



St. John's Lutheran Church

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.



The Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

10:30 Holy Communion

Our journey through Matthew's gospel this year now brings us to the point where the disciples are starting to take a larger role. They understand some things, yet some things they do not understand. We find ourselves also being like that. Perhaps we should take our cue from the disciples. Sometimes they act wisely. Sometimes they are wrong. But they are not paralyzed by fear. And even though their egos often get in the way, they have enough humility to keep turning to Jesus for direction.

Welcome to worship today!

If you are visiting with us we invite you to sign the Guest Book in the back of the sanctuary.

Large print bulletins are available on the usher's stand.

The Zoom feed for this service is available in the nursery.

† GATHERING †

Prelude and Announcements

Gathering Hymn Glorify Thy Name
(For music turn to Hymn 13 in the Songbook binder)

1. **Father, we love you**
we worship and adore you.
Glorify thy name in all the earth.
glorify thy name,
glorify thy name,
glorify thy name in all the earth!
2. **Jesus, we love you**
we worship and adore you.
Glorify thy name in all the earth.
glorify thy name,
glorify thy name,
glorify thy name in all the earth!
3. **Spirit, we love you**
we worship and adore you.
Glorify thy name in all the earth.
glorify thy name,
glorify thy name,
glorify thy name in all the earth!

Conclusion

**Glorify thy name,
Glorify thy name,
Glorify thy name in all the earth!**

Text and music: Donna Adkins; Copyright 1976, 1981 Maranatha! Music; CCLI #1383

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdain the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For disregarding voices of those unimportant to us,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious

God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P: 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.

C: Amen.

Hymn of Praise Kyrie

For music turn to page 28 in the Blue Hymnal

L: Kyrie eleison:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Christe eleison:

C: Christ, have mercy.

L: Kyrie eleison:

C: Lord, have mercy.

Prayer of the Day

A: Let us pray...

Almighty God, you inspired Simon Peter to confess Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of the living God. Keep your church firm on the rock of this faith, so that in unity and peace it may proclaim one truth and follow one Lord, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

† WORD †

First Reading Isaiah 42:1-4

B: Here is my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.

² He will not cry or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;

³ a bruised reed he will not break,
and a dimly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.

⁴ He will not grow faint or be crushed
until he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his teaching.

After the reading the reader may say: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading Matthew 16:13-17:27

D: Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples,

Women: ‘Who do people say that the Son of Man is?’

D: ¹⁴And they said,

Men: ‘Some say John the Baptist, but others Elijah, and still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.’

D: ¹⁵He said to them,

Women: ‘But who do you say that I am?’

D: ¹⁶Simon Peter answered,

Men: ‘You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.’

D: ¹⁷And Jesus answered him,

Women: ‘Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father in heaven. ¹⁸And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of Hades

will not prevail against it. ¹⁹I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.’

D: ²⁰Then he sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that he was the Messiah.

C: From that time on, Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and undergo great suffering at the hands of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and on the third day be raised.

D: ²²And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying,

Men: ‘God forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you.’

D: ³But he turned and said to Peter,

Women: ‘Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling-block to me; for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.’

D: Then Jesus told his disciples,

Women: ‘If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ²⁵For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake will find it. ²⁶For what will it profit them if they gain the whole world but forfeit their life? Or what will they give in return for their life?’

‘For the Son of Man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay everyone for what has been done. ²⁸Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death before they see the Son of Man coming in his kingdom.’

E: Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. ²And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. ³Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. ⁴Then Peter said to Jesus,

Men: ‘Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah.’

E: ⁵While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, ‘This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!’ ⁶When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. ⁷But Jesus came and touched them, saying,

Women: ‘Get up and do not be afraid.’

E: ⁸And when they looked up, they saw no one except Jesus himself alone.

As they were coming down the mountain, Jesus ordered them,

Women: ‘Tell no one about the vision until after the Son of Man has been raised from the dead.’

E: ¹⁰And the disciples asked him,

Men: ‘Why, then, do the scribes say that Elijah must come first?’

E: ¹¹He replied,

Women: ‘Elijah is indeed coming and will restore all things; ¹²but I tell you that Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but they did to him whatever they pleased. So also the Son of Man is about to suffer at their hands.’

E: ¹³Then the disciples understood that he was speaking to them about John the Baptist.

B: When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, ¹⁵and said, ‘Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. ¹⁶And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him.’ ¹⁷Jesus answered,

Women: ‘You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me.’

B: ¹⁸And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. ¹⁹Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said,

Men: ‘Why could we not cast it out?’

B: ²⁰He said to them,

Women: ‘Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there”, and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.’

C: As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said to them, ‘The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands, ²³and they will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised.’

B: And they were greatly distressed.

When they reached Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax came to Peter and said, ‘Does your teacher not pay the temple tax?’ ²⁵He said,

Men: ‘Yes, he does.’

B: And when he came home, Jesus spoke of it first, asking,

Women: ‘What do you think, Simon? From whom do kings of the earth take toll or tribute? From their children or from others?’

B: ²⁶When Peter said,

Men: ‘From others’,

B: Jesus said to him,

Women: ‘Then the children are free. ²⁷However, so that we do not give offence to them, go to the lake and cast a hook; take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find a coin; take that and give it to them for you and me.’

B: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Children’s Sermon

Sermon

Hymn of the Day Built on a Rock
(For music turn to Hymn 652 in the Red Hymnal)

1. **Built on a rock the church shall stand,
even when steeples are falling;
crumbled have spires in every land,
bells still are chiming and calling-
calling the young and old to rest,
calling the souls of those distressed,
longing for life everlasting.**
2. **Surely, in temples made with hands
God the Most High is not dwelling-
high in the heav’ns his temple stands,
all earthly temples excelling.
Yet God who dwells in heav’n above
deigns to abide with us in love,
making our bodies his temple.**
3. **Christ builds a house of living stones:
we are his own habitation;
he fills our hearts, his humble thrones,
granting us life and salvation.
Where two or three will seek his face,
he in their midst will show his grace,
blessings upon them bestowing.**
4. **Yet in this house, an earthly frame,
Jesus the children is blessing;
hither we come to praise his name,
faith in our Savior confessing.
Jesus to us his Spirit sent,**

**making with us his covenant,
granting his children the kingdom.**

5. **Through all the passing years, O Lord,
grant that, when church bells are ringing,
many may come to hear your Word,
who here this promise is bringing:
“I know my own, my own know me;
you, not the world, my face shall see;
my peace I leave with you. Amen.”**

Text and music: Nikolai F. Grundtvig, 1783-1872; tr. Carl Doving, 1867-1937, adapt. Copyright 1958 *Service Book and Hymnal*, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Music: Ludvig M Lindeman, 1812-1887

Nicene Creed

P: We confirm our faith with the Nicene Creed

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 him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of 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 and the Son, 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.

Peace

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

C: **And also with you.**

P: We share that peace with one another.

The congregation may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace.

Offertory and Gathering of Prayers and Offerings

You are invited to write a prayer concern on the small blank slip of paper in your worship bulletin. This slip will be collected by the ushers in the offering plates. The concerns raised will be prayed for later in the service.

Hymn of Thanksgiving Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful Lord
For music turn to page 35 in the Blue Hymnal

**Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence, Lord,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.**

Offering Prayer

P: Let us pray: O God, maker of heaven and earth,
**C: your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish this earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name.
Amen.**

Prayers of Intercession

P: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

Issues raised by the congregation are lifted in prayer.

The prayer concludes:

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

C: Amen.

† MEAL †

Great Thanksgiving

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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty, and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join in their unending hymn:

(Isaiah 6:3, spoken)

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.

P: In the night in which he was handed over our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying, "Take and eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me." Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Lord's Prayer

P: Lord remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Communion Distribution

Welcome to the Lord's Supper! All who are baptized are invited to receive communion. We use wheat bread and wine for communion. If you would prefer

a gluten free wafer instead of bread please tell the communion assistant. Also, if you prefer grape juice to wine, it is available pre-filled in the individual glasses. As we commune together everyone is invited to sing the following hymns:

Lamb of God (Page 39 of the Blue Hymnal)

89 I See the Lord (Songbook Binder)

66 Come Unto Me (Songbook Binder)

Communion Blessing *After all have communed the pastor will say:*

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

C: Amen.

Post Communion Prayer

A: Let us pray: Generous Host,

You have shared your feast with us and made us new.

Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

‡ SENDING ‡

Blessing

P: Receive the blessing of the Holy Trinity:

The Father who calls all things into existence,

Jesus Christ, who redeems us,

and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, bless you now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn Grace Alone

(For music turn to Hymn 40 in the Songbook binder)

**1. Ev'ry promise we can make,
ev'ry prayer and step of faith,
ev'ry diff'rence we will make
is only by His grace.
Ev'ry mountain we will climb,
ev'ry ray of hope we shine,
ev'ry blessing left behind
is only by His grace.**

Refrain

**Grace alone which God supplies,
strength unknown
He will provide.
Christ in us, our cornerstone,
we will go forth in grace alone.**

2. **Ev'ry soul we long to reach,
ev'ry heart we hope to teach,
ev'rywhere we share his peace
is only by His grace.
Ev'ry loving word we say,
ev'ry tear we wipe away,
ev'ry sorrow turned to praise
is only by His grace. *Refrain***

Text and music: Scott Wesley Brown, Jeff Nelson; copyright 1998 Maranatha Music; CCLI #2335524

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: God's Work. Our Hands.

Worship assistants TODAY:

Greeters and Ushers	Janice Lockwood
Acolyte	Alyssa Young
Altar Care	Gary Boisseau
Communion Assistant	Emma Deibler
Counters	Bruce and Connie Stevenson
Coffee Hour	

Worship assistants for next Sunday, March 8, 2026

Greeters and Ushers	Tom and Carol Urbanic
Acolyte	Charlotte Stroup
Counters	Burdie Gillern and Janice Lockwood
Coffee Hour	

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