

1 The tree of life with ev - 'ry good In E - den's
 2 The still - ness of that sa - cred grove Was bro - ken,
 3 What mer - cy God showed to our race, A plan of
 4 Now from that tree of Je - sus' shame Flows life e -

ho - ly or - chard stood, And of its fruit so pure and
 as the ser - pent strove With tempt - ing voice Eve to be -
 res - cue by His grace: In send - ing One from wom - an's
 ter - nal in His name; For all who trust and will be -

sweet God let the man and wom - an eat. Yet in this
 guile And Ad - am too by sin de - file. O day of
 seed, The One to fill our great - est need— For on a
 lieve, Sal - va - tion's liv - ing fruit re - ceive. And of this

gar - den al - so grew An - oth - er tree, of which they
 sad - ness when the breath Of fear and dark - ness, doubt and
 tree up - lift - ed high His on - ly Son for sin would
 fruit so pure and sweet The Lord in - vites the world to

knew; Its love - ly limbs with fruit a -
 death, Its aw - ful poi - son first dis -
 die, Would drink the cup of scorn and
 eat, To find with - in this cross of

dorned A - gainst whose eat - ing God had warned.
 played With - in the world so new - ly made.
 dread To crush the an - cient ser - pent's head!
 wood The tree of life with ev - 'ry good.

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1st Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

Liturgy: TLH p. 5; Carol Card

Organist: Lana Strike



ST. JOHN'S

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✠ Opening Prayer ✠

Hymn: TLH #145

“Jesus, Refuge of the Weary”

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

G ♪ Amen.

P Pastor

G Congregation

Confession of Our Sins

We come before God recognizing that we are sinful and daily need His forgiveness.

P Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

G ♪ **Who made heaven and earth.**

P I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord.

G ♪ **And Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.**

P Almighty God our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto Thee that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against Thee by thought, word, and deed. Wherefore we flee for refuge to Thine infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Thy grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

G **O most merciful God, who hast given Thine only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins; and by Thy Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of Thee and of Thy will and true obedience to Thy Word, to the end that by Thy grace we may come to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Absolution from Our God

“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.” (1 John 1:9)

P Almighty God, our heavenly Father, hath had mercy upon us and hath given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He giveth power to become the children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord unto us all.

G ♪ Amen.

Call for CLC Nominations – The deadline is March 31 for nominations to CLC offices at our upcoming synod convention, June 25-28, 2026. Pastors, professors, male teachers, and voters of congregations within the Church of the Lutheran Confession are invited to nominate individuals. An online nomination form and accompanying information is available at clclutheran.net/nominations.

CLC Call News – Dr. Daniel Sullivan has **received** the call from the CLC Call Committee for Educational Institutions to serve as a professor at Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire, WI. <> Dr. Daniel Schierenbeck has **received** the two-year call from the CLC Call Committee for Educational Institutions to serve as the President of Immanuel Lutheran High School, College, and Seminary in Eau Claire, WI. <> Teacher Katie Naumann of Immanuel Lutheran School, Winter Haven, FL, has **received** the call to Redeemer Lutheran School, Cheyenne, WY. <> Pastor Aaron Ude of Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Rapid City, SD, has **returned** the call to Holy Cross Ev. Lutheran Church, Phoenix, AZ. <> Pastor Tom Naumann of Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Madison Heights, MI, has **received** the call to Grace Lutheran Church, Fridley, MN. <> Pastor Stefan Sonnenfeld of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Sister Lakes, MI, has **received** the call to Living Hope Lutheran Church, Appleton, WI. <> Seminarian Sam Radermacher, in conjunction with his vicarship under Pastor Wayne Eichstadt of Gethsemane Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA, has **accepted** the summer vacancy call to Trinity Ev. Lutheran Church, Spokane, WA.

Ushers	2/22	Trevor B, Tim Z, Josh E, Christian K, David R.
	3/1	Kendall B, Larry B.
	3/8	Phil S, Nathan V, Anthony F, Daniel R.
Cleaning	This Week – The Eigenbergs (wk. 3)	
	Up Next – Fogelman, Ahrens, Sullivan	

P O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Benediction

To the tune of "O Sacred Head"

P *♫ The good Lord bless and keep you,
Lift up His shining face,
With favor look upon you
And grant eternal peace.*

C *♫ To Father, Son, and Spirit
Most gracious One-in-Three,
Be glory, praise, and blessing,
Now and eternally!*

Hymn: TLH #151:1-2, 7 *"Christ, the Life of All the Living"*



Thank you – "Ron and I are thankful for your prayers and cards—both for our 55th wedding anniversary and for my surgery. Praise the Lord it was successful! We are indeed blessed to have you as our church family."

In Christian love,
Ron and Karen Strike

Lent Continues – Lent began last week with Ash Wednesday and will continue this Wednesday with our midweek service at 6:30 pm. Pastor Nathanael Mayhew will be preaching as we continue with our Lenten theme "Assurances from Jesus' Final Words." Be sure to set your Wednesday evenings aside this Lent so that the Lord may prepare your hearts to rejoice once more in His death and resurrection for you.

The Introit

Ps. 91:9-13, 15-16

A collection of passages that set the tone for the service.

- P** When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him.
- C** **With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation.**
- P** Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place— the Most High, who is my refuge—
- C** **no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent.**
- P** For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.
- C** **On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
- P** You will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

The Gloria Patri

TLH 16:4

Latin for "Glory be to the Father."

C *♫ Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
Praise to Thee and adoration!
Grant that we Thy Word may trust
And obtain true consolation
While we here below must wander,
Till we sing Thy praises yonder.*

The Salutation

- P** The Lord be with you.
- C** *♫ And with thy spirit.*

The Collect Prayer of the Day

- P** O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C** *♫ Amen.*



Genesis 3:1-21

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ² And 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 midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely 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 themselves loincloths. ⁸ And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹ But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰ And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹ He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹² The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." ¹⁴ The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. ¹⁵ I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." ¹⁶ To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain

The Agnus Dei

To the tune of "O Dearest Jesus"

**☩ ♪ Jesus, the Lamb of God, have mercy on us!
Jesus, who bore our sins, have mercy on us!
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, have mercy!
Lord, grant peace to me!**

Communion Today is for Members Only Please

We don't judge anyone's faith, but we do stand up for our own. The Bible teaches what we call "Close Communion," that is, God wants you to commune only with those people with whom you are agreed in ALL the Bible's teachings. This belief is based upon 1 Corinthians 1:10 & 11:26-30, among other Bible passages. Therefore, if you are a guest with us today, and BEFORE you come up to commune with us, please speak with our Pastor to find out about communing with us in the future!

✠ The Distribution of the Lord's Supper ✠

Distribution Hymns

TLH #312, TLH #313, TLH #311

After the Distribution, we continue by singing our Thanksgiving, as found below:

Thanksgiving

To the tune of "Christ is Our Corner-Stone"

**☩ ♪ In peace, Lord, at Your Word,
Now let Your servant go;
For I have seen and heard
What all the earth must know;
Salvation for the world is here!
Let Israel's Light shine bright and clear!**

**Eternal praise and fame
Be to our God alone!
We proudly bear His name,
Proclaim what He has done:
Salvation free! To Father, Son,
and Spirit our thanksgiving be!**

P Always and everywhere it is right to give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who gave His life on the cross for us that, freed from the power of sin and death, we might have eternal joy in Your presence, renewed in faith and life. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

The Sanctus *To the tune of "Blessed Jesus, at Thy Word"*

G *♫ Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Heav'n and earth proclaim the story
Of Your majesty adored,
Of Your kingdom, pow'r, and glory
With hosannas now we meet You;
With our palms and praises greet You:*

*Hail! Hosanna! Blest is He
Who in God's own name draws near us!
Hail! Hosanna! Blest are we
Since we have God's love to cheer us:
Blood outpoured and body broken,
Of eternal love the token.*

The Words of Institution *Lk. 22:19-20; Mt. 26:26-28; 1 Cor. 11:23-25*

P Our Lord Jesus Christ, the same night in which He was betrayed, took bread. And when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples, saying, "Take, eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."



In the same way He took the cup, after supper, gave thanks, and gave it to them saying, "Drink of it, all of you. This cup is the new covenant in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this whenever you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

The peace of the Lord be with you always!

in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be contrary to your husband, but he shall rule over you." ¹⁷ And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; ¹⁸ thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return." ²⁰ The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹ And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.



Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And

after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And 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, "'Man shall 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 set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶ and said 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" ⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall 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, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.



Confession of Faith

The Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by Whom all things were made; Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, Whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Hymn: TLH #369

"All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall"



Romans 5:12-19

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned-- ¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come. ¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶ And the free gift is not like

the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷ For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ. ¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹ For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Jesus Christ: Our Life's "Undo"

The Offertory

To the tune of "O Sacred Head"

C ♪ *What language shall I borrow To thank You, dearest Friend,
For all Your dying sorrow, Your pity without end?
Oh, make me Yours forever; And should I fainting prove,
Lord, let me never, never Outlive Your dying love!*

✠ The Offering of Thankful Hearts ✠

Hymn: LSB #561 (Back Page)

"The Tree of Life"

✠ The General Prayer & The Lord's Prayer ✠

✠ Order of Holy Communion ✠

The Preface

To the tune of "O Sacred Head"

P ♪ *The Lord is with His people;
Now may He be with you.*
C ♪ *The Lord is with His servants;
May He be with you, too.*
P ♪ *Now lift your hearts to praise Him.*
C ♪ *To God we lift them high.
'Tis right to praise and thank Him
Who to His world draws nigh.*