



First Sunday of LENT



11:11 a.m. Contemporary Worship Service March 1

As followers of Jesus, we rejoice in God's plan for a just, loving and peaceful world. We commit ourselves to making it a reality for all people everywhere. Just as all are welcome at the Lord's table during holy communion, all are welcome to this family of faith. People of all races, ages, social status, sexual orientations and gender identities are united here in our mission to love God, Love Others, Serve.

***If you are new,** please sign a worship card and place it in the offering plate.*

Adult Bible Class: In the classroom side of the Cup

Teen Sunday School (6th - 12th grade): In the Youth Room

Confirmation Class (8th - 10th grade): In the Library

Children's Sunday School for 5th grade and younger:

- *Ye Littles of Faith for Kindergarten and younger in East hallway classroom next to Nursery*
- *The Mighty Kids Kingdom for 1st - 5th grades in West hallway classroom, 2 doors past youth room*

Tuesday Bible Study (Open to All): In the classroom side of the Cup

Sunday School Classes are regularly held at 10:15 a.m.

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Faith Guest wi-fi password: **beblessed**

Staying connected** through at least one of these ways allows you to know what's happening in between Sundays so you can plan ahead and be involved. If you follow us on social media, please be **sure to share our posts!

- CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE -
March 1, 2026 • 11:11am
Second Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE *More Precious Than Silver*

Faith Bells

GATHERING SONG
Old Church Choir
Prepare the Way

CALL TO WORSHIP FOR LENT

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Congregation: Amen.

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Compassionate One,

C: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.
In † Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

C: Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

PARISH NEWS

SALVATION ARMY SHELTER VISITS

Emily Wright

TIME & TALENT *Generosity "Why I Serve"*

Scarlett Parrott

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 12:1-2 *pew Bible page 699*

Here the prophet Jeremiah complains about God's fairness. This is a classic Biblical lament, asking God why the wicked prosper.

You will be in the right, O Lord, when I lay charges against you, but let me put my case to you. Why does the way of the guilty prosper? Why do all who are treacherous thrive? You plant them, and they take root; they grow and bring forth fruit; you are near in their mouths yet far from their hearts.

GOSPEL READING: John 3:1-17 *pew Bible, page 970*

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

Congregation: Praise to you, O Christ!

SERMON *Lent Sermon Series on Evil*

Pastor Bob Stelter

Today: “Divine Justice: Why Do The Wicked Prosper”

SERMON SONG *Graves Into Gardens*

RECOGNITION OF OUR DEACONS

Pam Brown, Rev. Wyn Bryant, Jane Dakolios, Donna Deichert, Nancy Dean,
Mildred Fenske, Debbie Pinchok, Ann Stewart

SHARING OF GOD’S PEACE

OFFERINGS FOR MISSION & MINISTRY

OFFERING PRAYER

Pastor: Merciful God,

Congregation: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OFFERING SONG

Jim Lang

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

WORDS OF INSTITUTION / LORD’S PRAYER / HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD’S PRAYER

**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.**

COMMUNION SONG *I'd Rather Have Jesus* Rhea F. Miller

COMMUNION BLESSING

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

Congregation: Amen.

BENEDICTION FOR LENT

Pastor: As this new week begins, we pause to breathe, to listen and to remember that love is practiced one day at a time. A blessing for you: May the God of mercy and courage steady you when the road feels uncertain; open your eyes to the needs around you; open your hands to serve with care; and open your hearts to remain soft in a hard and weary world. †

Congregation: Amen.

SENDING SONG *What A Friend*

SENDING

Praise Band Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

Congregation: Love God, love others, serve.

WORSHIP ASSISTANTS TODAY

ALTAR GUILD Vicki Adams

GREETER Deb Miller

USHERS Matt Gray, Ethan Gray

COMMUNION MINISTERS Lisa Stelter, Christina Landau,
Teensy & Frank Weldon, Melissa Horning

PROJECTION & LIGHTS Jennifer Berry

The arrangements on the altar remind us of our penitential sacrifice and determination during the Lenten season.

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PRAYERS

(Prayers are refreshed at the beginning of each month)

Members: Terry Biesboer, Gene Bird, Dave Birkholz, Jan Bishop, Mary Blackburn, Nathan Blackburn, Rob Blackburn, Roger Brown, Jaigne Christman, Nancy & Leon Cole, Katie Condon, Michael Condon, Myles Cooper, Debbie Courtney, Nancy Dean, Nancy Dickinson, Irene Dorfinger, Patsy Elmore, John Elmore, Karoline Frasch, Pat Gary, Doug Goins, Mary Beth & Alex Green, Jonas Greenman, Chip Hester, Deb & Doug Houck, Tom Jayne, Paul Jurkoic, Lin & Mike McKinley, Diane Lee, Debbie Palatinus, Scarlett Parrott, Harold Peters, Joe Poole, Dr. Ted Primka, Sandra Prior, the Saylor families, Linda Shoemaker, Pamela Spaar, Bill Steele, Rich Wellner, Jean Witte, John Woods, Matt Wright.

Friends: App family, Dave Berry, Bill Birkholz, Jim Birkholz, Sheila Birkholz, Michael Carfi, Steve Case, Chris Clark, Meg Corrigan, Nancy Crain, Michael Damico, Dennis Family, Van Dudley, Brandy & Brian Duke, Dan Edmunds, Favre family, Alanna & Arnie Fenske, Kathi Fenske-Hong, Phylis Garrison, Cindy Goe, Wil Glafenhein & family, Angél Gobel, Matthew Green, Gutelius family, Blanche Hall, Hall family, Jeff Herbold, Joy Hymer, Bob Kessler, Barb Korsmo, Loyacano family, Scott Nelson, Josh Nichols, Rev. Dan Paavola, Chris Patrick, Rose & Steve Penney, Alyssa Powers Rivers, Jim Russell, Sarah Rye, Salles families, Laney Savilsky, Marilyn Savilsky, Scaglione family, Richard Sena, Jim Shea, Lynn Siegfried & family, baby Ruth Sommerfeld and family, Leora Stewart, Brody Taylor, Audra Tyler Moore, Frank Tyler, Doug Trout. Sheli Voorhees, Janet Wengert, Townley Whalen, Mya, Ro & Haven Wolfe, Zehner family, Adelaide, Angel & Ben, Carolyn, Cheri & George, Shannington, Sharon & family, Darcy, Duskin, Jim, Jodi, Judy, Kim, Laura, Lucy, Max, Micki, Touranne *and those we name to You.*

Joy & Growth: Our commitment to give time and talents.

Joy at the birth of Abel James Simpson to Ashley & Tait Simpson; grandparents, Deanne & Larry Benorden.

Joyful Welcome New Members: Evan and James Griswold.

Comfort in the midst of death for the family and friends of: Jesse Jackson, John Hitchcock.

Shepherd of Hope Pantry Friends: Amanda & her children, Sasha & daughter, Savannah & Devon, Max, Patti Morgan & family, Charlie & Weston, Chris, Josefina, Long Ho, Betty, Tiffany, Nita & family, Amanda, Ted & Sandra, Charline, Tommy, Kristi & Trent, Tom, Paul, Robby, Retha, Mary, Sally, Pryors, Mytohia & family, Christine & family, Happy, Patricia & children, Sherry & Mike, Taissi, Denis, Daniela, Mark *and those known to God.*

Salvation Army Friends: Tara, Wendy, Al, Julie, Daphne, Elizabeth, Cheryl, Stephanie, Lacy, Paula, Lisa, Brandon, Robert, Eli, Danny, Gibby, James, Jason, Gary, Kenny, Adam, Christopher, Mark *and those known to God.*

Concern & Assistance: Those dealing with addiction while incarcerated. Mentally & physically challenged. Veterans. First Responders. Refugees and those living in fear of deportation. Persecuted Christians. The people of Nigeria, Iran, Israel, Syria, Palestine, Ukraine, Russia.

Partnerships: Bishop Yehiel Curry & the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America; Bishop Kevin Strickland & the Southeastern Synod; Alicia & David Brondos, Missionaries in Mexico; Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry; Seminarian Sam Sosebee; English Language Learning Classes, Quiet Music Ministry; Tyson House; Deacon Ministry; Knox Area Rescue Ministry; Via de Cristo Ministry; Salvation Army Homeless Shelters; Street Hope; Alzheimer's Support Group; Cole Center Caregivers and Parkinson Band; Mercy Ships; Lutheran Church & School in Guatemala; AL-ANON; Narcotics Anonymous.

Peace & Protection for all armed forces, especially: Jacob Cole, Anthony Hu, HM, Andrew McDonald, Alex Primka, Christine Russ, Sam Thompson, Chris Yonke, Mitchell Yount.

*The arrangements on the altar remind us of our penitential sacrifice
and determination during the Lenten season.*

EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

- 9 a.m.** Traditional Worship Service
- 10:15 a.m.** Sunday School, Coffee & Donuts
- 11:11 a.m.** Contemporary Worship Service

MONDAY, MARCH 2

- 12 p.m.** Via de Cristo Reunion
- 3 p.m.** Shepherd of Hope Food Pantry
- 6:15 p.m.** English Language Class

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

- 1:30 p.m.** Bible Study Class
- 6 p.m.** Evening Prayer
- 6:30 p.m.** Spirituality Book Club
- 7:30 p.m.** Narcotics Anonymous

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

- 4:00 p.m.** Evangelism Team Meeting
- 5 p.m.** First Communion Instruction
- 5:30 p.m.** Handbell Choir Rehearsal
- 6 p.m.** Lent Book Discussion and Soup Supper
- 6:30 p.m.** Chancel Choir Rehearsal

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

- 10:30 a.m.** Author's Guild of Tennessee
- 7:30 p.m.** Narcotics Anonymous

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

- 9:30 a.m.** Cole Center Caregiver Community
- 7 p.m.** Narcotics Anonymous

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

- 11:30** Al-Anon

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

- 9 a.m.** Traditional Worship Service
- 10:15 a.m.** Sunday School, Coffee & Donuts
- 11:11 a.m.** Contemporary Worship Service
- 5 p.m.** Anglican Worship - Open to All

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Spirituality Book Club**
 - Tuesday, March 3 at 6:30 p.m.
 - Meet at the church
- **First Communion Instruction**
 - Wednesday, March 4 at 5 p.m.
- **Lent Book Discussion and Soup Supper**
 - Wednesday, March 4 at 6 p.m.

DAILY LECTIONARY READINGS THIS WEEK

Monday: Numbers 21:4-9, Hebrews 3:1-6, Psalm 128

Tuesday: Isaiah 65:17-25, Romans 4:6-13, Psalm 128

Wednesday: Ezekiel 36:22-32, John 7:53-8:11, Psalm 128

Thursday: Exodus 16:1-8, Colossians 1:15-23, Psalm 95

Friday: Exodus 16:9-21, Ephesians 2:11-22, Psalm 95

Saturday: Exodus 16:27-35, John 4:1-6, Psalm 95

Sunday: Exodus 17:1-7, Psalm 95, Romans 5:1-11, John 4:5-42

FAITHFUL RESPONSE

Offerings last week: **\$ 40,015**

Offerings year to date: **\$ 161,849**

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on our secure webpage.*

