



WELCOME FAMILIES!

We are glad that you are worshiping with your children and want you to feel welcome.

There is a "Pray Ground" for quiet play in the front right of the sanctuary. We ask that families stay with their little ones and try to keep noise to a minimum.

If you or your little one needs "a break" or "louder play", there is an "Active Worship" room on the West side of the sanctuary. You can see and hear the service from this room.

GATHERING



The Holy Spirit gathers us together during this time of worship

February 22, 2026

WORSHIP WITH HOLY COMMUNION

Firat Sunday of Lent
Longing for Wholeness

Inviting All to Live the Gospel through Faith, Love, and Compassion

Welcome to Family of Christ

You are welcome to participate in worship this morning the way you feel comfortable.

All Are Welcome, No Exceptions!
Everybody Is Somebody Here

PRELUDE

WELCOME

SILENCE FOR GATHERING

OPENING HYMN

"Just As I Am, without One Plea"

ELW #592

CONFESSİON AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord C: **Amen**

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us confess our sins to God and one another.

**We confess to you, most loving God,
the sins that both bind and scatter us.
We have knowingly believed dishonest words.
We have questioned your gracious power again and again.
We have given into temptation.
We have acted out of fear, placing blame on others yet holding ourselves apart.
In our disbelief and confusion we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves.
Gather us back to you.
Forgive us, free us, and make us whole
for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

SONG OF CONFESSION**"Return to God"****Marty Haugen**

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

God our Creator,

We long for wholeness in our hearts and in our lives.

When we are tempted by quick fixes or twisted promises, remind us that true sustenance, protection, and power is found only in you. Lead us by your Spirit to rest confidently in your love. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

All young and young at heart are invited forward during the Children's time.

CHILDREN'S TIME**FIRST READING****Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7**

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.' " But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So 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. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

L: The Word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

THE WORD

God speaks to us through scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**GOSPEL READING:****Matthew 4:1-11**

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'

Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying 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,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'

Jesus said to him, "Again it is written,

'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'

Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me."

Then Jesus said to him,

"Away with you, Satan! for it is written,
'Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.'

Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

L: The Gospel of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God

SERMON

Pastor Brent Erler

HYMN OF THE DAY**"I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"**

ELW #325

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.

To support the ministry of FOC please use the QR Code below or donate to the offering plate.

**SHARING OF THE PEACE****ANNOUNCEMENTS****NOISY OFFERING**

LaVina Burnsville

OFFERING

THE MEAL

God feeds us with the forgiveness and presence of Christ.

All are invited to receive these gifts of God.

No Exceptions!

Children are welcome to come forward and receive communion or a blessing and Goldfish Crackers



THE SENDING

We are blessed and sent out into the world to share God's Love with all people.



Serving Today

Pastor

Brent Erler

Musician

Solveig Englund

Sound and Video

Jeremy Mann

*Thanks to all those who helped make worship possible.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

L: Lord in Your Mercy

C: Hear our prayer

HOLY COMMUNION

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

BLESSING

PRAYER OF GOOD COURAGE

Lord God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

CLOSING HYMN

"Blessed Assurance"

ELW #638

SENDING/POSTLUDE

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FamilyofChrist
FAITH, LOVE, and COMPASSION

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Mission Partners with Usokami Parish, Iringa, Tanzania

Hearing Assistance devices are available at the soundboard
Radio frequency for hearing assistance on 73.9 MHz on the FM band