



Sunday, March 15, 2026

10:00 a.m.



Pastor Erik Allen



# WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

## Prelude

“Fanfare on Be Thou My Vision”

Charles Ore

## Announcements

## Gathering Song

Through It All

## Call to Worship *(based on Psalm 23)*

P: O Lord, you are our Shepherd.

**C: We shall not want for what we need.**

P: You make us to lie down in green pastures;

**C: You lead us beside still waters.**

P: You restore our souls.

**C: You lead us in paths of righteousness.**

P: Even though we walk through the darkest valleys,

**C: We fear no evil because you are with us.**

P: Your rod and staff comfort us.

**C: You prepare a table before us.**

P: You anoint us with oil; our cup overflows.

**C: Surely, goodness and mercy shall follow us all the days of our lives, and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

P: Let us worship the Lord, our Shepherd.

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

**C: And also with you.**

*pass the peace as you feel comfortable*

## Song

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

## 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.**



## 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

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



## Offering Response

There Is a Balm in Gilead  
vs 1

ELW 614

## 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: Kipp, Dale, Jerry, Melanie, Charles, Mark, Chuck,  
Sylvia, 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**

I Saw the Light

**Sending**

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

**C: Thanks be to God!**

**Postlude**

"Balm in Gilead"

Charles Callahan

## Announcements

### Easter Egg Hunt

It will be upon us before we know it. There is a bin in the Gathering Place for candy drop-off. Save 33% on all Easter Candy at Kroger when you clip the digital coupon until March 17. Please make sure your items are individually wrapped and will fit in our plastic easter eggs.



### Congregational Meeting

We will have a brief Congregational Meeting on March 29 following worship to affirm our new Council Members. We have 6 new Deacons and 2 new Elders! You should have received their answers to the Call Consideration Forms via Flocknote but there are copies at the Hospitality Desk in the Gathering Place if you'd like to pick up a packet. We will also affirm our Synod delegates for the meeting this summer.

### Confirmation & Youth

Don't miss out on the fun, food and discussions each Sunday evening. Our Confirmation and Youth Groups meet beginning at 5:00 pm. This is the last week before a three week hiatus (due to Easter and Spring Breaks).

### Holy Week

Palm Sunday - March 29 (with 1st Communion)

Maundy Thursday - April 2 @ 7:00 pm

Good Friday - April 3 @ 12:00 - Stations of the Cross @ 7:00 Tenebrae Service

Easter Saturday - April 4 Egg Hunt @ 11:00

Easter Sunday - Worship at 10:00 with Breakfast following (signups coming soon!)

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### Weekly Activities

- SUNDAY, March 15

9:00 am Christian Ed  
10:00 am Worship  
2:15 pm Chinese Orchestra  
4:00 pm Girl Scouts  
5:00 pm Bell Rehearsal  
5:00 pm Confirmation/Youth

- MONDAY, March 16

10:00 am Craft Group  
7:00 pm Sarah Circle

- TUESDAY, March 17

7:00 pm Boy Scouts

- WEDNESDAY, March 18

8:30 am Men's Bible Study  
9:30 am WOW  
3:00 pm Women's Prayer Group  
7:00 pm Worship  
7:30 pm Choir Practice

- THURSDAY, March 19

6:15 pm Girl Scouts

- SUNDAY, March 22

9:00 am Christian Ed  
10:00 am Worship  
2:15 pm Chinese Orchestra  
4:00 pm Girl Scouts  
5:00 pm Bell Rehearsal

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

### Theme of the Week: He Suffered the Worldliness of Sinners

This Sunday we hear about food in the middle of a fasting season. Yet we do so to remember that fasting is not for the sake of making Sunday brunch taste better! Rather, it invites us to set aside our self-centered schedules and focus on the Bread from Heaven, Jesus Christ. The Word of God feeds us. It gives us the bread by which we live forever. It gives joy that nothing can take away. Come and turn your eyes away from the anxious striving of this world and toward the Savior of the world and eternal life, that amid the many chances and changes of this world, your heart may be fixed where true joys are to be found.

#### **SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: John 6:1–15 Daily Bread Given by the Bread of Life**

“Give us this day our daily bread.” We pray this petition regularly, yet many of us have never felt real hunger pangs. Many of us have rarely gone without food. It is easy to forget that everything we need ultimately comes as gift from God. In the reading, Jesus provided food for the crowds in a miraculous manner. Today, Jesus provides food for us through ordinary means—through the labor of many hands and the gifts of creation. Christ provides for our physical life. Yet Jesus also offers the crowds, and us, something greater. He offers eternal life. He offers himself, the Bread of Life. Anyone who comes to him will never hunger, and whoever believes in him will never thirst. May God give us Jesus, the Bread from heaven, always. Dear Jesus, provide us with daily bread and feed us with yourself, the Bread of Life. Amen.

#### **MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 46 Refuge and Strength**

In anxious or uncertain times, people often act out of fear. Some stockpile supplies. Others place their hope in weapons, wealth, or strategies meant to secure their future. In the frantic race to prepare and survive, it is easy for fear, love, and trust in God to fade from view. Our human nature longs for saviors we can grasp with our own hands. Yet God reminds us that the powers in which we place our trust cannot finally save us. The Lord breaks the weapons of war and brings an end to violence. Every human refuge proves fragile in the end. God alone is our true refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Trust in God. Pray for daily bread. Love your neighbor. Live faithfully within your callings. Save me, O Lord, my refuge and strength. Amen.

#### **TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: Galatians 4:21–31 Children of Freedom**

This text is a challenging and extended analogy comparing two mothers, two sons, two cities, two mountains, and two ways of standing before God. Hagar was Sarah's servant, and her son Ishmael was born through human efforts to secure the future. Paul connects this with life under the Law, represented by Mount Sinai. Yet there is another child, Isaac, the child of promise, born through Sarah in a way that revealed God's surprising grace. He represents the freedom of God's promise and corresponds to the heavenly Jerusalem and the good news of the Gospel. Paul reminds us that we are children of that promise—people made free not by our striving but by God's gracious word. Lord Jesus, set us free in your promise to do you will and bring us to our heavenly home. Amen.

**WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 49:8–13 God’s Plan of Redemption**

This passage is one of the wonderful places in Scripture where we hear a conversation within the life of God. The Lord speaks of sending the Servant to restore and shepherd the people. “I will give you as a covenant to the people, to restore the earth” (Isaiah 49:8). The Servant is the source of God’s joy, and through him God’s people are given joy as well. “Sing for joy, O heavens! Be glad, O earth; break forth into singing, O mountains! For the LORD has comforted the people and will have compassion on the afflicted” (49:13). We know ourselves among those who are afflicted, and we trust that God’s mercy is for us as well. In Christ we are restored, renewed, redeemed, and forgiven. Thanks be to God! O Lord Jesus, thank you for revealing to us your mercy and your steadfast love. Amen.

**THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: John 6:36–51 The Will of God**

What does God desire for our lives? It can be a difficult question. We face many decisions. Some are small, like where to eat lunch. Others carry great weight, such as whether to move a family to a new place or take a new job. We often wonder: Which way does God want me to go? How will I know what God desires for me? Jesus reveals the heart of God’s will for us: “This is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him may have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day.” Through baptism and the forgiveness of sins, we belong to Christ. Freed by that promise, we can live boldly and faithfully in the ordinary decisions of life. Almighty God, may your will be done today and every day. Amen.

**FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Peter 1:2–11 Precious and Very Great Promises**

To hear this passage from 2 Peter is to hear how a compassionate leader directs the hearts of their hearers toward the promises of God, through which we become “participants in the divine nature.” This leader speaks of realities greater than our minds can fully grasp. Christ Jesus, our risen and ascended Lord, has lifted our humanity into the life of God. What this means for us is deeper and wider than our hearts might imagine. Still, we trust the promise. We cling to the good news of Jesus’ suffering, death, and resurrection, through which we are given new life. Grant, O Lord, that I may grow in faith and be nurtured by your Spirit. Amen.

**SATURDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 139 We Are Known. We Are Created. We Are Saved.**

What a psalm! The writer begins by praising God’s deep knowledge of us and God’s presence everywhere. There is nowhere we can go that is beyond God’s care. The psalm continues by remembering that God created us. Each of us was knit together in the womb and known by God from the beginning. It concludes with a plea that God confront evil and guide the people of God in the way of life. We are known. We are created. We are saved. What comfort and hope this brings! Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts; cleanse me from sin and lead me in the way of everlasting life. Amen.