

First Lutheran Church

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512-392-2064

www.flcsm.org



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
SAN MARCOS, TEXAS

February 22, 2026: Lent 1

Trust

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Centering Prayer and Prelude

For the season of Lent, we will practice a spiritual discipline of centering prayer where we center ourselves on worship. Each week we will have a sacred word that connects to the texts for that day. At the call of the bell, we invite all present to a time of silent meditation on that word. If you find yourself distracted, it is not a failure. Simply return your thoughts gently to our word. The prelude will follow a time of silence.

Confession and Forgiveness

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.

(Lent 1, Jesus' Temptation)

For failing to recognize your coming reign and the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

(Lent 2, Jesus and Nicodemus)

For drawing on the well of ambition, rather than living water you offer: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

(Lent 3, Jesus at the Well of Living Water)

For disregarding voices from the margin, missing signs of your hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

(Lent 4, Healing the Man Born Blind)

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.

(Lent 5, Jesus Raises Lazarus)

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.

Gathering Song

As the Sun with Longer Journey (ELW 329)



1 As the sun with long - er jour - ney melts the win - ter's snow and ice,
2 Through the days of wait - ing, watch - ing, in the des - ert of our sin,
3 Praise be giv - en to the mak - er of the sea - sons' year - ly round:



with its slow - ly grow - ing ra - diance warms the seed be - neath the earth,
search - ing on the far ho - ri - zon for a sign of cloud or wind,
Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Spir - it—Source, Sus - tain - er, Lord of life,



may the sun of Christ's up - ris - ing gent - ly bring our hearts to life.
we a - wait the heal - ing wa - ters of our Sav - ior's vic - to - ry.
as the ev - er turn - ing a - ges roll to their e - ter - nal rest.

Text: John Patrick Earls, OSB, b. 1935

Music: NAGEL, Carl F. Schalk, b. 1929

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Music © 1995 Augsburg Fortress.

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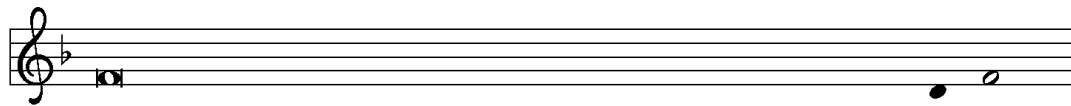


Kyrie


The words "kyrie eleison" are an ancient prayer meaning "Lord have mercy". For the season of Lent the gathering rite is shortened. We do not include a canticle of praise, making for a more penitential nature to worship. These songs (Glory to God in the Highest or This Is The Feast) return with joyful fullness at Easter.



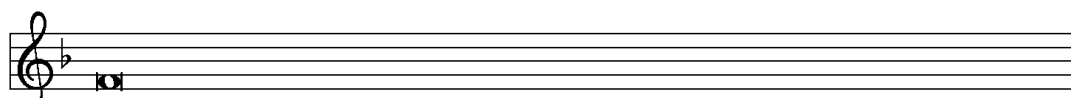
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



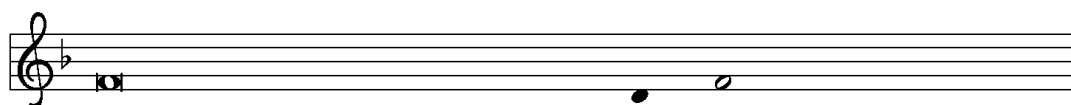
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.




Lord, have mer - cy.



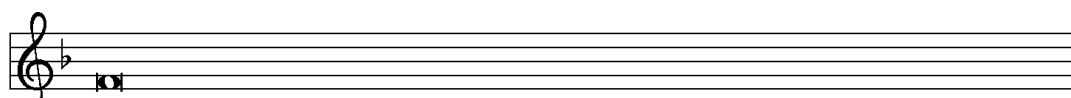
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



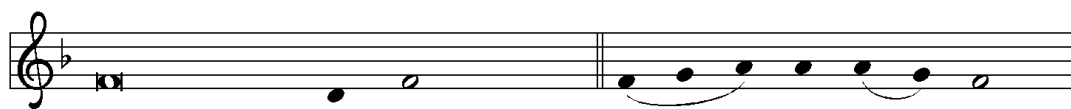
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



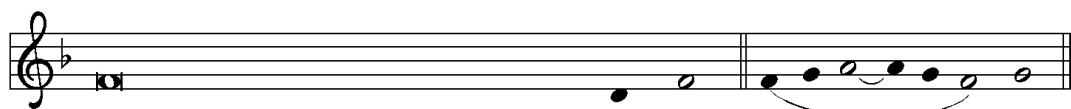
Lord, have mer - cy.



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.**

Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

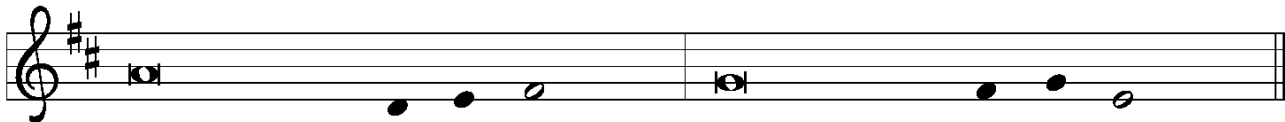
¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 32



¹ Happy are they whose transgressions ¹ are forgiven,
and whose sin is ¹ put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord im- ¹ putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there ¹ is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- ¹ ered away,
because of my groaning ¹ all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me ¹ day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the ¹ heat of summer. R**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- ¹ ceal my guilt.

I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt ¹ of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in ¹ time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they ¹ shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve ¹ me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts ¹ of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that ¹ you should go;
I will guide you ¹ with my eye. R**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no ¹ understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will ¹ not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the Lord.**

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart. **R**

Second Reading: Romans 5:12-19

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous. Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel. For Lent, we do not sing the Alleluia, but instead these words describing God's nature from Exodus 34:6, heard by Moses as he was given the tablets of the law.

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.' "

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon



Hymn of the Day

When We Are Tested (ACS 922)



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947

Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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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 Intercession

Each petition ends with the words "Hear us, O God" and the assembly responds with "Your mercy is great."

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Anthem: "The Journey of Lent"

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering Prayer

Great Thanksgiving Dialogue

The Lord be with you.

And also 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.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

This song draws from Isaiah 6:3, the vision of the Heavenly Throne room and from Matthew 21:9, the shouts of the crowd as Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday. In the liturgy it recognizes uniting our earthly worship with the presence of Christ in the sacrament of Holy Communion.



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,



heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -



san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who



comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Thanksgiving At The Table

The prayer of consecration ends with the Lord's Prayer, introduced with the words:

Through him all glory and honor is yours, Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy Church, which gathers to pray as Jesus taught us:

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

We believe that God's grace is for all people, and that open sharing in the sacrament of Holy Communion is a visible sign of that. At First Lutheran, all are welcome at the table. The wafers are gluten-free. In the trays there is both wine (red) and grape juice (clear). You may kneel or stand. If you wish to receive communion in the pews let the ushers know that and we will come to you after those who come forward are served.

Lamb Of God

This song, sung as the host is elevated and broken and the meal is shared, is an echo of John the Baptist's words when he recognizes Jesus in John 1:29.

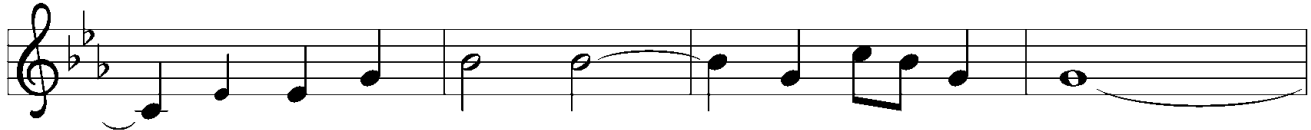
Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

Communion Song

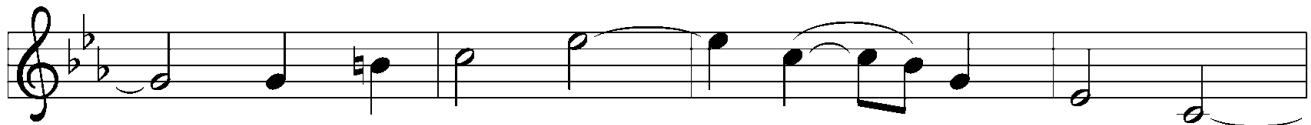
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (ELW 325)



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

Prayer after Communion

Benediction

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:

God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always.

Amen.

Sending Song

Bless Now, O God, the Journey (ELW 326)



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and wīnds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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Dismissal

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage;
hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil;
strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people;
love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Happenings at First Lutheran

Tuesday Bible Study

Our church group studying the book of Revelation will meet again on Tuesday night at 7 PM via Zoom. If you're interested in joining the Bible study group, please send either Hardin or Glenda your name and email address so they can add you to their list-serve. Then, they will send you the information necessary to obtain the materials needed to participate in the class. Their email addresses are:

Hardin - profrahe@yahoo.com Glenda -gsjrahe@gmail.com

Lent Soup and Evening Prayer

On each Wednesday in Lent, we will have our soup and evening prayer gathering. Dinner is served at 5:30, and evening prayer is at 6:35.

Save The Dates

Feb. 25-March 25: Soup and Evening Prayer
March 2-6: FLC Meals on Wheels Week
March 28: Bobcat Build Workday

April 2: Maundy Thursday
April 3: Good Friday
April 5: Easter Sunday

Ongoing Events:

Monday Spiritual Study (Zoom): Contact Agnes Dreibrodt
Southside Dinner: First Sunday of each Month
(We will not be serving in April, contact Pastor Tim to volunteer)
Women's Circle: 3rd Thursday (Contact Agnes Dreibrodt)
Prime Timers: 3rd Tuesday (Contact Sue at the church office)

For FLC Updates:

Most Congregational communication happens in our weekly email.
To be added to our contact list,
scan the QR code and fill out our connection card:

