GLORIA DE CRISTO LUTHERAN CHURCH
"A COMMUNITY CHURCH IN THE FOOTHILLS"

CHURCH PHONE #342-6002

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026
6:00 PM

We welcome you to the worship of this community of faith. As we sing, pray and study God's word together may we strengthen each other's faith in the saving power of Jesus Christ. It is difficult to be a Christian by yourself.

Before the service, speak to God.
During the service, let God speak to you
After the service, speak to your neighbor.

The older hearing devices have been moved to the Narthex. They are located next to the far right entrance door to the sanctuary.

We now offer the T-Coil hearing device with the new sound system. Individuals will need to contact their provider to find out if their hearing aid is telecoil-equipped. If so, they need to ask how to turn on the T-Coil or if it is automatically linked once the loop is around their neck.

PLEASE NO PERFUME/COLOGNE… Perfume and cologne can trigger life-threatening breathing emergencies in persons with asthma, allergies and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)? Hospitals and schools are becoming 'scent-free' due to this increasing health hazard. **Please be sensitive to this concern when coming to church and refrain from using it.** Thank You.

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God. Romans 12:1

Lent is a season when we take a look at our lives in view of God's mercy toward us in the sacrifice of his Son for us on the cross. We, in turn, are called by God, especially during this time of repentance and reflection, to be living sacrifices for him, displaying our devotion to him in word and deed.

Mercy in Temptation • Corinthians : • In the midst of temptation, our merciful God provides us with a way out through his Son, who was tempted just as we are, yet without sin

CALL TO WORSHIP

V Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not Your peace at my tears!
C For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my fathers.

V Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to Me, says the Lord of hosts,
C and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

V Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
C let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to Our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

V And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.
C they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

C 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.

V Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my ` tears!
C For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

GATHERING HYMN **We Are Exiles from the Garden**

We Are Exiles from the Garden

JOURNEY

Lisa M. Clark — Mark Knickelbein

1 We are ex - iles from the gar - den, Ban - ished by our sin - ful choice,
2 Leaves will fail our vain con - ceal - ing Our true na - ked - ness and shame.
3 On the mount, the Lord is wait - ing For the prop - er sac - ri - fice.
4 On this jour - ney we are tak - ing, We fear not what lies in store.

Ter - ri - fied to seek His par - don, Hid - ing from our Fa - ther's voice.
We must rend our hearts, re - veal - ing All our guilt and sin - ful blame.
What is worth His wrath a - bat - ing? Who could pay the dread - ful price?
Though our fee - ble wills are break - ing, We know Christ has gone be - fore.

Un - der - neath the branch - es sway - ing, Sweat and blood fall to the ground.
Je - sus takes our flesh and sen - tence As His clothes are claimed be - low.
God the Son will be the sci - on. God the Fa - ther will pro - vide.
As we walk the way com - plet - ed, On His throne, the Sav - ior waits.

In the dark - ness, Christ is pray - ing; He comes for - ward to be bound.
We fall down in true re - pen - tance; His new robe He will be - stow.
God the Spir - it points to Zi - on; There, with God, we will a - bide.
Death and hell have been un - seat - ed. We be - hold the o - pen gates!

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

V We are on a journey from a deserved exile to a gracious promised land. Although we merit nothing, because our heavenly Father promises forgiveness and mercy to all who call on Him for Jesus' sake, let us go to Him, confessing our sin.

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

V Heavenly Father, we are fallen creatures, prone to hiding our faults from one another, yet knowing our sins are laid bare before You.
C Forgive us and clothe us with Christ's own righteousness.

V We have erred and strayed from Your way.
C Forgive us and turn our feet toward the paradise You promise.

V We have attempted to placate Your just demands by our own efforts.
C Forgive us for the sake of Your Son's sacrifice in our stead.

V We have often failed to reflect the new life You granted us in our Baptism.
C Forgive us and drown the old Adam within us.

V We have eaten "forbidden fruit" in our disobedient thinking, speaking, and acting.
C Forgive us and grant us the new life won on the tree of the cross.

V We have failed to trust Your care and protection as we journey through this wilderness.
C Forgive us and accompany us on our pilgrim way.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*together we pray):*

Our gracious God, even when we were dead in our trespasses, You made us alive together with Christ. You who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ. May He who began this good work in you bring it to completion in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

1st READING: Genesis 3:14-24 (*God clothes, then expels Adam and Eve from Eden)*

The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. **15** I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." **16** To the woman he said, "I will make your pangs in childbirth exceedingly great; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." **17** And to the man[a] he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; **18** thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. **19** By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return." **20** The man named his wife Eve[b] because she was the mother of all living. **21** And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man[c] and for his wife and clothed them. **22** Then the Lord God said, "See, the humans have become like one of us, knowing good and evil, and now they might reach out their hands and take also from the tree of life and eat and live forever"— **23** therefore the Lord God sent them forth from the

garden of Eden, to till the ground from which they were taken. **24** He drove out the humans, and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

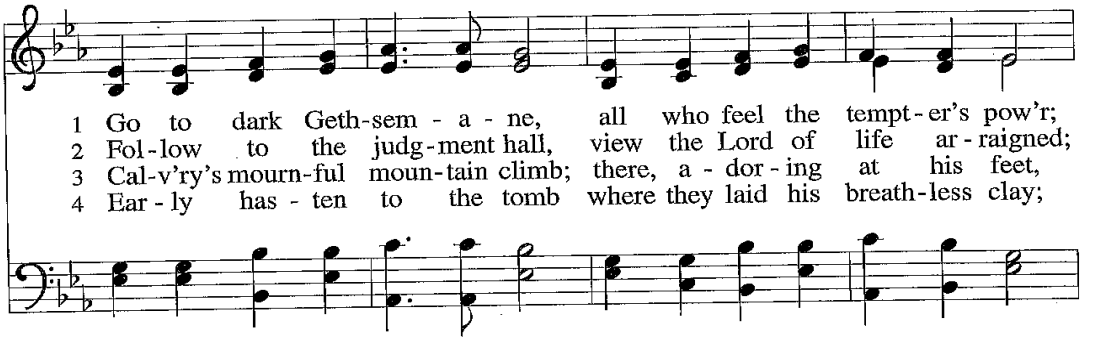
2nd READING: Revelation 22:1-5 *(The description of heaven reflects Eden)*

Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb[2] through the middle of the street of the city; also, on either side of the river, the tree of life with its twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit each month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. [3] No longer will there be anything accursed, but the throne of God and of the Lamb will be in it, and his servants will worship him. [4] They will see his face and his name will be on their foreheads. [5] And night will be no more. They will need no light of lamp or sun, for the Lord God will be their light, and they will reign forever and ever.

TEACHING: *"Garden to Garden: Eden to Heaven"* Randy Zieman

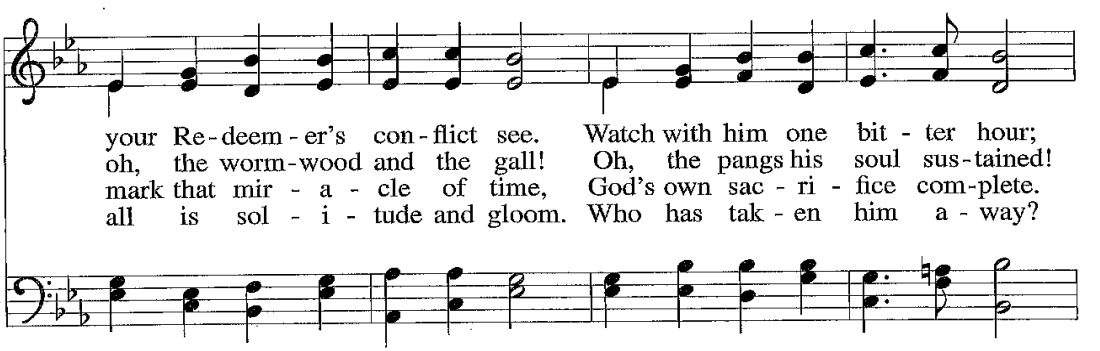
WORSHIP HYMN: **Go to Dark Gethsemane**"" ELW 347

347 Go to Dark Gethsemane

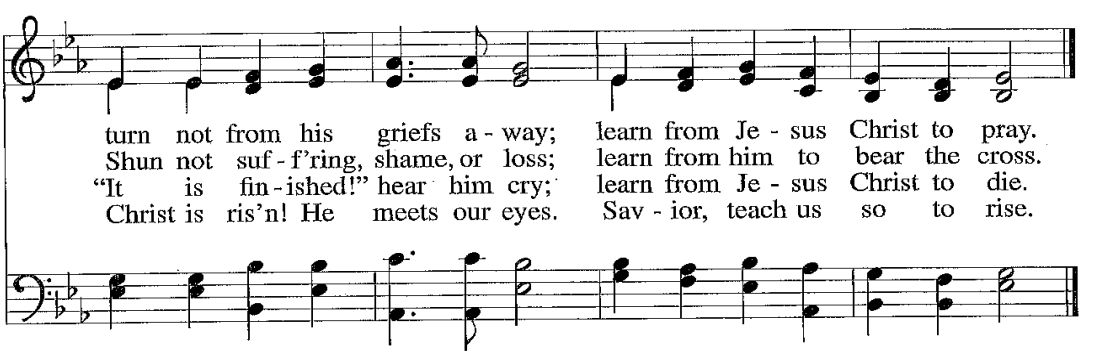


1 Go to dark Geth-sem - a - ne, all who feel the tempt-er's pow'r;
2 Fol-low to the judg-ment hall, view the Lord of life ar-raigned;
3 Cal-v'ry's mourn-ful moun-tain climb; there, a - dor-ing at his feet,
4 Ear-ly has-ten to the tomb where they laid his breath-less clay;

HOLY WEEK, THREE DAYS



your Re-deem-er's con-flict see. Watch with him one bit-ter hour;
oh, the worm-wood and the gall! Oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained!
mark that mir - a - cle of time, God's own sac-ri - fice com-plete.
all is sol - i - tude and gloom. Who has tak-en him a-way?



turn not from his griefs a-way; learn from Je-sus Christ to pray.
Shun not suf-f'ring, shame, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
"It is fin-ished!" hear him cry; learn from Je-sus Christ to die.
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes. Sav-ior, teach us so to rise.

THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

C Through these gifts, we offer ourselves, our time and our possessions that we might keep our eyes and ears fixed on you, Heavenly Father. Use these gifts to your glory. In Jesus name, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

V We are returning from exile, listening to the inviting Word of God, full of grace and truth. Let us go to Him in confident prayer.

V Gracious God, offering full and free forgiveness,
C we come in spiritual sackcloth and ashes, painfully aware of our sins and failing. Graciously wash us and clothe us with the robe of Christ's own righteousness so that we may live eternally with all Your saints.

V Eden's Lord and ours,
C hear us and all who call out to You in pain and sorrow, sweat or tears. Remind us of Your painful victory over every temptation, and strengthen us to follow where You have led the way.

V Loving Father, calling us to Mount Calvary
C remove from us our fear of Your righteous judgement for our sins; strengthen our faith in the all-availing sacrifice of Your Son in our stead.

V Spirit of life,
C remind us again of our Baptism, in which our old Adam was drowned; strengthen us to live in the freedom of the children of God.

V Lord Jesus, Savior and Guide,
C give us the eyes of faith to see the tree of life awaiting us in heaven and guide us to follow where You have led the way.

V Protecting Father,
C assure us of Your presence on our journey through the desert of this world and bring us at last to the paradise purchased by Your Son.

V O Holy Spirit,
C nourish our faith and restore our souls each time we come to the Table of the Lord and receive His body and blood, a foretaste of the feast to come.

V Holy and merciful Lord over all,
C we feel the burden of our sin; renew in us the firm faith that Your Son has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, giving His life for ours.

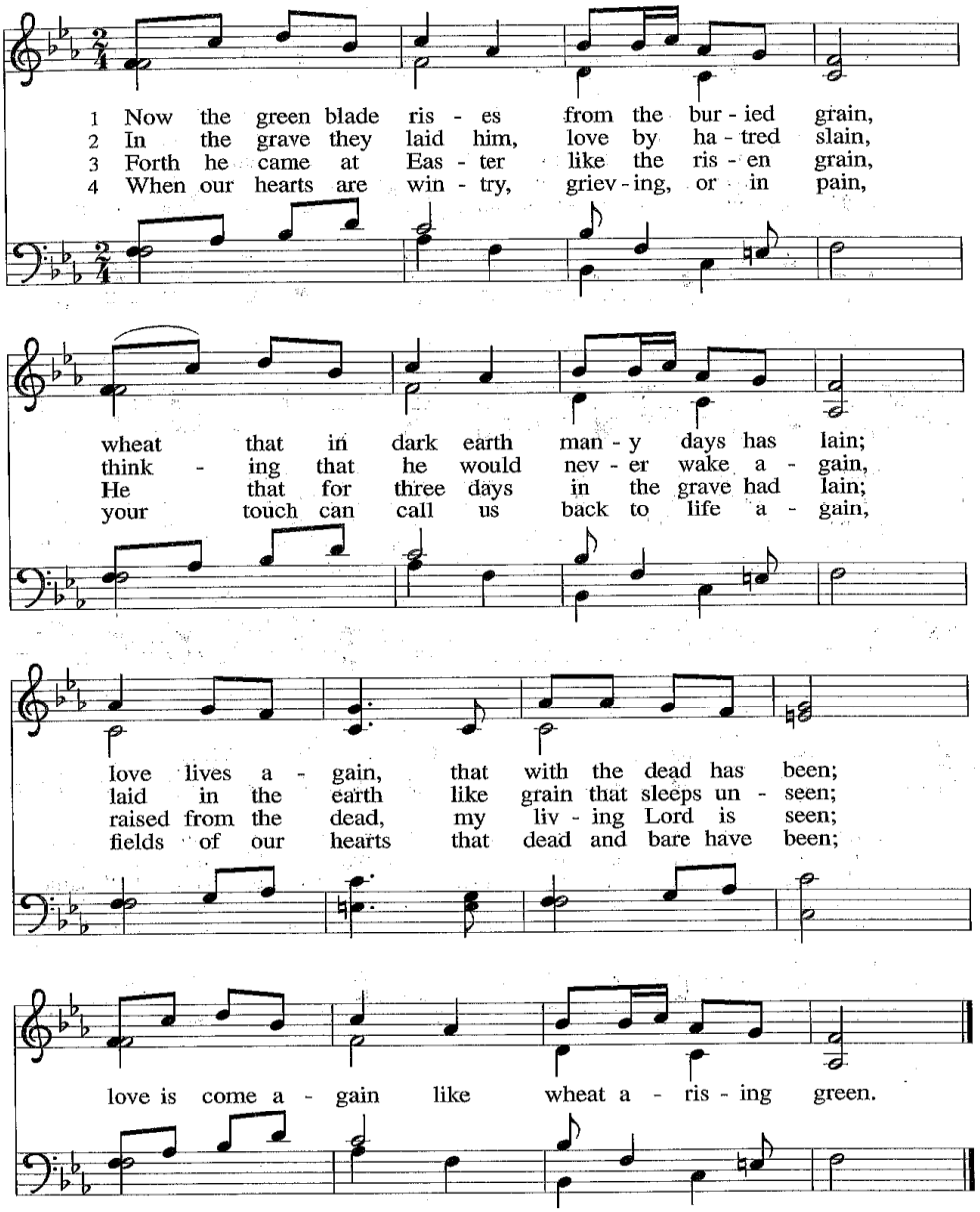
V Everlasting Father,
C our Savior has conquered death. Fill us with rejoicing, confident that we shall therefore gather around the eternal throne of the Lamb, Your Son, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever. Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

SENDING HYMN *"Now the Green Blade Rises"* ELW 379

Now the Green Blade Rises 379



Text: John MacLeod Campbell Crum, 1872–1958
Music: French carol
Text © Oxford University Press

NOËL NOUVELET
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BENEDICTION

V The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, and + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless you and keep you.

C Amen.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

USHERS – Jam Klipfel/Tony Hoffman
GREETERS – Randy/Mary Zieman
READER – Jan Klipfel

LENTEN WORSHIP: Join us every Wednesday @ 6:00 p.m.

SOUP SUPPER: from 4:30-5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall beginning on March 4th by Glorious Quilters

Holy Week Services:

March 28	**Palm Sunday Weekend**	**Sat., 4:00 p.m.**
March 29		**Sun., 8:30 & 10:15 a.m.**
April 2	**Maundy Thursday Service**	**6:00 p.m.**
April 3	**Good Friday Service**	**6:00 p.m.**
April 5	**Easter Sunday Service**	**7:30 & 10:15 a.m.**
	Easter Breakfast	**8:00 a.m.**

There is no service on Saturday, April 4th

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Judy Zeiss
Char Schomisch
Paula Pegues

Minister of Worship, Organist & Choir Director: Dr. Shirley Ehler
Pianists: Marie Ritten, Lorie Rapp, Pam Carter, Suzanne Haggett
Bells of Glory: Lorie Rapp
Violin: Ami Gudjohnsen

Stephen Ministry Leaders:

Jim Wehrer
Niki Duffy
Sandy Corless
Sherrie Wehrer
Michelle Cegon
Robin Marlatt

GriefShare Leaders:

Ted & Niki Duffy
Lisa Crayne
Mary Marsh

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