



First Lutheran Church

Sunday, February 22, 2026 | First Sunday in Lent

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.



PRELUDE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS INVOCATION

GATHERING HYMN | *Holy Water*

God, I'm on my knees again. God, I'm begging please again, I need You. Oh, I need You. Walking down these desert roads, water for my thirsty soul, I need You. Oh, I need You.

**Chorus: Your forgiveness is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips.
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears. Like holy water on my skin.**

Dead man walking, slave to sin, I wanna know about being born again I need You. Oh, God, I need You. So take me to the riverside. Take me under, baptize. I need You. Oh, God, I need You. **Chorus**

Bridge (3 times)

I don't wanna abuse Your grace. God, I need it every day.
It's the only thing that ever really makes me wanna change.

Your forgiveness, is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips.
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears. It's like Holy water.
Your forgiveness, is like sweet, sweet honey on my lips.
Like the sound of a symphony to my ears. Like holy water on my skin.
Like holy water on my skin. Oh, it's like holy water.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, **C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in the newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

HOLY BAPTISM

*Names of Baptized: Juno Sullivan Duncan | Parents: Emma and Tanner Duncan
Sponsors: Melissa Christianson and Keith Thornby*

PROFESSION OF FAITH

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus...

C: We renounce them.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: 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.

P: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

All: 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.

MUSICAL MESSAGE | *The Gift of Love - Hal H. Hopson* | Ginny Klein, Carla Hansen, Peggy Hammerling

FIRST READING | *Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7*

¹⁵The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but 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."

¹Now 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'?" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but 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.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So 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. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

RESPONSIVE PSALM | *Psalm 32:1-7*

R: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

R: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**C: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

R: 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.

C: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

R: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION | ELW pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word.

Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred.

Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL | *Matthew 4:1-11*

P: The Holy Gospel according to Matthew, the 4th Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" ⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying 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.'" ⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" ¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON | Pr. Joe Skogmo

HYMN OF THE DAY | *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer* | ELW #618

1. Guide me ever, great Redeemer, pilgrim through this barren land.

I am weak, but you are mighty; hold me with your pow'ful hand.

Bread of heaven, bread of heaven, feed me now and evermore, feed me now and evermore.

2. Open now the crystal fountain where the healing waters flow;

let the fire and cloudy pillar lead me all my journey through.

Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer, shield me with your mighty arm, shield me with your mighty arm.

3. When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside;

death of death and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side.

Songs and praises, songs and praises, I will raise forevermore, I will raise forevermore.

STATEMENT OF FAITH | *Apostle's Creed*

C: 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 THE PEOPLE

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer.**

LORD'S PRAYER

C: 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.

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

OFFERING / NOISY OFFERING | *February: Lutheran Social Services of MN*

OFFERTORY SONG | *Holy, Holy, Holy* | ELW #473

1. Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God. **(Sing 2x)**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, **C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN | *Graves into Gardens*

I searched the world, but it couldn't fill me.
Man's empty praise, and treasures that fade are never enough.

Then You came along and put me back together.
And ev'ry desire is now satisfied here in Your love

**Chorus: Oh there's nothing better than You. There's nothing better than You.
Lord there's nothing, nothing is better than You.**

Now I'm not afraid to show You my weakness.
My failures and flaws, Lord, You've seen them all, and You still call me friend.

'Cause the God of the mountain is the God of the valley.
There's not a place Your mercy and grace won't find me again. **Chorus (2 times)**

You turn mourning to dancing, You give beauty for ashes.
You turn shame into glory, You're the only one who can.
You turn graves into gardens, You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways, You're the only one who can. **Chorus (2 times)**

You turn graves into gardens, You turn bones into armies.
You turn seas into highways, You're the only one who can.
You're the only one who can. You're the only one who can.

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

HIGH SCHOOL FREE LUNCH

High School Students, join us on February 26 @ 11:30am at Pizza Ranch for lunch with the Pastors

MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCK-IN

March 7-8, 8pm—8am
Sixth - eight graders, are you ready for an epic filled all-nighter? Games! Food! Fun! Volunteers are needed to help staff this event, if you are a night owl and want to be part of the action, contact Oliva.

THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY

Tuesdays at 1 pm. in the library
Through March 10
Each session includes a 40-50 minute video with discussion following. If you are not able to come each week, you can watch the videos online anytime at:
Home Page | The Chosen

BLESSING CLOSET NEEDS

Currently we are need of: men's clothing & reusable shopping bags/tote bags. Donations can be brought to the church office. Thanks!

COORDINATING COUNCIL

The Coordinating Council will meet Wed, Feb 25 @ 9:30am in the Conference Room.

REBEKAH CIRCLE

**Date change* March 3 @ 9am*
Please note date change and location will be at Lincoln Park Apartments.

FLC CLOTHING STORE

If you missed your chance to order an FLC t-shirt or sweatshirt last year, now's your chance! Scan the QR code to shop the store. Deadline to order is March 2



HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

If you are a High School Senior who plans to attend a ELCA Lutheran Colleges - *good news!* There is a scholarship available for you through the Women of the ELCA. Applications can be picked up in the church office, and must be submitted by April 30.

WANT TO TRY CONFIRMATION AGAIN?

On select Wednesdays you can come to the sanctuary from 6:30 - 7:30pm and join our 7th & 8th graders for their confirmation lesson. Join us for any or all of the following lessons:

- 3/18:** *Theology – Creation*
- 3/25:** *Theology – Baptism & Communion*
- 4/8:** *Theology – The Cross vs. Glory*

PIE AUCTION

The annual Youth & Family Pie Auction fundraiser will be held on Sunday, March 22. If you are able to donate a pie, please sign up at the information table.

NOON LENTEN SERVICES

Wednesdays @ noon
Join us each Wednesday in Lent for our noon Lenten worship services. This year's theme is the book of Psalms. A soup & sandwich lunch will follow the service each week. Everyone is welcome — invite a friend!

EASTER FLOWERS

If you would like to order flowers in honor/memory of a loved one to be displayed on Easter Sunday, order forms are now available. Forms are at the information table, by the office or scan the QR code to pay online.



Prayers for God's People

Ongoing prayers for:
Bill Wegschied, Cole Woltjer, Gretta Frisch, Judy Wood, Larry Kjono, Tyler Wilson, Dave & Pam Nustad, Cami Eckhoff, Atticus, Kathy Larson, the Blake Family, Lowell Wenberg, and Janice Ness.

Prayers of comfort for those who mourn the loss of a loved one.

Thanks for worshipping with us!



Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo
Associate Pastor: Matthew Rossler
Music Director: Karen Bimberg

GIVE ONLINE

Prefer electronic giving?

Set up an automated method and frequency that works best for you by using the **QR code**.

Then, if you like, drop the **green laminated slip** in the offering plate.

