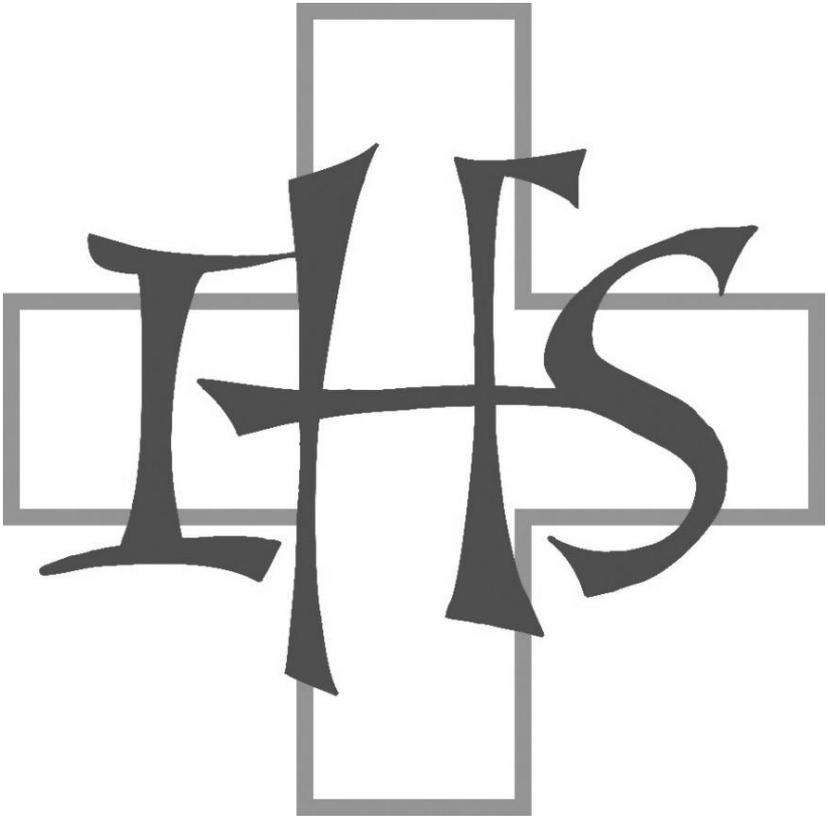


The Lutheran Church of the Savior

A Community of Faith: *Centered in Christ – Called to Serve*



Order of Worship

February 22, 2026 10:45 AM

The Lutheran Church of the Savior

426 Davis Road - Bedford, MA 01730

church@lcsavior.org 781-275-6013

<https://www.lcsavior.org>

Rev. Nils Niemeier, Pastor

email: pastor@lcsavior.org

Introit

Psalm 91:9–13; antiphon: vv. 15–16

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;

I will rescue him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him

and show him my salvation.

Because you have made the LORD your dwelling place—

the Most High, who is my refuge—

no evil shall be allowed to befall you,

no plague come near your tent.

For he will command his angels concerning you

to guard you in all your ways.

On their hands they will bear you up,

lest you strike your foot against a stone.

You will tread on the lion and the adder;

the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son

and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning,

is now, and will be forever. Amen.

When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble;

I will rescue him and honor him.

With long life I will satisfy him

and show him my salvation.

Communion Theology and Practice

Please see our statement of Communion Theology and Practice
on the back page of the worship bulletin.

*If you are a visitor with us this morning and wish to receive the
Lord's Supper, please speak with the pastor before the service.*

Thank you.

First Sunday in Lent

Divine Service

Welcome

Stand

Song Welcome to the Place of Level Ground *Doerksen, Baloché*

Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus, Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus, Verse 2a, Chorus, Tag

(4) VERSE

Wel - come to the place of lev - el ground; —

Wel - come to the place where grace a - bounds; We all need mer -

cy, we all need mer - cy; —

Wel - come to the place where - none can boast; —

Wel - come to the place com - pas - sion flows; We all need mer -

cy, we all need mer - cy; —

None of us are wor - - - thy on our own; —

None of us could keep the per - fect law; None of us have lived

a sin - less life, but thanks be to God —

He sent us all a Sav - ior. —

continued on next page

27 CHORUS

Je - sus Christ, the on - ly God of grace, fav - or and for -

30 give - ness flow - ing down; Je - sus Christ, once for all You gave,

34 sav - ing us for - ev - er through Your blood; You are the on - ly

37 BRIDGE

God of grace. None of us are wor - thy on our own;

41 None of us could keep the per - fect law; None of us have lived

44 a sin - less life, but thanks be to God, He sent us all a Sav -

47 ior; Thanks be to God, He sent us all a Sav - ior.

50 CHORUS

Je - sus Christ, the on - ly God of grace, fav - or and for -

53 give - ness flow - ing down; Je - sus Christ, once for all You gave,

57 sav - ing us for - ev - er through Your blood, sav - ing us for -

60 ev - er through Your blood; You are the on - ly God of

63 grace; You are the on - ly God of grace;

68 Wel - come to the place of lev - el ground.

Confession and Absolution

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

C **Amen.**

P Holy Lord, as we stand in your presence, we are aware of our sins of thought, word, and action.

C **We have not lived our lives according to your will.**

P We have failed to live up to your expectations.

C **We all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.**

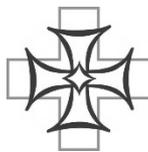
Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination.

P Hear us now, O Lord, as we confess our sins to you:

C **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**



Song**Before The Throne***Bancroft, Cook**Verse 1, Verse 2, Instrumental, Verse 3*

1. Be - fore the throne of God a - bove, I have a
 2. When Sa - tan tempts me to des - pair, and tells me
 3. Be - hold Him there, the sin - less Lamb! My per - fect,

4
 strong and per - fect plea: a great High Priest whose name is
 of the guilt with - in, up - ward I look and see Him
 spot - less right - eous - ness. The great un - change - a - ble I

7
 Love, who ev - er lives and pleads for me. My name is
 there, who made an end of all my sin. Be - cause the
 AM, the King of Glor - y and of Grace. One with Him -

10
 grav - en on His hands. My name is writ - ten on His
 sin - less Sav - ior died, my sin - ful soul is count - ed
 self, I can - not die. My soul is pur - chased by His

13
 heart. I know that while in heav'n He stands, no tongue can
 free. For God, the Just, is sat - is - fied to look on
 blood. My life is hid with Christ on high, with Christ, my

16
 bid me thence de - part, no tongue can bid me thence de - part.
 Him and par - don me, to look on Him and par - don me.
 Sav - ior and my God, with Christ, my Sav - ior and my God.

Service of the Word**Psalm***Psalm 32:1-7; antiphon: v. 7a***A** Together, we speak Psalm 32 responsively:

¹Blessèd is the one whose transgression is forgiven,
 whose sin is covered.

²Blessèd is the man against whom the LORD counts no iniquity,
 and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

³For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away
through my groaning all day long.

**⁴For day and night your hand was heavy upon me;
my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

⁵I acknowledged my sin to you,
and I did not cover my iniquity;
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD,"
and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

**⁶Therefore let everyone who is godly
offer prayer to you at a time when you may be found;
surely in the rush of great waters,
they shall not reach him.**

⁷You are a hiding place for me;
you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**G Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that following our Savior we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Genesis 3:1–21

¹Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made.

He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden?'" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat

of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.”⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.

⁸And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” ¹⁰And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.” ¹¹He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?” ¹²The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.” ¹³Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

¹⁴The LORD God said to the serpent,

“Because you have done this,
cursed are you above all livestock
and above all beasts of the field;
on your belly you shall go,
and dust you shall eat
all the days of your life.

¹⁵I will put enmity between you and the woman,
and between your offspring and her offspring;
he shall bruise your head,
and you shall bruise his heel.”

¹⁶To the woman he said,

“I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing;
in pain you shall bring forth children.
Your desire shall be for your husband,
and he shall rule over you.”

¹⁷And to Adam he said,
“Because you have listened to the voice of your wife
and have eaten of the tree
of which I commanded you,
‘You shall not eat of it,’
cursed is the ground because of you;
in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life;
¹⁸thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you;
and you shall eat the plants of the field.
¹⁹By the sweat of your face
you shall eat bread,
till you return to the ground,
for out of it you were taken;
for you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.”

²⁰The man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. ²¹And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Epistle

Romans 5:12–19

¹²Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—
¹³for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law. ¹⁴Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man’s trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many. ¹⁶And the free gift is not like the result of that one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification. ¹⁷If, because of one man’s trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

¹⁸Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. ¹⁹For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

C **Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil.**

Holy Gospel

Matthew 4:1–11

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew, the fourth chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴But he answered, "It is written,

"Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and set him on the pinnacle of the temple ⁶and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

"He will command his angels concerning you,"

and

"On their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone."

⁷Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹And he said

to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

¹⁰Then Jesus said to him, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written,

"You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve."

¹¹Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

Nicene Creed

C I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from
heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living
and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.



And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and
glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life ✠ of the world to come. Amen.

Sit

Song A Mighty Fortress Is Our God *Hedge, Luther, Walker*

Verse 1, Verse 2, Verse 3, Chorus, Verse 4, Chorus

1. A might - y for - tress is our God, A
 2. Did we in our own strength con - fide, Our
 3. And though this world, with dev - ils filled, Should
 4. That word a - bove all earth - ly pow'rs No

bul - wark nev - er fail - ing Our help - er
 striv - ing would be los - ing, Were not the
 threat - en to un - do us, We will not
 thanks to them, a - bid - eth; The Spir - it

He a - mid the flood Of mor - tal ills pre -
 right man on our side, The man of God's own
 fear, for God hath willed His truth to tri - umph
 and the gifts are ours Thru Him who with us

10
 14
 vail - ing For still our an - cient foe Doth seek to
 choos - ing Dost ask who that may be? Christ Je - sus,
 thru us. The prince of dark - ness grim, We trem - ble
 sid - eth. Let goods and kin - dred go, This mor - tal

work us woe His craft and pow'r are great, And, armed with
it is He Lord Sab - a - oth His name, From age to
not for him His rage we can en - dure, For lo, his
life al - so - The bod - y they may kill; God's truth a -
18 cru - el hate, On earth is not his e - qual.
age the same, And He must win the bat - tle.
doom is sure: - One lit - tle word shall fell him.
bid - eth still: His king - dom is for - ev - er.

3rd and 4th Times To Bridge BRIDGE

22 A might - y for - tress A might - y
25 for - tress is our God.
28 A might - y for - tress A might - y
31 for - tress is our God.

D.C. al Fine Fine

Sermon

Stand

Prayer of the Church and the Lord's Prayer

- L** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

The response after each petition is as follows:

L Lord, in your mercy:

C Hear our prayer.

C Amen.

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.

Benediction

P The grace of our Lord ✠ Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C **Amen.**

Song

Still Amazing

Chambers

Verse 1, Verse 2, Chorus, Verse 3, Chorus x2

Verse 1

Lord, I know the pow er of the blood of the Lamb, the
cleans - ing flow of Cal - va - ry to re - deem fall - en man;
Through You were re - ject - ed and Your
love was more than test - ed, You car - ried on.

The musical notation consists of four staves of music in 4/4 time, G major. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff starts with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The second staff continues the melody. The third staff has a 7-measure rest at the beginning. The fourth staff ends with a double bar line.

Verse 2,3



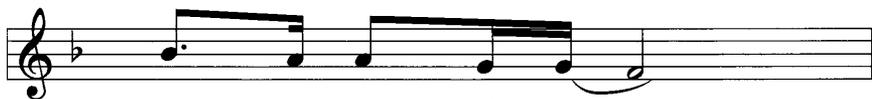
Lord You left Your Fa - ther You
Some - times our de - si - res may



came to set men a - free, to
lead us far a - way but Your



give me life You laid Yours down as a
Spir - it draws us back to You no



ran - som just for me;
mat - ter where we stray;



○ Je - sus, I'm so grate - ful that Your
E - ven in our weak - ness Lord, Your



love's been more that faith - ful. Lord, Your
love can al - ways reach us. Lord, Your



grace is still a - maz - ing, Lord, Your



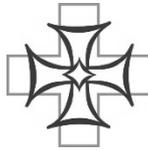
grace is still a - maz - ing; Lord, Your grace is stil a - maz

continued on next page

1.
- ing, a - maz - ing to me.

2.
me. Lord, Your

3.
me. Fine



Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting Two from Lutheran Service Book

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Resources for Meditation this Week

FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

22 February 2026

Readings

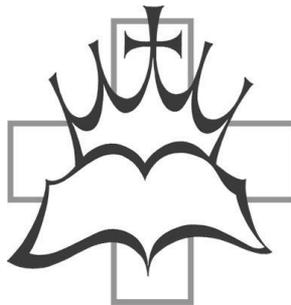
Genesis 3:1–21

Romans 5:12–19

Matthew 4:1–11

Jesus' Righteous Obedience to the Father Leads to the Justification of All

Following His Baptism, Jesus is *"led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil"* (Matt. 4:1). As He takes upon Himself the curse of our sin and sets Himself against our enemy, He trusts His Father's voice and waits upon His Father's hand for all things. The devil questions His sonship, but the beloved and well-pleasing Son remains faithful and lives *"by every word that comes from the mouth of God"* (Matt. 4:4). Jesus patiently suffers hunger in His mortal flesh and returns to the dust whence man was taken, and by His pain He brings forth food for all the children of men (Gen. 3:18–19). By the sweat of His brow, we eat the fruit of His cross, even as our nakedness is covered by His righteousness. Although all people live in bondage to death through the trespass of the first man, Adam, all the more *"have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many"* (Rom. 5:15). His righteous obedience *"leads to justification and life for all men"* (Rom. 5:18).



Readings

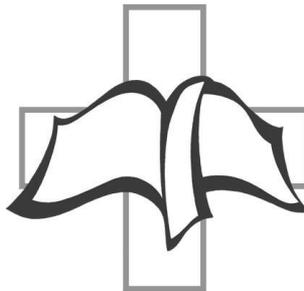
Genesis 12:1–9

Romans 4:1–8, 13–17

John 3:1–17

The Word of the Gospel Opens the Eyes of Faith and Fixes Them on Christ Jesus

The Lord called Abram (Abraham) to leave his home and go to a land that God would show him. He also promised to make of Abram *"a great nation,"* to bless him and make his name great as a blessing to *"all the families of the earth"* (Gen. 12:2–3). *"Abram went, as the LORD had told him"* (Gen. 12:4), and in Canaan *"he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD"* (Gen. 12:8). He *"believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"* (Rom. 4:3). Here the grace of God is manifested, that He *"justifies the ungodly"* (Rom. 4:5), not by works of the Law, but through faith in His promises. He removes all of our sins and lawless deeds through Jesus Christ, the offspring of Abraham in whom all the Lord's promises are realized. This forgiveness of sins is the Word of the Gospel, the voice of the Holy Spirit, which *"gives life to the dead"* (Rom. 4:17). It opens the eyes of faith to behold Christ Jesus, the Son of Man lifted up on the cross, *"that whoever believes in him may have eternal life"* (John 3:14–15).



Communion Theology and Practice

Welcome! In Holy Communion, our Lord invites us to eat and drink His true Body and Blood for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life (Matthew 26:26-28). In preparation for this sacrament, each communicant should examine him or herself and come to the Lord's Table seeking these things. As the Small Catechism teaches, "a person is truly worthy and well prepared who has faith in these words: 'Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.'" We likewise take seriously St. Paul's admonition in 1 Corinthians 11:27-30 regarding recognizing the Lord's Body and Blood in this sacrament and receiving it worthily. We also believe that Holy Communion is a profession of confessional unity in which all who commune at the Lord's Table are united in their confession and faith (1 Corinthians 11:26).

Therefore, we practice what is often called "closed communion," in which we invite those Christians who have been baptized and instructed in the Christian faith, who share in the same confession of faith as the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and who believe that Jesus offers here His true Body and Blood, in, with, and under the elements of bread and wine, for the strengthening of their bodies and souls, cleansing them of their old nature and giving them new life, to join us at His table.

If you are new here, have not been baptized, or have not received instruction with regard to the teachings of the Lutheran Church regarding the Lord's Supper, have doubts about the nature of the sacrament, or have questions, please introduce yourself to our pastor before the service. He will be happy to discuss these things with you and help determine whether or not you should commune. If you do not wish to commune, have not been baptized, or have not been instructed in the Christian faith, we invite you to come receive a blessing. When you come to the altar, please come forward with your arms crossed to indicate that you would like the pastor to bless you. If you would like to learn more about the Christian faith or wish to be baptized, please speak to our pastor!