



First Lutheran Church

FEBRUARY 22, 2026

1 LENT

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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

SOJOURNER

Doug McConnell

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

The assembly stands.

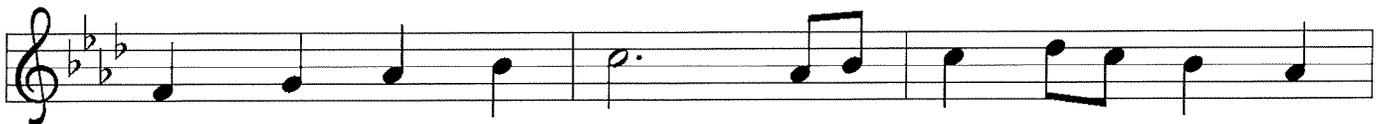
GATHERING SONG

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

L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. (2 Corinthians 13:13)

C: **And also with you.**

L: The word is near you,

C: **on your lips and in your heart.**

L: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: **and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead,
you will be saved.**

L: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: **and what is heard comes through the word of Christ. (Romans 10)**

SCRIPTURE SONG

Sal - va - tion be - longs to our God and to
Christ the Lamb for - ev - er and ev - er.

The cantor will sing the verses.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

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.

C: **Amen.**

The assembly is seated.

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

++ CHILDREN MAY ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL

FIRST LESSON

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.

R: A reading from Genesis, the second chapter.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.
¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ 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." ^{3:1} 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'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ 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.'"
⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."
⁶ 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. ⁷ 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.

R: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 32



Mer-cy em-brac - es those who trust in the LORD.

The cantor will sing the verses.

- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!
- ² Happy are they to whom the LORD im- ¹ putes no guilt,

- and in whose spirit there¹ is no guile!
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with-¹ered away,
because of my groaning¹ all day long.
- ⁴ For your hand was heavy upon me¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the¹ heat of summer. **Refrain**
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con-¹ceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD."
Then you forgave me the guilt¹ of my sin.
- ⁶ Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in¹ time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they¹ shall not reach them.
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve¹ me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts¹ of deliverance.
- ⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that¹ you should go;
I will guide you¹ with my eye. **Refrain**
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no¹ understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will¹ not stay near you."
- ¹⁰ Great are the tribulations¹ of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust¹ in the LORD.
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice¹ in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are¹ true of heart. **Refrain**

SECOND LESSON

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.

R: A reading from Romans, chapter five.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law.¹⁴ 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.¹⁵ 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.¹⁶ 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.¹⁷ 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.¹⁸ 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.¹⁹ 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.

R: *The word of the Lord.*

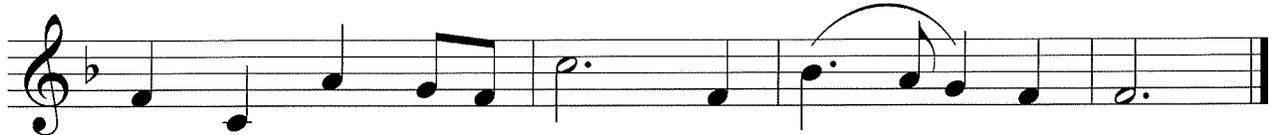
C: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly stands.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all glo - ry to you!



Word of life, Je-sus Christ, all praise to you.!

The cantor sings the verse.

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.

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



Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ 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.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: *The Gospel of the Lord.*



Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly is seated.

REFLECTION

Jonathan Nominee

The assembly stands.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW # 326



- 1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
- 2 Bless so - journ-ers and pil - grims who share this wind-ing way;
- 3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus-tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon-ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

L: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

C: We believe in him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.

L: Living together in trust and hope, we profess 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.**

The assembly is seated.

OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION

SOJOURNER

Michael Bedford

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY SONG



Glo-ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;



yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.



Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;



ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.



Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;



yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

OFFERING PRAYER

L: 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.
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.

C: Amen.

The assembly kneels.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence,
let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

L: God of all grace, grant faith to your church.
Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation
and to worship and serve you alone.

Each petition concludes:

P: Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

The assembly stands.

LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

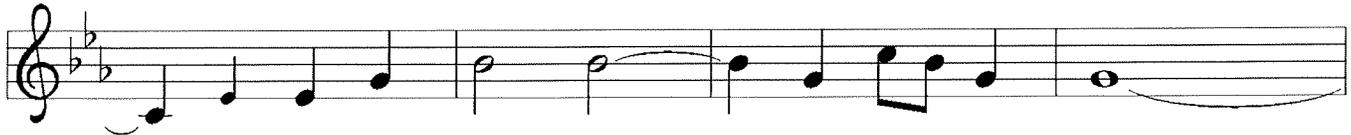
**C: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.**

**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.**

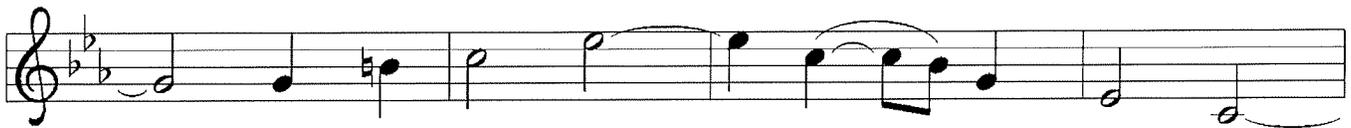
**For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**



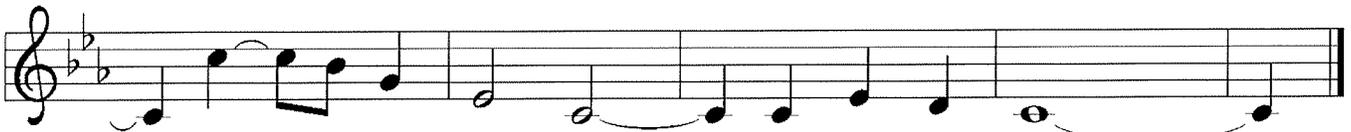
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
 2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
 3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



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

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace.
 L: Serve the Lord.
 P: Believe the good news.
 C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

SOJOURNER

David M. Cherwien

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

Events in Review

Sunday	Feb. 22
10:00AM	Church Service
Monday	Feb. 23
10:00AM	No Bible Study at Willows
10:30AM	Sharing Kitchen
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
Tuesday	Feb. 24
Wednesday	Feb. 25
5:45PM	Lent Supper
7:00PM	Lent Service
Thursday	Feb. 26
10:30AM	Sharing Kitchen
1:00PM	Food Drive
Friday	Feb. 27
Saturday	Feb. 28

Next Week

Sunday	Mar 1
10:00AM	Church Service
Monday	Mar 2
10:00AM	NO Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	NO Bell Choir Practice
Tuesday	Mar 3
6:00PM	Worship & Music Meeting
Wednesday	Mar 4
8:00PM	LifeScreening
5:45 PM	Lent Supper
7:00 PM	Lent Service
Thursday	Mar 5
Friday	Mar 6
Saturday	Mar 7



Installation of 2026
Council Members

Today during service

*The
Season
of
Lent*



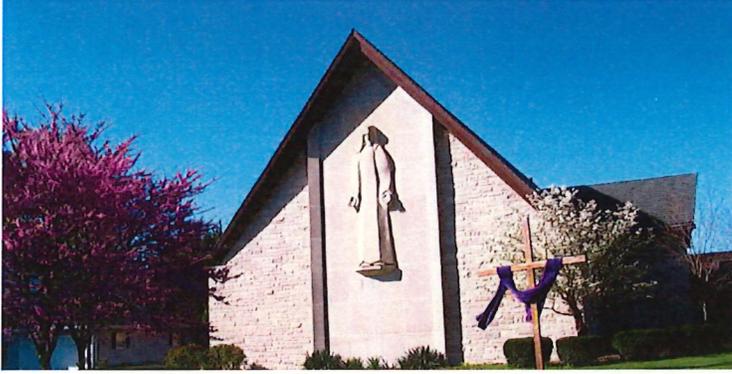
Sign up sheet for
Wednesday's Lent
Soup, Bread or
Rolls &
Desserts is on the
table in the hallway

Cookie Sign up sheets are located on the
Information Board in the hallway. The time is
before and after Church Service. Approximately 4
dozen cookies are needed each week.



If you have a prayer request for
today, please raise your hand during
announcements and a host will give
you a green card to fill out.

Contact Us



First Lutheran Church

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Interim Pastor

Pastor Mark Schuring
(740) 360-2306
theskipster55@gmail.com

Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild: Deb & Jonathan Nominee
Cantor: Elijah Shiley
Facebook Camera: The Rosses
Host: Janet Zirger
Reader: : Rick Greene
Worship Assistant : Rick Greene
Director of Music: Curtis L. King
Lay Minister: Jonathan Nominee

Emergency Pastors

Pastor Mark Schuring

(740) 360-2306

Mike Porter

(585) 813-5009

Pastor Philip Scherr

(814) 756-9435

Our Mission Statement

“God is among us!”

“We are called to go out, care for all, share the gospel,
forgive, reconcile and trust God for all that we need.”

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