

*The
Season
of
Lent*



Lenten Service

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church

February 25, 2026

Lent 1

Worship Service 7:00 p.m.

THE PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING SENTENCES

P O Lord, open my lips,

C and my mouth will declare Your praise.

P Make haste, O God, to deliver me;

C make haste to help me, O Lord.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

HYMN

"My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less"

LBW #294

My hope is built on nothing less Than Jesus' blood and righteousness;

No merit of my own I claim, But wholly lean on Jesus' name.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When darkness veils His lovely face, I rest on His unchanging grace;

In ev'ry high and stormy gale, My anchor holds within the veil.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

His oath, his covenant, his blood, Sustain me in the raging flood;

When all supports are washed away, He then is all my hope and stay.

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

When He shall come with trumpet sound, Oh, may I then in him be found,

Clothed in his righteousness alone, Redeemed to stand before the throne!

On Christ, the solid Rock, I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

Please stand

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Philippians 2:1-11

P Lord Jesus, search our hearts and minds that we may receive Your Word, share in Your Spirit, and be renewed in our relationships with You and with one another.

We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.

P With humble hearts, let us pray together:

C Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.

P Even though You claimed us as Your own in the waters of Baptism, we often do not walk in the newness of life.

C Our rebellion against You in thought, word, and action is why You died for us –

P to forgive our sins, to redeem our lives, and to cancel the debt we owe to God.

C With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, bow before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.

P Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who blesses us with new birth in the water and the Spirit and assures us that our lives belong to Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, through water You reshape and restore Your fallen creation, entering our lives in Baptism so that we may be cleansed by Your Spirit.

C Renew our hearts and minds during this Lenten season as we receive the promised treasures of Your Word;

P for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Please be seated

FIRST READING

Job 9:1-12

9 Then Job answered: ²“Truly I know that it is so: But how can a man be just before God? ³If one wished to contend with him, one could not answer him once in a thousand times. ⁴He is wise in heart, and mighty in strength—who has hardened himself against him, and succeeded?—⁵he who removes mountains, and they know it not, when he overturns them in his anger; ⁶who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; ⁷who commands the sun, and it does not rise; who seals up the stars; ⁸who alone stretched out the heavens, and trampled the waves of the sea; ⁹who made the Bear and Orion, the Plei’ades and the chambers of the south; ¹⁰who does great things beyond understanding, and marvelous things without number. ¹¹Lo, he passes by me, and I see him not; he moves on, but I do not perceive him. ¹²Behold, he snatches away; who can hinder him? Who will say to him, ‘What doest thou?’

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:1-10

2 And you he made alive, when you were dead through the trespasses and sins ²in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience. ³Among these we all once lived in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of body and mind, and so we were by nature children of wrath, like the rest of mankind. ⁴But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us, ⁵even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), ⁶and raised us up with him, and made us sit with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. ⁸For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God— ⁹not because of works, lest any man should boast. ¹⁰For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

GOSPEL VERSE (sung)

**Return to the LORD, your God, for He is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Please stand

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the 14^h chapter

C **Glory to You, O Lord.** (*sung*)

²² Then he made the disciples get into the boat and go before him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds. ²³ And after he had dismissed the crowds, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When evening came, he was there alone, ²⁴ but the boat by this time was many furlongs distant from the land, beaten by the waves; for the wind was against them. ²⁵ And in the fourth watch of the night he came to them, walking on the sea. ²⁶ But when the disciples saw him walking on the sea, they were terrified, saying, "It is a ghost!" and they cried out for fear. ²⁷ But immediately he spoke to them, saying, "Take heart, it is I; have no fear."

²⁸ And Peter answered him, "Lord, if it is you, bid me come to you on the water." ²⁹ He said, "Come." So Peter got out of the boat and walked on the water and came to Jesus; ³⁰ but when he saw the wind, he was afraid, and beginning to sink he cried out, "Lord, save me." ³¹ Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him, saying to him, "O man of little faith, why did you doubt?" ³² And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. ³³ And those in the boat worshiped him, saying, "Truly you are the Son of God."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.** (*sung*)

MESSAGE

Pastor John

HYMN

"Jesus, I Will Ponder Now"

LBW #115

**Jesus, I will ponder now On Your holy Passion;
Let Your Spirit now endow Me for meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain and death, That I may not perish.
Make me see Your great distress, Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness And your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails, did wound You,
How You died for those, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.
Yet, O Lord, not thus alone Make me see your Passion,
But its cause to me make known And its termination.
For I also and my sin Wrought your deep affliction;
This the shameful cause has been Of Your crucifixion.**

Let me view Your pain and loss With repentant grieving,
Nor prepare again your cross By unholy living.
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in Heav'n above Sing your praise forever.

Please stand

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,
and born of the Virgin Mary,
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father,
He will come again 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.

OFFERING

PRAYER

P Gracious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, we thank You for blessing us with the opportunity to meditate again on the cross of Christ and receive Your promised treasures.

C Grant that the message of the Lamb of God slain for our salvation bring us the riches of Your pardon and peace.

P Lead us to see that our sins caused Jesus' great agony in the garden, that our sins nailed Him to the cross of Calvary,

C that He was forsaken by His Father so that we might never be forsaken, and that He died so that we may live.

P Lord Jesus, grant that especially during this sacred season the treasured story of Your wondrous love for us would draw us closer to You.

C Enable us to see the blessings You have poured out into our lives through the washing of water with the Word.

P Holy Spirit, lift up troubled souls everywhere. Grant wholeness to those hurting in heart, body, and mind. Work Your healing power in the lives of those in need, [*especially . . .*], and in the lives of all we name before You in our hearts.

C All glory, honor, and praise be to You, with the Father and the Son, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

HYMN

"The Old Rugged Cross"

(Verse 1 & 2)

On a hill far away stood an Old Rugged Cross
The emblem of suffering and shame
And I love that old cross where the dearest and best
For a world of lost sinners was slain

So I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

To the Old Rugged Cross, I will ever be true
It's shame and reproach, gladly bear
Then He'll call me some day to my home far away
Where His glory forever I'll share

And I'll cherish the Old Rugged Cross
Till my trophies at last I lay down
And I will cling to the Old Rugged Cross
And exchange it some day for a crown

(The congregation leaves in silence)