

Augustana Lutheran Church
3rd Sunday in Lent – 10 am
March 8, 2026

**denotes when we stand*

Prelude

***Call to Worship**

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: Amen.

A: Let us ever walk with Jesus.

C: To see the depths of his love.

A: To behold the gift of his forgiveness.

C: To gaze upon the heights of his grace.

A: To marvel at the magnitude of his mercy.

C: We walk with Jesus to the Garden of Gethsemane.

A: Where he is betrayed by Judas.

C: And arrested by the Jews.

A: So that the Scriptures might be fulfilled.

C: Faithful Lord, with me abide. I shall follow where you guide!

***Pastoral Prayer**

P: In the darkness of Gethsemane, when betrayal came with a kiss and violence flashed in the night, you did not run. We confess that we are not so steady. When pressure rises, we lash out like Peter or flee like the disciples. We cling to our own strength, trusting in swords of our own making—sharp words, quick judgments, desperate control. Forgive us, Lord. Heal our divided hearts. For in that moment of surrender, you showed us true strength. In what looked like defeat, you were already accomplishing our salvation. Hold us fast when we are tempted to run. Restore us when we fail. And lead us ever deeper into the mystery of Your redeeming love.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn – “O Master, Let Me Walk with You” – ELW 818**

1 O Mas - ter, let me walk with you in low - ly
 2 Help me the slow of heart to move by some clear,
 3 Teach me your pa - tience; share with me a clos - er,
 4 In hope that sends a shin - ing ray far down the

paths of ser - vice true; tell me your se - cret;
 win - ning word of love; teach me the way - ward
 dear - er com - pa - ny, in work that keeps faith
 fu - ture's broad - 'ning way, in peace that on - ly

help me bear the strain of toil, the fret of care.
 feet to stay, and guide them in the home - ward way.
 sweet and strong, in trust that tri - umphs o - ver wrong,
 you can give; with you, O Mas - ter, let me live.

***The Confession and Forgiveness**

P: Paul writes in his letter to the Ephesians, “Christ came proclaiming peace to those who are far off and those who are near.” Heavenly Father, this proclamation has reached our ears, but we confess it has not settled into our hearts.

C: We confess that we do not live in the light of Christ’s peace.

P: We prefer being peace-fakers and peace-breakers.

C: We are more ready to worry than to trust.

P: More ready to fret than have faith.

C: More ready to blame than to believe.

P: Forgive our hard hearts.

C: And make us more alive to the depths of your love.

P: Show us what it cost to give up your Son.

C: Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(Please silently reflect on the fact that though our sin is great, Christ’s love is greater.)

P: Hear the good news! Jesus walked to places of rejection, suffering, torment and death—for you. Jesus was determined to go to Gethsemane, Gabbatha and Golgotha—for you. That’s why Jesus forgives you completely and loves you eternally. Faithful Lord, with me abide!

C: I shall follow where you guide!

***Prayer of the Day**

P: Heavenly Father, because Jesus walked into the perfect storm—betrayal, arrest, assault with a sword and then all his friends ran away—you are able to bring your perfect peace in the storms of our lives. Empower us to believe it and receive it; through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever. **C: Amen.**

Old Testament Reading – Isaiah 53:1-5

A: A reading from the prophet Isaiah the 53rd Chapter.

Who has believed what he has heard from us? And to whom has the arm of the Lord been revealed? For he grew up before him like a young plant, and like a root out of dry ground; he had no form or majesty that we should look at him, and no beauty that we should desire him. He was despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief; and as one from whom men hide their faces he was despised, and we esteemed him not. Surely, he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he was pierced for our transgressions; he was crushed for our iniquities; upon him was the chastisement that brought us peace, and with his wounds we are healed.

A: Word of God, Word of Life **C: Thanks be to God**

Epistle Reading – Ephesians 2:11-18

A: A reading from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians the 2nd chapter.

Therefore remember that at one time you Gentiles in the flesh, called “the uncircumcision” by what is called the circumcision, which is made in the flesh by hands—remember that you were at that time separated from Christ, alienated from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. But now in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility by abolishing the law of commandments expressed in ordinances, that he might create in himself one new man in place of the two, so making peace, and might reconcile us both to God in one body through the cross, thereby killing the hostility. And he came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near. For through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.

A: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God**

A: Please rise for the reading of the Gospel

*Gospel Reading – Matthew 26:47-56

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew the 26th Chapter.

C: Glory to you O Lord.

While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do. “Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled.

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord. C: Praise to you O Christ.

Children’s Sermon/Sermon

Hymn of the Day – “Go to Dark Gethsemane” – ELW 347

1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;
2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor-ing at his feet,
4 Ear-ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his breath-less clay;

your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. Watch with him one bit - ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak - en him a - way?

turn not from his griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf - f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin - ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Affirmation of Faith for Lent

A: Let us confirm our Christian faith with the words of this Lenten Creed.

C: We believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth, who formed us from the dust of the ground and breathes life into fragile people. In love, God calls us to return when we wander, resist, or forget our first love.

We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, fully human and fully divine, who entered our broken world and walked the road of obedience and suffering. He proclaimed the nearness of God's kingdom, healed the wounded, welcomed sinners, and set his face toward the cross. For our sake he was betrayed, crucified, and buried, bearing our sin and our death. On the third day he was raised, opening the way from repentance to new life.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the giver of life and faith, who convicts us of sin and assures us of grace, who leads us through the wilderness of Lent into deeper trust and truer discipleship. The Spirit forms us into the body of Christ, calls the church into recovery, renewal, and relationship and empowers us to love as we have been loved. Amen

Prayers of the People

A: Onward in Christ's footsteps treading, pilgrims here, our home above. Full of faith and hope and love. Let us do the Father's bidding. And so we pray. Heavenly Father, you haven't promised us a storm-less life. You don't offer quick fixes or shallow solutions. But you do promise perfect peace, in the midst of whatever happens. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Grant us your peace.

A: Heavenly Father when we're out of bootstraps to pull up, come to the end of our rope and feel like quitting, you are with us and for us. Thank you for being a Father who will never forget or abandon us in our storms. Thank you for working all things together for the good of those who love you. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Grant us your peace.

A: Heavenly Father, we come before you in need of Your comfort and healing. You see the burdens we carry, the pain we feel, and the worries that weigh on our hearts. Bring healing where there is illness, strength where there is weakness, and peace where there is anxiety (*especially*). Hold us in Your loving care, restore what is broken, renew our hope. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Grant us your peace.

A: Heavenly Father, thank you for your perfect peace—a peace perfectly suited for the moment. Our calling is not to take control, but to mine the riches of the Gospel and never lose sight of your wonderful love. You are the Rock that is higher than us, the Rock of refuge, the Rock of ages. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Grant us your peace.

A: Heavenly Father, we praise and thank you for your peace that surpasses all understanding. Anchor us in hope, strengthen us in grace and fortify us with resolute courage.

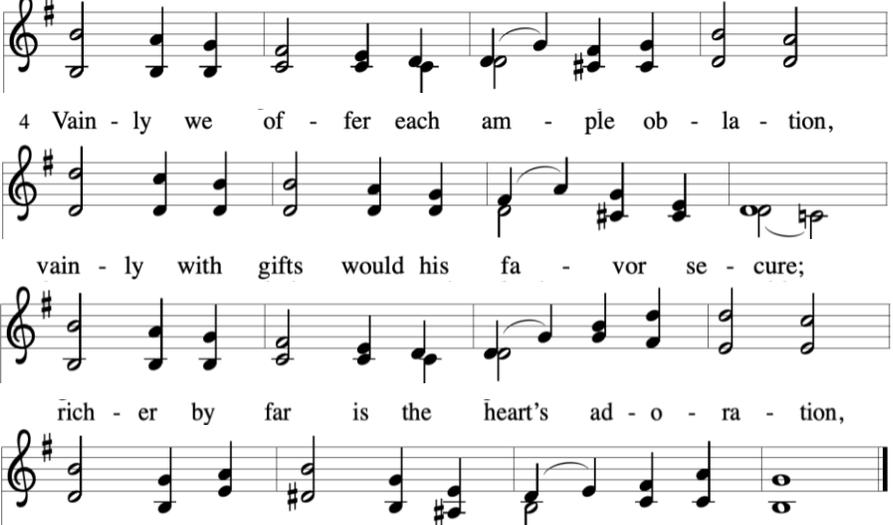
C: Jesus let me faithful be, life eternal grant to me. Amen.

Announcements

Offering

A: Let us now return to God, that which God has first given us – our tithes and our offerings.

*Offering Canticle – “Brightest and Best of Stars” – ELW 303 vs 4



4 Vain - ly we of - fer each am - ple ob - la - tion,
vain - ly with gifts would his fa - vor se - cure;
rich - er by far is the heart's ad - o - ra - tion,
dear - er to God are the prayers of the poor.

*Offering Prayer

A: 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. Through these gifts of bread and wine, 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.**

*Great Thanksgiving (*spoken during Lent*)

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

*Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and
might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

*Thanksgiving at the Table

P: God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, you have brought us this far along the way. In times of bitterness you did not abandon us, but guided us into the path of love and light. In every age you sent prophets to make known your loving will for all humanity. The cry of the poor has become your own cry; our hunger and thirst for justice is your own desire. In the fullness of time, you sent your chosen servant to preach good news to the afflicted, to break bread with the outcast and despised, and to ransom those in bondage to prejudice and sin.

***Words of Institution**

P: On the night of his betrayal, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks; broke it and gave it to his disciples saying: "Take and eat; this is my body given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

P: After supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

***Mystery of Faith**

P: With this bread and cup we remember our Lord's passover from death to life as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

***Epiclesis**

P: O God of resurrection and new life: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

***Lord's Prayer**

P: 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.**

***Invitation to Communion**

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy, for everyone is welcome to God's table.

*Angus Dei



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you
take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymns

ELW 496 **One Bread, One Body**
ELW 623 **Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me**

*Post Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you, and forever keep you in his grace.

*Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray, (*pause*) God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.

Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

*Blessing

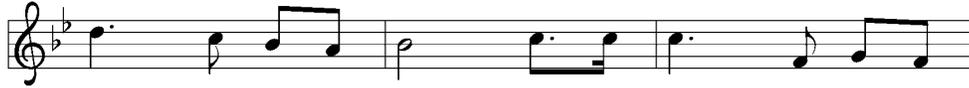
P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

***Sending Hymn – “Jesus, Savior, Pilot Me” – ELW 755**



1 Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me o - ver
 2 As a moth - er stills her child, thou canst
 3 When at last I near the shore, and the



life's tem - pes - tuous sea; un - known waves be - fore me
 hush the o - cean wild; bois - t'rous waves o - bey thy
 fear - ful break - ers roar twixt me and the peace - ful



roll, hid - ing rock and treach - 'rous shoal; chart and
 will when thou say'st to them: "Be still." Won - drous
 rest, then, while lean - ing on thy breast, may I



com - pass come from thee. Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 sov - 'reign of the sea, Je - sus, Sav - ior, pi - lot me.
 hear thee say to me: "Fear not, I will pi - lot thee."

***Dismissal**

A: Jesus invites us to walk with him to the Garden of Gethsemane, a place of great suffering and a place of great love. We will walk with Jesus all the way to the empty tomb—and resurrection victory.

C: Let us ever walk with Jesus!

The assembly departs in silence.