



First Sunday in Lent

Feb 22, 2026

PRE-SERVICE VIDEO – play during prelude

WELCOME & LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Today we will remember in our prayers the ELCIC's Diaconal Ministry. Diaconal ministers share Christ's love through service, compassion, and justice in the world. Within the ELCIC, diaconal ministers are rostered leaders called to ministries of word and service. They serve in congregations, schools, hospitals, social service agencies and other community organizations, helping the church live out its faith in daily life while serving the needs of the wider community.

Out of respect and in the spirit of truth, we acknowledge that we gather in community on land which is Treaty 7 territory and the traditional territory of the Blackfoot people of the Canadian Plains. We honour the Blackfoot people past, present and future, and the Metis Nation of Alberta, Region III. May our actions and choices demonstrate open hearts, kindness, and compassion toward all who call this place home.

COMMUNITY LIFE

Annual General Meeting - Today following worship we'll enjoy a soup and a bun lunch and then move to the sanctuary for the meeting to allow those unable to attend in person to join via Zoom. Everyone is welcome to participate; members are eligible to vote.

Painting with Bob – Wednesday, February 25 at 1 pm

Coldest Night of the Year – Saturday, February 28

Lenten Study Group – Mondays at 9:30 am, starting on March 2nd

During the season of Lent, we are invited to tangibly express the prayers we each bring to God. Our greeters are handing out prayer slips which you are invited to write down joys, sorrows, people, places, ministries . . . whatever is in your heart . . . and place it in the prayer basin. You are welcome to do that now if you'd like. These prayers will be brought forward and lifted up silently during our prayers today.

ERIN

As our candles are lit for worship, let us take a moment to center our hearts and minds.

GATHERING

On this first Sunday in Lent,
we journey again toward the cross.
We feel the weight of all that lies ahead.
We wrestle with coming sorrow.
We balance our growing needs.

God, we come here today
braced for the hazards of this journey.
Instead, you pour out grace.
Instead, you anoint us with oil.
Instead, you fill our cups to overflowing.

Through you, we find beauty in dry places,
abundance in want,
and welcome in despair.
You call us to the waters of life,
and we respond,
our longings now fulfilled.

WORDS OF INTENTION FOR THE DAY (one - worship leader/two - song leader)

One Jesus will go into the wilderness,
 alone.
Two He has chosen his path.

One As we join Jesus,
 God prepares us
 to receive the gift of faith,
Two grace poured out
 like waters of justice,
 like the ever-flowing stream of righteousness.

"Let Your Steadfast Love" ELW Setting 8

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

CONFSSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

We know the pull of all
that separates us from God.
We long for the cleansing water
poured out over us again.
We seek anointing,
the oil running its healing course.
We feel this call to reconnect,
so we confess our sins.

**God, we have forgotten your call,
insistent though it is.**
**We stay back
though the waters of baptism call us forward.**
**We separate ourselves
though the bread and cup beckon us to community.**
**We hide our wounds
though the oil of anointing waits at the ready.**
God knows us better than we know ourselves.

Yet God does not withhold any good gift from us.
 Like Naaman at the river, we are surprised at how easy it is
 to experience God's outpouring of grace.
 Like the woman at the well, we share living water
 and watch impenetrable barriers break.
 Like Mary at the feet of Jesus, we empty ourselves of all we have,
 only to be filled again.

Beloved, you are forgiven.
 Receive now, for yourself,
 the abundant grace that opens your soul to love.
May grace flow free through us once again!

"Bless the Lord, My Soul" (sing twice)

Dm G Dm B♭ C F A

p

Bless the Lord, my soul, and bless God's ho - ly name.

Dm G Dm B♭ C Dm

p

Bless the Lord, my soul, who leads me in - to life.

GREETING AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

It is our delight to pray. Faithful God, you sustain us even in times of trial. You are always ready to pour out more than our hearts need. Anoint us this day with the oil of gladness, that we may understand your grace anew. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

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

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.

A reading from Genesis.

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

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'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 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.' " But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." 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. 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.

GOSPEL VERSE "When It Seems the Day Will End" ACS 1034 – v1 and refrain solo, v 2 + all –

1 When it seems the day will end, and all
 2 When it seems the day will end, sink - ing
 3 When it seems the day will end, and a

light gives way to fear, we will speak your name a -
 low un - der our skin, we are dead and born a -
 cold - ness fills our bones, we will walk the way you've

gain to re - mind us you are here.
 gain, and with you now en - ter in.
 been, and our hearts will be your home.

Refrain

New life ris - ing, New life ris - ing, ash - es fall - ing, ash - es fall - ing,
 joy and weep-ing, joy and weep-ing, in your call-ing. in your call - ing.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

The holy gospel according to Matthew the 4th Chapter.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 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.' "

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

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

'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.' "

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 "Bless Now O God the Journey" v 1 & 3 – ELW 326



Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
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.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun-tain round,
but wait-ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



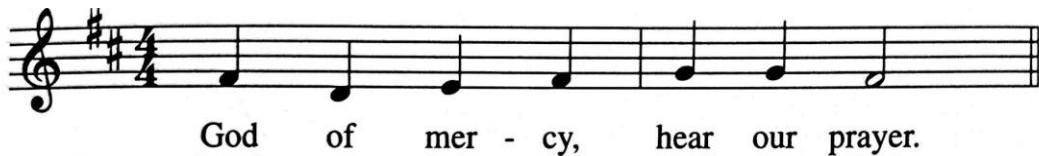
then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE



O God, through the ages you have called from among your people those who will carry out the ministry of word and service in the church. Let your blessing rest on all who answer that call, and especially those who serve as diaconal ministers, that they may faithfully carry out their ministry in the power of your Spirit.

Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We pray for the nations and their leaders all throughout the earth. We thank you for glimmers of hope in peacemaking and cooperation. Send your Spirit of justice and peace to those who experience strife and discord, violence and heartbreak need.

Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

Send your accompanying presence to those who are unable to be among community this week, whether because of travel, illness, or vulnerability. Anoint those who need healing, wholeness, and companionship with your reviving Spirit. Especially we pray for Alice, Don and Carol, Arne, Kate, Karen, Janet C, Victor and Judy, Janet D, Dave, Tiffany, Corrie, Alice, Patrick, Joel and Ellen, Linda H, Murray, Shirley, Derek, Hugh and Ally, Jim N., Donna, Helga, Margaret and Clayton, Nancy, Sheila, Cindy, Ray, Doreen, Alan T and those we name silently now . . .

Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

We give thanks for this community of faith and for the leadership of church council. We ask your blessing on our meeting this afternoon. Pour out your courage and wisdom on us and on all who serve, that all people may experience love, care, and all that they need. Bless the Women's Book Study Group and hold in your care this week Lyn Kester and Shirley Kirstein, as well as Pastor Joel, Vanessa and Hans.

Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

God of all things, you pour out your grace upon us through living water, healing oil, and cups running over. We come to you this day asking again for you to give your grace anew. Our thoughts and prayers are with all who are grieving today, especially those who experienced the tragedy first-hand and all who have been touched by it at Tumbler Ridge. Be their source of strength, hope and healing now and in the days ahead.

Sing: God of mercy, hear our prayer.

God, we trust in your abundance, whether we sense it or not. Even in days of sorrow or seasons of grief, remind us of your unyielding grace. **Amen**

MEAL

We set our table for the communion meal.

OFFERING PRAYER

God of grace, you give us all that we have. Teach us to recognize your gifts and to share again with you, a good portion of all that we have, pressed down and flowing over. **Amen**

GREAT THANKSGIVING

God is with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to our God.

Let us give thanks to God, our saving grace.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Gracious God, we have seen your abundant goodness poured out across all times and all places.

We have witnessed your presence everywhere life appears.

There is no place and no time we cannot bring you praise.

As we give thanks, we join with all those

who sing of your grace,

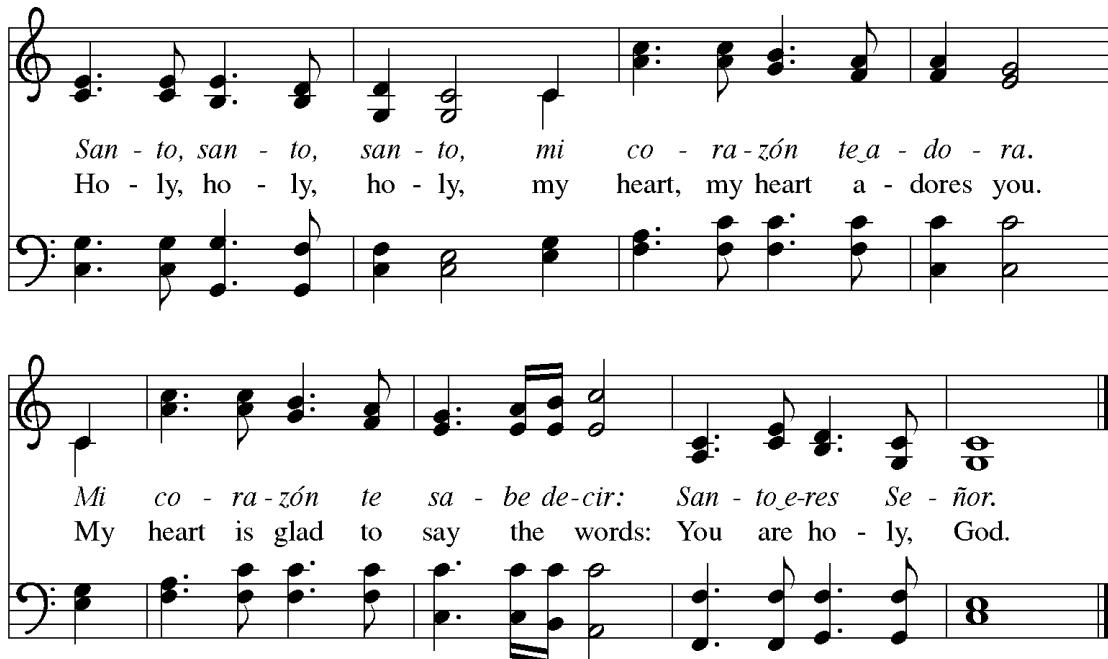
those who have gone before,

those who wait ahead,

the company of angels and all of creation,

voices springing up together like streams in the wilderness.

“Holy Holy, Holy” (Santo, Santo, Santo) ELW 473 – piano, bass, guitar



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.

Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de - cir: San - to e - res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

Holy One, we trace the signs of your grace
from the churning purples and blues
of the watery chaos,
calmed by your call to creation.
You called us and our ancestors
to work alongside you,
your goodness springing up from the earth,
water bringing new life again.

Water has remained,
a witness to your faithfulness,
calling John and Jesus to the waters of baptism,
reaching across the years
to an Ethiopian stranger,
delighted to dive into the belonging you offer.

Water and oil accompanied your prophets
as they proclaimed your work in the world.
Anointed by oil, Jesus guided his disciples
to notice the unexpected and the disregarded,
even as the time came for his last supper:
a man carrying water, a man doing women's work,
would guide them to the place where they would share
one more meal.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us,
Jesus sat down to dinner with his friends.
He took the bread, gave thanks, broke it,
and passed it around the table for everyone to eat, saying,
This is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

When the meal had ended,
and Jesus' path approached its final turn,
he took the cup, blessed it,
and invited everyone to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people
for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Jesus, we do remember you.
In the churning depths of our lives,
God still calls out the song of abundant grace,
the mystery of our faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Send your Spirit upon this bread and cup,
Christ's body and blood,
the gift of new and abundant life,
the sign of grace poured out.
Send your Spirit upon us
and make us be your body, too,
poured out into a world ready for your grace.

All glory, power, and honor are yours,
God of all abundance that is and will be,
today and every day. **Amen.**

And now, with the confidence of those caught up in God's abundant love, we pray the prayer Jesus taught us, saying:

Our Father in heaven,
 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

One loaf, broken yet abundant.
One cup, poured out yet more than enough.
Come, share in the feast.

*Together let us take and eat, the body of Christ given for you
Together let us take and drink, the blood of Christ shed for you*

COMMUNION VIDEO – “Come, Come, Come” (Malcolm Gordon)

COMMUNION SONGS

"O Bread of Life from Heaven" ELW 480

1 O bread of life from heav - en, O food to pil - grims
 2 O fount of grace re - deem - ing, O riv - er ev - er
 3 We love you, Je - sus, ten - der, in all your hid - den

giv - en, O man - na from a - bove: feed
 stream - ing from Je - sus' wound - ed side: come
 splen - dor with - in these means of grace. Oh,

with the bless - ed sweet - ness of your di - vine com -
 now, your love be - stow - ing on thirst - ing souls, and
 let the veil be - riv - en, and our clear eye in

plete - ness the souls that want and need your love.
 flow - ing till all are ful - ly sat - is - fied.
 heav - en be - hold your glo - ry face to face.

"What We Need is Here" – Taize style

What we need is here.

What we need is here.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. O Jesus, you have shared a feast more gracious than we could ever ask, the outpouring of your own self with us. Send us out into the world to be conduits for your goodness, channels of your grace, anointing this world with the new life you have given us. Amen.

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: Pour out your Spirit on all who share your word and sacrament with those who are sick or homebound. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those who will receive this sacrament, and give us all the comfort of your abiding presence through the body and blood of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

BLESSING AND SENDING

Beloved, receive now this blessing:
Life and life abundant is yours, today.

As you leave this place,
embrace the transformation you have found here.

Like water changed to wine,
we can share delight beyond measure.

Like new wineskins for new wine,
we can stretch and change,
new vessels for God's goodness.

Like the wine and oil of the Samaritan
on his way from Jerusalem to Jericho,
we can offer blessing,
even as we seek healing.

God blesses you with abundance.
+ Christ blesses you with grace.
The Spirit blesses you with love overflowing.

Trust this blessing as you go,
and pour yourself out to a world in need.
May it be so. Amen.

SUNG TABLE PRAYER "Be Present at our Table, Lord" - unaccompanied

Be present at our table, Lord;
be here and everywhere adored.
These mercies bless and grant that we
may strengthened for thy service be.

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Song Video

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