

2nd Weekend of Lent
Tree of Life
 Feb. 28/March 1, 2026

+ Indicates please stand as you are able
 You are invited to speak text appearing in bold

+Gathering+

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

+ CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

P) 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.

Silence is kept for reflection.

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.

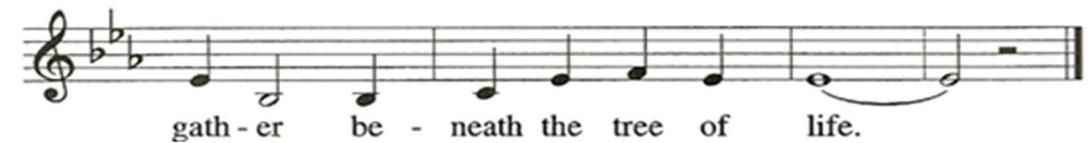
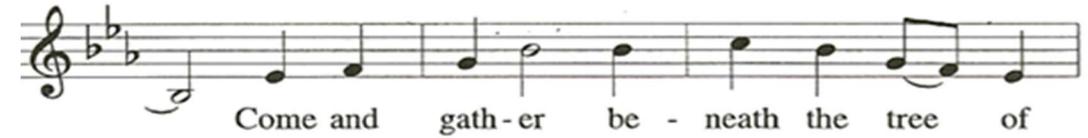
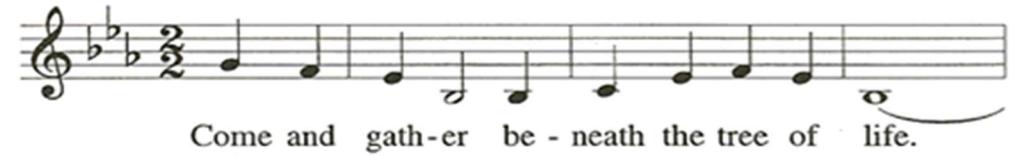
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, →

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.

+GATHERING SONG

Beneath the Tree of Life (v 3 & 4)

Refrain



Verses



- 1. Here we raise the sav - ing cross of
- 2. Flow - ing from this tree of grace and
- 3. Come and drink the wa - ters of sal -
- 4. Here be - neath the branch - es of your
- 5. Root - ed in the rich earth of your



Je - sus, sing - ing praise to him who
 pas - sion, Oh how sweet the taste, how
 va - tion, come and die to sin, rise
 mer - cy, we in - voke your name, re -
 Gos - pel, may we bear the fruits your

To Refrain



leads us on from death in - to new life.
 deep and rich the well - spring of your love.
 up to life with - in the reign of God.
 mem - ber how your love has set us free.
 Word has plant - ed deep with - in our hearts.

+GREETING

P) The immeasurable grace of Christ Jesus, the rich mercy of God, and the unity of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C) And also with you.

+KYRIE

Tree of Life



▣ In peace, let us pray to the Lord:



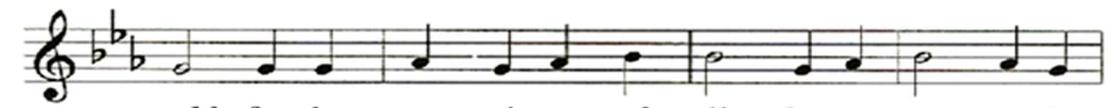
▣ Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all. ▣ 1. For the
 ▣ 2. For your



reign of God, and for peace through-out the
 peo - ple here who have come to give you →



world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the
 praise, for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the



Lord:
 Lord: ▣ Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer - cy.



▣ Help, save, and de -
 Lord, have mer - cy, mer - cy on us all.



fend us, O God: ▣ A - men.

+PRAYER OF THE DAY

L) O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON

+Word+

FIRST READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness."

⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

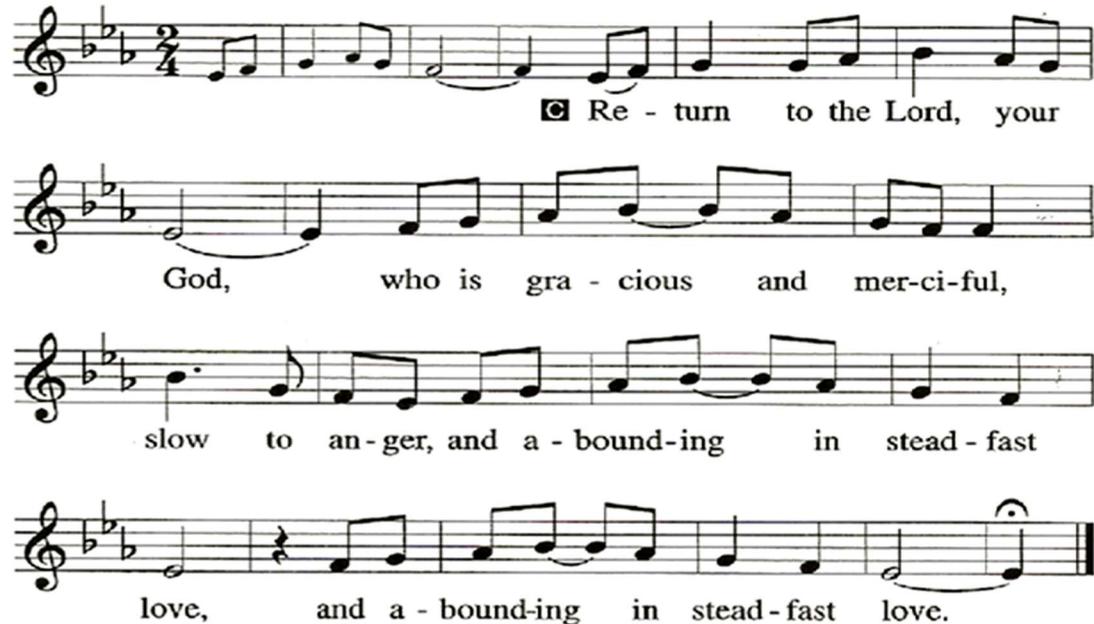
¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

¹⁶For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L) The word of the Lord.

C) **Thanks be to God.**

+GOSPEL ACCLAMATION - Tree of Life



Re - turn to the Lord, your
God, who is gra - cious and mer-ci-ful,
slow to an-ger, and a - bound-ing in stead - fast
love, and a - bound-ing in stead-fast love.

+GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

P) The holy gospel according to John, the 3rd chapter.

C) **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

P) The gospel of the Lord.

C) **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Rev. John Eggen

+HYMN OF THE DAY

What Wondrous Love Is This

ELW 666



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and
won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,
that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing
soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

+APOSTLES CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
 He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.
 He 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 and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
 He will come again in glory 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 INTERCESSION

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

A brief silence.

(Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

L) Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

C) Amen.

+PEACE

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

C) **And also with you.**

(Share a sign of the Lord's peace with one another. Please sign, date and pass the Friendship Pads down the row. There is hand sanitizer in the pews for use after sharing the peace, if you wish.)

+Meal+

OFFERING

GLORY RINGERS

O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

(arr. Bill Ingram)

+OFFERING PRAYER

C) O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation.

You send rain and sunshine to nourish the 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.

+THE GREAT THANKSGIVING – Tree of Life

(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 and good that we should everywhere and always offer thanks and praise to you. Holy God, mighty and immortal through Christ our Lord. →

(C) You bid us return to you and be renewed, that your justice may shine like the sun and the poor of the earth lifted up. And so with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

+HOLY, HOLY – Tree of Life

Ho-ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, Lord,

God of pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your

glo-ry. Ho - san-na, ho - san-na, ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless-ed is he, bless-ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san-na, ho - san-na, ho -

san-na in the high - est, ho - san-na in the high - est.

+THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

+LORD'S PRAYER

C) Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
 your kingdom 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 kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

+INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P) Come to the table. Feast on God’s goodness and mercy.
King of Glory has an open communion table. All are welcome. Wine, grape juice and gluten-free bread are available.

COMMUNION

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
 world: have mer - cy on us.
 Lamb of God, you take a - way the sins of the
 world: grant us your peace, grant us your peace.

COMMUNION MUSIC *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (arr. Cathy Moglebust)

+POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P) May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.
Amen.

+PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

L) God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ’s body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

+Sending+

+BLESSING

P) Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ☩ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

+SENDING SONG

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,
 Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
 an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
 watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.
Refrain
 This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:
 this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

+DISMISSAL

L) Go in peace. Believe the good news.
C) Thanks be to God.

Worship Leaders

- Preacher – Rev John Eggen, Senior Director, Annual Giving, Office of the Presiding Bishop
- Presider - Pr Ruth Ann Loughry Music Director & Accompanist – Gavin Allen-Dunn
- Accompanists – Saturday: Becky Kendall; Sound – Scott Whitney
- Lectors – (Sat.) Bob Prael; (Sun.) Sarajane Grandia
- Ushers – Mike Dodge, Liz Melton, Joe Sayers
- Altar Guild/Communion (Sat.) – Laurie & John Kuhlen; (Sun.) – Rindy Dahlin, Susan Chamberlin
- Baker – Susan Chamberlin; Coffee Cups – Sarajane Grandia
- Donut sponsor – Jeanette Williams

WORSHIP

❖ **Lenten soup dinners - Each Wednesday, from 6:00-7:00pm**, we have soup supper and a brief Taizé worship service. Join us!

GROW

❖ **Sunday Adult Ed –10:45-11:30am** in the Fellowship Room. **Today - John Eggen, Senior Director, Annual Giving, Office of the Presiding Bishop, will be present with us.** He has travelled to many places in the world where our World Hunger gifts make a real difference in people’s lives. Come and hear more stories from Rev. Eggen, with Q & A time.

❖ **Pastor Ruth Ann will be taking a Sabbatical. Read about it in the March Messenger.**

SERVE

❖ **KidsPak** 2026 Annual City-Wide Food Drive is THIS WEEKEND Friday, Feb 27th Saturday, Feb 28th and Sunday, March 1* or [Click Here TO DONATE](https://secure.qgiv.com/for/2026annualfooddrivedonations/)
<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/2026annualfooddrivedonations/>

Can't volunteer during Food Drive weekend? You can still make a big impact! This weekend, KidsPak volunteers are stationed at every major grocery store in Loveland. Simply shop for needed items using the list provided -or- a monetary donation is always appreciated and helps us continue our mission of feeding students in our community



ELCA World Hunger

Working toward a just world where all are fed.

One out of every 11 people — as many as 720 million — in our world are hungry.¹ As members of the ELCA, we are called to respond. We are a church that rolls up our sleeves and gets to work.

ELCA World Hunger is uniquely positioned to accompany communities in need because we work with congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, as well as other partners and Lutheran churches overseas.

From health clinics to microloans, water wells to farm animals, community meals to advocacy, your gifts to ELCA World Hunger make it possible for the ELCA to respond, supporting sustainable solutions that get at the root causes of hunger and poverty. [Learn more.](#)

Hunger Facts

- Today the futures of many communities are in jeopardy as the global hunger crisis remains. Amid **rising costs, global conflict, the lingering impact of COVID-19, and intensifying effects of climate change**, decades of progress have been undone.
- **Food prices rose throughout 2024 and continue to increase in 2025**, which makes it harder for many families to access a healthy diet. Worldwide conflict and turmoil have only increased the cost of food.²
- Climate change means **3.6 billion people live at risk of climate-caused disaster**, risking their lives and raising the cost of living.³
- Extreme poverty — living under \$3 per day — affects **831 million people**.⁴
- In the United States alone, **over 47 million people** face food insecurity.⁵ Housing unaffordability has reached an all-time high in the U.S. — over 22 million households spend over 30% of their income on rent and utilities, which leaves less money to afford food.⁶
- Even as so many of our neighbors struggle with hunger, **funding to many aid organizations has been eliminated or drastically cut.**

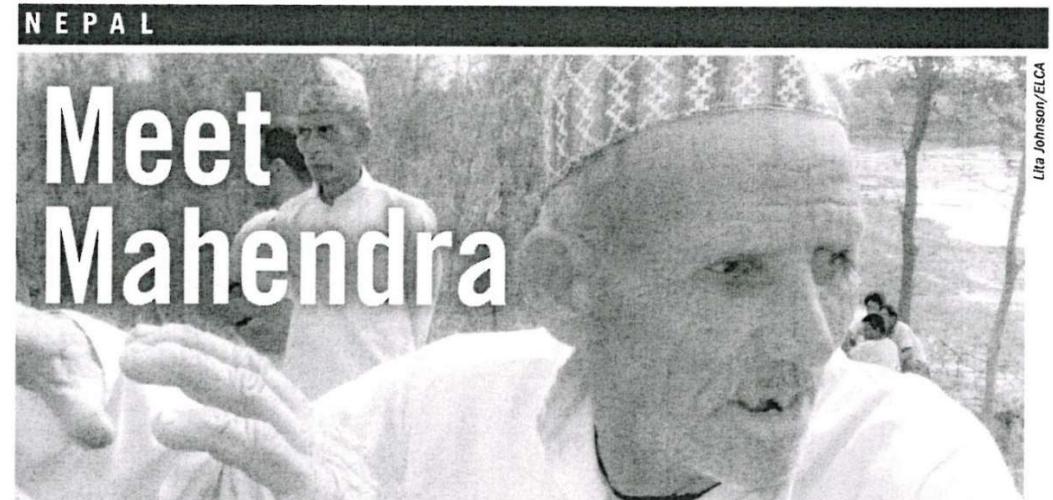
World Hunger at KOG in Lent:

Lent is our specific season when we raise a special offering for ELCA World Hunger. Our goal this year is to raise \$6000. These gifts will stock medicines in rural clinics, offer micro-loans for business start-ups, purchase mosquito nets preventing malaria and so much more. Will you consider giving a gift of any size this year?

[Scan this QR code to go directly to our secure Vanco Giving site.]



* **Look for the display in the concourse and pick up a copy of the Lenten devotional book, coin box or calendar.** We have many things to choose from. There will be unique World Hunger calendars and coloring books for our young children.



www.elca.org/hunger

In the past 30 years, many Bhutanese natives have been forced to flee their country in order to escape discrimination and human rights abuses. Most refugees live in camps throughout Nepal, faced with crippling poverty. Citizens of Nepal who live near the refugee camps share land and resources needed to support the influx of people.

A pig-raising cooperative, funded by your gifts to ELCA World Hunger is working to help both refugees and citizens of Nepal overcome the economic strains and community tensions that come with hosting a refugee camp.

Each group of 20 families—including refugees and families from the host community—receive training and a gift of a few piglets. The group works together to raise and sell the pigs, which bring a big payoff at the market. In addition, fertilizer from the pigs can be used to help grow crops.

"We achieve more by raising the pigs together as a group," says Mahendra, member and chair of the pig-raising group. He describes the joy of using the extra funds to send his children to school.

The members of the cooperative share both the responsibilities and the profits of the pigs. This system of teamwork has nurtured relationships, dispersed tensions and sparked economic growth—all the while building a more secure future for their children.

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