



March 15, 2026 – Fourth 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 127, which teaches us to turn to Jesus, knowing that apart from Him, our labors are in vain. “Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain” (Psalm 127:1).

WELCOME

HYMN *LSB 696, “O God, My Faithful God,” stanzas 1-3*

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: Lord, have mercy.

People: Christ, have mercy.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy.

All: Amen.

HYMN *LSB 696, "O God, My Faithful God," stanzas 4-6*

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS *Peter and Christina*

OLD TESTAMENT READING *Isaiah 42:14–21*

¹⁴ For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵ I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶ And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷ They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸ Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? ²⁰ He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹ The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

PSALM *Psalm 127*

Pastor: Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.

People: Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchman stays awake in vain.

Pastor: It is in vain that you rise up early and go late to rest, eating the bread of anxious toil;
People: for he gives to his beloved sleep.

Pastor: Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
People: the fruit of the womb a reward.

Pastor: Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them!
People: He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

EPISTLE READING *Ephesians 5:8–14*

⁸ For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING *John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the ninth chapter.
People: Glory to You, O Lord.

¹ As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. ... ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." ... ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" ³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" ³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." ³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind."

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

HYMN OF THE DAY *LSB 873, "Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies"*

SERMON *"Turn to Jesus; Apart from Him, our Labor is in Vain" (Psalm 127)*

CREED *Nicene Creed*

People: **I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life ☩ of the world to come. Amen.

OFFERING

HYMN *LSB 785, "We Praise You, O God"*

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 answer us, O Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE COMMUNION CONFESSION

Pastor: The Lord's Supper is God's gift for Christians who are properly taught. In communion, we want people to receive Christ's body and blood for their good. This means that as you come to the Lord's Table you affirm with each communicant that Jesus is your Savior and Lord; and with Lutheran Christians you confess:

People: **I recognize and confess that I am a sinner. I repent of my sins and ask God's forgiveness. I believe that Jesus Christ is my only Lord and Savior from sin, Satan, and death. I believe that the risen Christ is truly present in the Sacrament and, that under the form of bread and wine, I receive His true body and blood for the forgiveness of my sin and the strengthening of my faith and life. (*Augsburg Confession-Article X*)**

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary ... evermore praising You and saying:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (*Music and words in hymnal, LSB 208*)

All: **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored; Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your name. Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord; Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Blessed are You ... His body and blood.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:

All: **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.**

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Pastor: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

THE PEACE OF THE LORD

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: **Amen.**

LAMB OF GOD (*Music and words in hymnal, LSB 210*)

All: **1. O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

2. O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God, You take the sin of the world away; Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ, and grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

LSB 628, "Your Table I Approach"

LSB 427, "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

LSB 728, "How Firm a Foundation"

SONG OF SIMEON (*Music and words in hymnal, LSB 211*)

All: **1. O Lord, now let Your servant depart in heav'nly peace, for I have seen the glory of Your redeeming grace: A light to lead the Gentiles unto Your holy hill, the glory of Your people, Your chosen Israel.**

2. All glory to the Father, all glory to the Son, all glory to the Spirit, forever Three in One; for as in the beginning, is now, shall ever be, God's triune name resounding through all eternity.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: Let us pray. ... one God, now and forever.
People: 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 644, "The Church's one Foundation"*

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 4 (LSB 203-212).



ANNOUNCEMENTS for Week of March 15, 2026

Grace Lutheran Church 1120 S. Park Ave. Aurora, MO
Church: 417-678-3603 Pastor Daniel Heitshusen
Cell: 832-727-3135 pastor@gracelutheranaurora.com

Family for the Week: Mitch Littler
Trinity, Freistatt - Rev. Jake Sletten

Prayers of Peace and Comfort:

Prayers of Thanksgiving:

Prayers for Health and Healing:

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)
Treaasa Bussey – (friend of Pam Bowling – 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)

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)

Tessie Holle – (cousin of Kathy Holle)
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)
Joe Pennington – (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)

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)

		WEEK
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
Wednesday	March 18th	Elders - 10:00 am & Council - 11:00 am Service - 6:00 pm
Thursday	March 19th	Pastor's Day off & confirmation - 5:30 pm
Sunday	March 22nd	Happy Half Hour – 9:00 am Fellowship – 9:30 am Service – 10:00 am
Monday	March 23rd	Braille - 9:00 am & 1:00 pm
Saturday	March 28th	Aurora Business Expo Bauer Easter Dinner: 11:00 am – 3:00 pm

Birthdays: Mar. 16-Tammy Stafford; Mar. 21-Elias Sharp & Gwen Lampe; Mar. 24-Cindy Swoyer Wolf; Mar. 24-David Lampe; Mar. 25-David Hoaglan; Mar. 29-Kelsey Robertson
Anniversaries: Mar. 25-Scott & Tammy Stafford

March

GREETERS:

15: Stan & Sharon Crandall
22: Matthew Springer & Emily Ernest
29: Charlie & Edee Chambers

USHERS:

15: Bill Michel
22: David Lampe
29: Rob Springer



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 talk with Edith.