

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.

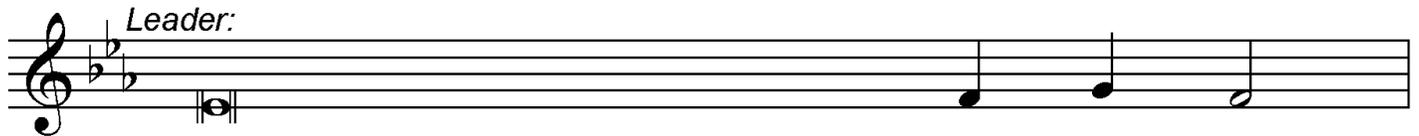
GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Leader:



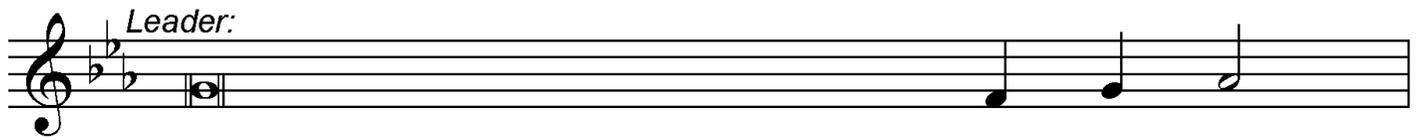
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:



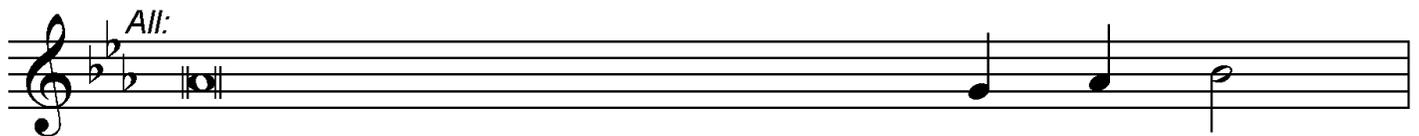
the light no darkness can o - ver come;

Leader:



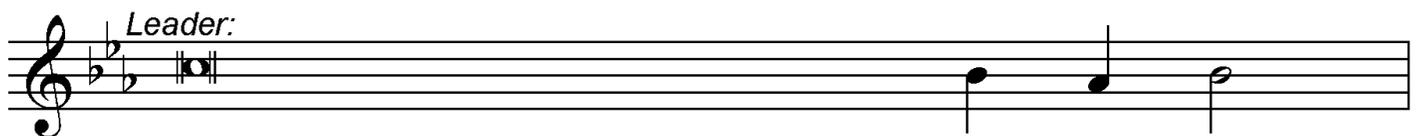
Stay with us now, for it is evening;

All:



and the day is al - most over.

Leader:



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:

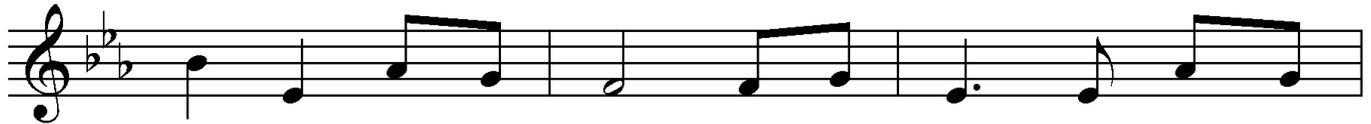


and shine within your people here. _____

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

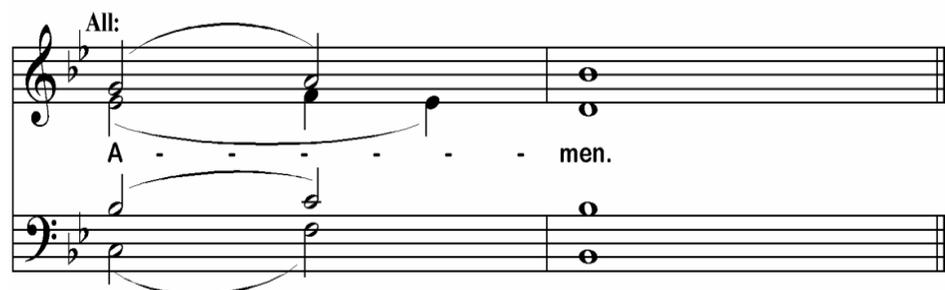


Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the Spir - it of Love be our



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 25, 2026
**Week 5 “I was sick and you took care of me...
I was in prison and you visited me”**

ANTHEM

“Precious Lord, Take My Hand”

Randy Williams

READING, ACTS 16:25-34

About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them. Suddenly there was an earthquake so violent that the foundations of the prison were shaken, and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone’s chains were unfastened. When the jailer woke up and saw the prison doors wide open, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, since he supposed that the prisoners had escaped. But Paul shouted in a loud voice, “Do not harm yourself, for we are all here.” The jailer called for lights, and rushing in, he fell down trembling before Paul and Silas. Then he brought them outside and said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” They answered, “Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and your household.” They spoke the word of the Lord to him and to all who were in his house. At the same hour of the night he took them and washed their wounds; then he and his entire family were baptized without delay. He brought them up into the house and set food before them, and he and his entire household rejoiced that he had become a believer in God.

REFLECTION

Pastor Garrett Struessel

PRAYER

God who dwells with the suffering, Draw us near to those who are isolated or confined. Give us courage to be present, And faith to recognize you there. Amen.

Worship continues with the Annunciation and Magnificat on p. 8

REFLECTION “TO GO”: A hospital room grows quiet after visitors leave. A prison cell grows quieter still. Illness and incarceration both isolate, making people easy to forget. Yet Scripture insists that God never forgets.

Jesus heals with compassion, not efficiency. The early church remembers prisoners “as though you were bound with them.” Presence—not solutions—is the gift.

The ELCA Social Statement, *Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor* affirms health care as a shared social responsibility grounded in justice and compassion.⁴ The ELCA’s criminal justice teaching likewise calls for respect for the humanity of incarcerated people and supports restorative approaches over punishment alone.⁵

Matthew 25 places Christ behind locked doors and beside hospital beds. Lent reminds us that visiting, caring, and advocating do not bring Christ there—Christ is already there, waiting.

RELATED OLD TESTAMENT READINGS

- Psalm 41:1-3 – “The LORD sustains them on their sickbed.”
- Sirach 38:9-12 (Apocrypha, often included with NRSV) – Honors care and prayer for the sick.
- 2 Kings 20:1-7 – Hezekiah’s illness and healing.
- Psalm 102:19-20 – God hears the groans of prisoners.
- Isaiah 42:6-7 – The servant is sent “to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon.”
- Jeremiah 38:7-13 – Ebed-melech intervenes on behalf of the imprisoned prophet.

RELATED NEW TESTAMENT READINGS

- Matthew 14:14 – Jesus has compassion and heals the sick.
- James 5:14-15 – The community is called to pray for and tend the sick.
- Hebrews 13:3 – “Remember those who are in prison, as though you were in prison with them.”
- Matthew 11:2-6 – John the Baptist receives pastoral care while in prison.

SIMPLE ACTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Reach out to someone who is sick, homebound, or isolated with a call or note.

Learn about local prison or reentry ministries and pray for those affected.

Reflect together on how presence itself can be an act of healing.

Footnotes – ELCA Social Statements

4. ELCA, *Caring for Health: Our Shared Endeavor* (2003)
5. ELCA, *The Church and Criminal Justice* (1991)

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



Pastor	Garrett Struessel
Deacon	Korra Looschen
Second Singer	Randy Williams
Usher	Cliff Looschen
Reader	Sally Campbell
Pianist	Joyce Crozier
