

FIRST EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH



LENT

Third & Terry, Longmont, Colorado
(303) 776-2800 | www.firstluth.org
Pastor Garrett Struessel and Deacon Korra Looschen

Fourth Sunday of Lent
Sunday, March 15, 2026
9:30 a.m.

GATHERING



PRELUDE

WELCOME

INTRODUCTION

Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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 disdain 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:

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.

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.

GATHERING HYMN

"O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"

ELW 722 vs. 1,3,4

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate

ELW 722

1. O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain. Its
 2. As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind, so
 3. O Christ cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours, that
 4. O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar-row's fall, whose

beat - ing — was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main. The —
 may all — bruised and bro - ken lives through us — your help still find. Lord,
 joined by — faith with your great heart, be - come — love's o - pen doors. We —
 arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all: come.

heart of God, the heart of — Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme to
 join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone, and
 are your bod - y, ris - en — Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield that
 make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways, whose

write God's love in hy - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
 help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.
 through our lives and min - is - try your love — may be re - vealed.
 deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G Stuempfle Jr., b. 1923
 Music: German Melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X.L. Hartig, Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche, 1833
 Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

ELLACOMBE
 C M D

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

ANTHEM

"I Am the Resurrection" by Kevin Hildebran

Chancel Choir

WORD

READINGS

Ephesians 5:8-14

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore, it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Word of God, word of life

Thanks be to God

CHILDRENS TIME

Deacon Korra Looschen

Congregation: Please Rise for the Gospel Acclamation

Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL

The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 9th chapter beginning at the 1st verse.

Glory to you, O Lord.

John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God.

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God!

We know that this man is a sinner.”²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?”²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?”²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses.”²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.”³⁰ The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes.”³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.”³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.”³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.”³⁴ They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?”³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.”³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.”³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind.”⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?”⁴¹ Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Krista Kilgus
Executive Director, Urban Servant Corps

APOSTLE’S 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

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

PASSING OF THE PEACE

Peace of the Lord be with you always
And also with you.

MEAL

OFFERTORY

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

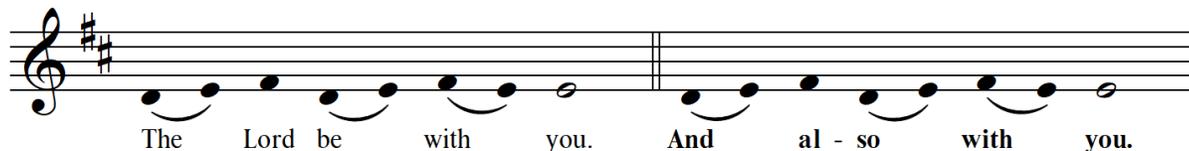
O God,

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.

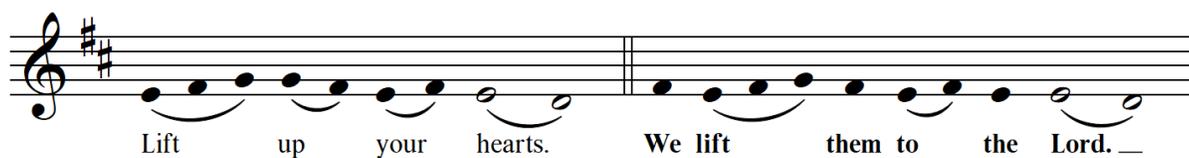
Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

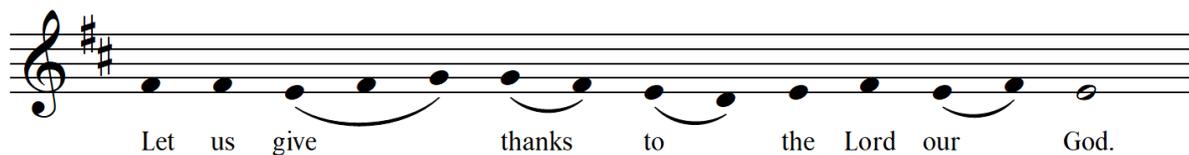
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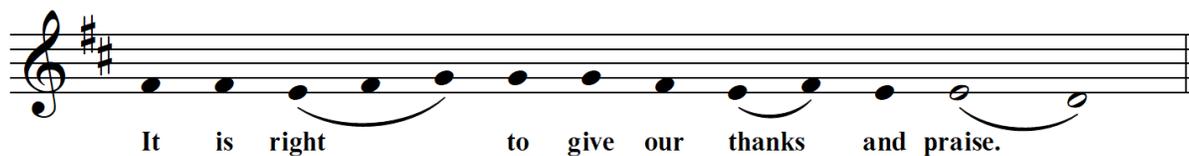
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



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.

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

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
 pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho -
 san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
 name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

SHARING OF COMMUNION

All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God’s presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation shared in this meal. “The body of Christ, broken for you”, and “the blood of Christ shed for you”, include the promise of forgiveness, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Hear these words and partake of the bread/cracker and wine/juice, giving it to each other, if possible:

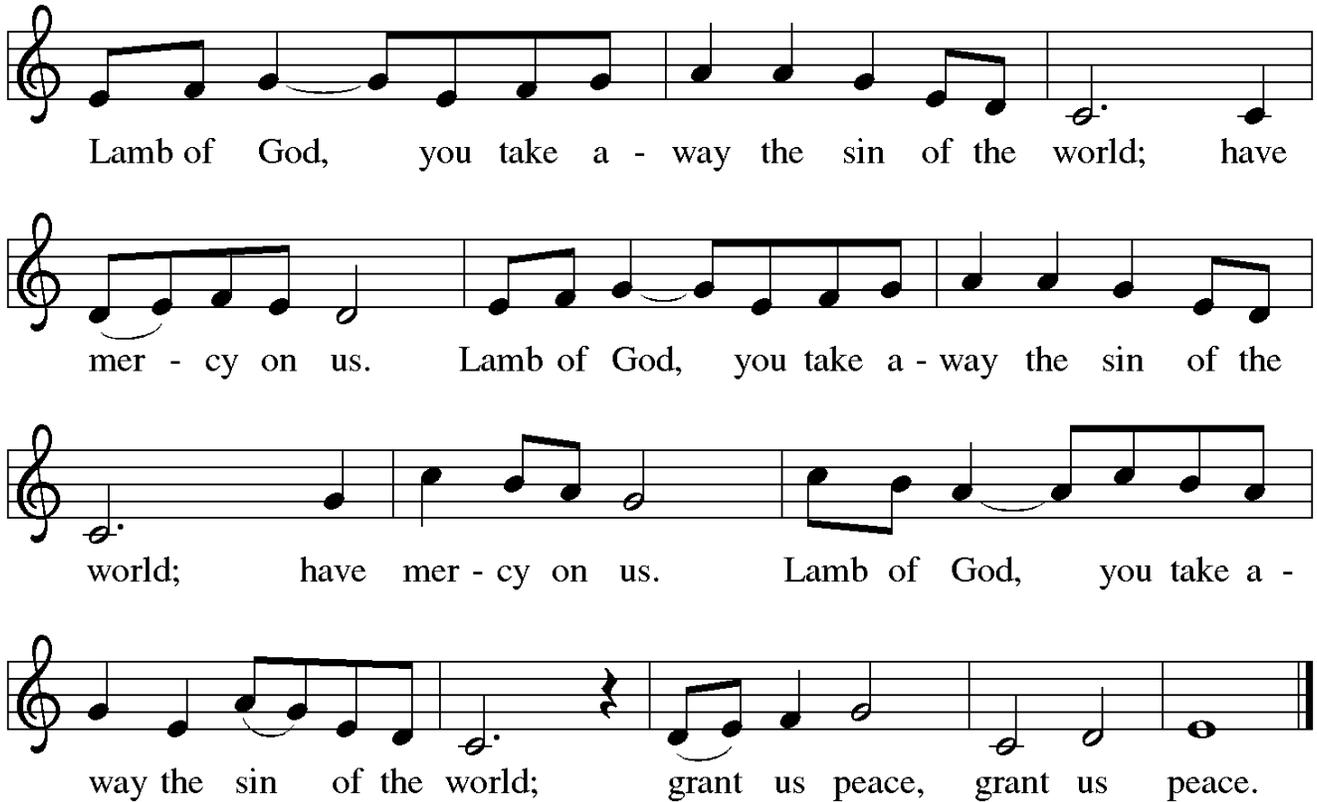
“The body of Christ given for you. The blood of Christ shed for you.”

All are welcome who come trusting in the gift of God’s presence in the Bread of Life and the Cup of Salvation, shared in this meal. “The body of Christ, broken for you”, and “the blood of Christ shed for you”, include the promise of the forgiveness of sin, life and salvation in Christ Jesus our Lord. The ushers will invite you to come forward for communion. We invite everyone to receive communion if you so desire.

The invitation to receive Holy Communion is from Christ Jesus; therefore "all are welcome". In our serving communion trays, wine is darker red on the outside, and grape juice is the lighter color in the center. We serve only gluten-free bread prepared in a kitchen excluding wheat flour, to include everyone regardless of wheat-gluten sensitivities. Come, taste and see, that the Lord is good.

LAMB OF GOD

Page 112



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, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS

<i>"Let Us Break Bread"</i>	ELW 472
<i>"As the Grains of Wheat"</i>	ELW 465
<i>"Eat This Bread"</i>	ELW 472

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

1. Let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees;
 2. Let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees;
 3. Let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees;

let us break bread to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us drink wine to - geth - er on our knees.
 let us praise God to - geth - er on our knees.

Refrain

When I fall on my knees, with my face to the ris - ing

sun, O Lord have mer - cy on me.

Text: African American spiritual
 Music: African American spiritual

BREAK BREAD TOGETHER
 10 10 and refrain

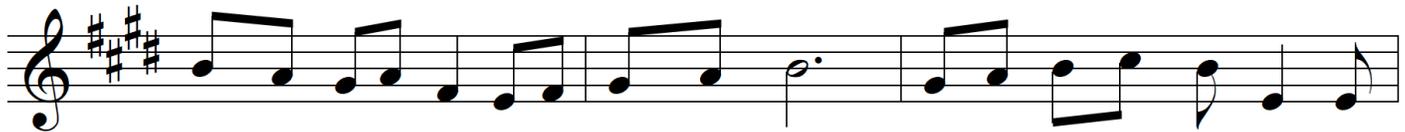
As the Grains of Wheat

ELW 465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were



gath-ered in-to one to be-come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from

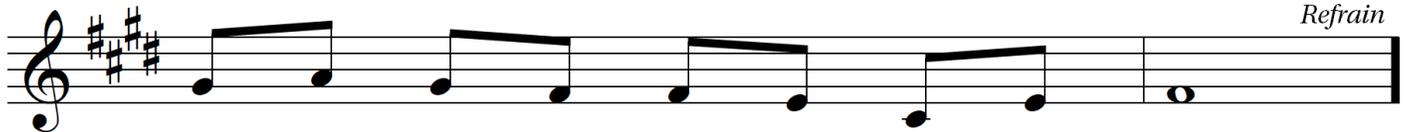


all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.



1. As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst, _____

2. Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when



Refrain

may we share the pres - ence of your love.

all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Test: Shirley Erena Murray, b. 1931

Music: Carlton R. Young, b. 1926

Text and music © 1996 Hope Publishing Company

AS THE GRAINS

Irregular

Eat this Bread

ELW 472

"Eat this bread, drink this cup, come to me and nev-er be hun - gry.

The first system of music consists of two staves. The upper staff is in treble clef with a key signature of one sharp (F#) and a common time signature. It contains a melody of eighth and quarter notes. The lower staff is in bass clef with the same key signature and time signature, providing a harmonic accompaniment of chords and moving lines.

Eat this bread, drink this cup, trust in me and you will not thirst."

The second system of music also consists of two staves in the same key signature and time signature. The melody in the upper staff continues with similar rhythmic patterns. The lower staff provides accompaniment, ending with a final chord and a double bar line.

Text: Taizé Community
Music: Jacques Berthier, 1923-1994
Text and music © Les Presses de Taizé, admin GIA Publications, Inc.

BERHTIER
Irregular

COMMUNION BLESSING

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN

"Dearest Jesus, At Your Word"

ELW 520 vs. 1,2,4

SENDING

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

We are blessed to be able to record our worship services so that others may enjoy worship remotely. Please note that today's worship service is audio and video recorded for online sharing and archival purposes.

Preacher

Krista Kilgus, Executive Director, Urban Servant Corps

Presider

The Rev. Garrett Struessel

Worship Assistant

Deacon Korra Looschen

Council Members

John Gaddis

Bill Campbell

Ushers

Holly Keenan

Mike Shiveley

Reader

Char Lemkee

Communion Assistants

Lewis Geyer II

Vicki Shiveley

Choir Director

Sally Campbell

Pianist/Organist

Gary Elmquist

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Dearest Jesus, at Your Word

ELW 520

1. Dear - est Je - sus, at your word we have come a - gain to
 2. All our knowl - edge, sense, and sight lie in deep - est dark - ness
 3. Ra - diance of God's glo - ry bright, Light of Light from God pro -
 4. Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost, praise to you and ad - o -

hear you; let our thoughts and hearts be stirred
 shroud - ed till your Spir - it breaks the night,
 ceed - ing, Je - sus, send your bless - ed light;
 ra - tion! Grant us what we need the most:

and in glow - ing faith be near you as the prom - is -
 fill - ing us with light un - cloud - ed. All good thoughts and
 help our hear - ing, speak - ing, heed - ing, that our prayers and
 all your gos - pel's con - so - la - tion while we here on

es here giv - en draw us whol - ly up to heav - en.
 all good liv - ing come but by your gra - cious giv - ing.
 songs may please you, as with grate - ful hearts we praise you.
 earth a - wait you, till in heav'n with praise we greet you.

Text: Tobias Causnitzer, 1619-1684, sts. 1-3; *Gesangbuch*, Berlin, 1707, st. 4;

tr. Cathering Winkworth, 1827-1878, adapt.

LIEBSTER JESU, WIR SIND HIER

Music: Johann R. Ahle, 1625-1673

7 8 7 8 8 8