



*First Lutheran Church*

MARCH 8, 2026

**3 LENT**

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In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

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## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### PRELUDE

KINGSFOLD

Matthew H. Corl

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

## SERVICE OF WORD AND PRAYER

*The assembly stands.*

### GATHERING SONG

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

ELW # 611



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.



## + + *Children may attend Sunday School*

### **FIRST LESSON**

EXODUS 17:1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?"—received a very positive answer.

*R: A reading from Exodus, the seventeenth chapter.*

<sup>1</sup> From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. <sup>2</sup> The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" <sup>3</sup> But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" <sup>4</sup> So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." <sup>5</sup> The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. <sup>6</sup> I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

*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.*

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions <sup>1</sup> are forgiven,  
and whose sin is <sup>1</sup> put away!
- <sup>2</sup> Happy are they to whom the LORD im- <sup>1</sup> putes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there <sup>1</sup> is no guile!
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones with- <sup>1</sup> ered away,  
because of my groaning <sup>1</sup> all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> For your hand was heavy upon me <sup>1</sup> day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the <sup>1</sup> heat of summer. **Refrain**

- <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. **Refrain**
- <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. **Refrain**

## SECOND LESSON

ROMANS 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

*R: A reading from Romans, the fifth chapter.*

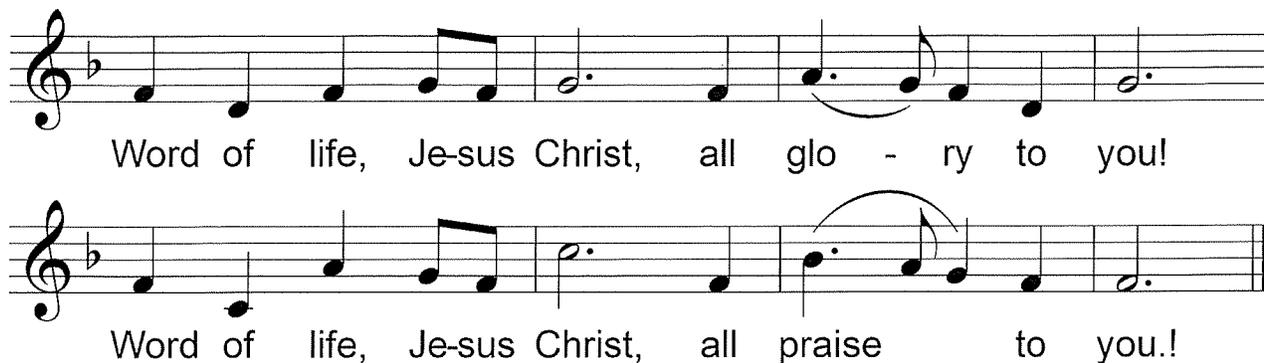
<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. <sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

*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!

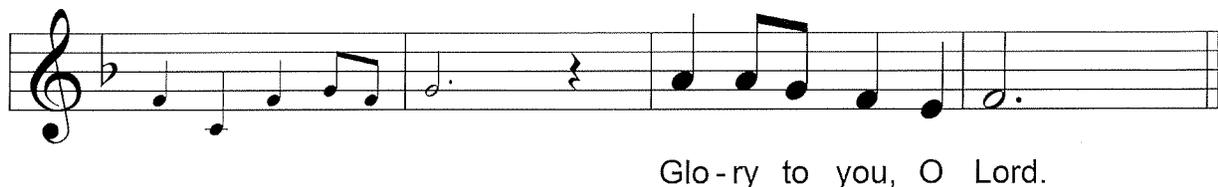
*The cantor sings the verse.*

## GOSPEL

JOHN 4:5-42

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

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



Glo-ry to you, O Lord.

<sup>5</sup> [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon. <sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." <sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) <sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) <sup>10</sup> 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." <sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" <sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" <sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, <sup>14</sup> but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." <sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." <sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." <sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' <sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" <sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet." <sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." <sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe

me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. <sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. <sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. <sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” <sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” <sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.” <sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” <sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, <sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” <sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him. <sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” <sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” <sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” <sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.” <sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> 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 truly the Savior of the world.”

*P: The Gospel of the Lord.*



Praise to you, O Christ.

*The assembly is seated.*

**REFLECTION**

**REVEREND LARRY MICHAELS**

*The assembly stands.*



1 By all your saints still striv - ing, for all your saints at rest,  
 2 Re - call the out - cast wo - man with whom our Lord con - versed:  
 3 O God, for saints and ser - vants, those named and those un - known,



you ho - ly name, O Je - sus, for - ev - er - more be blessed!  
 Christ gave her liv - ing wa - ter to quench her deepest thirst.  
 in whom through all the a - ges your light of glo - ry shone,



For you a - rose vic - to - rious that they might wear the crown  
 Like her's, our hearts are yearn - ing: Christ of - fers us his word.  
 we of - fer glad thanks - giv - ing and fer - vent prayer we raise



and share the light of glo - ry re - flect - ed from your throne.  
 Then may our lips be burn - ing to wit - ness to our Lord.  
 that, faith - ful in your ser - vice, our lives may sing your praise.

**RESPONSE TO THE WORD****APOSTLE'S CREED**

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.

**OFFERING AND ORGAN MEDITATION**

*NEAR THE CROSS*

*Matthew H. Corl*

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

*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: O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church.  
Give all servants of our gospel the endurance  
that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint.

*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.**

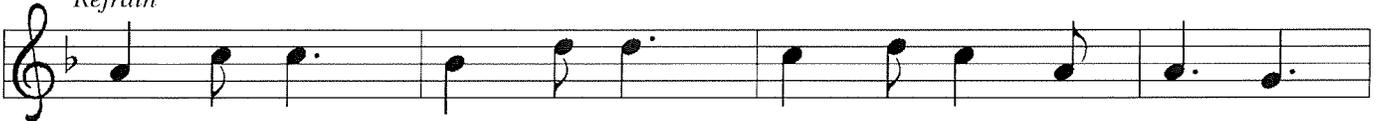




1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace.

L: Serve the Lord.

P: Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE**

NEAR THE CROSS

Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross

Robert J. Powell

  
Mid-Week  
**Lenten**  
Worship



*First Lutheran Church*

WEEK 1 02/25/26 **JOHN**

The hot-tempered young man who became the disciple of love.

Portrayed by Mike Oberlander

WEEK 2 03/04/26 **MARY, THE MOTHER OF JESUS**

Who suffers a mother's pain while humbly accepting God's will.

Portrayed by Diane Greene

WEEK 3 03/11/26 **PETER**

An arrogant man who becomes a humble disciple.

Portrayed by Rick Greene

WEEK 4 03/18/26 **JUDAS**

Who failed because he thought he knew best.

Portrayed by Nevin Martin

WEEK 5 03/25/26 **MARY MAGDALENE**

A woman of the world who strove to love herself as Jesus loved her.

Portrayed by Bonnie Oberlander



Signed up so far.....

You don't want to miss it!!



**Wednesday, March 4**

Carrot Cashew Soup, Chili & Muffins

**Wednesday, March 11**

Tomato Basil Soup & Cornbread

**Wednesday, March 18**

Cabbage Soup, White Chili Soup &  
Cupcakes

**Wednesday, March 25**

Italian Wedding Soup

# Events in Review



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.

<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b>Mar 8</b>
10:00AM	Church Service
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b>Mar 9</b>
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
5:15PM	Bell Choir Practice
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b>Mar 10</b>
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b>Mar 11</b>
9:00 AM	Piece Corp
5:45 PM	Lent Supper
6:00 PM	Property Meeting
7:00 PM	Lent Service
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b>Mar 12</b>
12:00-6:00PM	Blood Mobile
<b><u>Friday</u></b>	<b>Mar 13</b>
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	<b>Mar 14</b>

## Next Week

<b><u>Sunday</u></b>	<b>Mar 15</b>
10:00AM	Church Service
<b><u>Monday</u></b>	<b>Mar 16</b>
10:00AM	Bible Study at Willows
1:30 PM	Bookworms Anonymous
5:15PM	<b>NO</b> Bell Choir Practice
<b><u>Tuesday</u></b>	<b>Mar 17</b>
<b>*St. Patrick's Day*</b>	
<b><u>Wednesday</u></b>	<b>Mar 18</b>
5:30 PM	Council Meeting
5:45 PM	Lent Supper
7:00 PM	Lent Service
<b><u>Thursday</u></b>	<b>Mar 19</b>
<b><u>Friday</u></b>	<b>Mar 20</b>
<b><u>Saturday</u></b>	<b>Mar 21</b>

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

*The  
Season  
of  
Lent*



*And Daffodils*

Order Forms are available on the hallway table.

They are \$15.00 a piece

Orders are due by March 29th

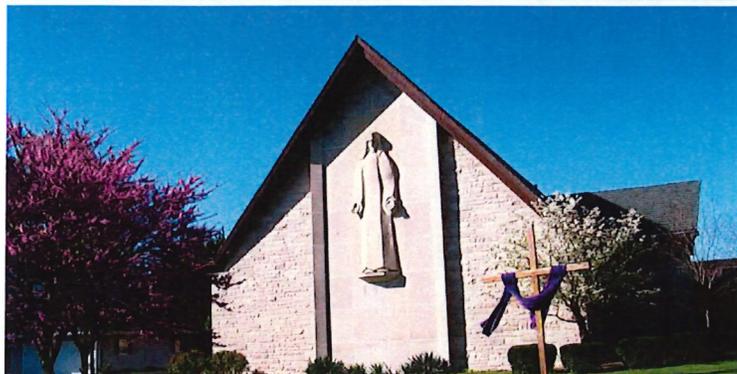
(Palm Sunday)

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



*Monthly Scroll  
Available on line and on  
table in hallway*

## Contact Us



## First Lutheran Church

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419-447-1323

[www.firstlutherantiffin.com](http://www.firstlutherantiffin.com)  
[firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com](mailto:firstlutherantiffin@gmail.com)

## Interim Pastor

**Pastor Mark Schuring**  
(740) 360-2306  
[theskipster55@gmail.com](mailto:theskipster55@gmail.com)

## Our Worship Leaders

Altar Guild:	Sandy & Ron Mellott
Cantor:	Elijah Shiley
Facebook Camera	The Rosses
Host	Judy Kimmel
Reader:	Rick Greene
Worship Assistant	Rick Greene
Director of Music:	Curtis L. King
Minister:	Rev. Larry Michaels

## 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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