

Wednesday in the Second Week of Lent

March 4, 2026

Hymn

"Oh, Love, How Deep"

ELW #322

Brief Meditation

First Reading

1 Corinthians 1:18-25

¹⁸ For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

¹⁹ For it is written,

"I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart."

²⁰ Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scholar? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? ²¹ For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of the proclamation, to save those who believe. ²² For Jews ask for signs and Greeks desire wisdom, ²³ but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to gentiles, ²⁴ but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. ²⁵ For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Silence for reflection is kept

Second Reading

from *Accidental Saints:
Finding God in All The Wrong People*
by Nadia Bolz-Weber

The film *Almost Famous* tells the story of a young man, William, who finds himself as a reporter on tour with a famous rock band. His conversation with an older writer, Lester, at the end of the film captures this notion perfectly.

William laments that he tried to be cool, that he felt almost cool with the guys in the band, even though he ultimately knew he wasn't.

Lester exclaims, "Look, I've met you. You're not cool. But the only true currency in this bankrupt world is what we share with someone else when we're uncool."

At the end of his dinner party parable, Jesus says that when a party is thrown we should invite the lame, the poor, the crippled, and the blind. Might he be suggesting that in God's kingdom we can embrace whatever we are trying to hide or compensate for? In the kingdom of God, we need not cultivate a persona to hide the lame, poor, blind, or crippled parts of us. The unflattering photos. The parts that have nothing to offer, that must rely on others for help.

In other words, the uncool parts of us are exactly what Jesus invites to sit and eat around his table. As though the only true currency in this bankrupt world is what we share with God and each other when we are uncool, lame, blind, poor, and crippled. And as uncomfortable as I am, as you are, to be seen in such a stark and uncompromising light, there is much relief in it. Perhaps it really is safer and even wise in so much of our lives to protect ourselves. But around God's table, and around God's people, you don't have to pretend or overcompensate. You can just be. And in just being, you can, in the fierce and loving eyes of God, be known, be whole, and maybe even find a little rest. Because keeping it all going is just exhausting.

Silence for reflection is kept