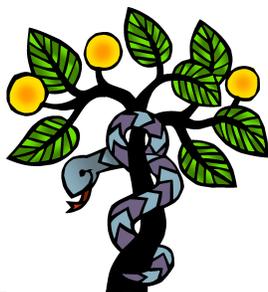


LARGE PRINT EDITION



HOLY COMMUNION

First Sunday in Lent

February 22, 2026 + 9:30 am

The temptation of Jesus

All Are Welcome! Mt Carmel at 100 – Past Present Promise 1926 - 2026

Jesus gives himself away as food for our journey

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.

Lent 2026 We journey to the place of God's mercy

(Images of Baptism)

Feb 22	<i>The temptation of Jesus (renouncing evil)</i>
March 1	<i>The mission of Christ: saving the world (Nicodemus seeks rebirth)</i>
March 8	<i>The woman at the well (living water)</i>
March 15	<i>The man born blind (light and sight)</i>
March 22	<i>The raising of Lazarus (out of the tombs)</i>

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

GATHERING MUSIC

"O Love, How Deep, How High"

arr. D. Johnson

At the sound of the bell please stand if you are able and face the worship leaders.

ENTRANCE HYMN

(hymn) ELW 325

“I Want Jesus to Walk with Me”

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**
- 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

Text: African American spiritual

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

The assembly is invited to stand or kneel; and all may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us turn to God and confess our sin
in the assurance of God's abiding love.

silence is kept for reflection

Kyrie *(Lord have mercy)*

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison. Lord have mercy,

Christe eleison. Christe eleison.

Christ have mercy. Christ have mercy.

Christe eleison.

Christe eleison. Christe eleison.

Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.

Lord have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Kyrie eleison.

Kyrie eleison. Lord have mercy,

silence for reflection

P Gracious God,

C we confess that we have sinned

in thought, word, and deed,

by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

Forgive us and give us strength to turn from sin

and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.

P By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us new birth,

and through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ,

God forgives us all our sin. Almighty God strengthen you in all

goodness and keep us in eternal life.

C Amen.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

P Let us pray.

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.

C Amen.

The presider continues with words of welcome.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song

CHILDREN'S WORD

Children are invited forward; parents are welcome to come with their children.

FIRST READING

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

Eating of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the Creator, creation, and one another. This passage recounts the first in a series of stories that depicts the nature of human sin--wanting to be like God. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

The 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."

^{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'?" 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.”⁴ But 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.”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. 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.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 32 (ICEL)

Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (32:10)

A Happy the pardoned, whose sin is canceled,
in whom God finds no evil, no deceit.

**C While I hid my sin,
my bones grew weak from endless groaning.**

A Day and night, under the weight of your hand,
my strength withered as in a summer drought.

**C Then I stopped hiding my sin and spoke out,
“God, I confess my wrong.” And you pardoned me**

A No wonder the faithful pray to you in danger!
Even a sudden flood will never touch them.

**C You, my shelter, you save me from ruin.
You encircle me with songs of freedom.**

A “I show you the path to walk.
As your teacher, I watch out for you.
“Do not be a stubborn mule,

needing bridle and bit to be tamed.”

C Evil brings grief; trusting in God brings love.

A Rejoice in the Lord. Be glad and sing, you faithful and just.

**C Give praise to the Father Almighty;
to the Son, Jesus Christ, the Lord;
to the Spirit who dwells in our hearts;
both now and forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

Death came through one; life comes through one Romans 5:12-19
*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.*

Paul writes to the church at Rome:

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--¹³sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come.

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

¹⁸Therefore 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. ¹⁹For just as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Joel 2:13

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel, singing: (ELW setting 3, p. 142)

C Return to the Lord you God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love, and abounding in steadfast love.

GOSPEL

Matthew 4:1-11

The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days

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

P The holy gospel according to Matthew.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

silence is kept for reflection

HYMN OF THE DAY

(hymn) ELW 320

"The Glory of These Forty Days"

- 1 The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**
- 2 Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.**
- 3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became
the herald of Messiah's name.**

**4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too,
return in fast and prayer to you.
Our spirits strengthen with your grace,
and give us joy to see your face.**

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, alt.
Outside USA: Text from The English Hymnal © Oxford University Press 1906. All rights reserved.

APOSTLES' CREED

(adapted: each petition begins "I put my trust in...")

A ... we proclaim the faith that we share.

**C I PUT MY TRUST IN God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I PUT MY TRUST 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 PUT MY TRUST 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 concludes:

...hear us O God.

C Your mercy is great.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

RECONCILING PEACE

P In Jesus Christ God has made peace with us.

The peace of Christ be with you always.

C **And also with you.**

The assembly is invited to share the peace of Christ with one another.

OFFERING

When bread and wine are broken and shared in the Lord's Supper an offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need.

Please leave your offerings in the plates as they are passed, at the usher desk or give online. During this time, the table is set. Please stand as the offering procession reaches the chancel. Thank you for your generosity.

"I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light"

Presentation of the Gifts

Offertory Procession

(ELW hymn #188)

C **Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free Spirit.**

Offertory Prayer

A Let us pray together.

C **Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures in our midst, opening your heart to the world. Bless us and these your gifts, and inspire us to follow you in sharing these treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

Amen.

The assisting minister pours out the wine.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

The presider continues with the Great Thanksgiving, concluding:

Lord's Prayer (1975) *(to match Wednesday's Evening Prayer)*

**C OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN, hallowed be thy name,
hallowed be your name, your kingdom come,
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread and Invitation to Communion

Communion

"Lamb of God"

(setting 3; page 146)

**C Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world; have
mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the
world; have mercy on us. Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world; grant us peace.**

silence for reflection concludes the communion

Prayer after Communion

A Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-

indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
C Amen.

SENDING

We are sent to be God's hands in the world

BLESSING

P Love the Lord your God with all your heart,
With all your soul, with all your mind, with all your strength.
Keep these words in your heart as you walk the way of Lent.
Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
bless you now and forever.

C Amen.

SENDING HYMN

(hymn) ELW 808

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song”

- 1 Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey;
I'll tell ev'rybody about you wherever I go:
you alone are our life and our peace and our love.
Lord Jesus, you shall be my song as I journey.**
- 2 Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.
May all of my joy be a faithful reflection of you.
May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
Lord Jesus, I'll praise you as long as I journey.**
- 3 As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant,
to carry your cross and to share all your burdens and tears.
For you saved me by giving your body and blood.**

As long as I live, Jesus, make me your servant.

**4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my journey;
but courage will come with the sound of your steps by my side.
And with all of the family you saved by your love,
we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our journey.**

Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931
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ANNOUNCEMENTS AND SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

DISMISSAL

Please face the worship leaders for the dismissal.

A Go in peace. Love and serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Les Petite Soeurs

“Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song as I Journey”

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SERVING TODAY

Pastor Foy Christopherson, *presiding*

Trina Benedict, *assisting minister*

Greta Kutzer, Marty Benedict, Eddie Nordeen, Kea, *first readers*

Cheryl Sundly, *second reader*

Ruth Bills, *director of music & worship*

Sanctuary Choir

Julie Larson, Anna Matthes, *technology desk*

Eddie Nordeen, *confirmation sacristan*

Janell Partyka, *sacristan/altar guild*

Steve Ristuben, Justin Fischer, *ushers*

Doug Jacobsen, *bus ministry*

Rick and Cheryl Sundly, *coffee hosts*

Chancel flowers this weekend are given to the glory of God.

If you wish to donate flowers sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

The YouTube webcast this weekend is sponsored by Margot Jacobson.

If you wish to sponsor the webcast sign up in the narthex or call the church office.

Please join us for coffee fellowship in the lower level following worship.

This service is being streamed live on the internet.



Lent and Holy Week schedule

Wednesday Suppers in Lent (including Ash Wed)

5:30 – 6:30 arrive any time; serving until 6:30 pm

Hosted by ministry teams

Midweek lenten offerings designated for five of our hunger ministries

6:45 Wednesday evenings (2/25, 3/4, 3/22, 3/18, 3/25)

Old Testament salvation stories accompanied by a psalm and a hymn presented by Pastor C & our confirmation class; followed by Holden evening prayer

Midweek lenten offerings designated for five of our hunger ministries

7 pm April 2 Maundy Thursday

Holy Communion worship service

Includes commemorating the first Lord's Supper, corporate and individual absolution/forgiveness, and foot or hand washing (optional).

7 pm April 3 Good Friday

Good Friday Prayer around the cross - worship service

Includes a contemplative reading of the passion from John, prayer for the world, and prayer around the cross with optional participation in votive candle lighting

WELCOME

Everyone is welcome. We are a faith community participating in the life of God, a life that is a gift to us and in which we are actively engaged. That gift compels us to be actively engaged in the neighborhoods of Northeast Minneapolis as well. We are a multigenerational community that proudly celebrates our history while joining together with younger generations to follow where God is leading. We build our community through faith practices like prayer, dwelling in the Word and hospitality.

Guests are welcome. We are pleased you are worshiping with us today. If you would like more information about Mt. Carmel, please contact us at 612-781-2796, or email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org

Children are welcome at all services. Worship bulletins for children and activity bags are available outside the sanctuary.

Welcome to the Lord's Table. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome at the Lord's Table. Please follow the guidance of the ushers and instructions in the order of service. During communion, ministers will bring bread and wine to you where you are seated if you require accessibility accommodation. Please inform the ushers. Communion may be received in one kind (only bread or only wine) from any station if wheat bread or alcohol presents a health concern. White grape juice is available by request at most liturgies from most communion stations.

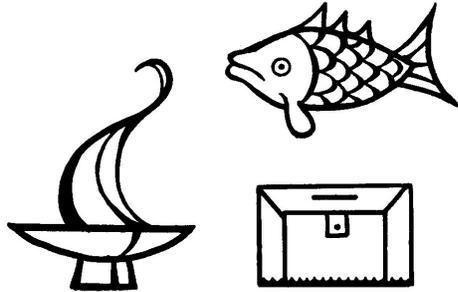
Welcome to the Holy Baptism. All who come seeking Jesus are welcome to receive Holy Baptism. Please visit with any worship leader, staff member, hospitality volunteer, contact the church office, or complete an information card, indicating that you wish to be baptized. Our pastor will contact you.

Friends of Mt. Carmel...Stay connected

Across the country and beyond there are many people who have a soft spot in their heart for Mt. Carmel Lutheran Church – people who feel a connection both to the history and the ongoing mission of this congregation. If you're one of them, we invite you to join a new network of Friends of Mt. Carmel. Email pastor@mountcarmelmpls.org for more information or to join.



Digital giving is available at Mt. Carmel. You can easily donate online through our website at mountcarmelmpls.org and click on Give. Mt. Carmel Lutheran is supported by generous people like you. Questions? Contact the church office at 612-781-2796.



Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render 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.



**Evangelical Lutheran
Church in America**
God's work. Our hands.

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