

**Sunday, March 15, 2026**

*Holy Communion - brief version and UMCOR Sunday*

**Welcome** *Pastor Jeff will give announcements and welcome*

**\*\*Call to Worship** (*Liturgist parts are indicated in BOLD and \*\**)

**\*\*Good Morning, I am Chris Ritter and will be serving as Worship Leader today. Would you please stand in body or spirit to join me in the responsive Call to Worship?**

**\*\*Leader: Draw near to the light of God's love; flock to the One who leads us by still waters.**

People: The Lord is our shepherd; we shall not want. God is light for all who are stumbling in darkness.

**\*\*Leader: Awake, all who are sleeping through God's wonders; look around you and observe the light Christ gives.**

People: We gather in the name of Jesus Christ, who is the light of the world and our light.

**\*\*Leader: The God revealed in Jesus Christ is our host. we are guests of One who feeds and heals us.**

People: We have come to worship the God of mercy. we are here to be fed and enlightened.

**\*\*Will you join us in our opening song, "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty", hymn #139 in the hymnal, and the words will be on the screen.**

**Children's Time**

**Community Notes**

<sup>2</sup> Prayers, the Lord's Prayer and Offering of Gifts

*(Pastor Jeff will first do the prayers, Liturgist will read Invitation & pray)*

**\*\*Invitation: We who have been anointed with God's love and set apart for discipleship are challenged to be the body of Christ in the world. We are privileged to share the resources entrusted to each of us, that together we may provide leadership and empowerment for the church's mission. Our offerings support the ministries we offer here and our outreach to many places where needs are greater than our own.**

**\*\*Will you pray with me? For your goodness and mercy that overflow through our lives and equip us to share, we give thanks. No sacrifice can match your generosity; no offering is adequate to express our gratitude. We bring ourselves with our gifts, that all may be consecrated anew to your service. Amen.**

**\*\*Scripture Reading      Psalm 32:1-8 NRSV**

**Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered. Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit. While I kept silent, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long. For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer. *Selah*. Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the guilt of my sin. *Selah*. Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them. You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance. *Selah*. I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.**

**\*\*Scripture Reading      Luke 23:32-43 NRSV**

**As this is a reading from the Gospel, please stand in body or spirit.**

Two others also, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. When they came to the place that is called The Skull, they crucified Jesus there with the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. [[Then Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”]] And they cast lots to divide his clothing. And the people stood by watching, but the leaders scoffed at him, saying, “He saved others; let him save himself if he is the Messiah of God, his chosen one!” The soldiers also mocked him, coming up and offering him sour wine and saying, “If you are the King of the Jews, save yourself!” There was also an inscription over him, “This is the King of the Jews.” One of the criminals who were hanged there kept deriding him and saying, “Are you not the Messiah? Save yourself and us!” But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed have been condemned justly, for we are getting what we deserve for our deeds, but this man has done nothing wrong.” Then he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come in your kingdom.” He replied, “Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise.”

**This is the word of God for the people of God: Thanks be to God!**

**Preparation Chorus “I Choose Love” - All sing**

**Message** *“In the Midst of Sin, Jesus Forgives”* Pastor Jeff Williams

**Communion**

**Invitation**

**Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him and seek to grow into his likeness. Let us draw near with faith, make our humble confession, and prepare to receive this Holy Sacrament.**

## **Confession & Pardon**

**ALL: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own goodness, but in your unfailing mercies. We are not worthy that you should receive us, but give your word and we shall be healed, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

**Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ has died for us while we were yet sinners: that is proof of God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**ALL: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!**

**-----Pastor reads The Great Thanksgiving...**

*The congregation will come forward to receive communion)*

**Communion Song/Choir Anthem "Come, Holy Spirit" by John W Peterson**

**Closing Song "Beneath the Cross" Hymn #297**

**Blessing for the Week**

**Choral Benediction**