



## **First Sunday in Lent**

### **Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church**

2903 State Hwy 155 PO Box 130 Sayner, Wisconsin 54560

A member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)

And

Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

February 22, 2026

# Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church

A Member congregation of the North American Lutheran Church (NALC)  
and  
Augsburg Lutheran Churches (ALC)

Website: [www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org](http://www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org)

(715) 542-3071

## Ministers: The people of the Parish

Council:	
President: Mike Pockat	715-892-4488
Vice President: Sharon Rice	715-891-0259
Tracey Ahlborn	612-716-6008
Jim Luebke	262-689-5456
Joanne Pierce	414-477-5804
Ken Beier	715-891-2705
Shawn McCormick	715-605-2552

## Church Service Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

### WELCOME GUESTS

*We invite you to sign our guest book and/or complete a visitor card to help us remember you. Here at Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church we celebrate Holy Communion whenever we gather, and we would like to invite you to join us, as **all** are welcome to the Lord's table here. Thank you for joining us.*

### OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Empowered by the power of the Holy Spirit and rooted in the Good News of Jesus Christ, we are a loving community that follows Jesus & seeks to hear the Word of God and practice it in our daily lives.

### Recorded Services:

All Sunday services at Shepherd of the Lakes are recorded and put on You Tube.

Go to the Church website at [www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org](http://www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org) and look for the  symbol.

Click on this symbol to take you to the Church's YouTube site.

*For those of you worshipping with us at home – You can mail your donations to:  
Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church 2903 State HWY 155, PO Box 130 Sayner, WI 54560*

*Or on the church website – [www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org](http://www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org)*

*You can donate through our PayPal account.*

*“Thank you for your continued support of our ministry together.”*

## Readings for March 1 , 2026 2nd Sunday of Lent

<b>First Reading</b>	Genesis 12: 1-4a
<b>Psalm</b>	121
<b>Second Reading</b>	Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17
<b>Holy Gospel</b>	John 3: 13-17

### Questions Come to Light

What is it about the night that invites questions? As our head rests on the pillow and shadows stretch out on the bedroom wall, questions, like field mice, begin to emerge from the nooks and crannies of our mind. At first, the questions are utilitarian: Did someone let the dog out this evening? Are the kids' lunches packed for school? When am I going to get to the grocery store this week? And then, without warning, the questions morph: Is Grandma going to recover from this illness? Why are my prayers so short these days? Does Jesus really care about us—about me? At this point we know that night has truly descended. Truth uttered in darkness. Naked honesty feels much safer, much less exposed when light's reach seems a day way.

Maybe that is why we can relate to Nicodemus. For when did Nicodemus come to Jesus? By night! Though we can easily skip over the setting's description in this gospel encounter, it is so very important. With shadows dancing in the torchlight, Nicodemus makes his way to Jesus, beset by questions he can ask only under cover of darkness. Though the darkness is Nicodemus' security blanket, he cannot help himself. Like a moth fluttering in the night sky, Nicodemus is irresistibly drawn to the light. Not just any light: Jesus, the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. As people filled with our own questions, we follow in the furtive footsteps of Nicodemus, falsely believing our naked honesty will remain hidden in the gloom of night. But the Spirit, through the light of Christ, calls us out from the shadows, and in fact, exposes us to the brilliance of God's love—a love that meets our questioning hearts with nothing less than life eternal.

#### CONTACT INFO:

Treasurer – Jean Maines (715) 542-4213 or (715) 891-3344  
Email: [treasurer@sotlsayner.com](mailto:treasurer@sotlsayner.com) or [jamaines2012@gmail.com](mailto:jamaines2012@gmail.com)

Secretary – Sharon Brooker (715) 892-7049  
Email: [secretary@sotlsayner.com](mailto:secretary@sotlsayner.com) or [plclerk@gmail.com](mailto:plclerk@gmail.com)

#### **SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES AT 9:00 A.M.**

Holy Communion is offered at every service. All are welcome. The Sunday service will be live-streamed and recorded and available for viewing on YouTube later on Sundays.

Attendance on Sunday, February 15<sup>th</sup>: **38**  
Attendance on Ash Wednesday, February 18<sup>th</sup>: **22**

## **CHURCH SCHOOL**

Church School will be offered every Wednesday (as long as school is in session) after school. The bus will drop the children off at approximately 3:45. Lessons/project time will last until 5 pm. We welcome you to get your children - or grandchildren - involved!

## **ALTAR FLOWERS - INFORMATION ON HOW TO SIGN UP**

Contact Person - Jo Ann Kehl Cell 715-892-0413

The Sign-Up Sheets are located in the Narthex on the shelf under the Lutheran Rose.

### ***STEP ONE:***

Sign up for the date you wish to provide the set of two altar bouquets

### ***STEP TWO:***

You can provide flowers in two ways:

1. You may purchase your own flowers and bring them to church.
2. You may contact Jo Ann Kehl and she will order them for you. Just let her know what flowers you would like and how much you would like to spend. You can then write a check to Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church for that amount and designate it as ***Altar Flower Donation***. ANY QUESTIONS? Contact Jo Ann

## **LENTEN SERVICES**

Wednesday evening services will be held after Soup Supper at 5:00 pm. Please join us for the Soup Supper and then join us for the Lenten Services at 6:00 p.m..

### **Holy Week Services**

#### **Thursday, April 2**

Maundy Thursday Service 6 pm

#### **Friday, April 3**

Good Friday Service 6 pm

#### **Saturday, April 4**

Easter Vigil 7:00 pm

#### **Sunday, April 5**

Easter Breakfast 7:30 am  
Easter Worship Service 9 am  
Fellowship to follow

## **BUTTERFLIES NEEDED**

The church will again be decorating the sanctuary with paper butterflies for Easter. Please help yourself to the traced butterflies in the Narthex and decorate them however you wish. Please indicate on them if you wish them to be in memory or in honor of someone.

## **TUESDAY BIBLE STUDY**

Tuesday Bible Study will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month at 10 am. The study will again be based on “The Chosen”.

## **QUILTING GROUP**

The quilting group meets on the third Wednesday of each month, at 9:00 a.m. You don't have to be a quilter to join – they welcome those who can tie knots also!

## **HUMANE SOCIETY FUNDRAISER**

The Church will be holding a Soup & Sandwich Benefit fundraiser for the Humane Society of Vilas County on Saturday, March 7, 2026, from 11 am – 3 pm. They have provided a Wish

List of items they are in need of:

Cat litter      Pine Sol      Storage Totes      Piddle Pads      Laundry Soap      Bleach  
Spray Cleaner with Bleach      Dryer Sheets      Dish Soap      Dog & Cat Toys      Stamps  
Gift Cards/Cash are always welcome!



## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

### **Pray for those dealing with current issues:**

Jim C., Dick, Alyce, Theresa, Joan's brother David, Tracey

*(Please let us know if/when names should be removed from this “current issues” list or moved to “ongoing list”)*

### **Pray for those with ongoing health issues:**

Larry, Mary Lou, Graham, Ericka, Mike, Shelle, Sharon G., Bob B., Ron, Carolyn, Beth, Shirley, John, Kim,

### **Pray for those serving in the Armed Forces:**

Adam & Brittany, Brooks, Will, Sgt. Keara, Alex, Jared, and Dylan

### **Pray for those in nursing homes or homebound:**

Elisabeth

### **Pray for peace and consoling comfort for the families of those who have passed:**

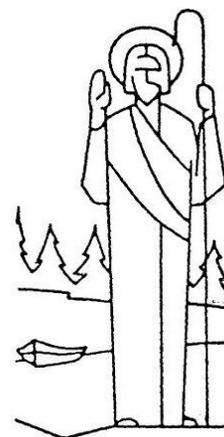
### **Special Prayers**

Please keep our church council, the Call Committee and every member of this congregation in your prayers as we search for a new Shepherd.

*Please or email Jean Maines at [treasurer@SOTLsayner.com](mailto:treasurer@SOTLsayner.com) or text her at 715-891-3344  
or contact Sharon Brooker at [plclerk@gmail.com](mailto:plclerk@gmail.com) or text her at 715-892-7049  
if you would like to be included on the prayer chain list or if you are in need of prayers.*

**Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church**  
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“First Sunday In Lent, February 22, 2026”

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## Greeting & Announcements

## Invocation

In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Confession and Forgiveness

In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God’s promise of mercy.

*Gracious God,*

**Our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo.  
Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear,  
and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment. Set us free from a  
past that we cannot change; open us to a future in which we can be changed;  
and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image;  
through Jesus Christ, the light of the world.**

**Amen.**

*(Book of Common Worship)*

## Words of Forgiveness

Beloved, God’s word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are ☩ forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus.

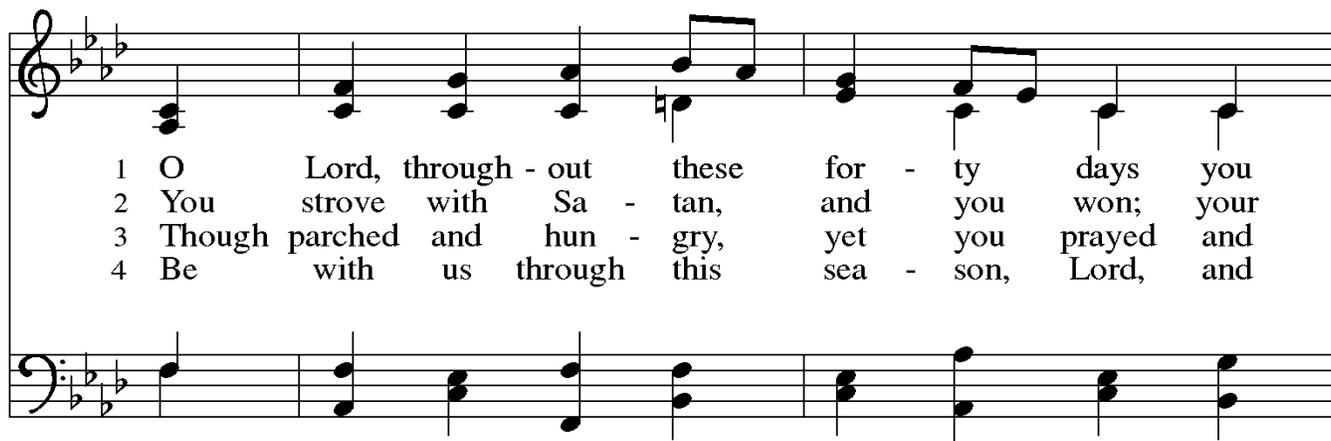
**Amen.**

# Gathering Song

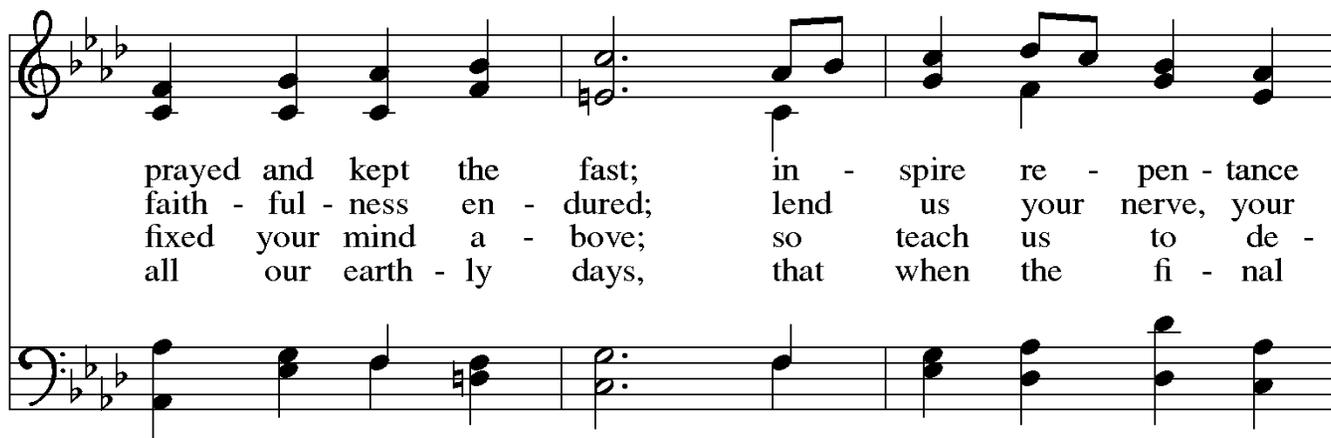
# “O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days” ELW 319

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

## O Lord, throughout These Forty Days



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you  
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your  
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and  
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance  
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your  
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -  
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.  
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.  
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.  
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930  
Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003  
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.  
Arr. © 1969 Concordia Publishing House.

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## Apostolic Greeting

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

**And also with you.**

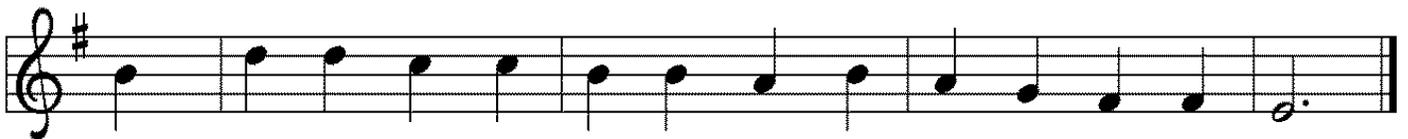
## Kyrie *(sung by all)*



1 Have mer - cy on us, Lord, and hear our sol - emn prayer.

2 Have mer - cy on us, Christ, and wash a - way our sin.

3 Have mer - cy on us, Lord; make sin and shame de - part.



We come to hear your liv - ing word; it saves us from de - spair.

Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be - gin.

Re - new us with your sav - ing pow'r; cre - ate in us new hearts!

## Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us pray.

O Lord God,

**You led your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide now the people of your Church, that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.**

**Amen.**

## First Reading

**Genesis 2: 15-17; 3: 1-7**

The Word of the Lord...

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 32

- <sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!
- <sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**
- <sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.
- <sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**
- <sup>5</sup> Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my  
guilt. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.”  
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.
- <sup>6</sup> **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in  
time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not  
reach them.**
- <sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;  
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.
- <sup>8</sup> **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should  
go; I will guide you with my eye.**
- <sup>9</sup> Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding; who  
must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”
- <sup>10</sup> **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;  
but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**
- <sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;  
shout for joy, all who are rue of heart.

## Second Reading

## Romans 5: 12-19

The Word of the Lord...

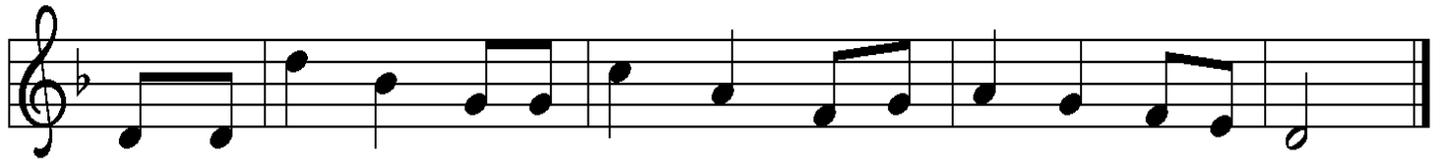
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Acclamation

*(Please stand as you are comfortable)*



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 Holy Gospel According to....

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**Matthew 4: 1-11**

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*(Please be seated)*

**Sermon**

# Hymn of the Day

## "A Mighty Fortress is Our God" ELW 504

(Please stand as you are comfortable)

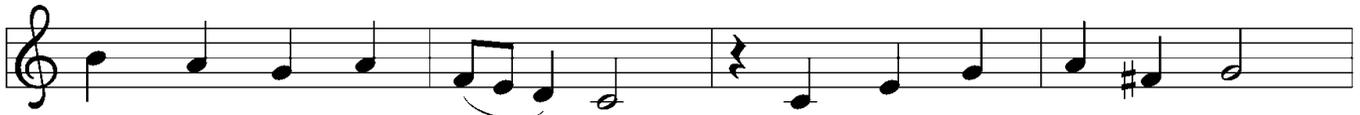
### A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -  
2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -  
3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -  
4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and  
ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom  
your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they  
fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe  
God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?  
can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;  
weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might  
The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,  
in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;  
goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.  
God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.  
God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.  
they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*

Music: EIN FESTE BURG, Martin Luther

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## **Apostles Creed**

**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 into hell. 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**

## **Prayers of the Church**

### **The Peace**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.....**And also with you.**

*Please greet your neighbor as you and your neighbor are comfortable, then be seated )*

### **Offering**

*(As we receive our offering, our Lord's table is prepared)*

### **Prayer**

*(Please stand as you are comfortable)*

God of mercy and grace,

**The eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord.**

**Amen.**

## **The Great Thanksgiving**      *(Service of Distribution)*

The Lord be with you.....  
**and also with you.**

As we gather before these consecrated elements of bread and wine for the celebration of Holy Communion, we hear again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, he 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."

We are given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. As we prepare to receive this bread of life and this cup of blessing, we pray that we may be strengthened through our participation in the body of Christ.

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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**

As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes. All is ready, all are welcome, our Lord and Savior invites us.

*(Please be seated)*

*All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with, and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. Small children and others that wish not to commune may come forward for a blessing.*

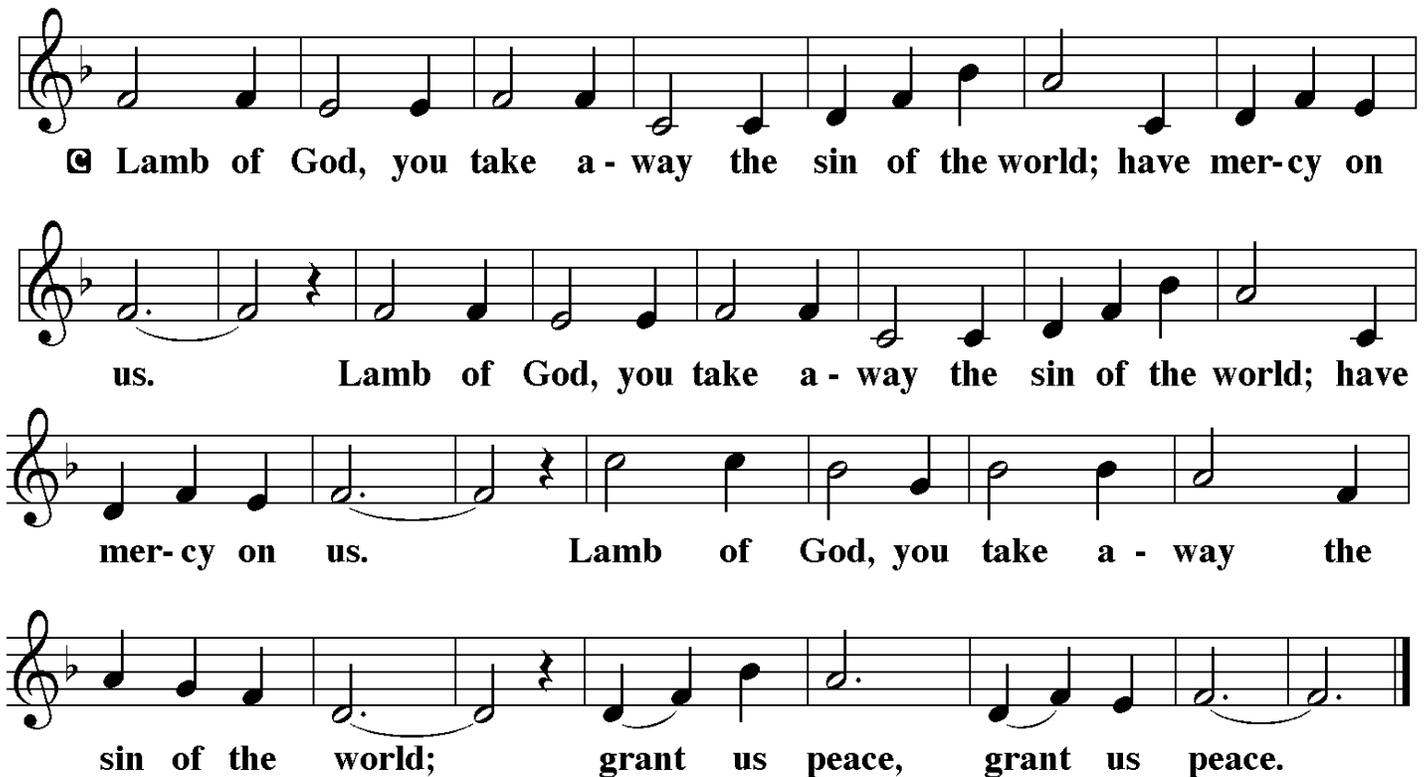
**ALL ARE WELCOME TO THE LORD'S TABLE.**

*Please come forward as the ushers direct, receive the bread in your hand and then receive the wine by dipping the host into the wine (chalice). Grape juice is also offered as an alternative to the wine in the clear chalice. We also have gluten free wafers for those in need, simply ask for them when you come forward.*

**Communion Distribution**

*Please be seated and come forward as the ushers direct.*

**Lamb of God**



☞ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on  
us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

# COMMUNION HYMNS

*"When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" ELW 803*

## When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

1 When I sur - vey the won - drous cross on which the  
2 For - bid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the  
3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sor - row and  
4 Were the whole realm of na - ture mine, that were a

prince of glo - ry died, my rich - est gain I  
death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that  
love flow min - gled down. Did e'er such love and  
pres - ent far too small; love so a - maz - ing,

count but loss and pour con - tempt on all my pride.  
charm me most, I sac - ri - fice them to his blood.  
sor - row meet, or thorns com - pose so rich a crown?  
so di - vine, de - mands my soul, my life, my all.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748

Music: HAMBURG, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

## Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;  
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";  
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;

streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.  
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.  
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.

While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,  
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;  
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.

teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.  
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.  
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

The musical score consists of four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is one sharp (F#) and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line of each system.

## **Post Communion Blessing**

*(Please stand as you are comfortable)*

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which you have now received, strengthen and keep you in his grace.

**Amen.**

## **Post Communion Prayer**

O God,

**You made us from the dust of the earth. Now filled and nourished with the body and blood of your Son, raise us up and help us turn toward you with open hearts, beholding your glory, that by your grace we may receive everlasting life.**

**Amen.**

## **Blessing**

May almighty God,  
Father, Son, † and Holy Spirit bless you all,  
now and forever.

**Amen**

# I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; I want Je - sus to walk with me;  
when I'm in tri - als, Lord, walk with me; walk with  
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;

me; all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,  
when my heart is al - most break - ing,  
when my head is bowed in sor - row,

Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me. walk with me.  
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version  
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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## Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Please join us for coffee and fellowship after the service.  
Second Sunday of each month join us for brunch after the service.**

### Calendar for Week of February 23 to March 1, 2026

Tuesday	February 24, 2026	Bible Study "The Chosen"	10:00 a.m.
Wednesday	February 25, 2026	Church School	3:45 p.m.
Wednesday	February 25, 2026	Soup Supper	5:00-6 p.m.
Wednesday	February 25, 2026	Mid-Week Lenten Service	6:00 p.m.
Thursday	February 26, 2026	Text Study	9:00 a.m.
Sunday	March 1, 2026	Worship Service	9:00 a.m.

### Next Council Meeting:

February 22, 2026 10:30 a.m.

### Upcoming Events:

Fundraiser for Humane Society on March 7, 2026

*Check our calendar of events on the church website for  
times and dates of events and worship services.*

Website: [www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org](http://www.shepherdofthelakeschurch.org)

FaceBook: Shepherd of the Lakes Lutheran Church – Sayner, WI

Instagram: sotlsayner



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(ALC)**  
[augsburglutheranchurches.org](http://augsburglutheranchurches.org)



**North American  
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[thenalc.org](http://thenalc.org)