

Lord, When Did We See You?

February 25

I Was Hungry and You Gave Me Food

March 4

I Was Thirsty and You Gave Me Something to Drink

March 11

I Was a Stranger and You Welcomed Me

March 18

I Was Naked and You Gave Me Clothing

March 25

I Was Sick and You Visited Me

Lent 2026

Wednesday Worship

5:30 p.m.

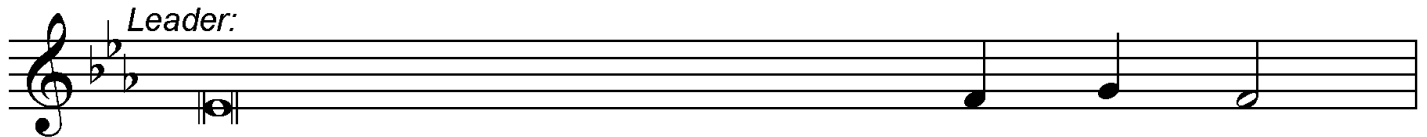
GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

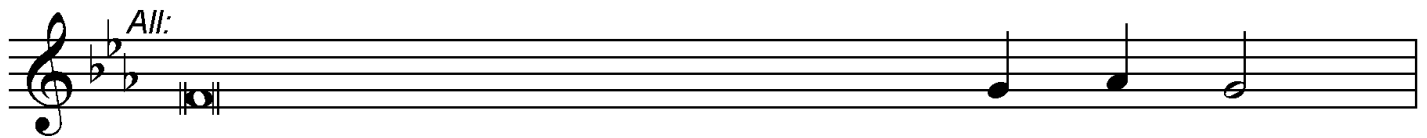
SERVICE OF LIGHT

Leader:



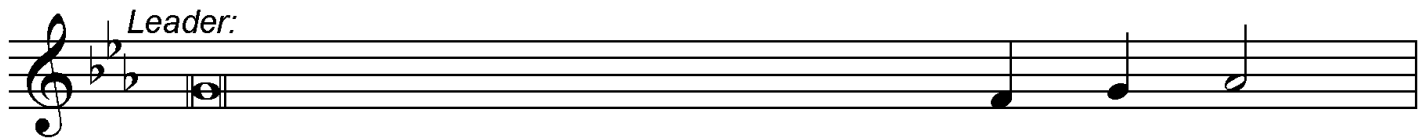
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:



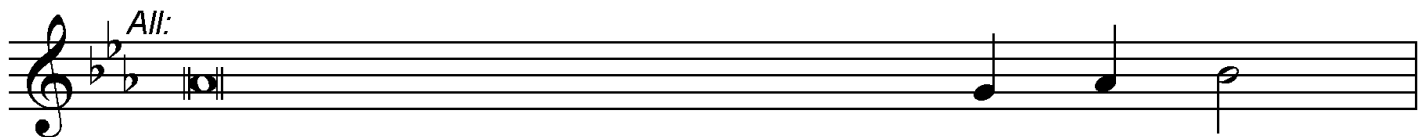
the light no darkness can o - ver come;

Leader:



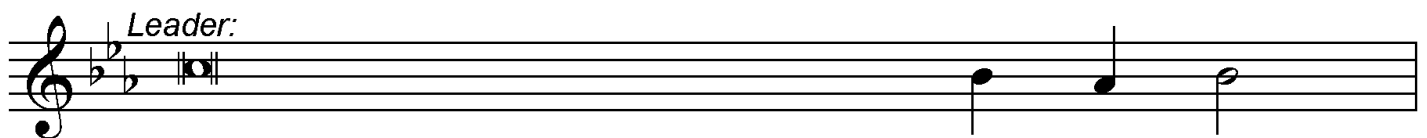
Stay with us now, for it is evening;

All:



and the day is al - most over.

Leader:



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:

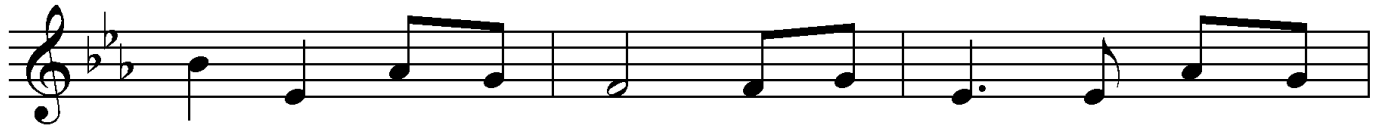


and shine within your people here. _____

EVENING HYMN



All:
 1. Joy - ous light of heav - 'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
 2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
 3. You who made the heav - en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
 blaz - ing sun of dawn, of the light of peace and
 danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



sto - ry, shine on ev - 'ry land and race. Now as
 wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
 jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
 fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
 God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



you, God of day break, God of shad - ows, come and
 soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
 way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. _____
 free and make us whole. _____
 on to end - less day. _____

Leader: May God be with you all, *All:* and al - so with you;

Leader: Let us sing our thanks to _____ God,

All: It is right to give God thanks and praise.

EVENING THANKSGIVING

Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

All: A - - - - - men

PSALMODY - "ROUND"

Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the

lift - ing up of my hands as an of - fer - ing to you. _____

Left-hand side

— O God, I call to you, come to me

Right-hand side

O God, I

now; O hear my voice when I cry to you.

call to you, come to me now; O hear my voice when I

— Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the

cry to you. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to you.

fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to

— Keep watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the light of your

you. Keep watch with - in me, God; deep in my

love be burn - ing bright. _____ Let my prayer rise
heart may the light of your love be burn - ing bright.

up like in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an
Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be - fore you, the lift-ing up of my

of-fer-ing to you. _____ All praise to the God of all- Cre-
hands as an of-fer-ing to you. All

a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love. _____
praise to the God of all- Cre - a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the

— Let my prayer rise up like incense be - fore you, the
Spir-it of love. Let my prayer rise up like in-cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an offering to you.

fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an offering to you.

May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

Amen.

WORD

LORD, WHEN DID WE SEE YOU? -

PLEASE SEE INSERT ON PG 11

The 2026 Lenten Challenge Theme

“Lord, When Did We See You?”

The theme of this year’s challenge derives from Matthew 25:37-40. The passage emphasizes that caring for the poor, sick, and marginalized is an act of service to Christ, and that a person’s treatment of others is a reflection of their relationship with God.

The spiritual practices for the six weeks of Lent will focus on stretching our learning, care and advocacy muscles on behalf of underserved communities. The six weeks will be broken up according to the gospel text, as below, with participants focusing on what we know and think about these siblings in Christ, as well as how we act in support and on behalf of these communities:



Why Lent? Lent is a season of 40 days to reflect, remember our dependence on God and one another, and look forward to the ways God calls us to be. Adding one or more of these spiritual practices to your observation of Lent might help you feel more connected.

ANNUNCIATION AND MAGNIFICAT

An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most high." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."



1.3. My soul pro-claims your great-ness O God, and my
2. You have cast the might - y down from their thrones, and up-



spi-rit re - joic-es in you. You have looked with love on your
lift-ed the hum-ble of heart. You have filled the hun - gry with



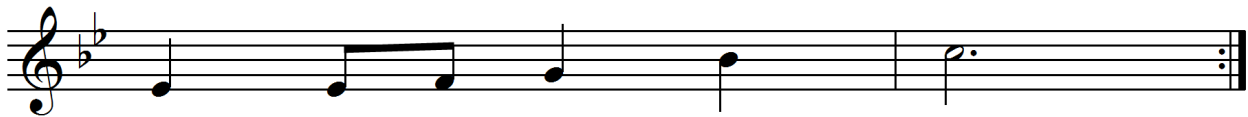
ser - vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won-drous things and left the wealth-y no part.



Great and might-y are you, O Ho - ly One, strong is your kind-ness
Great and might-y are you, O Faith-ful One, strong is your jus-tice,



ev - er - more. How you fa - vor the weak and low-ly one,
strong your love, As you promised to Sar - ah and A-bra-ham,



hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er more.

LITANY AND PRAYERS

Refrain

All

Watch, O Lord, with all those a -
wake this night. Watch, O Lord, with all those who
weep. Give your an - gels and saints
charge ov - er all who sleep

Verses

Assisting Minister

All

Assisting Minister

1 Tend your ail - ing ones: in your love, Lord. Rest your
2 Soothe your suf - fring ones: Heal af -
3 Hold your griev - ing ones: Raise your
4 Guard your lit - tle ones: Guide your

All

Assisting Minister

wea - ry ones: in your love, Lord Bless your
flict - ed ones: Shield your
fall - en ones: Mend your
search - ing ones: Grant us

All

To Refrain

dy - ing ones: in your love, O Lord of all.
joy - ous ones:
bro - ken ones:
all your peace:

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

God, remember us in your love and teach us to pray:

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 whose 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

SENDING


FINAL BLESSING

Leader: All:



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

Leader:



May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may

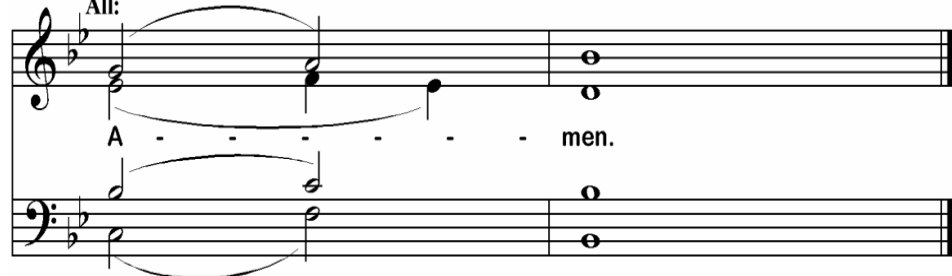


Christ be ev-er light for our lives, may the Spir - it of Love be our



guide and path, for all of our days. _____

All:



A - - - - - men.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

POSTLUDE

Wednesday March 11, 2026 Week 3 “I was a stranger and you welcomed me”

ANTHEM *“O Sacred Head”* Sarah Morrow

READING, GENESIS 18:1-15

The Lord appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he sat at the entrance of his tent in the heat of the day. He looked up and saw three men standing near him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent entrance to meet them and bowed down to the ground. He said, “My lord, if I find favor with you, do not pass by your servant. Let a little water be brought, and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree. Let me bring a little bread, that you may refresh yourselves, and after that you may pass on—since you have come to your servant.” So they said, “Do as you have said.” And Abraham hastened into the tent to Sarah and said, “Make ready quickly three measures of choice flour, knead it, and make cakes.” Abraham ran to the herd and took a calf, tender and good, and gave it to the servant, who hastened to prepare it. Then he took curds and milk and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them, and he stood by them under the tree while they ate.

They said to him, “Where is your wife Sarah?” And he said, “There, in the tent.” Then one said, “I will surely return to you in due season, and your wife Sarah shall have a son.” And Sarah was listening at the tent entrance behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; it had ceased to be with Sarah after the manner of women. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, “After I have grown old, and my husband is old, shall I be fruitful?” The Lord said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Shall I indeed bear a child, now that I am old?’ Is anything too wonderful for the Lord? At the set time I will return to you, in due season, and Sarah shall have a son.” But Sarah denied, saying, “I did not laugh,” for she was afraid. He said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

REFLECTION Pastor Garrett Struessel

PRAYER

God of every nation and people, Break down the walls that divide us. Make us bold in welcome and rich in mercy, That all may find a home among your people. Amen.

Worship continues with the Annunciation and Magnificat on p. 8

REFLECTION “TO GO”: A newcomer slipped quietly into the back pew one Sunday, unsure when to sit or stand. After worship, someone extended a hand and said, “I’m glad you’re here.” That simple sentence did more than welcome—it made space for belonging.

Scripture consistently links hospitality with holiness. Abraham welcomes strangers and meets God. Israel is commanded to love the foreigner because they remember what it means to be vulnerable.

The ELCA Social Statement, Immigration insists that “human dignity is not determined by legal status” and calls the church to accompaniment, advocacy, and welcome.³

In Matthew 25, the stranger is not a disruption but a revelation. Lent invites the church to practice hospitality not as politeness, but as discipleship—because Christ often arrives without credentials.

RELATED READINGS OLD TESTAMENT

- Leviticus 19:33-34 - “You shall love the alien as yourself.”
- Deuteronomy 10:18-19 - “God loves the stranger and commands the same.”

RELATED READING NEW TESTAMENT

- Hebrews 13:2 - “Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers.”
- Ephesians 2:19 - “You are no longer strangers... but members of the household of God.”

SIMPLE ACTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Greet someone new at church or in your neighborhood and learn their story.

Pray for immigrants, refugees, and those seeking safety.

Explore one concrete way your congregation can practice hospitality beyond its walls.

Footnotes – ELCA Social Statements

3. ELCA, Immigration (2009)

The 2026 Lenten Challenge
“Lord, When Did We See You?”



Pastor	Garrett Struessel
Music Leader	Pastor Garrett Struessel
Second Singer	Sarah Morrow
Usher	Stephanie Nieuwlandt
Reader	Fran Von Hagel
Pianist	Gary Elmquist
