:	<b>Marlys Scarbrough</b>	Sound Technician:	<b>Kevin Vail</b>
Reader:	<b>Cindy Grigorescu</b>	Music Director:	<b>Nicholas Pierle</b>
Deacon:	<b>Susan Monte</b>	Organist:	<b>Mike Keeley</b>
Greeters:	<b>Dennis &amp; Allison Archer</b>	Office Assistant:	<b>Karen Maher</b>
Ushers:	<b>Carol &amp; Dave Larson</b>	Coffee Hour:	<b>Carol &amp; Dave Larson</b>

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