

## DAILY DEVOTIONALS cont.

First Week in Lent: *Wednesday*

**Prayer:** Surprising God, so often we are surprised by bad news and taken hostage by the media cycle of the day; but from time to time, we are surprised by love. From time to time, we are surprised by joy. From time to time, we are surprised by hope. In a world full of surprisingly bad news, show me how to be someone who can surprise others with love, generosity, and kindness. Show me how to be someone who can fan the flame of good news. Amen.

When was the last time you were surprised by an act of love, generosity, or kindness?

**Good news mantra:** God's love is delightfully surprising.

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First Week in Lent: *Thursday*

**Prayer:** Awesome God, the whole universe reflects your goodness. The stars at night shine like jewels in the deep. The trees tower over me, taller than anything I could build. The waves crash onto the shore, over and over, like the rhythm of your heartbeat. When I am too certain of what I know, when I am closed off to wonder and surprise, bring me back to the places where I can be awestruck. Remind me that you are more magnificent than anything I can imagine. Amen.

What takes your breath away? Where are you most in awe?

**Good news mantra:** God's love is delightfully surprising.

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First Week in Lent: *Friday*

**Prayer:** God of my days, time and time again I have been faced with a fork in the road, an opportunity to try something new. I could not have anticipated every open sky or winding path that the road might bring, but I know that you were with me every step of the way. Thank you for the roads less traveled that brought joy to my days. Thank you for the unplanned paths that taught me how to grow. Thank you for the changed plans that brought me closer to you. Amen.

When has something unexpected changed your life for the better?

**Good news mantra:** God's love is delightfully surprising.



**so good, it catches  
us by surprise**

*First Sunday in Lent*

February 22, 2026

*Please take the opportunity to fill out the Prayer and Gratitude Card, along with a Connection Card.*

*You'll be invited to place them in the offering tray later in the service.*

### ENTRANCE

**Prelude**

Jill Dombrowski

**Introit**

“Let There Be Peace On Earth”

Bells of Gobin

**Welcome**

**Centering**

**Call to Worship**

Leader: We thought Lent began in the wilderness.

**People: But the story begins at a wedding.**

Leader: We expected fasting.

**People: Jesus brings wine.**

Leader: We expected restraint.

**People: God brings abundance.**

Leader: The good news—

**People: —is so good it catches us by surprise.**

Leader: Come. The party is not over.

**People: And there is still more.**

**Opening Prayer**

## Blessing for a Pilgrim Journey

## PROCLAMATION &amp; RESPONSE

## Prayer for Illumination

## First Reading

Matthew 13:31-32

*After the Reading, the Reader says*

The Word of the Lord.

**People: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Lesson

John 2:1-11

*Silence follows. Then the People stand as they are able.*

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**People: Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

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*After the Gospel, the Pastor says*

The Gospel of the Lord.

**People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

## Sermon

## Prayers of the People

## THANKSGIVING &amp; COMMUNION

## Invitation

## Confession and Pardon

**We know the answer already.****The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course.****Forgive our doubt.****Pull us closer into your embrace.****With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.**

God's grace is wild and unruly.

God's mercy is abundant and surprising.

God's love is expansive and unending.

So if you ask, “Holy One, am I forgiven?”

## DAILY DEVOTIONALS

First Week in Lent: *Sunday*

**Prayer:** Celebrating Christ, your story begins with a dance floor, a wedding banquet, a happy couple, a community gathered. Your story begins with abundant joy. As I go through my days, teach me to be a curator of joy. May I see and appreciate the sparks of joy in my own life, and may they draw me closer to you. Amen.

In the Gospel of John, Jesus' ministry starts with joy. It begins with a wedding. What in your life is bringing you joy?

**Good news mantra:** God's love is delightfully surprising.

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First Week in Lent: *Monday*

**Prayer:** Storytelling God, you are constantly painting pictures of what the world could be. You can take one small seed and see the ramble of beauty it might become. I want to see the world in that same way. Give me the creativity to imagine beauty where there is none. Give me the persistence to imagine justice when injustice rages. Help me imagine what could be. Amen.

Jesus tells stories about the Kingdom of God, and his stories almost always surprise us. What do you imagine the Kingdom of God to be like?

**Good news mantra:** God's love is delightfully surprising.

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First Week in Lent: *Tuesday*

**Prayer:** Creator God, you have told us that even small acts, small dreams, and small bits of love can make a difference. I need to hear this reminder because it is tempting to believe that the hurt in this world is out of my control. It is tempting to believe that I cannot make a difference, but you say otherwise. Remind me that I have planting to do. Remind me that even small acts can make great change. Amen.

The Kingdom of God is described as a mustard seed—something small, but surprisingly powerful. How does this metaphor make you feel?

**Good news mantra:** God's love is delightfully surprising.

## CONGREGATIONAL CARE

If you or someone you know is ill, injured, or otherwise in need of prayer or visitation, please fill out a prayer card, or let the pastoral staff or church office know. Jai will work to keep us connected.

Here are members of our Gobin connection who need prayer & comfort at this time:

*Margot MacCracken, Brandie Sitton, Andrea Insley, Ashlee Vitz, Sandy Miller, Katie Isaacs-Bailey, Jim & Windy Watt, Luke & Sherry DeJaynes, Larry Rider, Ann Hansen, Marcia Linville, Matt Fruits, Heather Cantonwine, Kids Hope mentors & students, Valyrian residents, residents of the Putnam Co. Jail, Kyan, Vivi, Treasure, Yun Ling, Ajaypal Singh and all ICE detainees in the Clay Co Detention Center*

If you would like to add a name to our prayer list, please fill out a prayer request card or send an email to [prayers@gobinumc.org](mailto:prayers@gobinumc.org)

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## OPPORTUNITY FOR PRAYER

You may have noticed the votive candles near the entrance to the sanctuary. We invite you to take one and join Wednesday morning prayer from 7:45-8am wherever you are. If you wish to have a candle, but are not able to come to the church, contact us and we will arrange to have someone bring it to you.

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## WAYS TO GIVE

- Make checks payable to Gobin Church
- Text “Gobin” to 73256
- Online at [www.gobin.live/give](http://www.gobin.live/give)
- Scan the QR code



the answer is and always will be:  
**of course, of course, of course.**  
This is the good news of the gospel.  
**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

### Passing the Peace

Offering

Offertory

Doxology

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.**

**Praise God, all creatures here below.**

**Praise God, above ye Heavenly Host.**

**Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

### Offering Prayer

#### The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

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**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.**

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**Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.**

UMH #269

Gobin Grace Notes

### The Breaking of the Bread

*A period of silence is kept.*

The body of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ, given for you. **Amen.**

**Prayer after Communion**

Eternal God, we give you thanks for this holy mystery  
in which you have given yourself to us.  
Grant that we may go into the world  
in the strength of your Spirit,  
to give ourselves for others,  
in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Song**

“In a Neat and Tidy Garden”

*Insert*

**SENDING FORTH**

**Commissioning**

**Benediction**

**Postlude**

**LENTEN DATES TO REMEMBER**

*More info to come!*

**Wednesdays during Lent:**

*February 25, March 4, March 11, March 18, March 25*

7:45 AM: Weekly Prayer (pray where you are)

6:30 PM: Taize Service @ Gobin

**Service of Lament and Remembrance:**

March 15, 7:00 PM @ St. Andrew’s

**Holy Week:**

Wednesday (*April 1*): Tenebrae Service @ St. Andrew’s

Maundy Thursday (*April 2*): 7:00 PM at St. Andrew’s

Good Friday (*April 3*): 6:00 PM at Gobin

Holy Saturday (*April 4*): 8:30 PM Starts at Gobin, ends at St. Andrew’s

Easter Sunday (*April 5*): 10:00 AM at Gobin

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**SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE:**

**Beginnings Service:** 9:30AM

**The Interlude:** 10:30 AM

**Mosaic Service:** 11:00 AM

**CONNECT WITH US:**

Phone: **765.658.6010**

Email: **[gobin@gobinumc.org](mailto:gobin@gobinumc.org)**

Web: **[www.gobinchurch.org](http://www.gobinchurch.org)**

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**SUMMER ENRICHMENT PROGRAM**

The Summer Enrichment Program, a five-week day camp for at-risk children, is searching for an education director for summer 2026.

The program has been an outreach mission for Gobin/ St Andrews for almost four decades and is a wonderful opportunity to provide enrichment activities for elementary age children in our community and to lead a group of talented young adult counselors and mentors.

Please consider applying or recommending a suitable candidate for this position. Contact either Misti Scott at [miscott@depauw.edu](mailto:miscott@depauw.edu) or John Schlotterbeck at [jschlot@depauw.edu](mailto:jschlot@depauw.edu) if you have any questions or need additional information.