

# ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD  
LITTLETON, COLORADO

*February 22, 2026*

10:30 a.m. Sunday



## **FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

### **LED BY THE SPIRIT, JESUS IS TEMPTED**

### **AS WE GATHER**

Only weeks ago, Jesus was called out by John as the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Now Jesus reveals what He must do for us and our salvation. He must stand where Adam stood, tempted by the devil. This time, however, Jesus refuses to surrender His righteousness in the face of evil but preserves it so that He might give it to you and to me. With confidence in Christ's righteousness, which we wear by Baptism, and His forgiveness, which restores us when we fall, we know that the devil can harm us no more. We belong to Christ. In the power of Christ, we are made strong before the tempter's power, and in Him we are brought through death to life everlasting.

✧ PREPARATION ✧

**Gathering Song      Blessed Be Your Name**

Matt Redman

Blessed be Your name In the land that is plentiful  
Where Your streams of abundance flow Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be Your name When I'm found in the desert place  
Though I walk through the wilderness Blessed be Your name

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord Still I will say

**CHORUS: Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be the name of the Lord Blessed be Your glorious name**

Blessed be Your name When the sun's shining down on me  
When the world's all as it should be Blessed be Your name  
Blessed be Your name On the road marked with suffering  
Though there's pain in the offering Blessed be Your name

Ev'ry blessing You pour out I'll Turn back to praise  
When the darkness closes in Lord Still I will say **CHORUS**

You give and take away You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say Lord blessed be Your name  
You give and take away You give and take away  
My heart will choose to say Lord blessed be Your name **CHORUS**

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**Pastoral Greeting**

**Opening Song      The Power of Your Love**

Geoff Bullock

Lord I come to You Let my heart be changed renewed  
Flowing from the grace That I found in You  
And Lord I've come to know The weaknesses I see in me  
Will be stripped away By the pow'r of Your love

**CHORUS**  
**Hold me close Let Your love surround me**  
**Bring me near Draw me to Your side**  
**And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle**  
**And I will soar with You Your Spirit leads me on**  
**In the pow'r of Your love**

Lord unveil my eyes Let me see You face to face  
The knowledge of Your love As You live in me  
Lord renew my mind As Your will unfolds in my life  
In living ev'ry day By the pow'r of Your love **CHORUS (x2)**



**And as I wait I'll rise up like the eagle  
And I will soar with You Your Spirit leads me on  
In the pow'r of Your love**

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## **Invocation**

**Pastor:** In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION** *Psalm 51:1-9*

**Pastor:** Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

**People:** **according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.**

**Pastor:** Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

**People:** **and cleanse me from my sin!**

**Pastor:** For I know my transgressions,

**People:** **and my sin is ever before me.**

**Pastor:** Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,

**People:** **so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.**

**Pastor:** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity,

**People:** **and in sin did my mother conceive me.**

**Pastor:** Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being,

**People:** **and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.**

## ***Silence for personal confession.***

**Pastor:** Most merciful Father in heaven,

**People:** **I am a sinner. I have no one to blame. The fault is my own. I deserve to be punished. I am truly sorry for my sins. Yet, for the sake of the loving sacrifice of Your only Son, Jesus Christ, I dare to beg for Your forgiveness because the punishment for sin was taken out on Him. Therefore, remove from me the guilt of my sin and wash me that I may be whole again. Help me to be faithful today, tomorrow, and each day, by the power of Your Holy Spirit. Amen.**

**Pastor:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People:** **Amen.**



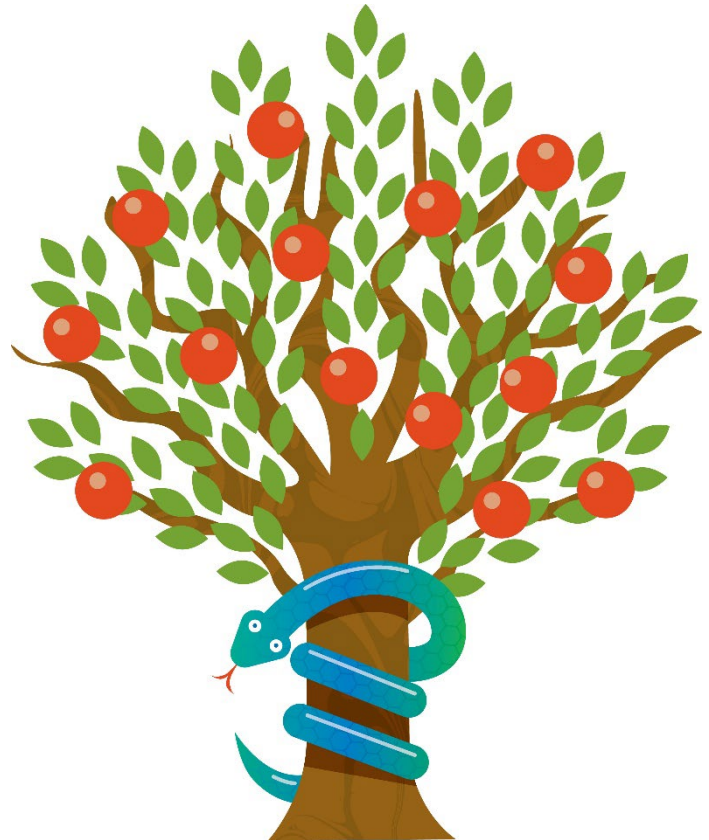
✂ WORD ✂

**Old Testament Reading: Genesis 3:1-21**

*(Sin entered into the world through the fall of Adam.)*

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made.

He said to the woman, “Did God actually say, ‘You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?’” And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.’” But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 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. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.



And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

The Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

To the woman he said, “I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

And to Adam he said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Epistle: Romans 5:12-19**

*(By one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by one man's obedience shall the many be declared righteous.)*

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

**Lenten Gradual and Verse** *Ephesians 6:11; Hebrews 12:2*

Pastor: Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.

**Women:** O come, let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

**Men:** who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

**Pastor:** The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

**People:** Glory to You, O Lord.

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

*(Our Lord is tempted by Satan in the wilderness.)*

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple and said 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone."

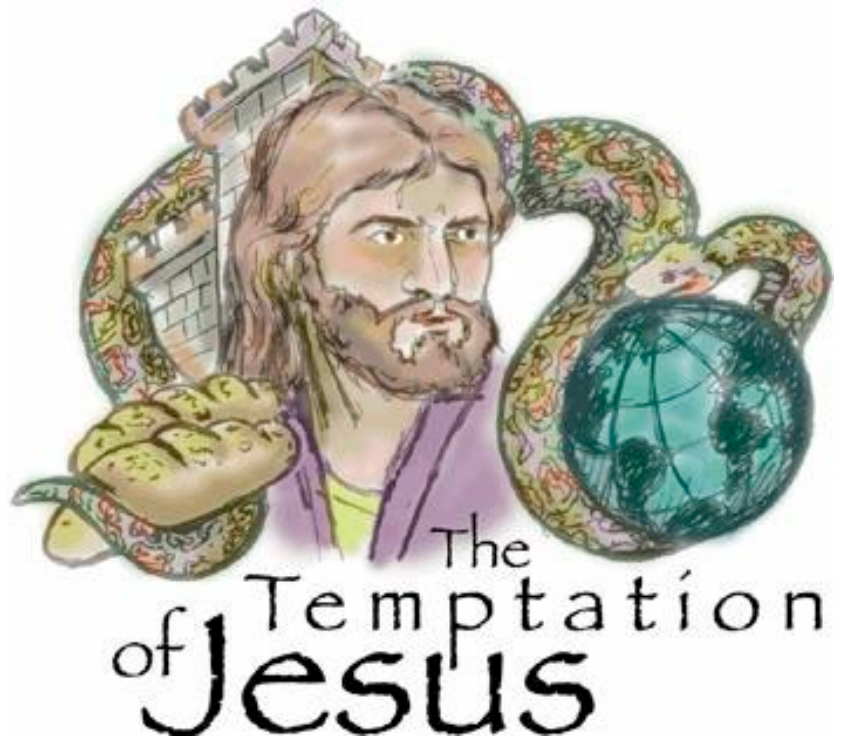
Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. And he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve."

Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

**Pastor:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** Praise to You, O Christ.

**Children's Message**



Stephanie Roettjer

## Song of the Day      A Mighty Fortress Is Our God

Martin Luther  
arr. Tommy Walker

A mighty fortress is our God A bulwark never failing  
Our helper He amid the flood Of mortal ills prevailing  
For still our ancient foe Doth seek to work us woe  
His craft and power are great And armed with cruel hate  
On earth is not his equal

Did we in our own strength confide Our striving would be losing  
Were not the right man on our side The man of God's own choosing  
Dost ask who that may be Christ Jesus it is He  
Lord Sabaoth His name From age to age the same  
And He must win the battle **CHORUS**

**CHORUS:**      **A mighty fortress**  
                  **A mighty fortress is our God**  
                  **A mighty fortress**  
                  **A mighty fortress is our God**

And though this world With devils filled  
Should threaten to undo us We will not fear  
For God hath willed His truth to triumph through us  
The prince of darkness grim We tremble not for him  
His rage we can endure For lo his doom is sure  
One little word shall fell him **CHORUS**

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**Sermon**                      "A Tough Beginning"

Pastor John Larson  
Text: Genesis 3:1-21

**The Apostles' Creed**

**Prayer of the Church**

**Pastor:**      Lord, in your mercy ...

**People:**      **Hear our prayer.**

**Sharing of the Peace**

**Pastor:**      The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:**      **And also with you.**

*You may now greet one another in the name of the Lord using...Peace be with you!*

**Offering** (*collected in the back*)



**PSALM 119:114, ESV**

## ✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

*The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.*

## ✠ SACRAMENT ✠

### **Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)**

LSB 160

**Pastor:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** **And also with you.**

**Pastor:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** **We lift them to the Lord.**

**Pastor:** Let us give thanks  
to the Lord our God.

**People:** **It is right to give Him  
thanks and praise.**

### **Words of Institution**

**Lord's Prayer** *Matthew 6:9-13*

**People:** **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.**



### **DISTRIBUTION MUSIC**

**Song** **Knowing You**

Graham Kendrick

All I once held dear built my life upon  
All this world reveres and wars to own  
All I once thought gain I have counted loss  
Spent and worthless now compared to this

**CHORUS: Knowing You Jesus knowing You  
There is no greater thing  
You're my all You're the best  
You're my joy my righteousness  
And I love You Lord**

Now my heart's desire is to know You more  
To be found in You and known as Yours  
To possess by faith what I could not earn  
All surpassing gift of righteousness **CHORUS**

Oh to know the pow'r of Your risen life  
And to know You in Your sufferings  
To become like You in Your death my Lord  
So with You to live and never die **CHORUS**

...love you Lord

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**Song DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME Christopher**

**Chorus: Do this in remembrance of Me.  
Do this in remembrance of Me.  
This is my body, this is my blood.  
Do this in remembrance of Me.**

This is My body given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of Me.  
This cup's the new covenant, sealed in My blood.  
Do this in remembrance of Me.  
For whenever you eat this bread  
and whenever you drink this cup,  
as you do you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. **CHORUS**

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## **General Communion Blessing**

**Benediction** (Divine Service, Setting One)

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People: Amen**

## Closing Song

## All the Power You Need

Fragar

My God can never fail  
He's been proved time and again  
Trust Him you'll see  
He's got all the power you need

He's never early never late  
It takes courage and it takes faith  
Trust Him you'll see he's got  
All the power you need

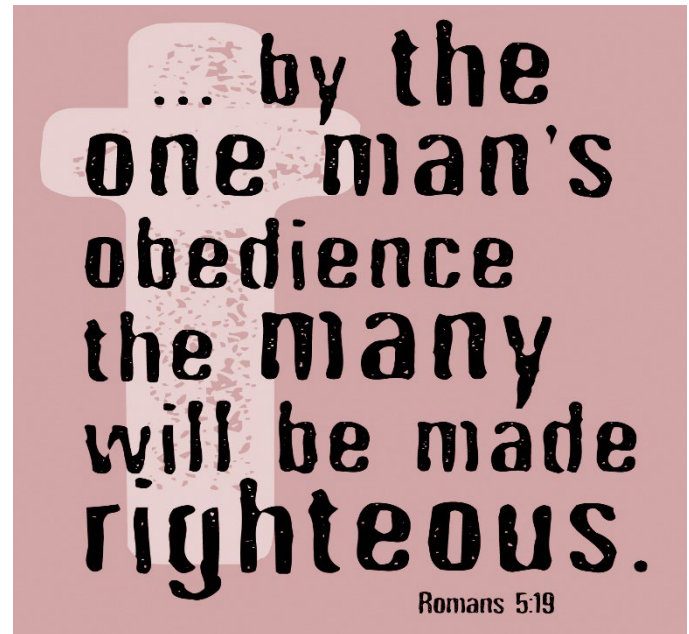
He saves forgives and heals  
He takes back what the devil steals  
My debt's paid in full  
And every day He does miracles

I got dreams turn them into plans  
Too big for human hands  
Trust Him you'll see  
He's got all the power you need

He's real He's real  
Faith's a lot stronger than what you feel  
He's real He's real  
I'm believing for miracles

I got dreams turn them into plans  
Too big for human hands  
Trust Him you'll see  
He's got all the power you need

Trust Him you'll see  
He's got all the power you need



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## Congregational Concerns

### Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.  
Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



### SERVING IN WORSHIP

<b>OFFICIANT</b>	Pastor John Larson
<b>MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST</b>	Michael Zehnder
<b>BELL CHOIR DIRECTOR</b>	Stephanie Roettjer
<b>ELDERS</b>	4:00 pm Jim Wert; 8:00 am Bob Olsen; 10:30 am David Pearman
<b>ACOLYTE</b>	8:00 am TBD; 10:30 am Tobin Lawrenz
<b>LECTORS</b>	4:00 pm Anita Baresel; 8:00 am Joyce Lord; 10:30 am Roland Scott
<b>COMMUNION SERVERS</b>	4:00 pm Anita Baresel; 10:30 am Roland Scott
<b>ALTAR GUILD</b>	Shelia Beu, Gloria Mielke, Charmaine Rohde

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