



2702 Rockefeller Ave • Everett, WA 98201

March 1, 2026, 10:00 am
2nd Sunday in Lent
Paul E. Hoffman, Interim Pastor
206-972-9995



GATHERING

The Spirit Calls Us Together

Prelude

Welcome & Announcements

Call to Worship

Choir

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt
and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

(Continued on page 2)

Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,
have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

Gathering Hymn

"Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross"

ELW 335

Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

(Refrain:) In the cross, in the cross be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find rest beyond the river.

Near the cross, a trembling soul, love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star sheds its beams around me. *(Refrain)*

Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day with its shadow o'er me. *(Refrain)*

Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand just beyond the river. *(Refrain)*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915. Public Domain.

Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.



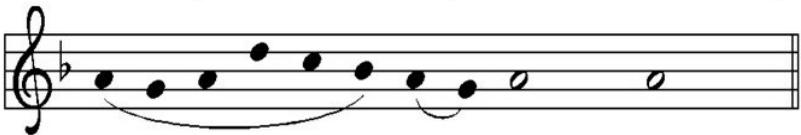
In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



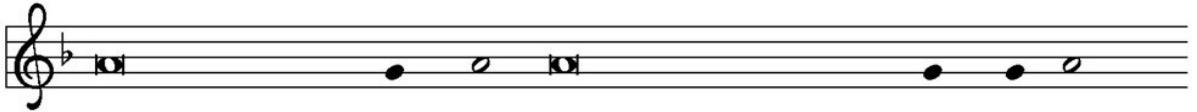
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



A - men.

Prayer of the Day

Special Music

Choir

WORD _____ *God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

First Reading

Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;
from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD,
the maker of heaven 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 keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you;
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, 3rd chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Word

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth"

ELW 735

Mothering God, you gave me birth in the bright morning of this world.
Creator, source of ev'ry breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.

Mothering Christ, you took my form, offering me your food of light,
grain of life, and grape of love, your very body for my peace.

Mothering Spirit, nurt'ring one, in arms of patience hold me close,
so that in faith I root and grow until I flow'r, until I know.

Text: Jean Janzen, b. 1933; based on Julian of Norwich, c. 1342- c. 1413; Text © 1991 Jean Janzen, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Used by permission under ONE LICENSE #A726685.

Affirmation of Faith

Apostles' Creed

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.

The Prayers of the People

As petitions conclude: "Hear us, O God." respond "Your mercy is great."

Sharing of God's Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus

Offering & Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving

ELW p. 161

The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The first staff has two measures, the second and third have two measures each, and the fourth has one measure. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW p. 162

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,
heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.
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.

The image shows five staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.', 'Ho - san - na in the high - est.', 'Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.', and 'Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer *(Please feel free to pray your preferred version of the Lord's Prayer)*

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Communion

Communion Hymn *"Oh My Heart Imprint Your Image"* ELW 811

On my heart imprint your image, blessed Jesus, king of grace,
that life's troubles nor its pleasures ever may your work erase.

Let the clear inscription be: Jesus, crucified for me,
is my life, my hope's foundation, all my glory and salvation!

Text: Thomas H. Kingo, 1634-1703; tr. Peer O. Strömme, 1856-1921, alt. Public Domain.

Communion Blessing & Post-Communion Prayer

SENDING _____ *God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

Blessing

Sending Hymn *"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"* ELW 803

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the prince of glory died,
my richest gain I count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the death of Christ, my God;
all the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small;
love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674-1748. Public Domain.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

We Hold in Prayer this Week

Those Grieving: Family and friends of Mary Beck; Family and friends of Ken, friend of Surridges; Friends and family of David Rayfield, cousin of Debbie R.; Sam and Suzy Lavis and Family at the death of Sam's mother, Darcy Kelly.

God's Healing Presence: Kathy Trosvig; Steve Olsen; Pat Krassin; Sheryn Todd; Elizabeth Ritchie; Gayle & Dave's niece Amanda; Beth's friend Kamm & sister-in-law, Megan; Debbie's friend Larry; Surridges' friends Barby & Larry & Marc Walkden; Ed & Evie Bishop; Peggy & Dave's friend Martin Olson; Joan's father; Dave's friend, Julie Bolser, and niece, Leile Defolo; John, Guillermo, Monica, Cecilia, Sofia and Rosamaria; Val, Jill Johnson's mom.

Prayers for our world, nation, and communities: For immigrants living in fear. For nations and peoples in the midst of warfare. For refugees seeking safety.

Announcements

Lenten Midweek Services from 4-25 March will be held each week at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2324 Lombard Avenue. The services of Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 will be preceded by a shared soup supper at 5:30.

Schedule a visit with Pastor Hoffman: If you haven't already, please sign up for a visit with Pastor Hoffman. Visits can be individual or in a group that form. They can be in-person at the church office, your home, or via Zoom. Clipboards with available visit times are on the table at the sanctuary entrance.

The Transition Team, has been appointed by the Church Council. This is another important step toward calling new pastoral leadership at Central. Members of the team are:

Dave Kurtz, Suzy Lavis, Janet Loesche, Kathy Trosvig, Nora Ramirez, and Pastor Paul Hoffman.

Mission of the Month: Lutheran World Relief (LWR) tackles global poverty by helping people adapt to the challenges that threaten their livelihoods and well-being. LWR provides aid in emergencies and helps families restore their lives. An important aspect of Central's ministry, that of the quilters, is an example of local volunteer service with a global impact. The quilts created by each Monday's quilting ministry are donated and distributed by Lutheran World Relief.

(Continued on page 11)

Sunday School meets at 9:15 a.m. in the nursery and adjoining room. Toddlers, preschoolers, and elementary age children are welcome.

The Good Friday Event

Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 5:00 p.m. on Friday, 3 April 2026

All Lutheran congregations in Everett will join together for worship on Good Friday this year at Our Savior's Lutheran Church, 215 Mukilteo Boulevard. The church will be open at 5:00 p.m. Throughout the church, there will be various multi-media experiences for you to enter more deeply into the meaning of this most holy day in our church year calendar. Some of those activities will include:

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| a labyrinth | a multi-media presentation of Good Friday art and music |
| healing stations | prayer stations |
| candle-lighting | opportunity for personal devotional prayer |
| and many more | |

At 6:30 p.m. all who have gathered will worship in the sanctuary with a service of Stations of the Cross. There, together with Jesus, we will take the last journey of his earthly life from arrest to crucifixion to burial. Together, we will give thanks for love as great as this, and leave in silence to anticipate the joy of the resurrection when Sunday dawns.

This Week at Central

Montessori Academy M-F, 7:30-4:30

Sunday, March 1

- 8:45 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:15 am Sunday School
- 9:30 am Friends Worship
- 10:00 am Central Lutheran Worship
- 1:00 pm Looking for Jesus Prayer Group
- 2:30 pm Marshallese Worship
- 5:00 pm Sunday Supper
- 7:00 pm Marshallese Fellowship

Monday, March 2

- 9:00 am SCMTA Music Program

Tuesday, March 3

- 9:00 am SCMTA Music Program
- 5:00 pm Academia Latina

Wednesday, March 4

- 8:00 am Lutheran Counseling Network
- 9:00 am SCMTA Music Program
- 7:00 pm Marshallese Fellowship

Thursday, March 5

- 8:00 am Lutheran Counseling Network
- 9:00 am SCMTA Music Program
- 5:00 pm Academia Latina
- 7:00 pm Marshallese Fellowship

Friday, March 6

- 9:00 am SCMTA Music Program

Sunday, March 8

(DAYLIGHT SAVINGS)

- 8:45 am Choir Rehearsal
- 9:15 am Sunday School
- 10:00 am Central Lutheran Worship
- 1:00 pm Looking for Jesus Prayer Group
- 2:30 pm Marshallese Worship
- 5:00 pm Sunday Supper
- 7:00 pm Marshallese Fellowship

Worship Leaders	This Sunday, March 1	Next Sunday, March 8
Keyboard	Joan Dirska	Joan Dirska
Usher	Dave Finstad	Dave Finstad
Lector	Dave Kurtz	Janis Ahern
Assisting Minister	Suzy Lavis	Jonathan Todd
Communion Bread	Debbie Saunders	Debbie Saunders
Fellowship Host	Semore Family	Semore Family
YouTube Operator	Jonathan Todd	Jonathan Todd
Altar Guild	Janet Loesche	Janet Loesche
Interpreter	Rosamaria Graziani	Rosamaria Graziani

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