

**Augustana Lutheran Church**  
**1<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Lent – 10 am**  
**February 22, 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 Bethany.**

A: And into the house of Simon the leper.

**C: Mary prepares Christ for his burial by anointing him with perfume.**

A: Faithful Lord, with me abide.

**C: I shall follow where you guide!**

**\*Pastoral Prayer**

P: Gracious and merciful God, as we enter this holy season of Lent, we come before you in humility and hope. On this first Sunday of the journey toward the cross, we remember the quiet moment in Bethany when a woman poured costly perfume upon Jesus. In that simple yet extravagant act of love, she prepared Jesus for what was to come. In her devotion, we see a reflection of the kind of hearts you desire from us—open, surrendered, and willing to offer our very best.

May this time of worship shape us into a people who love boldly, serve faithfully, and give freely. As the fragrance filled the house that day, let your grace fill this sanctuary and our lives, that the world may catch a glimpse of Christ through us. We offer this prayer in the name of Jesus, who was anointed for burial and raised for our salvation.

**C: Amen.**

\*Gathering Hymn – “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” – ELW 325

The musical score consists of three staves of music for three voices. The top staff is for the Alto (A), the middle staff for the Tenor (T), and the bottom staff for the Bass (B). The music is in common time, with a key signature of one flat. The lyrics are as follows:

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

\*The Confession and Forgiveness

P: Our Gospel reading states that, “Mary came up to Jesus with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table.” Forgive us, kind Father—

**C: For too often, our giving is nothing like this.**

P: Our sinful nature prefers another word—

**C: GET!**

P: Get even, get back and get revenge.

**C: Get more, get ahead and get on top.**

P: We are consumed with consuming.

**C: Driven by selfish desires.**

P: Passionate about more possessions.

**C: We are too much like the disciples.**

P: And too little like Mary.

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

*(Please silently reflect on 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: Almighty and everlasting God, send forth your Holy Spirit that this Lent we may ever walk with Jesus, follow his example pure, through a world that would deceive us and to sin our spirits lure. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **Old Testament Reading – Exodus 36:1-7**

A: A reading from the book of Exodus the 36<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

“Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whom the Lord has put skill and intelligence to know how to do any work in the construction of the sanctuary shall work in accordance with all that the Lord has commanded.” And Moses called Bezalel and Oholiab and every craftsman in whose mind the Lord had put skill, everyone whose heart stirred him up to come to do the work. And they received from Moses all the contribution that the people of Israel had brought for doing the work on the sanctuary. They still kept bringing him freewill offerings every morning, so that all the craftsmen who were doing every sort of task on the sanctuary came, each from the task that he was doing, and said to Moses, “The people bring much more than enough for doing the work that the Lord has commanded us to do.” So, Moses gave command, and word was proclaimed throughout the camp, “Let no man or woman do anything more for the contribution for the sanctuary.” So, the people were restrained from bringing, for the material they had was sufficient to do all the work, and more.

A: Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

## **Epistle Reading – 2 Corinthians 8:1-5**

**A:** A reading from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians the 8<sup>th</sup> chapter.

We want you to know, brothers, about the grace of God that has been given among the churches of Macedonia, for in a severe test of affliction, their abundance of joy and their extreme poverty have overflowed in a wealth of generosity on their part. For they gave according to their means, as I can testify, and beyond their means, of their own accord, begging us earnestly for the favor of taking part in the relief of the saints—and this, not as we expected, but they gave themselves first to the Lord and then by the will of God to us.

**A:** Word of God, Word of Life

**C: Thanks be to God**

**A:** Please rise for the reading of the Gospel

## **\*Gospel Reading – Matthew 26:6-13**

**P:** The holy Gospel according to Matthew the 26<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**C: Glory to you O Lord.**

Now when Jesus was at Bethany in the house of Simon the leper, a woman came up to him with an alabaster flask of very expensive ointment, and she poured it on his head as he reclined at table. And when the disciples saw it, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? For this could have been sold for a large sum and given to the poor.” But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a beautiful thing to me. For you always have the poor with you, but you will not always have me. In pouring this ointment on my body, she has done it to prepare me for burial. Truly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will also be told in memory of her.”

**P:** This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you O Christ.**

## **Sermon**

## Hymn of the Day – “Oh, Love, How Deep” – ELW 322

1 Oh, love, how deep, how broad, how high,  
2 He sent no an - gel to our race,  
3 For us bap - tized, for us he bore  
4 For us he prayed; for us he taught;

be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,  
of high - er or of low - er place,  
his ho - ly fast and hun - gered sore;  
for us his dai - ly works he wrought,

that God, the Son of God, should take  
but wore the robe of hu - man frame,  
for us temp - ta - tion sharp he knew;  
by words and signs and ac - tions thus

our mor - tal form for mor - tal's sake!  
and to this world him self he came.  
for us the tempt - er over - threw.  
still seek - ing not him - self, but us.

5 For us by wickedness betrayed,  
for us, in crown of thorns arrayed,  
he bore the shameful cross and death;  
for us he gave his dying breath.

6 For us he rose from death again;  
for us he went on high to reign;  
for us he sent his Spirit here  
to guide, to strengthen, and to cheer.

7 All glory to our Lord and God  
for love so deep, so high, so broad;  
the Trinity whom we adore  
forever and forevermore.

### 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 God's bidding. And so, we pray. Gracious God, give us generous hearts.

**C: To give without counting the cost.**

A: To share without expecting anything in return.

**C: To hold all of our treasures with open hands.**

A: To have Gospel priorities and align our life, our love and our time in their light.

**C: To know the freedom that comes with generosity.**

A: To give like the Israelites who continued to bring freewill offerings morning after morning.

**C: To give like the Macedonians who urgently pleaded for the privilege of sharing.**

A: To give like Mary, joyfully, exceedingly and lavishly.

**C: To give like Jesus, lovingly, faithfully and abundantly.**

A: Father, we recall the words of our Savior, "I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." And so we pray,

**C: Take my love, my Lord, I pour.**

A: At your feet its treasure store.

**C: Take myself and I will be.**

A: Ever, only, all for thee.

**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.**

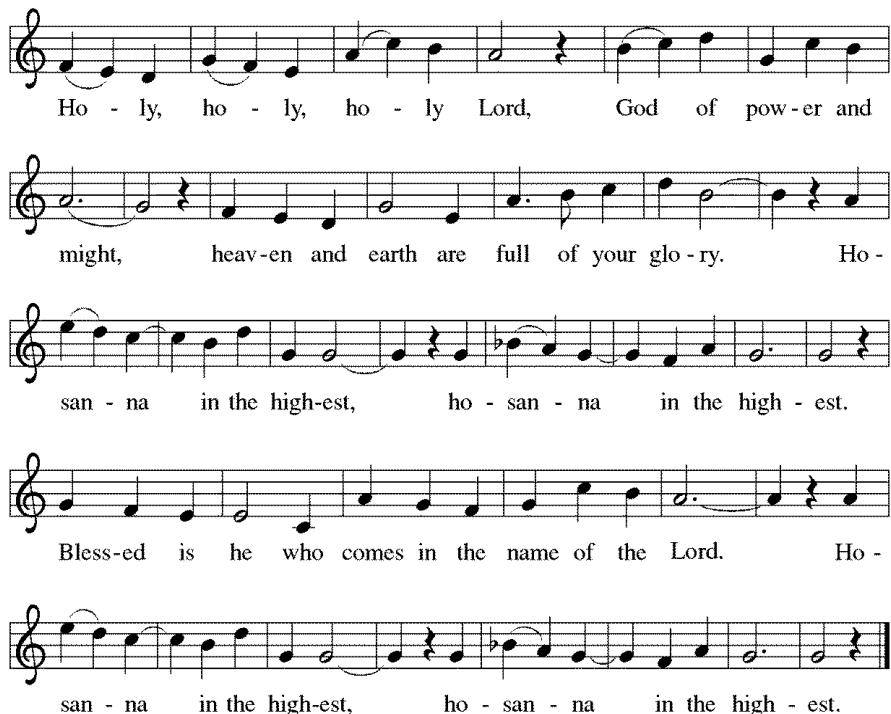
## \*Preface

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.**

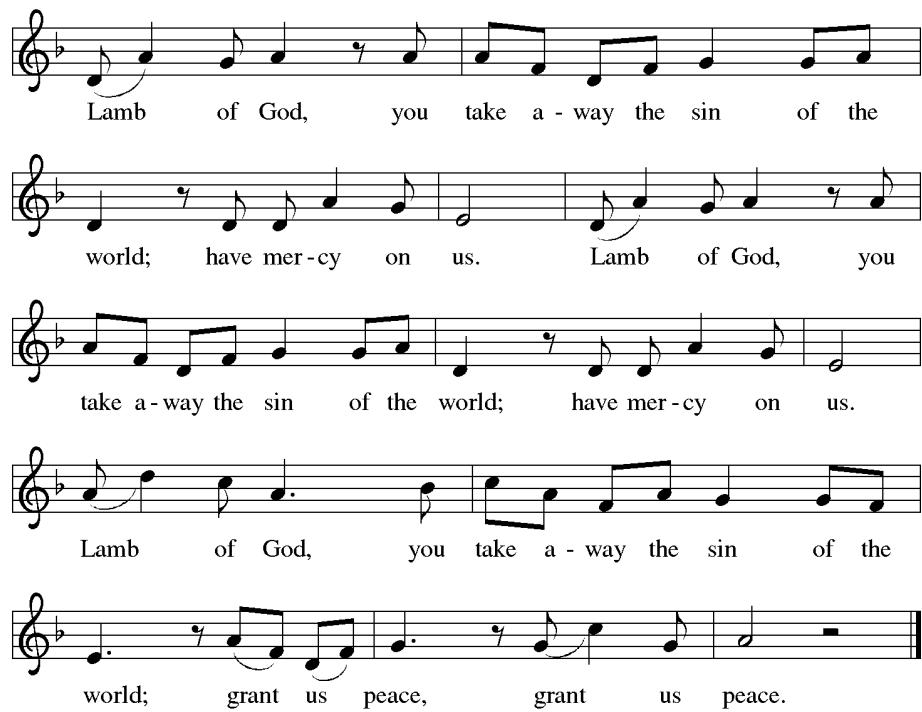
**Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.**

**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 492 – Eat This Bread, Drink This Cup**  
**ELW 599 – Lord Jesus, Think on 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,  $\dagger$  bless you now and always.

**C: Amen.**

## \*Sending Hymn – “Jesus, Still Lead On” – ELW 624



1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the  
2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions  
4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,

way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,

guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.  
safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

## \*Dismissal

A: Jesus invites us to walk with him to Bethany, 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.*