

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

**First Sunday in Lent Worship with Holy Communion/FB**  
**February 22, 2026**



**Monday:**

**Tuesday:**

**Wednesday:** 6:30 Holden Evening Worship

**Thursday:**

**Friday:** Pastor's Day Off

**Saturday:**

**Sunday:** 9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion/Noisy Offering/FB  
10:30 a.m. Coffee hr./Sunday School, Club 56 & Confirmation  
1<sup>st</sup> Communion Class

*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 #803 “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” vs 1,3&4

1 When I survey the wondrous cross  
on which the prince of glory died,  
my richest gain I count but loss  
and pour contempt on all my pride.

Did e'er such love and sorrow meet,  
or thorns compose so rich a crown?

3 See, from his head, his hands, his  
feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down.

4 Were the whole realm of nature mine,  
that were a present far too small;  
love so amazing, so divine,  
demands my soul, my life, my all.

### Prayer of the Day:

**Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## Choir

## Reading: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

<sup>15</sup>The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup>And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup>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."

<sup>3:1</sup>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?'" <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup>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.'" <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." <sup>6</sup>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. <sup>7</sup>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.

R: The Word of the Lord. C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 32

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup>**Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup>While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup>**For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup>Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.  
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord." Then you forgave  
me the guilt of my sin.

<sup>6</sup>**Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;  
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup>You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

<sup>8</sup>**"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;  
I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup>Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;  
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

<sup>10</sup>**Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;  
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?**

**You have the words of eternal life.**

**Alleluia. Alleluia.**

### **Gospel: Matthew 4:1-11**

P: The holy Gospel according to Matthew.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>1</sup> Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. <sup>2</sup> He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. <sup>3</sup> The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." <sup>4</sup> But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> 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.' "

<sup>7</sup> Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,

and serve only him.' "

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

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

### **Sermon**

**Pastor Dana Jackson**

### **Hymn of the Day ELW #787 "On Eagle's Wings" vs 1,3&4**

<sup>1</sup> You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,

who abide in this shadow for life,

say to the Lord: "My refuge,

my rock in whom I trust!"

(Refrain)

**And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand.**

3 You need not fear the terror of the night,  
nor the arrow that flies by day;  
though thousands fall about you,  
near you it shall not come. **R**

4 For to the angels God's given a command  
to guard you in all of your ways;  
upon their hands they will bear you up,  
lest you dash your foot against a stone.

(Final refrain)

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
bear you on the breath of dawn,  
make you to shine like the sun,  
and hold you in the palm of his hand;  
and hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

### **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.**

**Offering Collection**

**Offertory Hymn #186 “Create in Me a Clean Heart”**

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
and renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,

and take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,  
and uphold me with your free Spirit.

**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: 335, 629, 638**

**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**

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**Thank You for helping with the service today:**

Organist: Gayle Smith

Choir Director: Jake Olson

Acolytes: Della Hegland-Tarr, Macsen  
Hegland-Tarr

Reader: Ellen Hongerholt

Communion: Denise Rostad, Judy  
Munson, Ellen Hongerholt

Usher: Tatum Bartsch, Adelyn Hegland-  
Tarr, Duane Hegland

**Announcements**

**Wednesday February 25<sup>th</sup>** Holden Evening Worship service 6:30 p.m.

**Sunday March 1<sup>st</sup>** Noisy Offering.

**Saturday March 7<sup>th</sup>** Owl Pancake Breakfast 8:00.

**Sunday March 8<sup>th</sup>** Daylight Savings Time begins.