

Covenant Lutheran Church
March 1, 2026
Second Sunday in Lent

GATHERING

Prelude/Call: *TBA*
Covenant Praise Band

Please stand

Greeting/Call to Worship

Tell me something good!

God loves you more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God loves all of creation more than you could imagine.

Tell me something good!

God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.

This is good news indeed!

Let us worship our compassionate God.

Invitation to Confession

Family of faith,

we long to love others as God loves us,
but that work is easier said than done.

We lose our way.

We become distracted.

We grow fearful.

We need God's grace.

Fortunately for us, God's grace is freely and abundantly given.

So join me in the Prayer of Confession.

Join me in being transformed.

Confession and Forgiveness

Merciful God,

did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?

Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?

Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?

Or did we cross the street?

Did we avert our eyes?
Did we come up with every excuse in the book?
God, we long to be people who love our neighbors
with the same overwhelming love that you have for them.
But we must admit, we have a long way to go.
Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear
get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.
With hope for a better tomorrow we pray,
Amen.

Covenant,
even when we act with judgment,
even when we are guided by fear,
even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,
God does not turn God's back on us.
So join me in this good-news declaration:
We are seen.
We are forgiven.
We are invited to try again.
Thanks be to God for this unending love.

Opening Hymn: Love Divine, All Loves Excelling
ELW #631

Prayer of the Day
Good news God,
speak louder than the news updates.
Speak louder than our mental distractions.
Speak louder than our anger and louder than our fear.
God, speak loudly to us today,
because we long to hear your good news once more.
With hope we pray,
Amen.

Please be seated

THE WORD

First Reading: Luke 7:36-50

³⁶ One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. ³⁷ And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. ³⁸ She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. ³⁹ Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." ⁴⁰ Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." ⁴¹ "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. ⁴² When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" ⁴³ Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." ⁴⁴ Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. ⁴⁵ You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. ⁴⁶ You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. ⁴⁷ Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." ⁴⁸ Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." ⁴⁹ But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" ⁵⁰ But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."

R: Word of God. Word of Life.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

(Sung Responsively – Congregation in Bold)

- ¹ I lift up my eyes ^l to the hills;
from where is my ^l help to come?
- ² **My help comes ^l from the LORD,
the maker of heav- ^l en and earth.**
- ³ The LORD will not let your ^l foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you ^l fall asleep.
- ⁴ **Behold, the keep- ^l er of Israel
will neither slum- ^l ber nor sleep; R**
- ⁵ the LORD watches ^l over you;
the LORD is your shade at ^l your right hand;
- ⁶ **the sun will not strike ^l you by day,
nor the ^l moon by night.**
- ⁷ The LORD will preserve you ^l from all evil
and will ^l keep your life.

⁸ The LORD will watch over your going out and your ^l coming in,
from this time forth for- ^l evermore. R

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Please rise as we welcome the gospel together.

We sing: *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path (repeat)*

Gospel: Matthew 25:35-40

³⁵ for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, ³⁶ I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' ³⁷ Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? ³⁸ And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? ³⁹ And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' ⁴⁰ And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.'

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn of the Day: *God Loved the World*

ELW #323

Please Be Seated

The Message

Moment of Silent Reflection

Please Stand

Nicene Creed

We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.
We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven;
by the power of the Holy Spirit
he became incarnate from the virgin Mary,
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.
He has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

Prayers of the People: Assisting Minister

Responses:

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Sharing of the Peace

Please Be Seated

Announcements

Time of Response

Offertory Song: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*
Covenant Carillon Handbell Ensemble

Offering Prayer: Assisting Minister

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.
Amen.

Please Stand

THE MEAL

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Holy, Holy, Holy

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

Invitation to Communion

This is Christ's table. We are the guests. He is the host.

There is a seat here with your name on it.

Please be seated.

Distribution of Communion

Please Stand

Communion Blessing

Prayer after Communion: Assisting Minister

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.

Amen.

SENDING

Sending Song: *Blessed Assurance*

Benediction/Blessing

As you leave this place,
when you meet anger, speak with love.
When you meet fear, speak with hope.
When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.
But no matter what, speak this good news.
For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all.
It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms.
The good news of the gospel is alive in the world.
Believe that good news, and go in peace.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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