

Cross of Christ Lutheran Church
204 S. Chase Street, Houston, MN
507-896-3102

Fourth Sunday in Lent Worship
with Holy Communion/Caring Collection/FB
March 15, 2026



Monday:
Tuesday: 6:30 Council Mtg./St Patrick's Day
Wednesday: 6:30 Holden Evening Worship
Thursday:
Friday: 9:00 Hobby Huddle/Pastor's Day Off
Saturday: 9:00 Hobby Huddle
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion/FB
10:30 a.m. Coffee hr./Stone Church Preservation mtg.
No Classes Spring Break

Cross of Christ Mission Statement: As a fellowship of believers, it is our mission to joyfully proclaim the gospel of Christ in word and deed; inviting people to worship together, nurturing them in the Christian faith, loving one another and serving a world in need.

Prelude

Ringling of the Church Bell

Announcements

Gathering Prayer

Choose this day whom you will serve;

We will choose the living God.

The road is narrow that leads to life;

We will walk the way of Christ.

Faith is holding on;

Faith is letting go.

We offer more than words, O God;

We offer you our lives.

Jesus said: Take up your cross.

We will follow you, O Christ,

Into the needs of the world,

Into the truth of our lives,

Into the pain of our hearts,

Into the presence of God.

Amen.

Gathering Song: ELW #338 "Beneath the Cross of Jesus"

1 Beneath the cross of Jesus

I long to take my stand;

the shadow of a mighty rock

within a weary land,

a home within a wilderness,

a rest upon the way,

from the burning of the noontide heat

and burdens of the day.

2 Upon the cross of Jesus,

my eye at times can see

the very dying form of one

who suffered there for me.

And from my contrite heart, with tears,

two wonders I confess:

the wonder of his glorious love

and my unworthiness.

3 I take, O cross, your shadow

for my abiding place;

I ask no other sunshine than

the sunshine of his face;

content to let the world go by,

to know no gain nor loss,

my sinful self my only shame,

my glory all, the cross.

Prayer of the Day:

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. 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.

Confirmation Bell Choir “A Simple Prayer”

Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

¹ 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.” ² 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.’” ³ 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.” ⁴ 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?” ⁵ 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.

⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely his anointed is now before the Lord.” ⁷ 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.” ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” ¹¹ 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.” ¹² 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.” ¹³ Then 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. R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 23

¹ The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

² **The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

- ³ You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.
- ⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**
- ⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
- ⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

Gospel Acclamation

**Return to the Lord, your God,
for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
and abounding in steadfast love.**

Gospel: John 9:1-7

P: The holy Gospel according to John. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ 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, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Dana Jackson

Hymn of the Day ELW #779 "Amazing Grace"

1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me! I once was
lost, but now am found; was blind, but
now I see.

2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to
fear, and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!

3 Through many dangers, toils, and
snares I have already come; 'tis grace
has brought me safe thus far,
and grace will lead me home.

4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.

5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
bright shining as the sun, we've no less days to
sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.

Apostle's Creed

Do you believe in God the Father?

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**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.**

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting.**

Prayers of Intercession:

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer.**

Caring Collection

Offering Collection

Offertory “Let the Vineyards be Fruitful”

Let the vineyards be fruitful, Lord,
and fill to the brim our cup of blessing.
Gather a harvest from the seeds that were sown,
that we may be fed with the bread of life.
Gather the hopes and the dreams of all;
unite them with the prayers we offer now.
Grace our table with your presence,
and give us a foretaste of the feast to come.

Words of Institution

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,
for ever and ever. Amen**

Invitation to Communion

Congregation Response: All are welcome.

The Distribution (*Please sign the pew pad.*)

Communion Hymns: 347, 323, 335

Sending Song: ELW #324 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory” vs 1,2&4

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.

All the light of sacred story
gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me;
lo, it glows with peace and joy.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,
by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure,
joys that through all time abide.

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Thank You for helping with the service today:

Organist: Shelley Jerviss

Choir Director: Jake Olson

Acolytes: Robbie Carlson, Taya Evenson

Reader: Teddi Nastor-Whitney

Communion: Krin Abraham, Carol Meeks, Sheryl Sherry, Teddi Nastor-Whitney

Usher: Aubree Diersen, Junior Pich, Duane Hegland

Announcements

Wednesday March 18th Holden Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.

Saturday March 28th WELCA Spring Bake Sale 9am to 12pm.

Cakes, cookies, bars, breads, etc. Spring and Easter décor. Quilt drawing.

Coffee and tea bar with sweet treats for sale.

Sunday March 29th 9:30 a.m. Palm Sunday Worship Service with Holy Communion.

Sunday April 5th Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion/Noisy Offering

7:00 am & 9:30 am. Easter Breakfast served between services. Free will Offering.

Egg donation may be brought to the church Monday-Thursday from 9 am-3 pm