

Third Sunday in Lent



March 8th, 2026
Our Saviour's Lutheran Church

About Us

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, has been firmly planted in the Phillips Community since 1912. A Reconciling in Christ (RIC) congregation, we celebrate our diversity of age, race, gender identities, sexual orientations, culture and citizenship.

Welcome, Visitors!

Welcome to all visitors and guests. If you live here, we hope you'll consider joining. If you are here for a short time, we hope you'll feel at home. Please pick up a copy of our newsletter, *The Sentinel*, from the entry table. **Need hearing assistance or larger print?** Please ask an usher.

Children are welcome to participate fully in worship. We feel strongly that children's spirituality develops through experience. In our community, children lead as ushers, musicians, readers and communion servers. We expect that children will behave as children – giggles, wiggles, and all. We offer a playground in the Sanctuary with books and coloring supplies for kids to use during the service. There are bags that can be brought to your seats with supplies. We also have a reading corner in the Hospitality Center with books and toys. Kids and their parents are invited to go in and out of the Sanctuary as needed.

Safe Church. For the safety of all children, we ask that children be attended at all times. Please accompany your child to the bathroom and reading corner. Copies of our Safe Church Policy are available from the church office.

Transportation and Parking

Parking - Parking is available in the parking lot off the alley behind church, on the local streets (follow signs as some parking is only residential or has hour restrictions) and at the Hope Academy Parking ramp at 24th St and Park Ave. The arms are up on Sunday mornings until 2pm. Parking there other days requires a code. Pick up a card at church with the ramp code. There are handicap parking spots available in the front and back of the church.

Bus - The D line runs every 10 minutes on Chicago Ave. For more options, visit metrotransit.org.

Mission of the month: Community Emergency Service (CES)

CES has been operated for the last 65 years as an outreach ministry of Augustana Lutheran Church, offering vital support to neighbors in Minneapolis. Today, CES reaches nearly 150,000 neighbors each year through their Food Market, one of Minnesota's largest Meals on Wheels programs, and Ani-Meals program. Your donation and time will help CES continue to grow, provide more food and to share hope to our vulnerable neighbors, especially such hard times like these.

Online giving - If you are interested in giving online to Our Saviour's for the Mission of the Month or general offering, use this QR Code:



Third Sunday in Lent

We began our journey through Lent with the story of the triumphal procession of Jesus into Jerusalem – a story we usually reserve for Palm Sunday. Each week we will continue to follow his journey all the way to the cross. These gospel texts lift up the stark contrasts between Jesus' embodiment of the reign of God and the systems of this world that are powered by contempt and injustice. May our faith be renewed in this season so we continue to see in Jesus Christ the One who truly saves, heals, and liberates us.

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Prelude

Welcome

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.
Through faith, the free gift of God,
you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.
The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead
dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts,
and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

***Opening Hymn** *We Just Came To Praise Our God* **TFF 287**

1. We just came to **praise** our God (2x)
 We just came to **praise** God's Holy Name
 We just came to **praise** our God
2. We just came to **thank** our God...
3. We just came to **love** our God....

***Greeting**

The grace of our Savior Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

***Prayer of the Day**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Psalm 95

Lis - ten deep with - in your-self to hear the voice of God
who shep - herds you and leads you forth in life,

¹ Come, let us sing to God; let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

² Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving and raise a loud shout with psalms.

³ For you, God, are great, and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴ In your hand are the caverns of the earth; the heights of the hills are also yours.

Refrain

⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it, and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down, let us kneel before God our maker.

⁷ For God is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand. Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

Refrain

⁸ "Harden not your hearts, as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.

⁹ There your ancestors tested me, they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰ Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,

'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'

¹¹ Indeed I swore in my anger, 'They shall never come to my rest.'

Refrain

Reading

A Letter from St. Paul's Lutheran in Port Jefferson Station, NY

In this Lenten season, we will be reading letters written to Our Saviour's that we received during the ICE occupation in Minnesota. Just as early Christian communities received letters from the apostle Paul that we still read today, we receive these letters as gospel encouragement for our lives of faith. This letter was sent to us by St. Paul's Lutheran Church in New York. You may find the full letter on the Prayer Wall.

We are standing with you in faith and solidarity. Praying for your congregation, that you may continue to be a strong, faithful presence in Minnesota. Your commitment to sharing God's love and blessings makes a lasting difference. Thank you for being a beacon of light and hope. Grace and Peace, St. Paul's Lutheran Church

For these saints in New York, we say together: **Thanks be to God.**

***Gospel Acclamation**



Come, let us re - turn to our Source.



You who are torn, God will heal you; you who are



crushed, God will bind you up.

*Gospel

Matthew 24:1–14

The holy gospel according to Matthew, the 24th chapter. **Glory to you, O God.**

¹ As Jesus came out of the temple and was going away, his disciples came to point out to him the buildings of the temple. ² Then he asked them, “You see all these, do you not? Truly I tell you, not one stone will be left here upon another; all will be thrown down.”

³ When he was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, “Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” ⁴ Jesus answered them, “Beware that no one leads you astray. ⁵ For many will come in my name, saying, ‘I am the Messiah!’ and they will lead many astray. ⁶ And you will hear of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not alarmed, for this must take place, but the end is not yet. ⁷ For nation will rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, and there will be famines and earthquakes in various places: ⁸ all this is but the beginning of the birth pangs.

⁹ “Then they will hand you over to be tortured and will put you to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of my name. ¹⁰ Then many will fall away, and they will betray one another and hate one another. ¹¹ And many false prophets will arise and lead many astray. ¹² And because of the increase of lawlessness, the love of many will grow cold. ¹³ But the one who endures to the end will be saved. ¹⁴ And this good news of the kingdom will be proclaimed throughout the world, as a testimony to all the nations, and then the end will come.

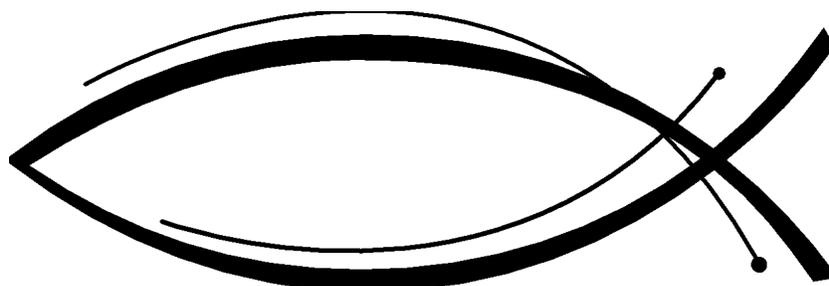
This is the Good News, **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

After the children's sermon, young children may go with the nursery minister for children's church and be welcomed back during the sharing of the peace. They are also most welcome to stay in the sanctuary.

Sermon

There is space for sermon notes on the insert page.



Refrain



Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of



liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing



and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.



1 God, re - place my ston - y heart with a heart that's
2 Write your love up - on my heart as my law, my
3 May I weep with those who weep; share the joy of



kind and ten - der. All my cold - ness and
goal, my sto - ry. In each thought, word, and
friend and neigh - bor. As I live from day to

Refrain



fear to your grace I now sur - ren - der.
deed, may my liv - ing bring you glo - ry.
day, love will be my fin - est la - bor.

***Prayers of the People**

Each petition ends: God of grace...hear our prayer.



Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

*Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

Gathering our Gifts

OSLC Choir

All present, even those who contribute through automatic payments, are invited to lay hands upon the collection plate symbolizing their contributions. Those worshipping online may contribute on our website: oursavioursmpls.org.

*Offertory



O beau-ty ev - er an - cient, O beau - ty ev - er new,
di - vine and Ho - ly Pres - ence, my be - ing sings to you,
in grat - i-tude, in wor - ship my be - ing sings to you!

*Offertory Prayer

*The Great Thanksgiving

God be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts! **We lift them to our God.**

Let us give thanks to the Living God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

*Eucharistic Prayer

As part of the eucharistic prayer we confess the great mystery of faith to the tune of the Civil Rights Movement anthem, "We Shall Overcome." We learned this from Trinity Lutheran in Manhattan:

Jesus Christ has died, Jesus Christ is risen,

Jesus Christ will come again.

Oh, deep in my heart, I do believe

Jesus Christ will come again.

***The Prayer of Jesus**

**Our Mother, our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kin-dom 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.

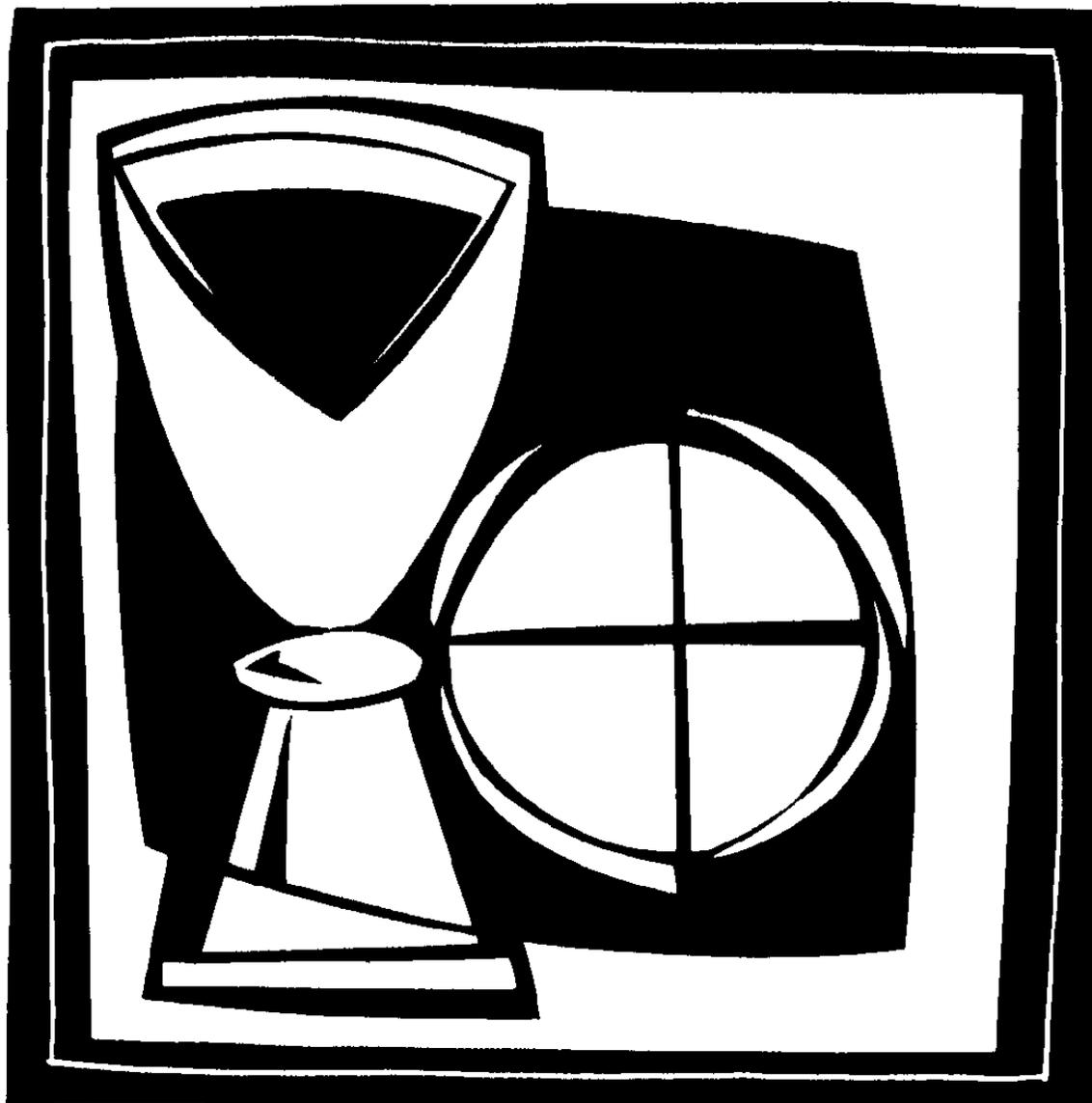
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kin-dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

**As part of our commitment to using inclusive and expansive language for God, this season we are modifying the word 'kingdom' which connotes both maleness and a form of government unfamiliar to most of us. Instead, we will use 'kin-dom' which captures the way Jesus radically redefines family and invites everyone into a loving relationship with God and neighbor. Whether saying 'kin-dom' or 'kingdom,' we proclaim the subversive reign of God's love and justice.*

Healing Prayer at the Font

During communion distribution, you are invited to the font for individual prayers.



Distribution

All are welcome at Christ's table. Ushers will guide you. After receiving bread or a gluten-free wafer, hold out your glass for wine (dark) or juice (light). Following communion, deposit your compostable cup with a server. Those who do not commune may indicate a preference for a blessing.

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW 471

Bread of Heaven

Bret Hesla

1. Bread of heav - en, cup of love. Bread of heav - en, cup of
2. Bread of shar - ing, cup that's passed. Bread of shar - ing, cup that's
3. Bread of mer - cy, cup of hope. Bread of mer - cy, cup of
4. Bread of wit - ness, cup un - bowed. Bread of wit - ness, cup un -
5. Bread that ri - ses, cup held high. Bread that ri - ses, cup held

love. You are the way we live. You are the way we live.
passed. Be in our let - ting go. Be in our let - ting go.
hope. Of - fring a way of peace. Of - fring a way of peace.
bowed. Chal - lenge of wrong - ful walls. Chal - lenge of wrong - ful walls.
high. All things shall be made new. All things shall be made new.

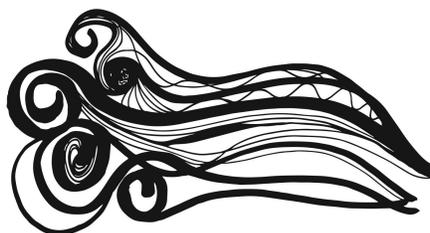
Other verses:

6. Bread of kindness, cup of grace.
Bread of kindness, cup of grace.
Hosting a meal for all.
Hosting a meal for all.

7. Bread of ref - uge, cup of rest.
Bread of ref - uge, cup of rest.
Balm for a wound - ed world.
Balm for a wound - ed world

8. Bread of beau - ty, cup that shines.
Bread of beau - ty, cup that shines.
Fill us with sim - ple joys.
Fill us with sim - ple joys.

9. Bread of courage, cup of fire.
Bread of courage, cup of fire.
Forge us for justice now.
Forge us for iustice now.



Behold, What Manner of Love

TFF 218

Sing in a canon as directed.

5 Be-hold what manner of Love God has Giv en un - to us, Be

9 hold what manner of Love God has Giv en un - to us,

13 That We should be called the children of God

That We should be called the children of God

The musical score is written on four staves in treble clef with a key signature of three sharps (F#, C#, G#) and a 6/8 time signature. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with measure numbers 5, 9, and 13 indicated on the left side of the staves.

***Blessing**

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

God Welcomes All

God welcomes all, strangers and friends;
God's love is strong and it never ends.

***Benediction**

This is a benediction song that we learned at Luther Crest Bible Camp this summer.

As you go on your way may Christ go with you
May Christ go before you to show you the way
May Christ go behind you to encourage you
Beside you to befriend you, above you to watch over
Within you to give you peace

***Dismissal**

Go in peace. Love and serve God! **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

All are invited to the Hospitality Center for announcements and community time.

Acknowledgments

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Information about Our Saviour's can be found on our website (www.oursavioursmpls.org) and on Facebook (www.facebook.com/groups/OurSavioursMPLS).

Today's Worship

Ministers:	You!
Presiding:	Martha Schwehn Bardwell
Preaching:	Martha Schwehn Bardwell
Reader:	Elizabeth Hanson
Prayers:	Dan Swenson-Klatt
Special Music:	OSLC Adult Choir
Musicians:	Alyssa Shwitzer & Kent Goodroad
Sound:	Mike Libby
Livestream:	Jakob Johnson
Communion Recruiters:	5th & 6th graders
Window Blinds:	Remi Hanson

This week at OSLC:

Wednesday, March 11

8:30AM-9:30AM DIN

10:15AM Bible Study (HC/Zoom)

5:30PM Community Meal (HC)

6:30PM-7PM Holden Evening Prayer

7PM-8PM Adult Choir

Saturday, March 14

9AM- Noon Quilting (HC)

Sunday, March 15

9AM Adult Forum: Expanding Our RIC Welcome Statement

Interested in Membership at OSLC?

Wonderful! Please reach out to one of the pastors in person or via email to share your interest and questions. This year, we will receive new members later in the Spring. More details coming soon!

SERMON NOTES



OUR SAVIOUR'S Lutheran Church

*Our Saviour's Lutheran Church is a dynamic community,
centered in Christ, called, nurtured and sent –
to celebrate, serve and do justice.*

(612) 871-2967 Office Hours: M-Th, 9-3
2315 Chicago Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55404
www.oursavioursmpls.org
www.facebook.com/Our.Saviours.Lutheran.Church.Mpls

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