



March 8, 2026 – Third Sunday in Lent

AS WE GATHER

For our Sundays in Lent, we are focusing on the theme of repentance. That is, that we should turn away from sin, away from the world, away from ourselves, and turn to Jesus Christ expecting to receive help and all good things from Him. To do so, each Sunday we will reflect on one of the Psalms of ascent. **This morning**, we turn to Psalm 125, which teaches us to turn to Jesus, trusting in Him. “Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever” (Psalm 125:1).

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 907, “God Himself Is Present”*

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES; CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: For the Sundays in Lent this year, we focus on the theme of repentance; we turn away from our sin. We turn towards God our Savior. We turn to Jesus to be our helper and our keeper.

People: **We lift our eyes to the hills. Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth, who is our keeper.**

Pastor: We turn to Jesus, expecting to receive mercy from Him.

People: **Our eyes look to You, O Lord, until you have mercy upon us.**

Pastor: We turn to Jesus, trusting in Him.

People: **Those who trust in the Lord are like mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.**

Pastor: We turn to Jesus, knowing that apart from Him, our labors are in vain.

People: **Unless the Lord builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.**

Pastor: We turn to Jesus out of the depths, crying to Him to hear our pleas for mercy.

People: **If You, O Lord, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand? But with You there is forgiveness, that You may be feared.**

Pastor: We take a moment of silence to cry out to our Lord, asking Him for mercy.

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Out of the depths we cry to you, O Lord! Hear our plea for mercy: We are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with**

our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

Pastor: If our Lord should mark iniquities, who could stand? But with Him there is forgiveness. Therefore, almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

KYRIE

Pastor: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace from above and for our salvation let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise let us pray to the Lord.

People: **Lord, have mercy.**

Pastor: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN *LSB 423, "Jesus, Refuge of the Weary"*

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Exodus 17:1–7*

¹ All the congregation of the people of Israel moved on from the wilderness of Sin by stages, according to the commandment of the LORD, and camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² Therefore the people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." And Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people grumbled against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried to the LORD, "What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ And the LORD said to Moses, "Pass on before the people, taking with you some of the elders of Israel, and take in your hand the staff with which you

struck the Nile, and go. ⁶ Behold, I will stand before you there on the rock at Horeb, and you shall strike the rock, and water shall come out of it, and the people will drink.” And Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ And he called the name of the place Massah and Meribah, because of the quarreling of the people of Israel, and because they tested the LORD by saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalms 125*

Pastor: Those who trust in the LORD are like Mount Zion, which cannot be moved, but abides forever.

People: As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the LORD surrounds his people, from this time forth and forevermore.

Pastor: For the scepter of wickedness shall not rest on the land allotted to the righteous, lest the righteous stretch out their hands to do wrong.

People: Do good, O LORD, to those who are good, and to those who are upright in their hearts!

Pastor: But those who turn aside to their crooked ways the LORD will lead away with evildoers!

People: Peace be upon Israel!

EPISTLE READING *Romans 5:1–8*

¹ Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. ² Through him we have also obtained access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and we rejoice in hope of the glory of God. ³ Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us. ⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For one will scarcely die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person one would dare even to die— ⁸ but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *John 4:5-26*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the fourth chapter.

People: Glory to You, O Lord.

⁵ So he came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob’s well was there; so Jesus, wearied as he was from his journey, was sitting beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. ⁷ A woman from Samaria came to draw water. Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.” ⁸ (For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask for a drink from me, a woman of Samaria?” (For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.” ¹¹ The woman said to him, “Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?” ¹² Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock.” ¹³ Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” ¹⁵ The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come

here to draw water.”¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come here.”¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband’;¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you now have is not your husband. What you have said is true.”¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet.”²⁰ Our fathers worshiped on this mountain, but you say that in Jerusalem is the place where people ought to worship.”²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father.”²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ). When he comes, he will tell us all things.”²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I who speak to you am he.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 729, “I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus”*

SERMON *“Turn to Jesus, trusting in Him” (Psalm 125)*

APOSTLE’S CREED

All: I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *(Music and words in hymnal, LSB 159-160)*

All: What shall I render to the Lord for all His benefits to me?

I will offer the sacrifice of thanksgiving and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will take the cup of salvation and will call on the name of the Lord.

I will pay my vows to the Lord now in the presence of all His people,

In the courts of the Lord’s house, in the midst of you, O Jerusalem.

PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, in Your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, and confident that You will hear and answers us, O Lord.

People: Amen.

LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

HYMN *LSB 918, "Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"*

CLOSING

Pastor: Go in peace and serve your neighbor.

People: **Thanks be to God!**

Opening sentences and confession/absolution adapted from Psalms 121, 123, 125, 127, and 130 (ESV) and the confession/absolution in Divine Service setting 1 (LSB 151). Service adapted from Divine Service setting 1 (LSB 151-166).



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of March 8, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO

Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen

Cell: 832-727-3135 pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com Pastor's Day Off; Friday

**Family for the Week: Cheryl Lile
Good Shepherd, Carthage - Rev. Silas Mehl**

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanksgiving

Prayers for Health and Healing:

Tessie Holle – (cousin of Kathy Holle)

Complete Prayer List:

Temporary

Tammy Ardrey (cousin of Kathy Holle – health and healing)

Bruce Banks – (friend of Teri Ediger)

Becky – (daughter of Diane and Bill Thompson)

Jeannie Bennett – (relative of Teri Ediger – health and healing)

Opal Bulow (niece of Linda Myers)

Treasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing) Joe Pennington – (brother-in-law of Bill Michel – health and healing)

Joyce Campbell – (friend of Wanda Thompson – health and healing)

Sara Drewianka – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing from accident)

Kyle and family – (grandson to Cathy Munden, son to Teri)

McGee family – (health and healing)

Bonny Gray – (sister of Cynthia Swoyer-Wolf)

Janet – (Darlene Lampe's son-in-law's mother)

Donnie Munden – (brother-in-law of Cathy Munden)

Bill Parsons – (Joanne Michel's brother – health and healing)

Suzanne Parsons – (friend of Sue Doss – health and healing)

(brother-in-law of Bill Michel – health and healing)

Billy Schmells – (friend of Cheryl Lile – health and healing)

LC Stalcup – (relative of Gladys Bauer – health and healing)

Tim Tucek – (relative of Gladys Bauer – peace and comfort)

Dayton Wheeler – (grandson of Wanda Thompson – surgery)

Long Term

Doug Bernard – (Cathy Munden's cousin – health and healing)

Jill Bode – (niece of Rachel Sanford – health & healing, cancer)

Pat Bricco – (friend of Grace – health and healing)

Kathy Browne – (friend of Kathy Holle – health and healing)

Mary Ann Campbell – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)

Jackie Clark – (Micki Gettman's friend – healing from a broken-hip)

Dorthea Dennis – (health and healing)

Glenda Enlow – (health and healing)

Lois Gaddy – (friend of Gwen Lampe – health and healing)

Gary Gardner – (health and healing)

Betty Gordon – (health and healing)

Pastor Gary Griffin – (health & healing from cancer)

Pastor Hagen – (health and healing)

Zana Haley and baby Veda – (Cathy Munden's granddaughter)

Marybeth Lamp – (friend of Pam Bowling – health and healing)

Mitzie Lorenz – (friend of Harold Lampe – peace and comfort)

Jeeper Meyer – (health and healing from cancer)

Pat Michel – (Bill Michel's sister-in-law – health & healing)

Margaret Seburn – (cousin of Joanne Michel – health and healing)

Ruth Stoddard – (health & healing)

Larry Swart – (friend of Bill Munden – health and healing from cancer)

Bill Thompson – (health and healing)

June Winger – (Sharon Barlow's mother – health & healing)

Sunday

March 8th

WEEK

Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am

Fellowship – 9:30 am
Service – 10:00 am
New member reception after service

Monday March 9th

Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
LWML at Freistatt - 1:30 pm

Wednesday March 11th

Lenten Lunch: United Methodist Church in Aurora
Grace Serves Lunch – Volunteers needed
Service - 6:00 pm

Thursday March 12th

Pastor's Day off & confirmation 5:30 pm

Sunday March 15th

Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am
Fellowship – 9:30 am
Service with Communion – 10:00 am

Monday March 16th

Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Ladies Bible Study at Freistatt - 1:30 pm

Birthdays: Mar. 8-Sharon Crandall; Mar. 16-Tammy Stafford

Anniversaries: None

March

GREETERS:

08: Cheryl Lile & Gladys Bauer

15: Stan & Sharon Crandall

22: Matthew Springer & Emily Ernest

29: Charlie & Edee Chambers

USHERS:

08: Matthew Springer

15: Bill Michel

22: David Lampe

29: Rob Springer



Lenten Lunch: All of them will be held at the United Methodist Church in Aurora every Wednesday during Lent starting Feb. 25. They will all begin at noon. Grace will provide the meal on March 11, and Pastor Heitshusen will be the speaker that day as well.

Sheltering Hope is an organization here in Aurora. They recently voted to form the following committees in 2026 to meet their goals: Jobs committee, Mentorship committee, and Transportation committee. If you are interested in learning more about Sheltering Hope and/or serving on one of the committees, please see Pastor Heitshusen for more details.

Jodi Wright needs pictures of Grace's Ministry teams, individuals in the group and a short summary of activities for our web site. If you have specific questions, please contact Jodi.

Transportation Help Needed: One of our shut-ins is in need of transportation help to and from her doctors appointments. We would like to have a list of people who are willing to help. You would **not** be signing up to be a driver for every appointment. You would only be signing up to be on the list of individuals willing to be contacted if needed. Please contact Pastor Heitshusen if you are willing to put your name in the list and/or if you have any questions.

The **LWML** is having an in-gathering for Trinity Lambs Cottage Daycare in Freistatt. A list of items requested is in the narthex. Items will be collected until March 29th. If you have questions, please ask Edith.

The **LWML Spring Social** is scheduled for Sunday, May 3rd, in Rockville. An invitation is posted in the narthex. Everyone is invited to attend. If you have questions, or would like to attend, please ask Edith.