

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT



LUTHERAN CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD
LCMS

GOOD SHEPHERD COMMUNITY CHAPEL
Sauk Rapids, Minnesota

March 15, 2026

Good Shepherd TV: Channel 900-Apartments
Channel 64 Nursing Home and Cottages

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About Holy Communion at Good Shepherd

The Lord's Supper is celebrated here every Sunday, Wednesday, and Feast Day in the belief and glad confidence that our Lord gives us as He says, not only bread and wine, but His very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust His words, repent of all sin, and forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, and share our belief in all his teaching. Partaking of the Body and Blood Christ together confesses our common faith and belief in the teachings of our Lord, as revealed in the Holy Scriptures. If this is your belief, we welcome you to join us at the Lord's Table. If you would like to confess your faith with us as a member of the Congregation, please speak with the Pastor about membership.

*Because we are called to examine ourselves before receiving the Lord's Supper (I Cor. 11:28-29), we encourage you to consider the state of your soul according to the Ten Commandments. Please see the **Christian Questions and Their Answers**, available at the entrance of the chapel. If you have questions regarding the Sacrament, or would like to schedule private confession and absolution, please speak with the pastor. If you would prefer a blessing instead of Holy Communion, please let the Pastor know as he approaches you, or simply cross your arms over your chest.*

PASTORAL WELCOME

RINGING OF THE BELL

OPENING HYMN

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness LSB 849



1 Praise the One who breaks the dark - ness With a lib - er -
2 Praise the One who blessed the chil - dren With a strong, yet
3 Let us praise the Word In - car - nate, Christ, who suf - fered



at - ing light; Praise the One who frees the pris - 'ners,
gen - tle, word; Praise the One who drove out de - mons
in our place. Je - sus died and rose vic - to - rious



Turn - ing blind - ness in - to sight. Praise the One who preached the
With the pierc - ing, two-edged sword. Praise the One who brings cool
That we may know God by grace. Let us sing for joy and



Gos - pel, Heal - ing ev - 'ry dread dis - ease, Calm - ing
wa - ter To the des - ert's burn - ing sand; From this
glad - ness, See - ing what our God has done; Let us



storms, and feed - ing thou - sands With the ver - y Bread of peace.
Well comes liv - ing wa - ter, Quench - ing thirst in ev - 'ry land.
praise the true Re - deem - er, Praise the One who makes us one.

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DIVINE SERVICE

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of Holy Baptism.

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

PSALM

Psalm 28:1-2,6-9

P To you, O Lord, I call; my rock, be not deaf to me, lest, if you be silent to me, I become like those who go down to the pit.

C Hear the voice of my pleas for mercy, when I cry to you for help, when I lift up my hands toward your most holy sanctuary.

Blessed be the Lord! For he has heard the voice of my pleas for mercy.

The Lord is my strength and my shield; in him my heart trusts, and I am helped; my heart exults, and with my song I give thanks to him.

The Lord is the strength of his people; he is the saving refuge of his anointed.

Oh, save your people and bless your heritage! Be their shepherd and carry them forever. *(ESV)*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.

KYRIE

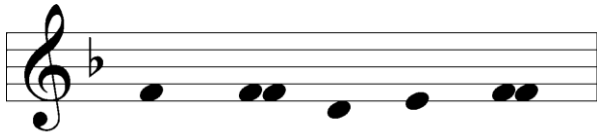


Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY



P The Lord be with you.



G And with thy spir - it.



P Let us pray.

The Pastor prays, concluding:

... now and forever.



G A - men.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴ For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. ¹⁵ I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. ¹⁶ And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. ¹⁷ They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." ¹⁸ Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! ¹⁹ Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord? ²⁰ He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. ²¹

The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious. (ESV)

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹ (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰ and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³ But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴ for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” (ESV)

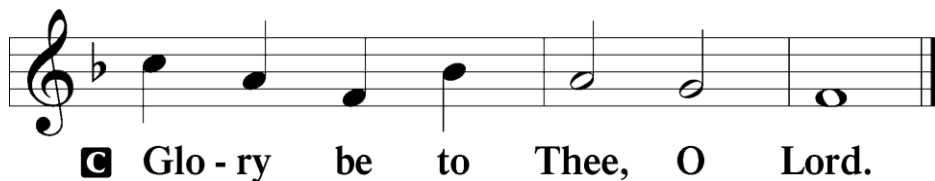
P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

St. John 9:1-7,13-17,34-39

The Holy Gospel, according to St. John, the 4th Chapter.



¹ As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. ² And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³ Jesus answered, “It was not that this man

sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed 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 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud ⁷ and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. . . . ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet. . . .” ³⁴ They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” ³⁶ He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” ³⁷ Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” ³⁸ He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.”

(ESV)

This is the Gospel of the Lord.



G Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,**

God of God, Light of Light,

very God of very God,

begotten, not made,

being of one substance with the Father,

by whom all things were made;

who for us men and for our salvation, came down from

heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin

Mary and was made man;

and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.

He suffered and was buried.

And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures

and ascended into heaven

and sits at the right hand of the Father.

**And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the
dead.**

His kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit,

the Lord and giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,

who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped

and glorified,

who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,

I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,

and I look for the resurrection of the dead

and the life + of the world to come. AMEN.

SERMON HYMN

By Grace I'm Saved LSB 566



1 By grace I'm saved, grace free and bound-less; My soul, be-lieve and
 2 By grace! None dare lay claim to mer - it; Our works and con - duct
 3 By grace God's Son, our on - ly Sav - ior, Came down to earth to
 4 By grace! This ground of faith is cer - tain; As long as God is



doubt it not. Why stag - ger at this word of prom - ise?
 have no worth. God in His love sent our Re - deem - er,
 bear our sin. Was it be - cause of your own mer - it
 true, it stands. What saints have penned by in - spi - ra - tion,



Has Scrip - ture ev - er false - hood taught? No! Then this word must
 Christ Je - sus, to this sin - ful earth; His death did for our
 That Je - sus died your soul to win? No, it was grace, and
 What in His Word our God com - mands, Our faith in what our



true re - main: By grace you too will life ob - tain.
 sins a - tone, And we are saved by grace a - lone.
 grace a - lone, That brought Him from His heav'n - ly throne.
 God has done De - pends on grace— grace through His Son.

5 By grace to timid hearts that tremble,

In tribulation's furnace tried,

By grace, in spite of fear and trouble,

The Father's heart is open wide.

Where could I help and strength secure

If grace were not my anchor sure?

6 By grace! On this I'll rest when dying;

In Jesus' promise I rejoice;

For though I know my heart's condition,

I also know my Savior's voice.

My heart is glad, all grief has flown

Since I am saved by grace alone.

SERMON “KARMA? I’LL TAKE GRACE” JOHN 9:1-41

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Having heard the Word of God, let us now humble ourselves before the supreme Majesty of God, and make confession of our sins.

Silence for examination of conscience

O Almighty God, merciful Father, I a poor, miserable, sinner, confess unto Thee all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended Thee and justly deserved Thy temporal and eternal punishment; but I am heartily sorry for them, and sincerely repent of them, and I pray Thee of Thy boundless mercy, and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter, sufferings and death of Thy beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being.

Is this your confession? If so, say, **“Yes.”** [*Or give me some physical sign to indicate that you thus confess your sinfulness before God.*]

Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you who do heartily repent of your sins, believe in Jesus Christ, and earnestly purpose by the assistance of the Holy Spirit henceforth to amend your sinful lives, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins in the name of God the + Father, God the + Son, and God the Holy + Spirit.

C Amen.

OFFERTORY

“O Sacred Head”

**What language shall I borrow
To thank you dearest Friend,
For all your dying sorrow,
Your pity without end?
Oh, make me yours forever;
And should I fainting prove,
Lord, let me never, never
Forsake Your dying love!**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Let us pray.

*The Pastor leads the Congregation in Prayer.
The Prayer concludes:*

. . . now and forever.
AMEN.

+ + + + +

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

“O Sacred Head”

P: The Lord is with His people.
The Lord God be with you.

C: **The Lord is with His servants;
The Lord be with You, too.**

P: Your grateful hearts now raise Him

C: **To God we lift them high
‘Tis right to thank and praise Him
Who to His world draws nigh.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor

Always and everywhere is it right to give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who gave His life on the cross for us that, freed from the power of sin and death, we might have eternal joy in Your presence, renewed in faith and life. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise Your name and join their unending hymn:

THE SANCTUS

“Dearest Jesus, We Are Here”

**Holy, holy, holy Lord,
Heav’n and earth proclaim the story
O Your majesty adored,
Of Your kingdom, pow’r, and glory.
With hosannas now we meet You;
With our palms and praises greet You:**

**Hail Hosanna! Blest is He
Who in God’s own name draws near us!
Hail! Hosanna! Blest are we
Since we have God’s love to cheer us:
Blood outpoured and body broken,
Of eternal love the token.**

THE CONSECRATION

Pastor

THE LORD’S PRAYER

Pastor and People

THE AGNUS DEI

“Ah, Holy Jesus”

**Jesus, the Lamb of God, Have mercy on us!
Jesus, who bore our sins. Have mercy on us!
Jesus, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy!
Give us Your peace, Lord!**

THE COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

The Pastor will approach you in your seat to distribute Holy Communion. If you prefer to receive a blessing rather than Holy Communion, please fold your arms across your chest as the Pastor approaches or tell him as he nears you.

Upon receiving the Body and Blood of Christ, the Communicant may say:
AMEN.

PRAYERS DURING HOLY COMMUNION

To be prayed silently before receiving Communion.

O Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, Who according to the will of the Father, and by the cooperation of the Holy Ghost, hast by Thy death given life to the world: deliver me by this Thy Most Holy Body and Blood from all mine iniquities and from every evil, and make me ever to cleave unto Thy commandments, and suffer me never to be separated from Thee, Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost live and reign, ever one God, world without end. AMEN.

To be prayed silently after receiving Communion.

Grant, O Lord, that Thy Body which I have received and Thy Blood which I have drunk may adhere to my members; and grant that no stain of sin remain in me whom Thou hast refreshed with this pure and holy Sacrament; for Thou dost live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, ever one God, world without end. AMEN.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve thee to life with God that hath no end. Depart in + peace.

C Amen.

THE NUNC DIMITTIS

“Our Father, by Whose Name”

**In peace, Lord, at Your Word,
Now let Your servant go;
For I have seen and heard
What all the earth must know:
Salvation for the world is here!
And Israel’s Light shines bright and clear
Upon the nations far and near.**

**Eternal praise and fame
Be to our God alone!
We proudly bear His name,
Proclaim what He has done.
For our redemption, full and free,
To Father, Son, and Spirit be
All praise and thanks eternally!**

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

Pastor

THE BENEDICTION

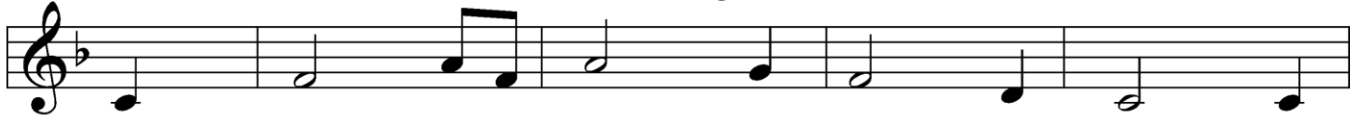
O Sacred Head”

The good Lord bless and keep you,
Lift up His shining face,
With favour look upon you
And grant eternal peace.

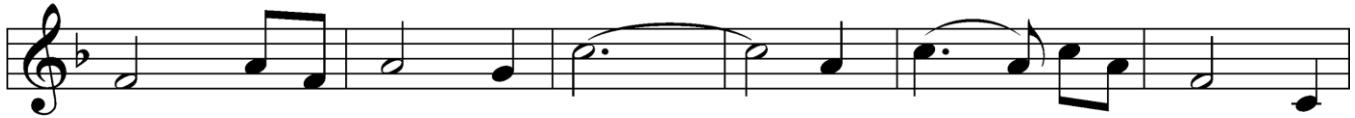
**To Father, Son, and Spirit,
Most gracious One-in-Three,
Be glory, praise, and blessing
Now and eternally!**

CLOSING HYMN

Amazing Grace LSB 744



1 A - maz - ing grace— how sweet the sound— That
2 The Lord has prom - ised good to me, His
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail And
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, Bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost but
Word my hope se - cures; He will my shield and
have al - read - y come; His grace has brought me
mor - tal life shall cease, A - maz - ing grace shall
shin - ing as the sun, We've no less days to



now am found, Was blind but now I see!
por - tion be As long as life en - dures.
safe thus far, His grace will lead me home.
then pre - vail In heav - en's joy and peace.
sing God's praise Than when we'd first be - gun.

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POSTLUDE

Please sign up to donate Easter lilies for decorating the Chapel during the Easter season and indicate if given in honor or in memory of a loved one. Please sign up by March 22nd and make payment of \$15.00 to the pastor.

Portals of Prayer daily devotional booklets for the current and upcoming quarter in regular or large print are available in the Chapel for personal spiritual growth.

Attention Thrivent members: *The deadline for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars for charitable organizations is March 31, 2026. Your support for Good Shepherd is welcome and appreciated. You may do this online at thrivent.com, by calling 1 (800) 847-4836 or by contacting your agent.*

THIS WEEK AT GOOD SHEPHERD

Sunday **10 AM** **Chapel Worship**
Also broadcast on Channel 64 (Nursing Home)/Channel 900(Apartments)
 11 AM **Roman Catholic Mass**
 Channel 45 and 59

Monday **10 AM** **Bible Study on Romans**
Nursing Home residents meet in person in the Event Center.
 1:30 PM **Rosary**
 2:00 PM **Roman Catholic Mass in the Chapel**
Hosted by Sacred Heart Roman Catholic Church, Sauk Rapids.
Also broadcast on Channel 64(Nursing Home)/Channel 900(Apartments)

Wednesday **10:15 AM** **Midweek Lenten Service**
Also broadcast on Channel 64 (Nursing Home)/Channel 900(Apartments)
 2 PM **Bible Study on Romans**
 Apartment and Patio Home residents meet in the Chapel.
Also broadcast on Channel 64(Nursing Home)/Channel 900(Apartments)
 3: 30 PM **Memory Cottage Worship**

ALL ARE WELCOME.

Please join us for the Worship Services and other Spiritual Programs.
*Attendance at Worship and other events **in The Chapel** is determined by*
Official Government Regulations for Health Care Facilities.
This Schedule is subject (and likely) to change at any time.

Offerings

Your gifts and offerings in support of the ministry of the Gospel at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd are welcome and appreciated. Please place them in the basket at the entrance to the chapel as you arrive or leave.

Next week's readings: Ezekiel 37:1-14; Romans 8:1-11; John 11:17-27, 38-53

Next week's sermon theme and text: "Life Despite Death" John 11:25-26

Those interested in membership in The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd are asked to speak with the pastor.