

First Lutheran
relationships that transform



**4TH SUNDAY
IN LENT**

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

Welcome to worship at First Lutheran Church.

We worship God using the form of worship which has been used by Christians throughout church history, which is commonly called “liturgical worship.” Liturgy is defined as the “work of the people,” which means that this is a participatory form of worship for all people, whether leading from the front, or singing and responding as a part of the congregation.

In worship, we come out of the chaos of the world to prepare ourselves to meet God, who is revealed to us in Jesus Christ. Through confession/forgiveness, prayer, and proclamation of the Word of God, we are led to the center of our worship which is the celebration of Holy Communion (also called the Lord’s Supper or Eucharist). It is in that act of eating and drinking the true body and blood of Jesus in the forms of bread and wine, that we make a sacred connection with God. As our worship concludes, we are sent back into the world, as people who have been changed by an encounter with God, to be light in the midst of the chaos and confusion of the world.



Are you having trouble hearing the sermon?

An assistive listening system is available in our sanctuary.

You may select a receiver from the basket in the rear of the sanctuary, near the sound booth; please return it following worship.

There are **printed** copies of the sermon available in the narthex near the bulletins

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 15, 2026 8:15 am & 10:45 am

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome to worship, we are glad that God has brought us together today! If you are visiting us today, please fill out a card to receive more information about First Lutheran Church. The cards are in the narthex near the bulletins or from an usher or staff member.

NURSERY

Children 3 and under are invited to our staffed nursery.

CHILDREN'S CHURCH

Children up to 5th grade are invited to attend Children's Church. Meet the leader at the back of the sanctuary. The children meet in the chapel and will return to service just before Holy Communion.

PRELUDE

Shepherd Me O God

The Chancel Choir

Please stand.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✙ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Let us make personal confession of our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Let us confess our sin together.

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.

SHARING OF CHRIST'S PEACE

*The sharing of the peace is a time for us to be reconciled with one another
through the peace, love, and forgiveness of Christ.*

The Peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

793

Be Thou My Vision

Chords: Eb, Ab, Eb/G, Bb7, Eb

1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom; and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,

Chords: Bb, Eb, Ab, Bb

naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!

Chords: Ab, Eb, Gm7, Ab, Bb

thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,

Chords: Cm, Ab, Cm, Ab, Eb

wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

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.**

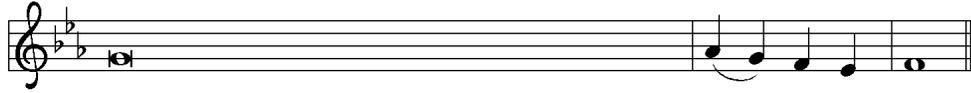
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



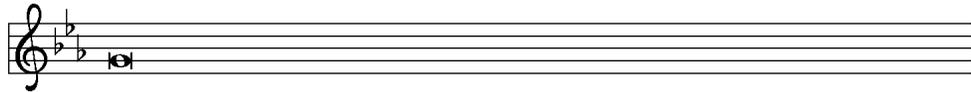
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



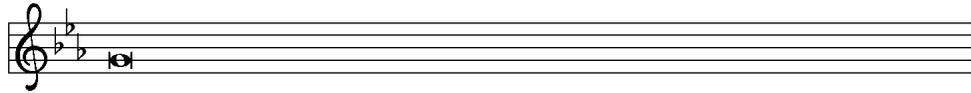
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Please be seated

Word of God, Come Down on Earth

1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from
heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth
faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,
we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you.

The musical score is written on four staves in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The melody is simple and hymn-like, with lyrics written below each staff. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are: "1 Word of God, come down on earth, liv - ing rain from". The second staff continues: "heav'n de - scend - ing; touch our hearts and bring to birth". The third staff continues: "faith and hope and love un - end - ing. Word al - might - y,". The fourth staff concludes: "we re - vere you; Word made flesh, we long to hear you." The score ends with a double bar line.

BLESSING OF THE LECTOR

Let us pray.

O God of mercy, bless our lector today and bless us as we listen to the words of the scriptures. May your Word touch our hearts and lead us to return to you, through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1 – 13

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ² Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵ He said, “Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the LORD.” ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here.” ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, “Rise and anoint him, for this is the one.” ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:8 – 14

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.”

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand.

GOSPEL: John 9:1 – 41

The Holy Gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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.”

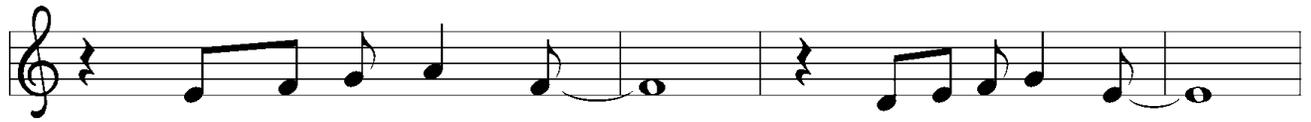
²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? 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**

Please be seated.

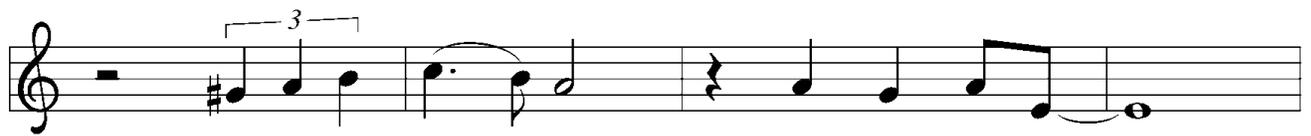
Change My Heart, O God



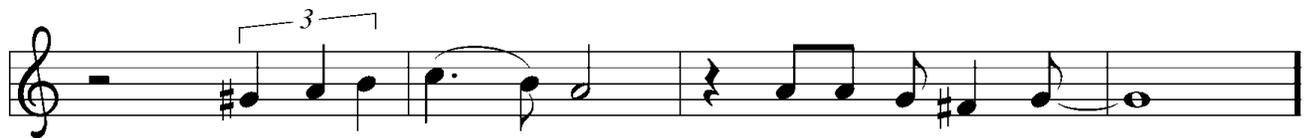
Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

SERMON

Do You See What God Sees?

Pastor Jeffrey Borgwardt

SILENT REFLECTION

Please stand.

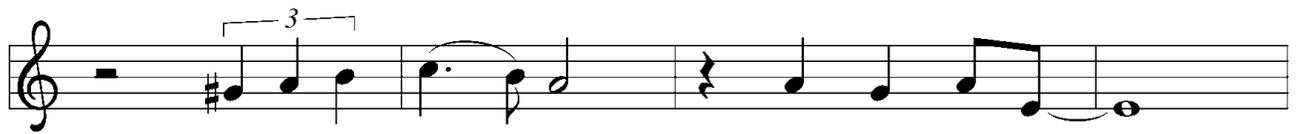
Change My Heart, O God



Change my heart, O God; make it ev-er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service



- 1 Lord, whose love in hum-ble ser-vice bore the weight of hu-man need,
- 2 Still your chil-dren wan-der home-less; still the hun-gry cry for bread;
- 3 As we wor-ship, grant us vi-sion, till your love's re-veal-ing light
- 4 Called by wor-ship to your ser-vice, forth in your dear name we go,



who up-on the cross, for-sak-en, worked your mer-cy's per-fect deed:
 still the cap-tives long for free-dom; still in grief we mourn our dead.
 in its height and depth and great-ness dawns up-on our quick-ened sight,
 to the child, the youth, the a-ged, love in liv-ing deeds to show;



we, your ser-vants, bring the wor-ship not of voice a-lone, but heart;
 As you, Lord, in deep com-pas-sion healed the sick and freed the soul,
 mak-ing known the needs and bur-dens your com-pas-sion bids us bear,
 hope and health, good-will and com-fort, coun-sel, aid, and peace we give,



con-se-crating to your pur-pose ev-'ry gift which you im-part.
 by your Spir-it send your pow-er to our world to make it whole.
 stir-ring us to ar-dent ser-vice, your a-bun-dant life to share.
 that your ser-vants, Lord, in free-dom may your mer-cy know and live.

NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God,
the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,*
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends with: Lord in your mercy. **Hear Our Prayer**

Please be seated.

OFFERING ANTHEM

Please stand.

PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

As the gifts are presented, the congregation sings.

Accept, O Lord, the Gifts We Bring



1 Ac - cept, O Lord, the gifts we bring to place up - on your ta - ble.

3 Our hopes and dreams, our toils and cares we lift in prayer be - fore you.



We do not wor - ship as we ought but on - ly as we're a - ble.

Lord, by your grace now come to us, as hum - bly we a - dore you.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

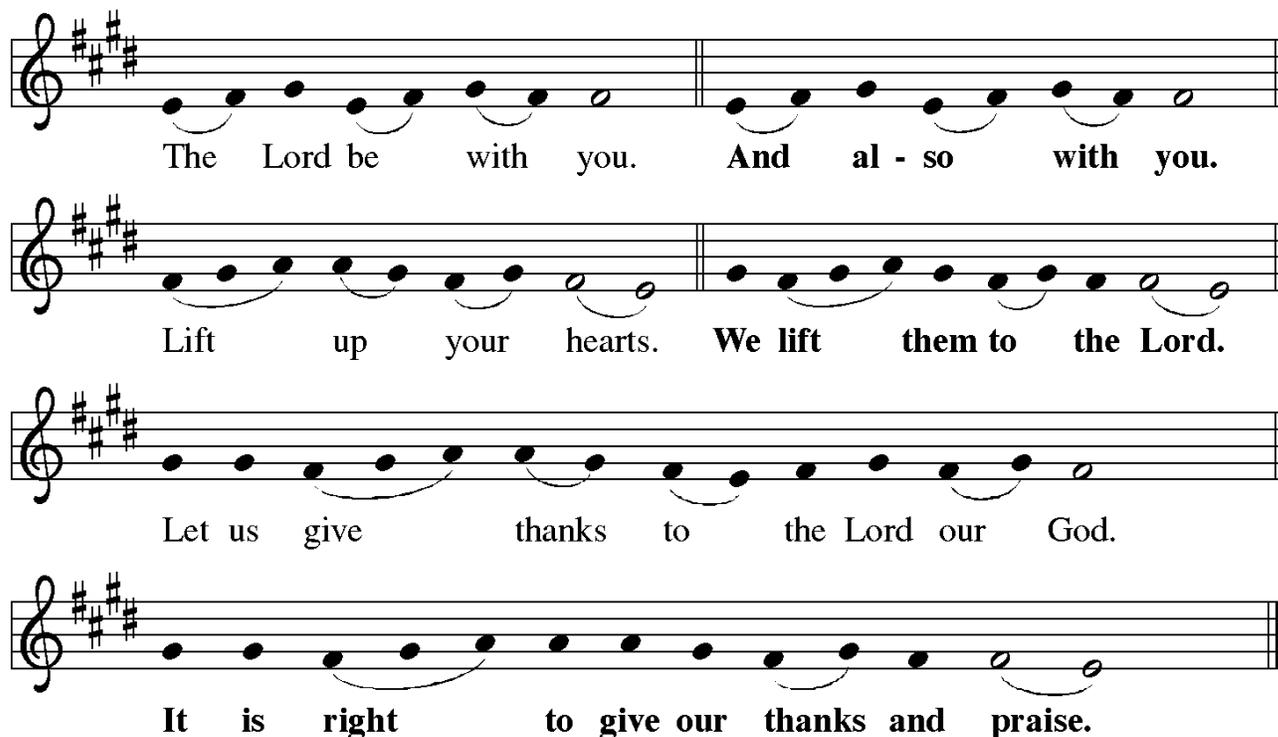
O God, maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.

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



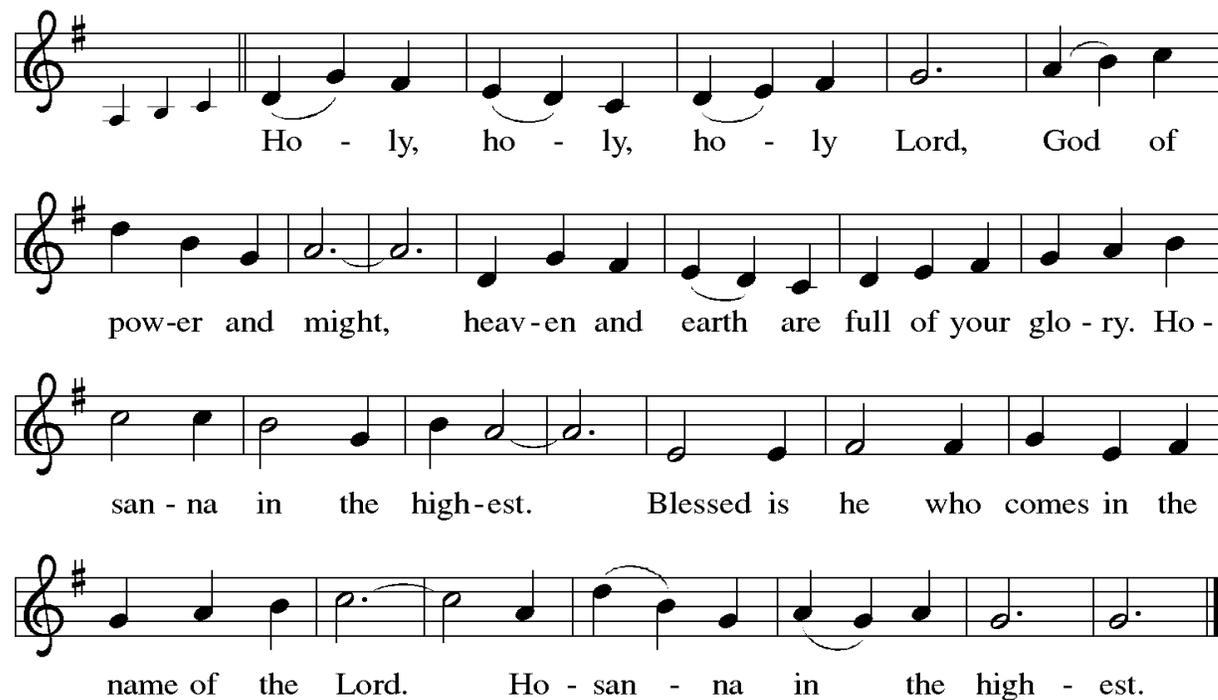
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

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...we praise your name and join in 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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God. . .

Please be seated.

DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

All baptized Christians are welcome to commune. We teach that Holy Communion is a celebration of the real presence of Christ under forms of bread and wine. For those who prefer, cups in the center ring of the tray are filled with white grape juice. If you wish to receive a blessing, signal this by crossing your arms against your chest.

COMMUNION SONG

Lamb Of God

Tod Sechrist

Women Men All

Je - su, Lamb of God, You take a - way the sins of the world, have

mer - cy on - - - us. Je - su, Bread of Life, You take a - way the

sins of the world, have mer - cy on - - - us. Je - sus, Prince of Peace, You

take a - way the sins of the world, Grant us You - - r peace.

COMMUNION AND REFLECTION



Lent is a time to be intentional about our spiritual journey, inviting us to reflect on how we can deepen our relationship with God. It is a season to acknowledge our gratitude as well as our challenges, entering it with honesty and grace. Whereby we allow ourselves to be wrapped in God's mercy and love, which meets us even in our imperfections.

After receiving communion, you may stay at the rail, light a candle at the prayer cross, or return to your seat to reflect and pray.

Jesus, Name Above All Names

D F#m⁷

Je - sus, name a - bove all names, beau - ti - ful

Em⁷ A

Sav - ior, glo - ri - ous Lord, Em -

D F#m⁷

man - u - el, God is with us, bless - ed Re -

	<i>Optional repeat</i>	<i>Last time</i>
Em ⁷	D G/A A	D

deem - er, liv - ing Word. Word.

Please stand.

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen us and keep us in His grace.
Amen.

CANTICLE



Now, Lord, you let your ser-vant go in peace: your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the
sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: a light to re-veal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Now, Lord, you let your ser - vant go in peace.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

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.**

BENEDICTION

May the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord's face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN

ELW 768

Lead Me, Guide Me

768

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;
for if you lead me, I can - not stray.
Lord, let me walk each day with thee.
Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

1 I am weak and I need thy strength and pow'r
2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
3 I am lost if you take your hand from me,

to help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
I am blind with - out . . . thy light to see.

Help me through the dark - ness thy face to see.
I am put - ting all . . . my trust in thee.
Lord, just al - ways let me thy ser - vant be.

Refrain

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

Go in peace. We are formed and loved by Christ to live!

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

LOOKING AHEAD TO NEXT WEEK:

Monday, March 16	Tuesday, March 17	Wednesday, March 18
9:30 am Staff Meeting 6:00 pm 3 B's for Men 6:00 pm Bunco	9:30 am Friendship Circle 11:15 am Stew Pot 3:30 -5:30 pm Success Center 4:30 pm Fitness Class 6:00 pm Book Club 6:30 pm Family Improvement Class 6:30 pm Spiritual Journey (Times Vary) Scouts of America	10:00 am Quilters 12:00 pm Wednesday Lent Worship 5:00-6:00 pm Dinner 5:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:15 pm Worship 7:00 pm Activity Hour for Children & Youth 7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal
Thursday, March 19	Friday, March 20	Saturday, March 21
3:30 – 5:30 pm Success Center 4:30 pm Fitness Class		10:00 am – 2:00 pm Private Event in Fellowship Hall
Sunday, March 22	Volunteer Schedule March 15	Volunteer Schedule March 22
8:15 am Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church. 9:30 am Bible Study 10:30 am Choir warm-up 10:45 am Worship with Holy Communion, and Children's Church 6:00 pm Bible Study	Lector: 8:15 am: John Parsons 10:45 am: Renee Slegeir Communion: Set up: Gloria Bero Clean Up: Eva Touchstone Offering Counters: Teresa DeShazer & Jenn Belcourt	Lector: 8:15 am: Ranette Carter 10:45 am: Belinda Walenta Communion: Set up: Ed Bero Clean Up: Leslie Jenkins Offering Counters: Diann Greifenkamp & Peri Topel

Readings for in preparation for Sunday, March 22

Ezekiel 37:1-14; Psalm 130; Romans 8:6-11; John 11:1-45

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Flowers on the altar today are given in honor of Lisa Potichko's birthday and Brian & Cathleen Potichko's wedding anniversary.



There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex for those who want to place a lily in memory or in honor of someone for Easter Sunday

The suggested donation is \$15

BUNCO NIGHT



**Monday, March 16
@ 6:00 pm
Church Café**

LENT

WEDNESDAY SUPPER

Volunteers are needed to provide Wednesday Family Suppers during Lent

Meal is served from 5:00–6:00 pm

Worship is at 6:15 pm

10 volunteers are needed for each dinner. Each volunteer should bring enough soup or sandwiches to feed 10 people.

Sign-up sheets are in the narthex.

Thank you!



Bibles, Buddies & Beverages

Men's Fellowship

March 16 @ 6:00 pm

FLC Fellowship Hall

Come and join the
First Lutheran

BOOK CLUB

- Meetings monthly on 3rd Tuesday in the Cafe' @ 6:00 pm
- Discover New books
- Make friends

On March 17th
discussing the book
Atmosphere by Taylor Jenkins Reid

Tuesday Morning Bible Study

FRIENDSHIP CIRCLE

March 17
9:30 am



***Classes offered on Sunday Mornings at 9:30 am**

- **Introduction to Bible Study Methods**
Led by Vivian McElligott
- **Study of the book of Genesis**
Led by Kevin Bond
- **40 Days with Martin Luther**
(Beginning February 22nd)
Through the season of Lent
Led by Pastor Jeff
- **Children's Sunday School**



The Success Center

Family Improvement

Food & Childcare Provided

Tuesdays
6:30 - 7:30pm

FAMILY IMPROVEMENT MEAL

One of the things that makes the Family Improvement class work so well for families is that we serve them a meal (cooking is not required). We need volunteers to help provide a meal. Those who are willing to help in this way, please contact the church office or Donna Louvier who is coordinating the meals (903-399-8553) or donnalouvier@gmail.com

Financial Report

Church Cash Flow Year to Date as of:

03/09/2026

Regular Church Offering: 2026	
Contributions:	\$ 146,575
Expenditures:	\$ 109,497
Difference:	\$ 37,078

Building Maintenance Fund Activity: 2026	
Contributions:	\$ 8,622
Expenditures:	\$ -
Difference:	\$ 8,622

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please send all prayer requests and updates to the church office at: prayerchain@firstlutheran.us

FLC Members

Arlene Hicks' sister, Mary, died 3/1/26

Lakeita Walker is recovering from surgery.

Lois Boldt is in hospice care.

Pray for the children and teens who attend our church and The Success Center.

Pray for church growth, numerically and spiritually.

Pray for wisdom and direction for our church leadership.

Pray for the homebound of our church and their caregivers.

Jane Bailey

Robert Kohnfelder

Durwin Sewell

Mary Ann Gamel

Chuck & Paula Kaplan

Bruno Schueler

Patty Lowe

Johnnie Owens

Joseph Carlson

Albert Holmen

Family and Friends of FLC Members

Cassandra, Jenn Belcourt's cousin, has had a brain aneurysm. She survived the surgery, please pray she recovers.

Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers.

Those who are imprisoned.

The homeless

Members Serving in the Military

Eric Jenkins – Air Force, Ft. Meade, MD

Timothy Martin – Navy

Terrina Anderson – White House Military Office

Hannah Perry – Army, San Antonio, Tx

GOSPEL MESSAGE

March 15, 2026

Unbelievable!

This story from the Gospel of John captures the religious leadership in Jerusalem in a struggle to understand this Jesus who restores sight to a person born blind. This miraculous healing is so unbelievable, so contrary to the leaders' understanding, that they reject it altogether, even accusing the man of lying. Their quest for a certainty that feels familiar forces them to reject the miracle in front of them and closes them off to a greater truth—that the Messiah has come in Christ Jesus. Certainty and its pursuit often disrupt our ability to see reality, which is at its core a mystery. *Mystery* in the Christian tradition refers to that deep truth that surpasses our understanding, as in the doctrine of the Holy Trinity or the efficacy of the sacraments. We know them as true, but not how or why they are so. Mysteries transcend the world of certainty, and our efforts to possess certainty, like those of the religious leaders in John 9, can cut us off from something miraculous happening right in front of us.

How much conflict and division in our church and in our world is amplified by our pursuit of certainty? How many possibilities have we missed in our commitment to the way things are? How often in our pursuit of certainty do we use it to hoard power and keep others on the outside looking in? Certainty is the enemy of community because it rejects the very notion that God may be doing a new thing.

Embracing mystery in our life of faith looks like learning to say “I don’t know,” “Maybe,” and “What if . . . ?” It asks us to let go of our need to control and understand, and to trust God’s promises more than our evidence. Mystery requires a posture of humility and curiosity, a willingness to look for God in inexplicable and unbelievable places and events. After all, we preach Christ crucified (1 Corinthians 1:23), an unbelievable notion if ever there was one.

Assisting In Worship Today

Celebrant: Pastor Jeffrey Borgwardt

Musicians: Donna Ashby, Pat Mueller
and The Chancel Choir

Live Stream: 8:15 am Deb Butts, Eric
Chandler, and Daniel Chandler

10:45 am: Diane Borgwardt

Lector:

8:15 am: John Parsons

10:45 am: Renee Slegier

Church Staff

Jeffrey E. Borgwardt, Pastor

Donna Ashby, Director of Music

John Parsons, Dir. of Youth and Family Min.

Tina Sewell, Secretary

Karen Smith, Bookkeeper

Steve Howie, Facilities Coordinator

2026 CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Beverly Bell (*President*)

Randy Cathey (*Vice-President*)

Arlene Hicks (*Secretary*)

Ranette Carter (*Treasurer*)

Jenn Belcourt (*Relationship with God*)

Johnny Davis (*Relationship with Community*)

Mary Stuart (*Relationship with One Another*)

3901 Bill Owens Parkway

Longview, Texas 75605

903-295-7423

churchsecretary@firstlutheran.us

www.FirstLutheran.us

***We receive gifts for the mission of the
congregation and the Church in the world.***

*An offering plate is available in the back of the
sanctuary. If you prefer to give by credit card
you may do so at www.firstlutheran.us/donate
or by scanning the QR code below*



*FLC regularly supports the work of the
following ministries of our denomination and
community with financial, volunteer, and food
offerings:*

Longview Community Ministries

Newgate Mission

Living Water International

Lutheran World Relief

Lutheran Disaster Response

*For more information on how to get involved
contact the church office (903)295-7423.*