



“AGAIN IT IS  
WRITTEN,  
‘DO NOT  
PUT THE

Lord  
YOUR  
God

TO THE TEST.’ ”

Matthew 4:7



OUR WORSHIP  
SERVICE  
FEB 22, 2026



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.**

*(Acolytes come forward to light the candles once the congregation has started to sing our gathering hymn.)*

## GATHERING HYMN

**ELW #326** Bless Now, O God, the Journey

## 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.**

## 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.**

*(Congregation, please be seated)*

## FIRST READING

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

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

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

<sup>3:1</sup>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?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>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.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

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

## PSALM Psalm 32

*Mercy embraces those  
who trust in the Lord.  
(Psalm 32:10)*

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

**<sup>2</sup>Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my groaning all day long.

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

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

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

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**<sup>8</sup>"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

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

**<sup>10</sup>Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

<sup>11</sup>Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

## SECOND READING

*Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

## Romans 5:12-19

<sup>12</sup>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 <sup>13</sup>for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup>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.

<sup>15</sup>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. <sup>16</sup>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. <sup>17</sup>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.

<sup>18</sup>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. <sup>19</sup>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.

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

*(Congregation, please stand)*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the  
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

## GOSPEL Matthew 4:1-11

*Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil.

<sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” <sup>4</sup> But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> 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.’”

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

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

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Congregation, please be seated)*

## CHILDREN'S SERMON

## SERMON

## HYMN OF THE DAY

**ELW #320** The Glory of These Forty Days

*(Congregation, please stand)*

## THE APOSTLES' CREED

*(text is printed in the back cover of the red hymnal)*

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

*Petitions end “Hear us, O God.” Congregation responds, “Your mercy is great.”*

## SHARING THE PEACE

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

*(Congregation, please be seated)*

## OFFERING

*(Congregation, please stand)*

## OFFERTORY ELW #334 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery

Light of life beyond conceiving, might Spirit of our Lord; give new strength to our believing, give us faith to live your word.

From the dawning of creation you have loved us as your own; stay with us through all temptation, make us turn to you alone.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: Marty Haugen

Text and music © 1984 GIA Publications, Inc.

## OFFERING PRAYER

Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

## BLESSING

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 HYMN

**ELW #624** Jesus, Still Lean On

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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# new testament

Lamentations

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Ezekiel

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Daniel

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Hosea

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Joel

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Amos

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Obadiah

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Jonah

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Micah

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Nahum

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Habakkuk

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Zephaniah

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Haggai

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Zechariah

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Malachi

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Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.



*the gospels*

Matthew

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Mark

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Luke

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John

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## CHURCH HISTORY

Acts

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Romans

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1 Corinthians

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2 Corinthians

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Galatians

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Ephesians

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Philippians

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Colossians

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1 Thessalonians

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2 Thessalonians

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1 Timothy

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2 Timothy

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Titus

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Philemon

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Hebrews

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James

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1 Peter

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2 Peter

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1 John

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2 John

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3 John

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Jude

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*general letters*

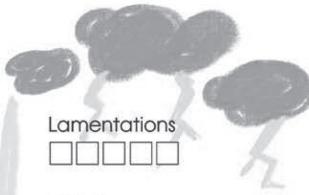
GOD IS "Light + Love"

## PROPHECY

Revelation

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*prophets*



PS38:147-148: KJV

2026  
FAITH JOURNEY  
SERIES

*a season  
of preparation*

FOOD, FAITH & FAMILY



*lenten* VESPER SERVICES & SOUP SUPPERS

FAITH STORY  
SCHEDULE

**FEB 25**

Pastor Selva

**MAR 4**

Cindi Hartman

**MAR 11**

Katie Jackson

**MAR 18**

Bob Burkgren

**MAR 25**

Jon Barz

**WEDNESDAY EVENINGS**

MEAL @ 6 PM, WORSHIP SERVICE @ 7 PM

Our evening begins with a shared meal. A group of 4-6 members sign-up to bring soup and everyone else is invited to bring a dish to share. A worship service will follow incorporating the Holden Evening Prayer and highlighting a Faith Journey shared by a member of our church family.

*american*  
LUTHERAN CHURCH