



**Third Sunday in Lent
Holy Communion
March 8, 2026: 9:30 am**

**Shalom Lutheran Church, ELCA
681 Voyager Drive – Alexandria, MN 56308
www.shalomlutheran.org
(320) 762-8641**

Pastor—David Fleener
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Youth & Music Director-Sam Meehan
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youth@shalomlutheran.org
Office Administrator—Geri Rindahl

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“We believe God is calling us to invite people into a deeper relationship with Christ, that they may discover true peace and be prepared to follow Him in compassionate service”

GATHERING

INVITATION TO WORSHIP

The congregation may stand.

CONFESSION

P: Blessed be God: Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices from the margin,
and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

GATHERING SONG "Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty" ELW 777

1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.
 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.

If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain

Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.

In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

5 "Come to me, distressed and needy;
 I would be your trusted friend.
 Come and seek the gift I offer,
 come, your open hands extend." *Refrain*

6 "Come to me, abandoned, orphaned;
 lonely ways no longer roam.
 Come and take the gift I offer,
 let me make in you my home." *Refrain*

Text: Delores Dufner, OSB, b. 1939
 Music: BEACH SPRING, *The Sacred Harp*, Philadelphia, 1844; arr. *Selected Hymns*, 1985
 Text © 1992, 1996 Sisters of St. Benedict, 104 Chapel Lane, St. Joseph, MN 56374.
 Arr. © 1985 Augsburg Fortress.

PASTORAL GREETING

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

C: And also with you.

KYRIE



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

P: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

The congregation may be seated.

SCRIPTURE: Exodus 17:1-7

L: A reading from Exodus:

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." The LORD said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

SCRIPTURE: Romans 5:1-11

L: A reading from Romans:

Therefore, since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God., For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

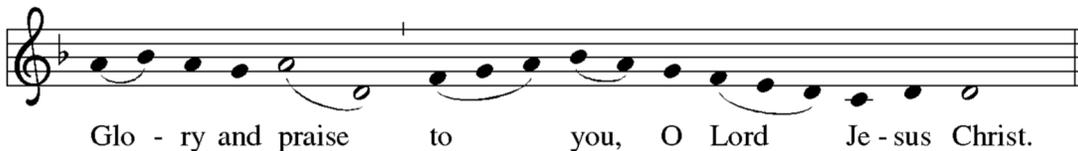
L: Word of God, word of life.

C: Thanks be to God.

The congregation may stand.

GOSPEL WELCOME

Sing twice



GOSPEL: John 4:1-42

P: The holy gospel according to St. John, the fourth chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, “Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John” (although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized), he left Judea and started back to Galilee. But he had to go through Samaria. So he came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) The

Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.), Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!" The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" They left the city and were on their way to him.

Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

P: The gospel of the Lord.
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The congregation may be seated.

SERMON "Breaking Unfaith" Pastor David Fleener

The congregation may stand.

SONG OF THE DAY "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" *ELW 335*

1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
 2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;
 3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;
 4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
 there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.
 help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.
 till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;

till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

APOSTLES' CREED

A: With the whole church, we confess our faith:

**C: 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.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

After each petition:

A: Hear us, O God

C: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

A: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.

SHARING THE PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

The congregation may be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OFFERING

Offering baskets will be passed. If you prefer to give digitally, you can scan the QR code to give. White cards to place in the plate are available in the guest pad for those who give digitally.



MUSICAL OFFERING

The congregation may stand.

OFFERTORY 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.

MEAL

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

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.

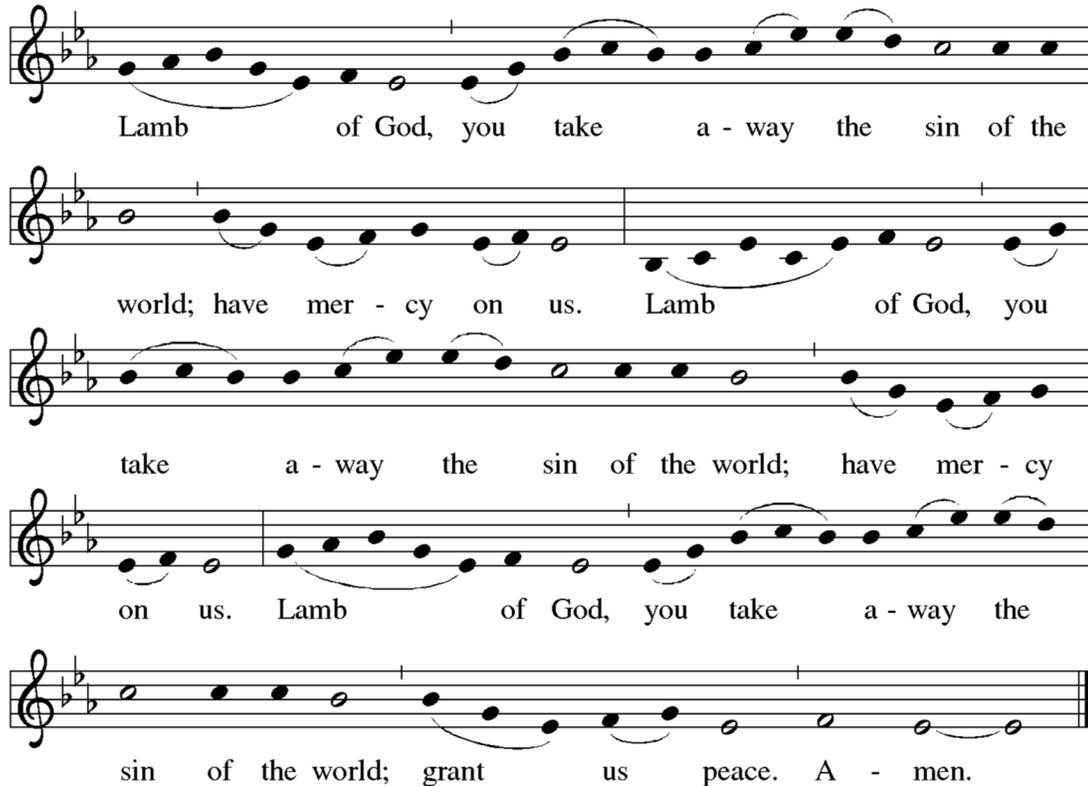
COMMUNION INVITATION

P: Come to the table.

Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

The congregation may be seated.

LAMB OF GOD



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. A - men.

SPECIAL MUSIC

The congregation may stand.

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

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

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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.

BENEDICTION

P: Beloved in the Lord,
God has shown you what is good.
What does the Lord require of you
but to do justice,
and to love mercy,
and to walk humbly with your God?

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and
forever.

C: Amen.

SENDING SONG "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer" ELW 618

1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious

bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me

with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es

feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

SHALOM LUTHERAN CHURCH

The Week of March 8, 2026

Church Office Hours: M-F 8:00 am—12:00 pm

Welcome to our Shalom gathering! All God's children are welcome here, especially our guests, whoever you are or wherever you come from. We invite you to sign the guest pad in your row and hope you'll join us for refreshments after worship in the Community Room. If you have any questions about Shalom or how we worship, please ask our greeters and ushers (wearing name tags). You may also ask Pastor David. If you can't catch him after worship, you may call the office at (320) 762-8461 or email him at pastor@shalomlutheran.org.

COMMUNION: Lutherans believe Holy Communion is the true body and blood of Jesus Christ, given and shed for us for the forgiveness of our sins. All baptized Christians who trust these words of promise are welcome to receive today. Children under the guidance of their parents or caregivers may also receive. Those who do not receive may come forward with arms crossed over their chest for a blessing. To receive communion, come forward to receive the bread from the pastor. Gluten-free bread is also available in small plastic containers by the individual communion cups. You may take a cup from the tray by the pastor, then move to either the wine or grape juice chalice. The wine chalice is first, the grape juice chalice is second. Wine or grape juice will be poured into your cup. Place used cups in the baskets. Those who cannot come forward for communion are asked to inform the ushers so that communion may be brought to them.

HOSPITALITY servers for Mar 15, are The Freier/Malvin Family.

LENTEN EVENING SUPPER AND PRAYER continues Wed., Mar. 11. Supper is at 5:15 pm in the Community Room and Evening Prayer begins at 6:30. Our liturgy is *That You May Have Life* by Marty Haugen and Susan Briehl. Our Lenten drama series *Knock Knock* continues with a play titled "No Buts"

SEATING As part of our commitment to being a welcoming church, the back row of each section will be reserved for guests and families with young children. Thank you for helping us keep those seats available.

DEDICATION of a PRAYER QUILT on March 8, 2026

This Prayer Quilt Ministry combines the gift of prayer with the gift of a hand-tied quilt. As each knot is tied, silent prayers are said for the special recipient, who will receive the finished quilt. There can never be too many prayers (knots) tied to a quilt. Knots on top of knots can be tied. The Prayer Quilt Ministry motto: *"It's not about the quilts, it is all about the prayers."*

MARCIA BENSON: Duane passed after a long battle of illness. Prayers are requested for: *peace as she approaches a new normal life.*

Sponsors: friends, Tammy & Corey Drewes, Brian & Kim Casavan *Please remove the quilt after worship and give to the recipient.*

EASTER FLOWERS: The altar Guild will be accepting donations to the flower fund in honor of or in memory of loved ones March 1-29.

Find donation envelopes on the tall counter in the Narthex. Complete the front of the envelope, enclose your monetary gift and put in Carol Hedlunds mailbox. The flowers will beautify the altar area for Easter Worship. Anyone who donates may take a flower home after April 12.

WELCA NW MN synodical Women's organization 2026 Conference 8 Spring Gathering. This year hosted by Bethesda Lutheran Church in Alexandria. The gathering is Saturday April 18th. Registration and fellowship is at 8:15-9:00, the cost for noon lunch is \$20.00 per person. Registration deadline is April 6th. Send Registration and fees to Bethesda Lutheran Church, 1204 N Nokomis St NE, Alexandria.

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

*John & Carrie Carlberg, *Bob Hildebrandt, *Dave & Mary Owen,
*Gerry Kingsburg, The Family of Bill Malvin, *Delores Martin, *Evie
Raguse, *Charles & Jeanne Tanksley, Teri Market, *Jeanette Priebe,
*Bonnie Anderson, *Dave Burbank, Joan Searles (Pastor David's
aunt), *Skeeter Kingsberg, Ben DeLong (brother of Chrissy Oachs),
*LaTelle Bailey, Family Of Norm Sukke. **Shalom member*

Jan/26 Activity

<u>Revenues</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Surpl/ (Deficit)</u>	
\$ 2,928	\$ 6,587	\$ (3,659)	Building Fund
\$ 18,898	\$ 30,159	\$ (11,262)	General Fund

The annual General/Bldg Funds budget was approved showing offerings equal to congregation approved expenses. Current General/Bldg fund cash balance is \$100,572.

Shared Ministry

<u>Shared Ministry</u>	<u>03-08-26</u>	<u>03-15-26</u>
Acolyte	Mara Malvin	Caedyn Whipkey
Assisting Minister	Dave Burbank	Sharon Hermanson
Communion Assist	Cheryl Burbank	Angie Erickson
Communion Assist	Dave Morgan	Amber Whipkey
Greeters	Linda Fenelon	Barb Beyer
Greeters	Connie Facciotto	Dave Beyer
Lector	Tam Bukowski	Eunice Shelstad
Musicians		SOS Band
Proclaim/FB Live	CJ/Kim/Julie	CJ/Kim/Julie
Ushers	Al Anderson	Lona Neubarth
Ushers	Sue Engstrom	Craig Neubarth
Counters	Derek Navratil	Derek Navratil
Counters	Fritz Bukowski	Al Anderson

THIS WEEK AT SHALOM

Sunday	03-08	9:30 am 10:30 am	Worship in-person or online Hospitality Radio Ministry
Monday	03-09	6:00 pm	Garden Club
Tuesday	03-10	7:30 am 9:00 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm 5:00 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm	Men's Bible Study at Common Ground Dartball Outreach No Gospel of Uke Y/ED Property Runestone Chorus
Wednesday	03-11	5:15 pm 5:30 pm 5:30 pm 6:30 pm After Worship	Meal Shalom Ringers Drama Rehearsal Lenten Service Drama Rehearsal
Thursday	03-12	8:00-9:45 am 10:00-11:00 am 11:00 am 5:00 pm 6:00 pm	Shalom Piecemakers Bible Study Altar Guild Worship Shalom Singers
Sunday	03-15	9:30 am 10:30 am	Worship in-person or online Hospitality