

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.

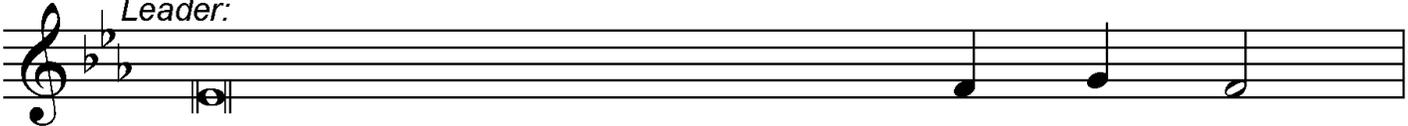
GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

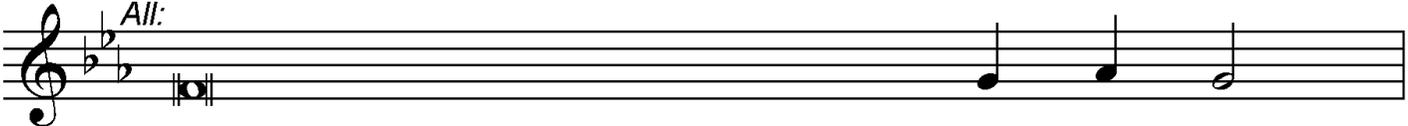
SERVICE OF LIGHT

Leader:



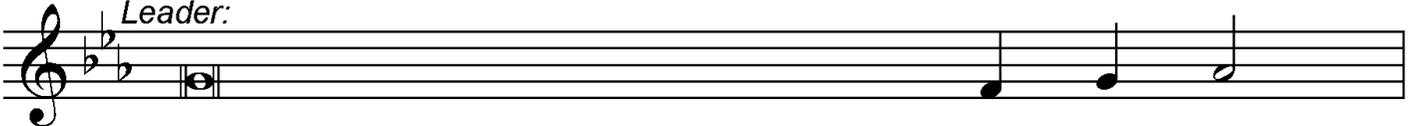
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:



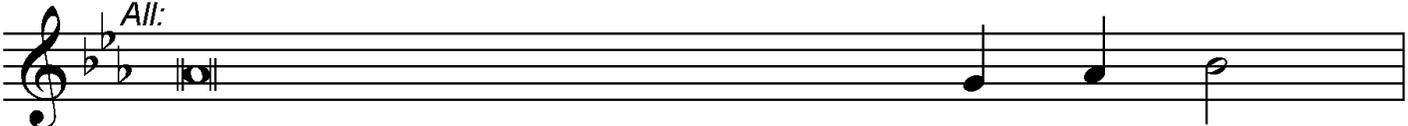
the light no darkness can o - ver come;

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:

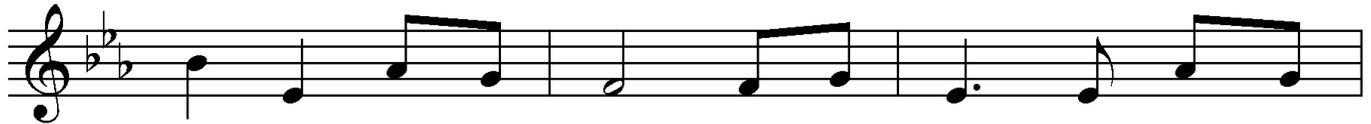


and shine within your people here. _____

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 - f'ring ones: Heal af -
3 Hold your griev - ing ones: Raise your
4 Guard your lit - tle ones: Guide your
wea - ry ones: in your love, Lord Bless your
flict - ed ones: Shield your
fall - en ones: Mend your
search - ing ones: Grant us
dy - ing ones: in your love, O Lord of all.
joy - ous ones:
bro - ken ones:
all your peace:

To Refrain

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

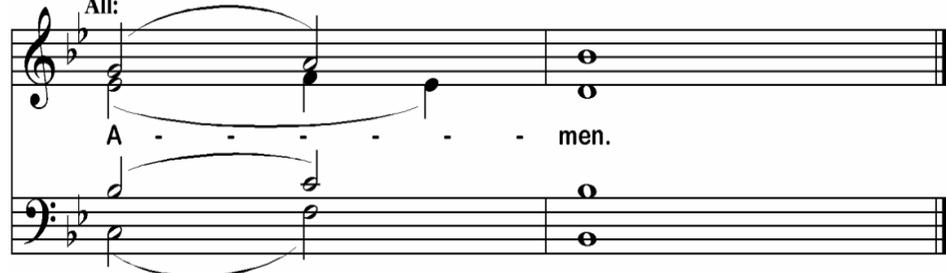


Christ be ev-er light for our lives, may the Spir - it of Love be our



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 18, 2026 Week 4 “I was naked and you gave me clothing”

ANTHEM

“Bist du bie mir by Bach”

Julianne Davis

READING, ISAIAH 58:1-12

Shout out; do not hold back! Lift up your voice like a trumpet! Announce to my people their rebellion, to the house of Jacob their sins. Yet day after day they seek me and delight to know my ways, as if they were a nation that practiced righteousness and did not forsake the ordinance of their God; they ask of me righteous judgments; they want God on their side. “Why do we fast, but you do not see? Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?” Look, you serve your own interest on your fast day and oppress all your workers. You fast only to quarrel and to fight and to strike with a wicked fist. Such fasting as you do today will not make your voice heard on high. Is such the fast that I choose, a day to humble oneself? Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush and to lie in sackcloth and ashes? Will you call this a fast, a day acceptable to the Lord?

Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the straps of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? Is it not to share your bread with the hungry and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them and not to hide yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, “Here I am.”

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water whose waters never fail. Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt; you shall raise up the foundations of many generations; you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

REFLECTION

Pastor Garrett Struessel

PRAYER

God who clothes creation in beauty, Teach us to restore dignity where it is lost. Make us generous with what we have, That all may be wrapped in care. Amen.

Worship continues with the Annunciation and Magnificat on p. 8

REFLECTION “TO-GO”: A winter coat rack filled the narthex. Some coats were new, others gently worn. A woman hesitated before choosing one, then wrapped it around herself and smiled. “This feels like hope,” she said.

In Scripture, clothing the naked is about more than warmth—it is about restoring dignity. Isaiah names it as true fasting, and Job points to it as evidence of righteousness.

The ELCA Social Statement, Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All emphasizes that adequate clothing and shelter are essential to human dignity and flourishing.¹

In Matthew 25, clothing the naked becomes an act of seeing. During Lent, we are called to notice where dignity is stripped away—and to respond with compassion that covers rather than judges.

RELATED READINGS OLD TESTAMENT

- Job 31:19-20 – “Job defends the poor by clothing them.”
- Ezekiel 18:7 – “Righteousness includes covering the naked.”

RELATED READINGS NEW TESTAMENT

- James 2:15-16 – “Clothing the naked is a concrete expression of faith.”
- 1 Timothy 6:8 – “If we have food and clothing, we will be content with these.”

SIMPLE ACTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Donate gently used clothing or essentials to a local ministry.

Reflect on how consumer habits affect others’ dignity.

Discuss what it means to clothe others without judgment or conditions.

Footnotes – ELCA Social Statements

1. ELCA, Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All (1999)

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



Pastor	Garrett Struessel
Deacon	Korra Looschen
Music Leader	Julianne Davis
Usher	Cliff Looschen
Reader	Barb Mohr
Pianist	Susan Bennett