

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

March 8, 2026

10:30 a.m. Sunday



THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

WE WORSHIP WHAT WE KNOW

AS WE GATHER

It often seems that life is a debate about the things we do not know. What is truth? What is right and wrong? Where is God? None of these questions are theoretical and all of them are answered in Christ, whom we know as Savior and Redeemer. The Law reveals the depth of our need and our sinful hearts. Christ makes known the love of the Father. Gathered in worship, we meet where Christ is—in His Word and Sacraments. Faith is not about what we do not know but about what we do know. Christ is our all. He fulfills the promise of the Old Testament and completes our redemption. We confess Him who came, who comes to us now through the means of grace, and who will come again to deliver us to the Father. To know Christ is to know everything.

✘ PREPARATION ✘

Gathering Song All Who Are Thirsty

Brown | Robertson

All who are thirsty All who are weak
Come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life
Let the pain and the sorrow Be washed away
In the waves of His mercy As deep cries out to deep
(We sing)

CHORUS

**Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come (REPEAT)**

All who are thirsty All who are weak
Come to the fountain
Dip your heart in the stream of life
Let the pain and the sorrow Be washed away
In the waves of His mercy As deep cries out to deep
(We sing)

CHORUS

**Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come (REPEAT)**

CHORUS 2

**Holy Spirit come
Holy Spirit come (REPEAT)**

As deep cries out to deep
As deep cries out to deep we sing

CHORUS

**Come Lord Jesus come
Come Lord Jesus come (REPEAT)**



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Pastoral Greeting

Opening Song

YOUR GRACE IS ENOUGH

Maher

Great is Your faithfulness, O God;
You wrestle with the sinner's restless heart.
You lead us by still waters into mercy
And nothing can keep us apart.

**CHORUS: So, remember Your people, Remember Your children,
Remember Your promise O God.
Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough, for me.**

Great is Your love and justice, God of Jacob;
You use the weak to lead the strong.
You lead us in the song of Your salvation,
And all Your people sing along. **CHORUS**

Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough,
Your grace is enough, for me.

Remember Your people, Remember Your children,
Remember Your promise O God.
Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, Your grace is enough, for me.

Yeah, Your grace is enough; Heaven reaches out to us.
Your grace is enough for me.
God, I sing: Your grace is enough; I'm covered in Your love.
Your grace is enough for me, for me. C

CLI Song # 4477026 Matt Maher © 2003 Thankyou Music Ltd; spiritandsong.com For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License # 1903595

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.

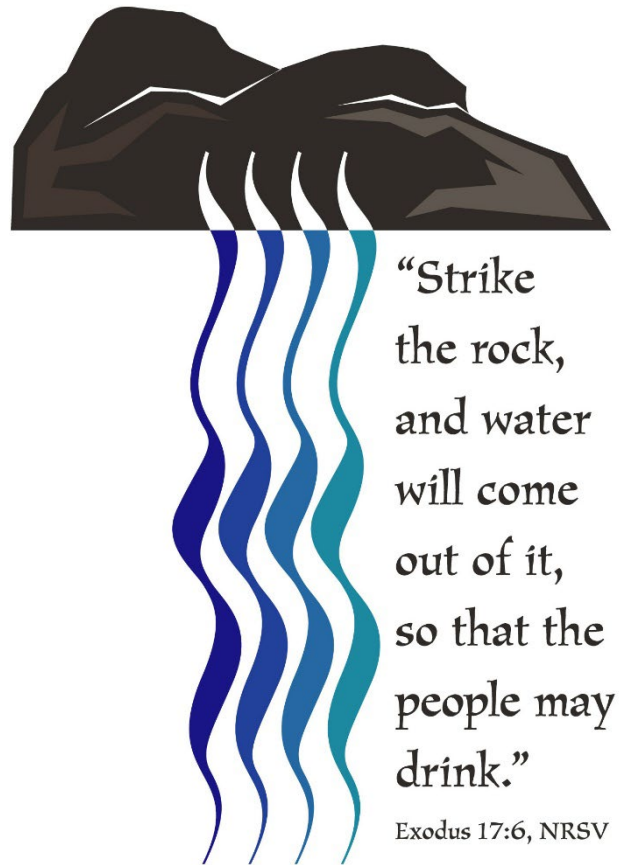
Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy on us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of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

☩ WORD ☩

Old Testament Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

(Moses is commanded to strike the rock from which God will bring forth water.)

All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the Lord, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” And Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?” But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?” So Moses cried to the Lord, “What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” And the Lord said to Moses, “Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the Lord by saying, “Is the Lord among us or not?”



Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle: Romans 5:1-8

(We have peace with God through Jesus Christ.)

Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die — but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Please rise for the Verse and the Holy Gospel.

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. John, the fourth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

Holy Gospel: John 4:5-26, 27-30, 39-42

(Jesus shows Himself as the living water to a Samaritan woman at the well.)

So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour.

A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?" (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but

whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.” The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’; for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.” The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.” Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in

spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.” Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

Just then his disciples came back. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you seek?” or, “Why are you talking with her?” So the woman left her water jar and went away into town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?” They went out of the town and were coming to him.

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, “He told me all that I ever did.” So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is indeed the Savior of the world.”



Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Children's Message

Pastor Larson

Song of the Day **Friend Of God** Houghton | Gungor

Who am I that You are mindful of me
That You hear me when I call
Is it true that You are thinking of me
How You love me it's amazing
It's amazing it's amazing

CHORUS

I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
He calls me friend (REPEAT CHORUS)

Who am I that You are mindful of me
That You hear me when I call
Is it true that You are thinking of me
How You love me it's amazing
It's amazing it's amazing

CHORUS

I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
He calls me friend (REPEAT CHORUS)

God Almighty Lord of Glory
You have called me friend (REPEAT)

I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
I am a friend of God
You call me friend (REPEAT)



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Sermon

"Can There Ever Be Peace?"

Pastor John Larson

Text: Romans 5:1-8

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)

✠ 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.**

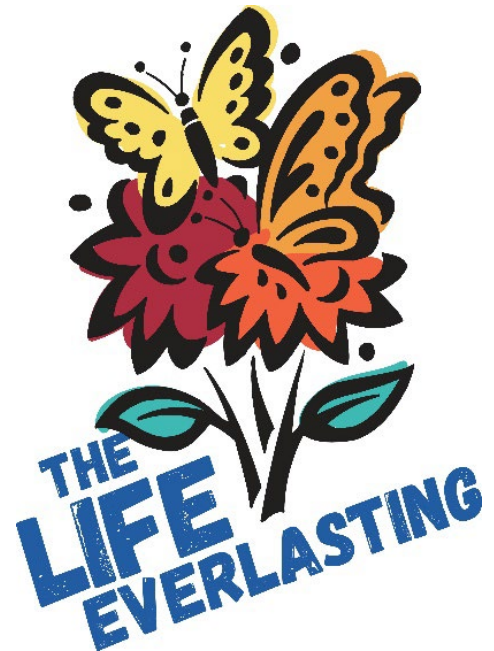
Pastor: Let us give thanks
to the Lord our God.

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 **COME TO JESUS (Untitled Hymn)**

Chris Rice

Weak and wounded sinner Lost and left to die
O, raise your head, for love is passing by
Come to Jesus Come to Jesus
Come to Jesus and live!

And like a newborn baby Don't be afraid to crawl
And remember when you walk
Sometimes we fall...so
Fall on Jesus Fall on Jesus
Fall on Jesus and live!

Sometimes the way is lonely And steep and filled with pain
So if your sky is dark and pours the rain, then
Cry to Jesus Cry to Jesus
Cry to Jesus and live!

And when the love spills over And music fills the night
And when you can't contain your joy inside, then
Dance for Jesus Dance for Jesus
Dance for Jesus and live!

And with your final heartbeat Kiss the world goodbye
Then go in peace, and laugh on Glory's side, and
Fly to Jesus Fly to Jesus
Fly to Jesus and live!

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Song “When Peace Like a River (It is Well)”

LSB 763

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 **SING UNTO THE LORD A NEW SONG**

**Becky Fender
BOB 195**

Sing unto the Lord a new song
Sing unto the Lord all the earth
Sing unto the Lord a new song
Sing unto the Lord all the earth (Repeat)

(continued on next page)

For God is great
And greatly to be praised
God is great and greatly to be praised, O

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Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace.
Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



SERVING IN WORSHIP

PREACHER / CELEBRANT

MINISTER OF MUSIC AND WORSHIP / ORGANIST

CHOIR DIRECTOR

CHOIR ACCOMPANIST and PIANIST

SOLOIST

ELDERS 4:00 pm Michael Lawrenz; 8:00 am Benjamin Dallet; 10:30 am David Pearman

ACOLYTE 8:00 am Ellise Friend; 10:30 am Tobin Lawrenz

LECTORS 4:00 pm Mike Price; 8:00 am Rev. Ed Maas; 10:30 am Sherry Hitztaler

COMMUNION SERVERS 4:00 pm Mike Price; 10:30 am Sherry Hitztaler

ALTAR GUILD Tanya Schmitt, Cathy Utecht, Charmaine Rohde

Pastor John Larson

Michael Zehnder

Stephanie Roettjer

Diana Gaide

Rachel Becker

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