



As long  
as I am  
in the  
**WORLD,**  
I am the  
**LIGHT**  
of the  
**WORLD.**

John 9:5



# FAMILY OF GOD

LUTHERAN CHURCH

"Children by grace,  
Extending Christ's embrace"

---

FOURTH SUNDAY

IN LENT

March 15, 2026

9:30 am

---

## Gather

---

Prelude

"Partita on Amazing Grace"

Charles Callahan

\*Welcome

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. 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: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ☩Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen**

\*Opening Hymn

"O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate"

ELW 722

1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.  
2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,  
3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,  
4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,

Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.  
 so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.  
 that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.  
 whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:

The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme  
 Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,  
 We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield  
 come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,

to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.  
 and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.  
 that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.  
 whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuenkel Jr, b. 1923

Music: German melody, 18th cent.; adapt X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Manner Gesangbuche*, 1833

Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc.

ELLACOMBE  
 C M D

\*Greeting

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

**C: And also with you.**



\*Prayer of the Day

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Bend your ears to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us.

**C: By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Young Person's Message

Pastor Erin Koster

---

## Word

---

First Reading

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." <sup>2</sup>Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" <sup>3</sup>Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." <sup>4</sup>Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" <sup>5</sup>He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

<sup>6</sup> When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." <sup>7</sup>But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." <sup>8</sup>Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>9</sup>Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." <sup>10</sup>Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." <sup>11</sup>Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." <sup>12</sup>He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." <sup>13</sup>Then

Continued on the next page 5

Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

P: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 23

P: <sup>1</sup>The Lord | is my shepherd;

**C: I shall not | be in want.**

P: <sup>2</sup>The Lord makes me lie down | in green pastures

**C: And leads me be- | side still waters.**

P: <sup>3</sup>You restore my | soul, O Lord,

**C: And guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.**

P: <sup>4</sup>Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;

**C: For you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**

P: <sup>5</sup>You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;

**C: You anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.**

P: <sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,

**C: And I will dwell in the house of the | Lord forever.**

### Second Reading

### Ephesians 5:8-14

<sup>8</sup>for once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, <sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

P: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### \*Gospel Acclamation



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

\*Gospel Announcement

P: The Holy Gospel according to John the fourth chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

\*Gospel

**John 9:1-41**

<sup>1</sup>As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. <sup>2</sup>His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" <sup>3</sup>Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. <sup>4</sup>We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. <sup>5</sup>As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." <sup>6</sup>When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, <sup>7</sup>saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. <sup>8</sup>The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" <sup>9</sup>Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." <sup>10</sup>But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" <sup>11</sup>He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." <sup>12</sup>They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

<sup>13</sup>They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. <sup>14</sup>Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. <sup>15</sup>Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." <sup>16</sup>Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. <sup>17</sup>So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

<sup>18</sup>The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight <sup>19</sup>and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" <sup>20</sup>His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, <sup>21</sup>but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." <sup>22</sup>His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. <sup>23</sup>Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

<sup>24</sup>So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." <sup>25</sup>He answered, "I do not

Continued on the next page

know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." <sup>26</sup>They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" <sup>27</sup>He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" <sup>28</sup>Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. <sup>29</sup>We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." <sup>30</sup>The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. <sup>31</sup>We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. <sup>32</sup>Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. <sup>33</sup>If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." <sup>34</sup>They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. <sup>35</sup>Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" <sup>36</sup>He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." <sup>37</sup>Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." <sup>38</sup>He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. <sup>39</sup>Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." <sup>40</sup>Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" <sup>41</sup>Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Paul Burow

\*Hymn of the Day

"Amazing Grace"

ELW 779

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
 grace ap - pear the hour, I first be - lieved!  
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4: anonymous, st. 5  
 Music: W. Walker, Southern Harmony, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851-1921, alt.

NEW BRITAIN  
 C M

\*Apostles Creed

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

P: Lord, in your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

\*Sharing the Peace

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

**C: And also with you.**

---

## Holy Communion

---

Offering

Lyrics

O Love, O Love, O Love  
That will not let me go  
O Love, I rest my weary soul in Thee!  
I give Thee back the life I owe  
That in Thy ocean depths its flow  
May richer fuller be  
  
O Joy, O Joy, O Joy  
That seeks me through the pain  
O Joy, I cannot close my heart to Thee  
I trace the rainbow through the rain  
And feel the promise is not vain  
That morn shall tearless be  
That morn shall tearless be!

"O Love"

O Love! O Love!  
  
That will not let me go (O Love)  
I rest my weary soul in Thee!  
I give Thee back the life I owe  
And in Thy ocean depths its flow  
Shall richer fuller be  
That morn shall tearless be  
O Love, O Love, O Love  
O Love, O Love, O Love  
that will not let me go  
O Love  
That will not let me go

Elaine Hagenberg  
Chancel choir

\*Offertory Response



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bless - ing. Gath - er a har - vest from the seeds that were



sown, that we may be fed with the bread of life.

Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u-nite them with the prayers we

of - fer now. Grace our ta - ble with your pres - ence,

Lord, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

\*Offertory Prayer

P: Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

**C: Amen**

\*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 and salutary...*(Here the minister continues with the preface appropriate to the day or season, concluding:)* we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



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 in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the  
 high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

\*Words of Institution

In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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

**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.**

Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on

us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Distribution

Hymn

"There is a Balm in Gilead"

ELW 614

*Refrain*

There is a balm in Gil-e - ad to make the wound-ed whole;  
there is a balm in Gil-e - ad to heal the sin - sick soul.

Continued on the next page

1 Some - times I feel dis - cour - aged and think my work's in vain,  
 2 If you can - not preach like Pe - ter, if you can - not pray like Paul,  
 3 Don't ev - er be dis - cour - aged, for Je - sus is your friend;

*Refrain*

but then the Ho - ly Spir - it re - vives my soul a - gain.  
 you can tell the love of Je - sus and say, "He died for all."  
 and if you lack for knowl - edge, he'll ne'er re - fuse to lend.

Text: African American spiritual  
 Music: African American spiritual

BALM IN GILEAD  
 Irregular

Post-Communion Prayer

P: Let us pray.

**C: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless love, now and forever. Amen.**

---

## Sending

---

Ministry Opportunities

\*Sending

"Be Thou My Vision"

ELW 793



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1865, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880-1881  
Music: Irish traditional

SLANE  
10 10 10 10

\*Blessing

P: God, the giver of love, + Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

**C: Amen**

\*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve in love.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High” arr. David Johnson

**Today's Worship Participants**

Lector: LaDonna Blackorbay  
Chancel Choir

**Family of God Ministry Staff**

Paul Burow, Senior Pastor email: pburow@fogchurch.org  
Erin Koster, Associate Pastor of Children/Youth email: perin@fogchurch.org  
Judy Blomgren, Director of Music email: judyb305@gmail.com  
Allyson McDonald, Admin Assistant email: admin@fogchurch.org  
Claudia Peterson & Madison Benton, Nursery Staff

**IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK**

Family of Chuck Baerg as they grieve  
Rita Loos' twin Richard Harris and her sister Mary Swenson for health issues

**WE CONTINUE TO PRAY FOR\***

Linda Johnson and her family after the death of her sister-in-law, Sandy  
Alan Aleckson, who is recovering from surgery  
Gerry Uhde  
Tom Luce, nephew of Craig and Tammy Hanschen, undergoing chemotherapy  
Connie Young  
Cindy and John Buesgens as they grieve the death of Cindy's father Bill Friberg  
Myra Madsen as she grieves her brother-in-law Sidney, her cousin Joanne and Niece  
Beth

\*Those on the prayer list will be named for 4 weeks in the bulletin. If you wish to have someone named longer, please notify us and we will extend them on the prayer list for another four weeks. We appreciate updates on all those for whom we pray. Thank you for your prayers

### **Announcements**

**LeAnn Moe's Funeral** will be on Saturday, June 27th at 2 pm.

**Year End Tax Statements** are available on the table by the front door.

**Lenten Worship**—Come join us for Lenten worship on Wednesday evenings. The theme of our Wednesday Meditations is "Heroes of the Faith."

**Streaming** and viewing services are most easily accessed through our Facebook page.

**Our spring plant sale has started!** Go to [gertensfundraising.com](http://gertensfundraising.com) and enter code 424 to order. Our children, youth, and family ministry will receive 30% of plant sales and 15% of plant card purchases. Our site will close at 10PM on Monday, March 30. Products will be delivered to church on Thursday, April 30. Ask Pr. Erin if you have questions!

**Family of God Memorial Garden**—We are now taking orders to create engraved pavers in memory of lost loved ones. Engraving specifications and cost are included on the order form. Forms are narthex and must be turned in to the church office by April 12th to be included in the May 17th dedication. See Joan Hermanson (763-229-5110) if you have any questions.

**New Member Class**—Those interested in joining our congregation please let the church office know. We will be holding an orientation on Sunday, April 19th at 11 am. New members will be received on April 30th.

**Minnesota Twins** vs Houston Astros on Tuesday, May 19 at 6:40 pm. Tickets are \$52.

**Minnesota Foodshare March Campaign**—For forty five years this campaign has brought together organizations, businesses, faith communities, and individuals to help keep the state's three hundred food shelves stocked. CEAP is our local food shelf. Last month CEAP distributed 228,350 pounds of food to 4,468 neighbors. CEAPS goal for this year's drive is to raise \$100,000 and 100,000 pounds of donated food. These donations will be matched during the campaign. Their motto is EVERY CENT, EVERY CAN AND EVERY CARING NEIGHBOR COUNTS. Too many of our neighbors have to make the impossible choice between putting food on their tables and their safety.

MN hunger facts include:

There are over 538,00 Minnesotans facing hunger, 34% of these individuals are under the age of 18.

In 2024 a record-breaking 8.9 million Minnesotans visited a food shelf.

Overall price of groceries has risen 28% since 2019.

Please consider helping—a cash donation to FOG indicating CEAP designation will be forwarded



# Most Needed Items

## Most Needed Food Market Items:

- Canned meals
- Taco kits, seasonings, and shells
- Rice
- Boxed pasta
- Salsa
- Flour
- Mac and cheese
- Ketchup, mustard, and mayo
- Sugar
- Baked beans
- Peanut butter and jelly
- Oil
- Pinto beans
- Juice
- Black beans
- Cereal

## Personal Care Items

- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Bar Soap
- Shampoo
- Deodorant
- Feminine Hygiene Products

## Household Items:

- Laundry Soap
- Dish Soap
- Paper Towels
- Cleaning Supplies
- Toilet Paper

## Baby Supplies:

- Diapers
- Baby Wipes
- Formula
- Diaper Rash Lotion
- Baby Wash

This is the sanctuary from last Easter!



We want to have a lot of beautiful flowers again this year, so please buy some flowers!

You will be able to take the flowers you purchase home with you after the 10:30 am Easter service. There are different options available listed on the order form that is inserted in the bulletin or on the table by the sanctuary doors. You can put completed forms and payment in the offering plate or bring them to the front desk. **All order forms must be turned in no later than Sunday, March 15th.** If you do not get your form turned in on time you will not be able to get any flowers.

Thank you for contributing!

Liturgy and Hymns are reprinted with permission under Augsburg Fortress #LBW/SBH.1, CCLI #2243152, and One License # A-740872-A. All rights reserved.



*FAMILY OF GOD*

LUTHERAN CHURCH 8625 Zane Avenue North, Brooklyn Park, MN 55443  
Tel: (763)424-8625 Website: [www.fogchurch.org](http://www.fogchurch.org)