



Sunday, February 8, 2026

10:00 a.m.



Pastor Erik Allen

“Back to the Fundamentals”



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2201 E. 106th Street, Carmel IN 46032  [kogcarmel.org](http://kogcarmel.org)

## WE GATHER TO WORSHIP

## Prelude

## “Christ, Be Our Light”

David Lasky

## Announcements

## Scout Sunday Recognition

## Gathering Song And That My Soul Knows Very Well

## Call to Worship

P: People of God, praise the Lord!

C: Praise the Lord! Happy are those who fear the Lord, those who greatly delight in God's commandments.

P: Their descendants will be mighty in the land; the generation of the upright will be blessed.

C: Wealth and riches are in their houses, and their righteousness endures forever.

P: We who gather are broken yet holy; sinners at heart, yet fully redeemed. We are God's very own, called together here this day.

C: Let us sing. Let us pray. Let us join together in worship. Praise the Lord!

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

C: And also with you.

*pass the peace as you feel comfortable*

## Song

## How Great is Our God

## Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✕ one God, the Creator of heaven and earth, the Word who spoke life into being, the Wind stirring the waters.

C: Amen.

P: Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

P: Mighty God, lover of justice,

C: you call us to life in community, but we have served our own interests at the expense of our neighbors. We have sown deceit where honesty was needed. We say the right words, but our hearts are far from you. Turn us to seek your face. Knit us together and give us the mind of Christ, that we may do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen.

P: The former things have passed away, and new things God now declares: Like a spring of water that never fails, God covers you in the righteousness of Christ, and forgives your sin in **¶** Jesus' name. May the Spirit give you strength to live for others, and bless you with the gift of peace.

C: **Amen.**

### **Prayer of the Day**

P: Lord God, with endless mercy you receive the prayers of all who call upon you. By your Spirit show us the things we ought to do, and give us the grace and power to do them, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: **Amen.**

*please be seated*

**Lesson** I Corinthians 2:1-16

**Gospel** Matthew 5:13-20

### **Gospel Response**

P: Word of God, Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**Children's Message** Pastor Erik

**Sermon** "Back to the Fundamentals" Pastor Erik

**Hymn** Christ, Be Our Light ELW 715

### **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.  
(*Special Offerings for 1st Sundays are given to World Hunger through ELCA*)



### **Offering Response**

This Little Light of Mine  
(vs 1 & 3)

ELW 677

### **Offertory Prayer**

P: God of majesty, no eye has seen, no ear has heard what you have prepared for those who love you, yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy. Use what we have gathered to feed us with the reign of God come near, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

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

Members: Liz, Bob, Lee, Marion, Kelly, Marj, Vickie

Family & Friends: Jerry, Melanie, Charles, Mark, Faizah, Chuck,  
Sylvia, Bill, Marie, Mary, Carol, Susan, 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: Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world! Come to the table; taste and see.

C: Amen.

*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: May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise & bless you now and forever.

C: Amen.

## Song Cry of My Heart

## Sending

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

## Postlude "I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light" J. Wayne Kerr

## PRAYER REQUESTS

## Members

Kelly Baugh

Lee Bucher

Bob Inskeep

Liz Lichtenberger

Marion Loyda

Jeff Minich

Vickie Samspon

Marj Schott

## Family & Friends

Melanie Andrews, Bob Bohn, Mary Hall, Carol Happ, Charles James, Chuck Sousa,  
Jerry, Mark, Faizah, Bill, Marie, Wendy, Sylvia

## Announcements

### Midweek Lenten Drama Help Needed

We are still looking for volunteers to participate in short midweek Lenten dramas around the theme “Overheard Conversations by the Cross.” Each week a couple of characters from the last week of Jesus’ life will converse about what they’ve seen and heard. The parts are scripted and don’t need to be memorized. Please let Pastor Erik know of your interest as soon as possible!

### Share the Story! - Assistant Teacher for Gloryland

If you want to share the stories in the Bible to our youngest disciples, we could sure use your help! We are looking for an assistant teacher to help with the K-5 Gloryland class. We would like someone who can help the lead teacher with the week’s activity or lesson by passing out supplies, taking part in group discussions, and assisting the kids as needed. We would appreciate your help once or twice a month, on Sundays at 9-9:45 a.m. (The schedule is flexible based on your availability, and you would know the dates ahead of time.) If you are interested in helping out or have any questions, please contact Liz Lichtenberger at [ehv1215@yahoo.com](mailto:ehv1215@yahoo.com). There’s really nothing better than being the vessel that ignites the love of Jesus in someone’s heart. Step out of your comfort zone and give it a try!!

### Ash Wednesday February 18

Ashes to Go - 7:00-8:30 am

Worship - 12:00 & 7:00 pm

*(Lenten Devotions Available in the Gathering Place)*

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### Weekly Activities

- SUNDAY, February 8  
5:00 pm Bell Rehearsal  
5:00 pm Catechism/Youth
- THURSDAY, February 12  
6:00 pm Lion Dance  
6:15 pm Girl Scouts
- MONDAY, February 9  
10:00 am Craft Group  
6:00 pm Elders  
7:00 pm Council
- FRIDAY, February 13  
9:15 am Women’s Bible Study
- SATURDAY, February 14  
10:00 am Sons of Norway  
2:30 pm Lunar NewYear
- TUESDAY, February 10  
4:30 pm Lion Dance  
7:00 pm Boy Scouts
- SUNDAY, February 15  
9:00 am Christian Ed  
10:00 am Worship  
11:00 am Fellowship Meeting  
4:00 pm Girl Scouts  
5:00 pm Bell Rehearsal  
5:00 pm Catechism/Youth
- WEDNESDAY, February 11  
8:30 am Men’s Bible Study  
9:30 am WOW  
3:00 pm Women’s Prayer Group  
6:00 pm Friendship Bible Study  
7:00 pm Choir Practice

## WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

### Theme of the Week: The Lord's Call to Repentance

The great theme of the week is that the Lord, through the preaching and teaching of the Word, brings about what God purposes—namely, the righteousness that comes through faith in those who hear and trust it. We are also reminded that the disciple who perseveres in faith and abides in this Word will not be spared trouble in this life, as Paul notes in 2 Corinthians. Yet this weakness and apparent misery in the eyes of the world are counted among the mysterious mercies of God, for God's power is made perfect in weakness. When we are weak, then we are strong.

#### **SUNDAY SCRIPTURE: Luke 8:4–15 “Let Anyone with Ears to Hear, Hear”**

Jesus gives us both an invitation and a warning in a single sentence: “Let anyone with ears to hear, hear.” Many will hear the Word of God, receive it with joy, and believe for a time, but not all will hold it fast in their hearts. Life in this world is thorny, and the enemies of God’s Word are many. Our sinful nature, and the world all seek to choke and steal the Word from our ears and hearts. Therefore, Jesus invites and encourages us to be frequent hearers of the Word, so that by grace the Word may be deeply rooted in us, grow stronger and stronger, and bear the fruits of faith. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. Amen.

#### **MONDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 24 “Righteousness Received”**

When we read the word righteousness in Scripture, our first thought should be the righteousness of Christ—Christ’s perfect obedience to the law and faithful endurance of the suffering of this life. This righteousness is given to us through faith in the promise of the forgiveness of all our sins. We hear of this gift of righteousness in Psalm 24:5: “righteousness from the God of salvation.” We must be righteous to stand before God. If righteousness depended on our works, deeds, or efforts, we would never endure. Instead, we are declared righteous by Christ and receive righteousness as a free and astonishing gift. There is no greater grace! Lord, grant me the righteousness of Christ, that I may stand before You in eternal life. Amen.

#### **TUESDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Corinthians 11:19–12:9 “Strength in Weakness”**

We are completely dependent on God for all things, from the breath we take to the free gift of salvation that comes through Jesus Christ. Yet our flesh often imagines itself self-sufficient and even worthy of the blessings of the Lord. This is why Paul rejoices in suffering. When he is weak—when he suffers from affliction of the body or persecution—he can no longer boast in himself. Then all that remains is Christ, and Christ is enough. The God who loves you and has redeemed you may sometimes use the trials you face to tear down false gods and draw you closer. When this happens, trust God. Rest in Christ alone—for God will not fail you. Lord, help me in my trials to cling to You alone. Amen.

#### **WEDNESDAY SCRIPTURE: Isaiah 55:10–13 “True Growth”**

Without rain, crops wither and die. Seed sown in the ground cannot bring forth fruit by itself; it needs rain to nourish it so that it produces seed for the Sower and bread for the eater. So it is with the Word of God. The Word must fall upon us as we hear it and trust it, so that anything faithful and good may take place in us. The law exposes and crushes our self-righ-

teousness and prepares us for the preaching of the gospel, which promises the forgiveness of sins, adoption as God's beloved children, and all the blessings of God to be received through faith. Apart from this Word, nothing good takes root in us. But thanks be to God, who rains down the Word and its promises upon us. Lord, open my ears to hear Your life-giving Word. Amen.

#### **THURSDAY SCRIPTURE: Mark 4:26–32 “The Word Does It All”**

Here we are graciously relieved of our inclination to believe that we must make God's reign advance. God guides us in the kingdom through the Word alone—planting it, sustaining it, and bringing it to harvest entirely by grace and apart from our finest efforts or deepest knowledge. What an extraordinary relief! God creates faith, nurtures faith, and brings faith to completion in Christ Jesus. We preach, teach, listen to Jesus, and trust that God is accomplishing what God desires. God does no wrong, even when the work appears small. What rest, what freedom, what true and lasting joy we have in God! O Lord God, sow Your Word and bring Your reign to fullness. Amen.

#### **FRIDAY SCRIPTURE: 2 Timothy 3:10–4:5 “God-Breathed Scripture”**

Paul's words to Timothy stand as a strong safeguard against every form of arrogance—the belief that we know for ourselves what is good, what God desires, or that new teaching can be created apart from God's revealed Word. Paul urges Timothy to remain grounded in what has been taught, to cling to the Scriptures, and to proclaim them as God's own breathed-out Word for teaching, correction, and training in the life of discipleship. There is nothing more certain in this world than God's Word. Let us, like Timothy, hold fast to the trustworthy Word and not be drawn into self-serving myths that merely satisfy our own ears. Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word. Amen.

#### **SATRUDAY SCRIPTURE: Psalm 25 “Good and Upright Is the Lord”**

Bringing sinners to repentance is God's work; it is who God is. For Christ's sake, we are justified—declared righteous—and God does not stop there. God listens to our prayers, instructs us in the way of life, guards and protects us from all enemies, and continually turns us back when we wander. This lifts our souls. God desires nothing more than to create, redeem, and sanctify in steadfast love. If God kept a record of sins, none could stand—but God does not. Our sins are not counted against us, but against God's own Son. God remembers us and sends Jesus, so that through faith in the word of forgiveness heaven is opened to us. O Lord God, I give thanks and praise to you for through Christ you have forgiven all my sins. Amen.