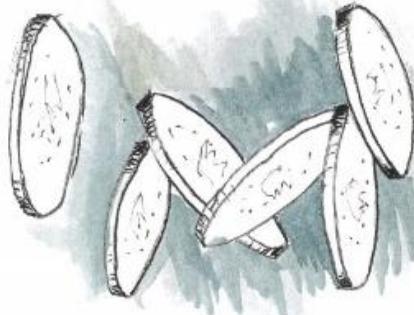


GLORIA DE CRISTO LUTHERAN CHURCH
“A COMMUNITY CHURCH IN THE FOOTHILLS”

CHURCH PHONE #342-6002

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11, 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.

***AS WE GATHER...** How does one escape from a bad situation? Where does one turn when surrounded by brutality, slavery, and death? We desire to flee, to find refuge. We need to begin a journey that will set us free, but the result of our efforts is nothing more than going in circles. We seek freedom; we receive greater slavery. We journey toward light; we end up in deeper darkness. How do we escape? It is God who leads us on the journey out of this slavery to sin and death. Where does He take us? To the water – to the banks of the Red Sea, or the River Jordan, or to the baptismal font; here, we are set free. The bondage of sin and death, the claws of Satan, no longer hold us, for we have been through the water. These are the waters of death for our enemies, and they are the waters of life for us. The enemy of our old Adam is drowned in these waters, but the New Adam comes through to new life. We have been rescued from the enemy by the waters and made the children of God.*

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!

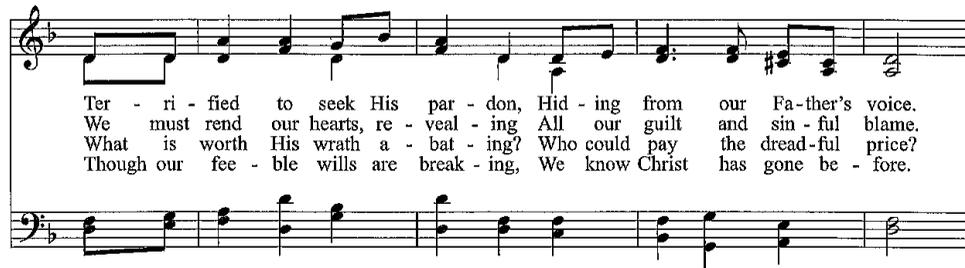
C For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

We Are Exiles from the Garden

Lisa M. Clark

JOURNEY
Mark Knickelbein

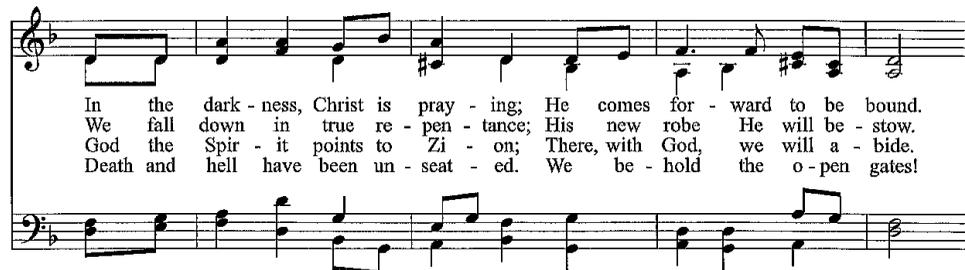

1 We are ex - iles from the gar - den, Ban - ished by our sin - ful choice,
 2 Leaves will fail our vain con - ceal - ing Our true na - ked - ness and shame.
 3 On the mount, the Lord is wait - ing For the prop - er sac - ri - fice.
 4 On this jour - ney we are tak - ing, We fear not what lies in store.



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!

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)*:

Holy God. Only you know what is absolute truth. Remind us that we can only see things from our own limited perspective, and help us to extend compassion and grace to those we might otherwise be quick to judge. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

1st READING: Exodus 14:13-31

¹³ But Moses said to the people, “Do not be afraid, stand firm, and see the deliverance that the Lord will accomplish for you today, for the Egyptians whom you see today you shall never see again. ¹⁴ The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to keep still.” ¹⁵ Then the Lord said to Moses, “Why do you cry out to me? Tell the Israelites to go forward. ¹⁶ But you lift up your staff and stretch out your hand over the sea and divide it, that the Israelites may go into the sea on dry ground. ¹⁷ Then I will harden the hearts of the Egyptians so that they will go in after them, and so I will gain glory for myself over Pharaoh and all his army, his chariots, and his chariot drivers. ¹⁸ Then the Egyptians shall know that I am the Lord, when I have gained glory for myself over Pharaoh, his chariots, and his chariot drivers.” ¹⁹ The angel of God who was going before the Israelite army moved and went behind them, and the pillar of cloud moved from in front of them and took its place behind them. ²⁰ It came between the army of Egypt and the army of Israel. And so the cloud was there with the darkness, and it lit up the night; one did not come near the other all night. ²¹ Then Moses stretched out his hand over the sea. The Lord drove the sea back by a strong east wind all night and turned the sea into dry land, and the waters were divided. ²² The Israelites went into the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and

on their left. ²³ The Egyptians pursued and went into the sea after them, all of Pharaoh's horses, chariots, and chariot drivers. ²⁴ At the morning watch the Lord, in the pillar of fire and cloud, looked down on the Egyptian army and threw the Egyptian army into a panic. ²⁵ He clogged^[a] their chariot wheels so that they turned with difficulty. The Egyptians said, "Let us flee from the Israelites, for the Lord is fighting for them against Egypt." ²⁶ Then the Lord said to Moses, "Stretch out your hand over the sea, so that the water may come back upon the Egyptians, upon their chariots and chariot drivers." ²⁷ So Moses stretched out his hand over the sea, and at dawn the sea returned to its normal depth. As the Egyptians fled before it, the Lord tossed the Egyptians into the sea. ²⁸ The waters returned and covered the chariots and the chariot drivers, the entire army of Pharaoh that had followed them into the sea; not one of them remained. ²⁹ But the Israelites walked on dry ground through the sea, the waters forming a wall for them on their right and on their left. ³⁰ Thus the Lord saved Israel that day from the Egyptians, and Israel saw the Egyptians dead on the seashore. ³¹ Israel saw the great work that the Lord did against the Egyptians. So the people feared the Lord and believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses.

TEACHING: *"Out of Egypt: Th rough the water"*

Rev. Mark Helgeland

O God beyond All Praising

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1 O God be-yond all prais-ing, we wor-ship you to-day
 2 The flow'r of earth-ly splen-dor in time must sure-ly die,
 3 Then hear, O gra-cious Sav-ior, ac-cept the love we bring,



and sing the love a-maz-ing that songs can-not re-pay;
 its frag-ile bloom sur-ren-der to you, the Lord most high;
 that we who know your fa-vor may serve you as our King;



for we can on-ly won-der at ev-'ry gift you send,
 but hid-den from all na-ture the e-ter-nal seed is sown-
 and wheth-er our to-mor-rows be filled with good or ill,



at bless-ings with-out num-ber and mer-cies with-out end:
 though small in mor-tal stat-ure, to heav-en's gar-den grown:
 we'll tri-umph through our sor-rows and rise to bless you still:



we lift our hearts be-fore you and wait up-on your word,
 for Christ, your gift from heav-en, from death has set us free,
 to mar-vel at your beau-ty and glo-ry in your ways,



we hon-or and a-dore you, our great and might-y Lord.
 and we through him are giv-en the fi-nal vic-to-ry.
 and make a joy-ful du-ty our sac-ri-fice of praise.

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.

Now the Green Blade Rises

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1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 He that for three days in the grave had lain,
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

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 – Jerry & Chris Randby

GREETERS – Joanne Ausing/Char

READER –

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

MARCH 18TH SOUP SUPPER: 4:30-5:30 pm in Fellowship Hall
Hostesses – WELCA

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	8:30 a.m.

There is no service on Saturday, April 4th

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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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Char Schomisch, Secretary

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