

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

Second Sunday in Lent Worship with Holy Communion/Noisy Offering/FB
March 1, 2026



Monday: 2:00 Ruth Circle
Tuesday:
Wednesday: 6:30 Holden Evening Worship
Thursday:
Friday: Pastor's Day Off
Saturday: 8:00 Owl Breakfast
Sunday: 9:30 a.m. Worship w/Holy Communion/FB
10:30 a.m. Coffee hr./Sunday School, Club 56 & Confirmation
1st Communion Class/S.C. Cemetery mtg.
Daylight Saving Begins

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 #335 "Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross" vs1,2&4

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

(Refrain)

**In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.**

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;
there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. **R**

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. **R**

Prayer of the Day:

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 12:1-4a

¹ The Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed." ^{4a} So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

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

Psalm 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills;

from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The Lord will not let your foot be moved
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the Lord watches over you;
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The Lord will preserve you from all evil
and will keep your life.

⁸ **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

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 3:1-17

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

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."

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

Sermon

Pastor Dana Jackson

Hymn of the Day ELW #323 "God Loved the World" vs1,3&5

1 God loved the world so that he gave
his only Son the lost to save,
that all who would in him believe
should everlasting life receive.

3 If you are ill, if death draws near,
this truth your troubled heart can cheer:
Christ Jesus rescues us from death;
that is the firmest ground of faith.

5 All glory to the Father, Son,
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity,
be praise now and eternally!

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.**

Noisy Offering 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: 803, 807, 810, 818

Sending Song: ELW #660 “Lift High the Cross” vs1,3&4

(Refrain)

**Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
till all the world adore his sacred name.**

1 Come, Christians, follow where our captain trod,
our king victorious, Christ, the Son of God. **R**

3 O Lord, once lifted on the glorious tree,
as thou hast promised, draw us all to thee. **R**

4 So shall our song of triumph ever be:
praise to the Crucified for victory! **R**

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: Delaney Erickson, Helen Kulas

Reader: Sheri Johnson

Communion: Lyn Halvorson, Chuck Halvorson, Sheri Johnson

Usher: Natalie Hagen, Anika Carrier, Duane Hegland

Announcements

Wednesday March 4th Holden Evening Worship 6:30 p.m.

Saturday March 7th Owl Pancake Breakfast 8:00.

Sunday March 8th Daylight Savings Time begins/Flower Order Forms Due.

Sunday March 15th Caring Collection we will be collecting macaroni & cheese, peanut butter and canned fruit.

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.

World Day of Prayer 2026 March 6th **at Grace Fellowship in Money Creek 1:30 p.m.**