

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

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March 15th, 2026 9:30am

Fourth Sunday in Lent



*A Lutheran Mass - Setting by Thomas Mosbo
Please leave your offering in the plate at the door
You may stand at times marked with an asterisk (*)*

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Prelude and Contemplation

Karen Niemeier

Welcome and Announcements

Confession and Forgiveness

P: In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hidden: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord † Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

* **Hymn** *God, Whose Almighty Word* **ELW # 673,**

* **Greeting**

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.

* **Kyrie** *Lord, Have Mercy*

P: Kyrie eleison. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Christe eleison. **C: Christ, have mercy.**

P: Kyrie eleison. **C: Lord, have mercy.**

* **Prayer of the Day**

P: Let us pray.

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.



First Reading: *1 Samuel 16:1-13*

L: A reading from the first book of Samuel.

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul, since I have rejected him from being king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil, and go. I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” ² And Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears it, he will kill me.” And the LORD said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.’” ³ And invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do. And you shall anoint for me him whom I declare to you.” ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, “Do you come peaceably?” ⁵ And he said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the LORD. Consecrate yourselves, and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the LORD's anointed is before him.” ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him. For the LORD sees not as man sees: man looks on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart.” ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the LORD chosen this one.” ¹⁰ And Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel. And Samuel said to Jesse, “The LORD has not chosen these.” ¹¹ Then Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but behold, he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and get him, for we will not sit down till he comes here.”

¹² And he sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. And the LORD said, "Arise, anoint him, for this is he." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward. And Samuel rose up and went to Ramah. [ESV]

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm: 23

L: Let us read responsively Psalm 23.

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

² **He makes me lie down in green pastures.
He leads me beside still waters.**

³ He restores my soul.

He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴ **Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,
I will fear no evil, for you are with me;
your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy
shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever. [ESV]**



Second Reading: *Ephesians 5:8-14*

L: A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians.

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.” *[ESV]*

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

*** Gospel Acclamation**

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



*** Gospel: *John 9:1-41***

P: The Holy Gospel according to John.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

9 As he 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 spit 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.

⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” ⁹ Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” ¹⁰ So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” ¹¹ He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” ¹² They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

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.”

¹⁸ The Judeans did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” ²⁰ His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. ²¹ But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” ²² (His parents said these things because they feared the Judeans, for the Judeans had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”)

²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” ²⁵ He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” ²⁶ They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” ²⁷ He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” ²⁸ And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” ³⁰ The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” 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." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains. [ESV. modified]"

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Rev. Thomas Mosbo

*** Hymn**

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

ELW # 611

*** Nicene Creed**

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**C: We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father,
through whom all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

**We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

L: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs:

Please respond to each petition with the following:

L: ... Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C: Amen.



We lift our prayers for

Lynn Lyvers, Jerry, Denny Bergmann, Rene', Paul Fahr, Gary Hudik, Virgil Martin, Caroline Jam, Darlene Aurand, Cyndy Schumacher, Virgil Gordon, Jerry Martin, Donna Christen, Richard Freitag, Waylon Andrews, Connor Stadermann, Ryse Stone, Nicole, John, Chuck, Joyce, Terri, Tina, Julie, Jamie, Crystal, Katie, Christian, Anna, Abby, Karla, Jacob and his family, Richard Gordon, Kathy, Charlie, Brad, Sue, Emma, Cindy, Lamar Hail, Connie, Pam, Caroline, Tina D., Jim DeMontigny Jr., Linda Kruger-Kleckler, Norman, Vivian, Tina Cheeney, Brenda, Kara Allen, Christine Beyer, Bob Schulz, Kenny Frie, Steve Rothschadl, Gary L. Hartwig, Josh, Hannah, Ray Phillips, Susan, Allison Biddick, Brad Rackow, Kim Choin, Jeannie, Dianne, Nancy, Pat McCluskey, Jim Briggs, Sandi, Tina, Jim, Ronald Schrader and Christine S. Pray for love, peace, comfort and hope of resurrection for the family and friends of Marilyn Fulfs.

LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

Peace

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**

Please greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Chime Choir *And He Never Said a Word*

Responses

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Preface

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, Holy, Holy

C: **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Eucharistic Prayer

P: We give you thanks, Father, ...
with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C: **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.**

Canticle

Lamb of God

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.**

Distribution

*All are welcome to come to receive Christ's body and blood
or you may come to receive a blessing.*

Once all have received:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and
keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Canticle

Now, Lord

C: Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace;
your word has been fulfilled.

**My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people:
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Blessing

P: 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,
In the name of the Father, ✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit..

C: Amen.

* Hymn

In the Cross of Christ I Glory

ELW # 324

* Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Karen Niemeier





Each year, Good Shepherd's chancel is decorated with Easter Lilies for the Easter Season. You may order the lilies in the memory of or in honor of a loved or in the celebration of the Easter Season!

Orders must be placed today, March 15th.

Lilies will be \$16.00 this year.

Orders can be place by using the flower envelopes provided.

Please place them in the offering plate or you can drop them off at the church office.

Join us each Wednesday

At Evangelical Free Church of Lena during Lent at 1 p.m. in

Fellowship Hall as we celebrate with music!

March 18th Steve Scheffey

March 25th Ray Nicholas

April 1st Will Mueller

Service will be 45-60 minutes long.

Attendance March 1st

In-person 29, Online - 87

Holy Week and Easter Schedule 2026

- 29 March, 9:30 am - *Palm Sunday / Sunday of the Passion* - Sunday worship with procession of palms and a reading of the Passion according to Matthew
- 2 April, 7:00 pm - *Maundy Thursday* - Communion service
- 3 April, 7:00 pm - *Good Friday* - Tenebrae service
- 5 April, 7:00 am - *Easter Morning* - Sunrise service
- 5 April, 9:30 am - *Easter Day* - Festive celebration with Holy Communion



Easter Breakfast

The Good Shepherd will be serving Easter Breakfast in Fellowship Hall.

Menu includes: Egg Casserole, Cinnamon Rolls, Coffee, Juice and Milk.

Sign up sheet for food donations by entrance to Fellowship Hall.

A freewill donation would be welcome to cover expenses for ham, cheese and other needed supplies would be appreciated. Anything donated above expenses would be donated to the church.

Easter Breakfast Reservation Form

Please fill out this reservation form and drop it off at the church office.

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of people attending _____