



First Lutheran Church

Welcome. We are happy you are here!

Lead Pastor: Joe Skogmo | Associate Pastor: Matthew Engum | Music Director: Karen Bimberg

Sunday, March 23, 2025 · Third Sunday of Lent



The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

GATHERING SONG

Come As You Are

Come out of sadness from, wherever you've been; Come, broken hearted, let rescue begin;
Come find your mercy, oh, sinner come kneel; Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal;
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal.

**Chorus: Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame; All who are broken, lift up your face;
Oh wanderer, come home, you're not too far; So lay down your hurt, lay down your
heart; come as you are.**

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed; Come sit at the table, come taste the grace;
There's rest for the weary, a rest that endures; Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't cure. **Chorus**

Come as you are, fall in His arms, come as you are.

There's joy for the morning; sinner be still; Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal;
Earth has no sorrow that heaven can't heal. **Chorus**

Come as you are, come as you are, come as you are.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P: Merciful God, **C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love; in your great compassion blot out our offenses. Release us from the guilt and shame we carry, and renew a right spirit within us. Teach us your ways, and uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.**

KYRIE

Have Mercy On Us Lord

pg. 203

Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.

Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts.

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory be to God

ELW pg 204, vs 1

Glory be to God in heaven; peace, goodwill to all the earth. Mighty God of all creation, Father of surpassing worth. We exalt you, we adore you, we lift high our thanks and praise.
Saints and angels bow before you, here on earth our songs we raise.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Eternal God, **C: your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

MUSICAL MESSAGE

Jubilate Choir

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

¹ Hear, everyone who thirsts; come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread and your earnings for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Now you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶ Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake their way and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

RESPONSIVE PSALM

Psalm 63:1-8

R: O God, you are my God; I seek you; my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

C: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

R: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

C: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

R: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

C: when I think of you on my bed and meditate on you in the watches of the night,

R: for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

C: My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

R: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ELW pg. 205

Alleluia! Lord and Savior: open now your saving word. Let it burn like fire within us; speak until our hearts are stirred. Alleluia! Lord, we sing for the good news that you bring.

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 13th Chapter. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ At that very time there were some present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ² He asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish as they did. ⁴ Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the other people living in Jerusalem?" ⁵ No, I tell you, but unless you repent you will all perish just as they did." ⁶ Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷ So he said to the man working the vineyard, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸ He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹ If it bears fruit next year, well and good, but if not, you can cut it down.' "

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pr. Matthew Engum

HYMN OF THE DAY

As Rain from the Clouds

ELW #508

1. As rain from the clouds will your word come to earth, as snow from the heavens refreshing the land.
Then soften our soil that the good seed may grow and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the dew of your word; we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield, for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.
2. As grain that is scattered your word has been sown on rocks and on roadways, in good earth and sand.
Make fertile our soil that the good seed may grow and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the seed of your word; we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield, for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

3. As rays of the sun shall your word light the world, awaking and warming and healing our land.
Then shine in our hearts that the good seed may grow and ripen rich fruit to return to your hand.
We praise you, our God, for the light of your word; we thank you, good gard'ner, for your tender toil.
We bless you, best farmer, for hundredfold yield, for harvest of grace in our once-barren soil.

STATEMENT OF FAITH

Apostle's Creed

C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

P: Lord in your mercy, **C: Hear our prayer**

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SHARING OF PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

NOISY OFFERING

March: Becker County Food Pantry

OFFERING

OFFERTORY SONG

Holy, Holy, Holy

ELW #473

Holy, holy, holy, my heart, my heart adores you.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are holy God. **(Sing 2x)**

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: Loving God, **C: receive this offering for the building up of your kingdom: the proclamation of your word and the loving of our neighbor. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

SENDING SONG

Child of Love

I was walking the wayside, lost on a lonely road. I was chasing the high life, try'n to satisfy my soul.

All the lies I believed in left me crying like the rain.
Then I saw lightning from Heaven, and I've never been the same.

***Chorus: I'm gonna climb a mountain, I'm gonna shout about it. I am a child of love.
I found a world of freedom, I found a friend in Jesus. I am a child of love.***

I've felt the sting of the fire, but I saw You in the flames.
Just when I thought it was over, You broke me out of the grave. **Chorus**

Hey yeah (yeah), oh (oh), I am a child of love. Yeah (yeah), oh (oh), I am a child of love.

Nothing can change the way You love me. Nothing can change the way. I belong to You. Yes I do. Nothing can separate. Nothing can change the way You love me. Nothing can change the way.
I belong to You. Yes I do. Nothing can separate.

I'm gonna climb a mountain, I am a child of love. I found a world of freedom, I am a child of love. **Chorus**

Hey yeah (yeah), oh (oh), I am a child of love. Yeah (yeah), oh (oh), I am a child of love.

SENDING P: Go in peace and serve the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God!**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

EASTER FLOWERS

Spring is here & it's time to start thinking of flowers! We are once again offering the opportunity for you to sponsor Easter flowers in honor/memory of your loved ones. The flowers will enhance our worship celebration on Easter Sunday. Order forms can be found on the volunteer table or scan the QR code. Deadline to order is **April 6**.



LENTEN WEDNESDAY SERVICES

You are invited to join us this Lenten season on **Wednesdays at 12:05pm**. A lunch to follow each service at 12:30pm.

ADULT FAITH FORMATION

As we continue our focus on Love Your Neighbor, you are invited to a presentation by the Becker Co. DAC on **Sunday, March 30 at 10:30 am** in the library. We will hear how the Becker County DAC empowers adults with disabilities to thrive in the community.

NOW HIRING

Do you have a passion for people? Are you looking for a part-time job with *flexible hours*? FLC is currently looking to hire a part-time Parish Nurse. A full job description and application can be found on our church website:

FLC WOMEN

Save the date! Spring Brunch, featuring a presentation by Country Fields Greenhouse on **May 3 at 9:30am**. More info coming soon!

PIE AUCTION

Our annual Pie and Baked Goods Auction is coming up soon! Join us on **April 6th** after worship to enjoy some healthy competition and delicious homemade pies and baked goods. Want to support this event? Sign up at the volunteer table.

CREATION CARE TEAM

FLC Creation Care Team (CCT) invites you to a meeting on **Monday, March 24, at 6:30 PM** in the Church Library. Join the CCT to discuss actions we can take locally to make an impact globally. Come and see what the FLC Creation Care Team will be working on in 2025.

SENIOR SUNDAY BLANKETS YFM is looking to carry on the tradition of gifting our graduating seniors with a homemade tie blanket. If you are interested in making a blanket for a senior, please sign up at the volunteer table. Senior Recognition **Sunday is April 27th**. Questions, reach out to Olivia, YFM Dir.

FLC CHURCH DIRECTORY

We will be working on creating an updated church directory. If you would like to have an updated photo for the directory, we will have someone taking photos after our worship service on **March 30, April 6 & 13 and April 2 & 9**.

WELCA SPRING GATHERING

The Conference Spring Gathering will be on **Tuesday, April 29 at 9am** at Calvary Lutheran Church in Perham. Cost is \$15 and preregistration is requested. To register, please sign up at the volunteer table by April 21.

JOIN US FOR EASTER

Maundy Thursday | April 17
Services at 12:05 & 6:00pm

Good Friday | April 18
Services at 12:05 & 6:00pm

Easter Sunday | April 20
Service at 8:30, 9:30 &

CREATION CARE NOTE

The EPA estimates that over 17 million gallons of fuel, mostly gasoline, are spilled each year while refueling lawn equipment. That's more than all the oil spilled by the Exxon Valdez in the Gulf of Alaska. Maybe it's time to go electric with lawn care.

Prayers for God's People

Brent Blake, Bill Wegscheid, Cole Woltjer, Joyce Gilbertson, Doreen Tollefson, Judie Wood, Nyah Visker, Tim Goff, Marge Prechel, Tom Tovson, and baby Thatcher Warfield, Vern, Gretta Frisch

Prayers of comfort for the family of baby Holly Kathleen Colby.

Thank you to Audrey Listul for making the beautiful doilies for the cross centerpieces in the dining room.

GIVE ONLINE

Prefer electronic giving?

Set up an automated method and frequency that works best for you by using the **QR code**.

Then, if you like, drop the **green laminated slip** in the offering plate as it passes.



VISITORS

Thanks for joining us!
Want to know more about FLC ?



JOIN US FOR WORSHIP RADIO

Sundays at 10AM on
KDLM 1340-AM and 93.1-FM

ON-LINE

Live streamed on Facebook and on the FLC YouTube channel.

TELEVISION

Saturday at 9AM on
Arvig Cable ch14.

