



Sunday, March 8, 2026

10:00 a.m.



Pastor Erik Allen

“Conversing with Jesus”

WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

Prelude

“Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty”

Paul Manz

Announcements

Prayer for Girl Scout Sunday

Gathering Song

Fill My Cup Lord

Call to Worship

P: Come, let us worship God!

C: Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!

P: Come, let us worship our Shepherd!

C: We are the sheep of God’s pasture, and we follow where God leads us.

P: Come, let us open our hearts!

C: We receive God’s love poured into our hearts through the Spirit.

P: Come, let us worship God, the rock of our salvation!

C: Let us worship God, whose mercy guides and sustains us on the path of new life!

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: And also with you.

pass the peace as you feel comfortable

Song

There Is a Redeemer

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who looks upon us in compassion, forgives our sin, and heals our lives.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Have mercy, O God,

C: against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

C: **Amen.**

Prayer of the Day

P: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

please be seated

Lesson Exodus 17:1-7

Gospel John 4:5-42

Gospel Response

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Children's Message Pastor Erik

Sermon "Conversing with Jesus" Pastor Erik

Hymn Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty ELW 533

Recognition of God and Church Award Recipients

The Apostles' Creed

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

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

please be seated

The Offering

“Fantasy on ‘Hyfrydol’”
Handbells

arr. by Hal Hopson

If you would like, you may give online by scanning the QR code
or Offering Plates are located at the back of the Sanctuary.



Offertory Prayer

P: O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Prayers of the Church (*the congregation joins in speaking the first names of those for whom we pray.*)

Members: Lee, Marion, Kelly, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Melanie, Charles, Mark, Chuck,
Bill, Marie, Mary, Carol, Bob

Communion

Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be Your name, Your kingdom come, Your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are Yours, now and forever. Amen!

Invitation to Communion

P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

please be seated.

Distribution

All baptized Christians who seek the blessings of Christ's true body and blood in the bread and wine of Holy Communion are welcome. Those who do not wish to receive may come forward for a blessing. Please let your server know if you desire a gluten-free wafer.

Benediction

P: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always.

C: **Amen.**

Song

That's What We Came Here For

Sending

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: **Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

"Guide Me, O Thou Great Redeemer"

Paul Manz

Announcements

Midweek Lenten Service

Join us Wednesday at 7:00 pm to here the story of Simon of Cyrene and the Centurion.

New WOW Bible Study

Beginning March 18th WOW will be starting a 4 week study on “Proverbs – Everlasting Wisdom for Everyday Life” by Vance Pitman. Friends, neighbors, family are all welcome. If you have not been part of WOW before please let Donna Frazier or Becky Ellis know that you would like a book so we order enough. WOW meets Wednesday mornings from 9:15-11:00 in the Parlor.

Easter Altar Decoration Helpers

Would you like to help decorate the Altar for Easter? We would like 3 or 4 people (any age, young ones invited!) to help place flowers and decorate the Altar for Easter. Timing yet to be determined as it is the same day as our Community Easter Egg Hunt. Details to follow but email me if you're interested (leslie.french@kogcarmel.org) Thanks!!

Synod Assembly Delegates

Would you like to be part of the Synod Assembly on Saturday, June 6th? It's online and well worth your time (approximately 3 1/2 hours). We are looking for 2 delegates to participate from 9:30-1:00. Questions, see Pastor Erik.

Easter Candy Collection Begins

We plan to fill 1000 eggs for our Community Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 4th at 11:00 am. Signups coming soon but a bin will be out next week for small wrapped candies that will be used to fill the eggs. Thanks in advance for your candy contribution.

Weekly Activities

- SUNDAY, March 8
 - 9:00 am Christian Ed
 - 10:00 am Worship
 - 5:00 pm Bell Rehearsal
 - 5:00 pm Confirmation/Youth
- MONDAY, March 9
 - 10:00 am Craft Group
 - 6:00 pm Elders
 - 6:30 pm Chinese Choir
 - 7:00 pm Council
- TUESDAY, March 10
 - 5:00 pm Violin Practice
 - 7:00 pm Boy Scouts
- WEDNESDAY, March 11
 - 8:30 am Men's Bible Study
 - 9:30 am WOW
 - 3:00 pm Women's Prayer Group
 - 6:00 pm Girl Scouts
 - 7:00 pm Worship
 - 7:30 pm Choir Practice
- THURSDAY, March 12
 - 6:15 pm Girl Scouts
- FRIDAY, March 13
 - 9:15 am Women's Bible Study
 - 7:30 pm Chinese Dance Group

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Theme of the Week: He Suffered For Us

“God’s Word is our great heritage, and shall be ours forever.” We sing these words with gratitude because God’s living Word is a gift entrusted to the church for the sake of the world. Through that Word, Christ confronts every power that opposes life. It exposes lies, casts out what harms, brings light into darkness, and speaks hope into a fallen world. This Word is not merely information; it is promise. In Scripture proclaimed and in the sacraments shared, God meets us with grace. The crucified and risen Christ has faced the full opposition of sin, death, and the devil—and has overcome them. Through His saving work, we are given forgiveness, freedom, and a future. This is our heritage—not because we possess it, but because God, in steadfast love, keeps giving it.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE Luke 11:14–28 The Word of God

Here Jesus casts out a demon, and it is almost understated. No spectacle. No struggle. No dramatic duel between good and evil. He simply speaks—and the demon flees. That’s how the kingdom of God comes: not with noise, but with authority. And then Jesus says something remarkable: “Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.” Not blessed are those who see wonders. Not blessed are those who win arguments. Blessed are those who cling to His Word. Because that Word is where the victory lives. So we live by listening. We stand by trusting and holding firm to Him! Lord Jesus, when lies are loud and fear feels near, keep me close to Your Word. Let me hear it, keep it, and rest in it. Amen.

MONDAY SCRIPTURE – Psalm 43 The Vindication of God

“Vindicate me, O God.” The psalmist dares to ask God to judge the case. That is a bold prayer for people who know their own frailty and sin. Yet this boldness does not rest in personal innocence—it rests in trusting God is our refuge and our strength. In a world that can feel unjust and unkind, we also cry out for vindication. Not because we claim perfection, but because Christ is our righteousness. Through His suffering and death, we are justified—counted righteous by grace. Our hope is not in winning arguments or proving ourselves right, but in belonging to the One who has already declared us forgiven and free. So we pray with confidence. The God who justifies also sustains. The One who judges is the One who saves. Vindicate us, O God, not by our merit but for Jesus’ sake. Be our refuge and our joy, that we may praise You as our salvation and our God. Amen.

TUESDAY SCRIPTURE – Ephesians 5:1–9 Imitators of God

Paul calls us to be imitators of God. That sounds overwhelming—until we remember what God has done. By faith, we are already saved. By grace, we already belong to Him. So now our lives begin to change—not to earn love, but because we have it. Light pushes out darkness. Thanksgiving pushes out impurity. Love reshapes habits, words, desires. We cannot cling to old sins as though nothing happened at the cross. Something did happen. We were forgiven. We were claimed and brought into the light of Christ. Sanctification is simply this: living like people who know what Christ has done. Walking as children of light because we are children of light. Holy Spirit, form my life around Christ’s love. Teach me to walk in light, with gratitude and mercy. Amen.

WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE – 2 Samuel 22:1–7 My Rock and Fortress

David was a warrior. His leadership was legendary. Songs were sung about his victories, and yet, when he sings, he does not boast in himself. He says, “The LORD is my rock and my fortress.” That is faith. To know that even when you have skill, even when you have great ability, salvation is still the Lord’s work. We may not fight ancient battles, but we know struggle. Temptation. Anxiety. Challenges. And like David, we are tempted to rely on our own ingenuity. But David’s song of thanksgiving shows us a different way. “In my distress I called upon the Lord. And He heard me,” David sings. He reminds us that our deliverance comes from God. Our part is not to be mighty—it is to trust. So we sing with David. The Lord is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer! Lord, be my fortress when I feel weak, and my song when You deliver me. I trust in You alone. Amen.

THURSDAY SCRIPTURE – John 8:42–51 Children of God

We might often think or even say something akin to, “Like parent, like child.” Here Jesus speaks in spiritual terms about belonging—about whose voice shapes our lives. When we turn from God’s truth, we fall into deception and sin, patterns that lead only toward death. Apart from Christ, humanity lives under the power of lies we cannot free ourselves from. But in mercy, God does not leave us there. Through the waters of Holy Baptism, we are claimed as beloved children of God and joined to Jesus Christ. Our identity is no longer defined by sin, but by grace. As children of God, we are drawn to love Christ, to trust His promises, and to hear His Word as life and truth. In Him, we are given eternal life—not as a reward earned, but as a gift received. Almighty God, we thank You for claiming us as Your beloved children in Holy Baptism.

FRIDAY SCRIPTURE – Revelation 2:1–7 The Tree of Promise

The tree of life appears in the opening chapters of Genesis with the promise that whoever eats of it shall live forever. However, after the Fall, the tree disappears from the narrative of God’s Word, until Revelation. Here, we are shown the great promise, that the tree is not gone, but waiting for us in the great resurrection. “To the one who conquers I will grant to eat of the tree of life, which is in the paradise of God.” As Paul reminds us in Romans, we are more than conquerors through Christ, who has loved us and given His life for us. In Christ we are declared to have conquered sin, death, and devil. The paradise once lost is promised again. Because Christ has won, we will eat and live forever. Lord Jesus, thank You for the victory won in Your death. Keep my eyes fixed on the abundant life you have promised. Amen.

SATURDAY SCRIPTURE – Psalm 86 Listening to Our Cries

“Incline your ear, O Lord, and answer me, for I am poor and needy.” That is how faith speaks. Not pretending strength. Not masking weakness. Simply asking. In the day of trouble, we call upon the One who is gracious and abounding in steadfast love. The God who conquered sin and death is not distant from our daily cries, but rather bends low to hear. God teaches us a holy way—a way that unites divided hearts and turns please into praise. And even now, as Christ reigns victoriously God still listens to our pleas. So we pray honestly. We wait confidently. We trust fully knowing that the Lord who overcame darkness still answers. Gracious God, in my need I call to You. Unite my heart to fear Your name and answer me with Your steadfast love. Amen.