

# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026



*Shepherd of the Hills LC*

The Rev. Richard T. Egtvedt

*All music in this Publication is Used by Permission*

*CCLI License Number 2722517, One License.net Number 711092, Or Under Public Domain. Liturgy  
From Sundays and Seasons.com. Copyright 2015 Augsburg Fortress.*

*All rights reserved. Reprinted by Permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License  
#34468.*

## WELCOME

### PRELUDE:

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✚ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.  
**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Gracious God,  
**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:  
Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

P: God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✚ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

**C: Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN:

### O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate



- 1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
- 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
- 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
- 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.  
so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.  
that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.  
whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme  
Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,  
We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield  
come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.  
and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.  
that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.  
whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: ELLACOMBE, German melody, 18th cent.; adapt. X. L. Hartig, *Melodien zum Mainzer Gesangbuche*, 1833

Text © 2000 GIA Publications, Inc. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638 [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com)  
800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

## GREETING:

**P:** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C:** And also with you.

**HYMN OF PRAISE:**

“Your Great Name”

Beth Mankin

(v.1) Lost are saved, find their way,  
At the sound of Your great name  
All condemned, feel no shame,  
At the sound of your great name  
Every fear, has no place,  
At the sound of your great name  
The enemy, he has to leave  
At the sound of Your great name

*Chorus*

Jesus, worthy is the lamb that was slain for us,  
Son of God and man  
You are high and lifted up,  
That all the world will praise your great name

(v. 2) All the weak, find their strength,  
At the sound of Your great name  
Hungry souls, receive Your grace,  
At the sound of Your great name  
The Fatherless, they find their rest,  
At the sound of Your great name

*Chorus*

Jesus, Jesus, Jesus

*Bridge*

Redeemer, my healer, almighty  
My Savior, defender, You are my King  
Redeemer, my healer, almighty  
My savior, defender, You are my King

That all the world will praise Your great name  
Your great name  
Your great name

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: Let us pray. Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## WORD

### THE FIRST READING: 1 Samuel 16:1-13

*Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the Lord, designating David as the Lord's chosen successor to Saul.*

1 The Lord said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." 2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the Lord said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.' 3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." 4 Samuel did what the Lord commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" 5 He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

6 When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the Lord." 7 But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart." 8 Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 9 Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the Lord chosen this one." 10 Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The Lord has not chosen any of these." 11 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." 12 He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The Lord said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." 13 Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

A: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Psalm 23 *(Read responsively)*

1 The Lord is my shepherd;  
I shall not be in want.

**2 The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures  
and leads me beside still waters.**

3 You restore my soul, O Lord,  
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**4 Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, shall fear no evil;  
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

6 **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

**THE SECOND READING:** Ephesians 5:8-14

*Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.*

8 Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, 9 for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. 10 Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, 13 but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, 14 for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead,  
and Christ will shine on you.”

A: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:**



We are turn - ing, Lord, to hear you; you are mer - ci - ful and kind -



slow to an - ger, rich in bless - ing, and with love to us in - clined.

**THE GOSPEL READING:** John 9:1-41

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to John, the 9th chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

1 As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" 3 Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed 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 When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, 7 saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" 9 Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." 10 But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" 11 He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." 12 They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

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 Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." 16 Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. 17 So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" 20 His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, 21 but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." 22 His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. 23 Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

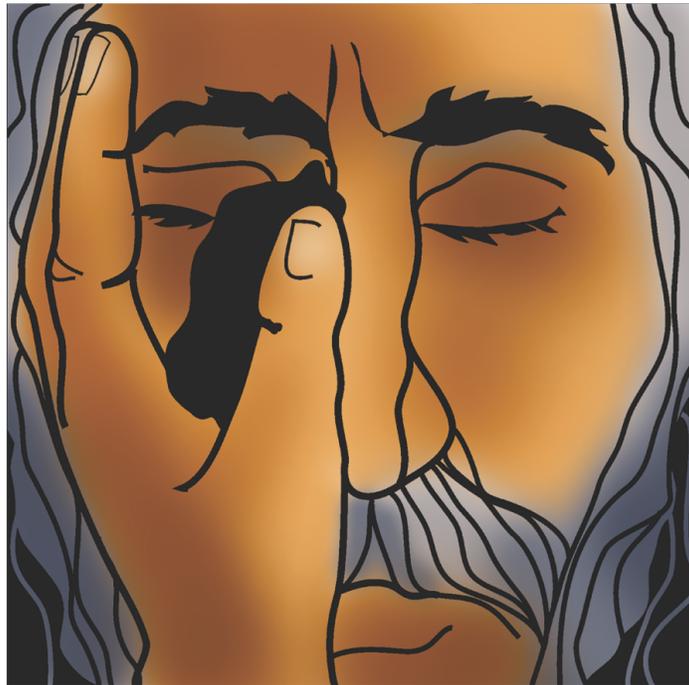
24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." 25 He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." 26 They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" 27 He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" 28 Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." 30 The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." 34 They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" 36 He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." 37 Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." 38 He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." 40 Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" 41 Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God**

**SERMON:** Pastor Rick Egtvedt

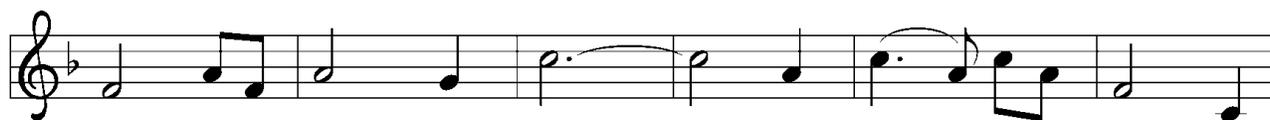


HYMN OF THE DAY:

## Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound



1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that  
2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and  
3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I  
4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his  
5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright



saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but  
grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that  
have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me  
word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and  
shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to



now am found; was blind, but now I see.  
grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!  
safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.  
por - tion be as long as life en - dures.  
sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5  
Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## THE CREED

P: Let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed:

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

**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.**

**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.**

## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

A: Hear us, O God, **C: your mercy is great.**

P: Receive our prayers, O God.... **C. Amen.**

### Prayer Concern List:

Laurie	Linda	Sam	Ralph	Dave	Donna	Randy
Susie	Chris	Taichi	Lana	Ronny, Jr.	Ronny, Sr.	Sue
Mary	John	Donna	Patsy	Malachi	Bob & Pam	Bill

## THE PEACE:

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING:** (*DONATIONS can either be mailed to Shepherd of the Hills, P.O. Box 374, McHenry, MD 21541 or you may donate online using this link: [https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=s-xclick&hosted\\_button\\_id=YXL6294BDZ82E](https://www.paypal.com/donate/?cmd=s-xclick&hosted_button_id=YXL6294BDZ82E)*)

## OFFERING PRAYER:

P: Let us pray. 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.**

## MEAL

### DIALOG:

P: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

### PREFACE:

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



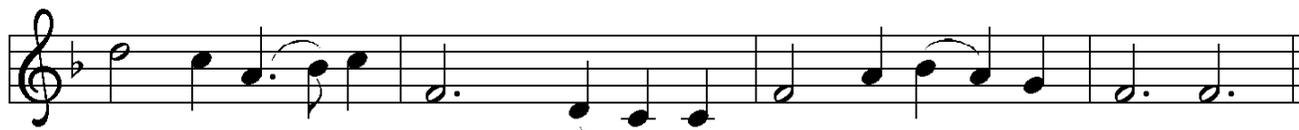
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,



heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

## **EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:**

P: You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory. You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us pray in confidence with the words our Lord taught us:

**C: 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION:**

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



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;  
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.  
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

#### DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION



**MUSIC DURING COMMUNION:**

“Lord, I Need You” *by Matt Maher*

Beth Mankin

Lord I come, I confess  
Bowing here, I find my rest  
Without You, I fall apart  
You're the one that guides my heart

*Chorus:*

Lord, I need You, oh I need You  
Every hour, I need You  
My one defense, my righteousness  
Oh God, how I need You

Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
And where You are, Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me

Chorus

So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand, I'll fall on You  
Jesus, You're my hope and stay

Chorus

You're my one defense, my righteousness  
Oh God, how I need You

My one defense, my righteousness  
Oh God, how I need You

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.  
C: Amen.

### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION:

A: Let us pray. God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C: Amen.

### BLESSING

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.



SENDING HYMN:

## Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;  
2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;  
3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,  
4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.  
thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:  
may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,  
thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,  
Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.  
raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.  
great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.  
still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931  
Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

**A:** Let us remind ourselves of Shepherd of the Hills' Statement of Purpose:

**C:** God's purpose for Shepherd of the Hills is to live in witness to Jesus Christ, helping one another to experience God's life-changing love, proclaiming the Gospel, and welcoming the diverse community at Deep Creek Lake.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **DISMISSAL:**

**A:** Go in peace. Believe in the good news.

**C:** Thanks be to God!

