

Welcome to First Lutheran Church

309 Second Street North, PO Box 21, Pine River, MN 56474

Church Office: 587-2316

www.1stluth.org

2nd Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025

Welcome and Announcements *(Please pass the attendance pad along the pew. If you are a visitor, please include your mailing address.)*

Opening Hymn: “Thy Holy Wings” (ELW613)*(on back page)*

***Confession & Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Compassionate One,
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,
but our lives do not always reflect you
and your love for the world.**

**We do not show others the tender compassion
you have shown to us.**

**We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality
you grant to all people.**

**We oppress others,
even though you have set us free again and again.**

We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

**Transform our lives
and guide us again in the way of the cross.**

Amen.

Beloved in Christ,
God’s arms are always stretched open wide
to welcome the wandering ones home.

In ✝ Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God’s house forever.

Amen.

Prayer of the Day:

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

¹After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, “Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great.” ²But Abram said, “O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?”^[a] ³And Abram said, “You have given me no offspring, so a slave born in my house is to be my heir.” ⁴But the word of the LORD came to him, “This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir.” ⁵He brought him outside and said, “Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them.” Then he said to him, “So shall your descendants be.” ⁶And he believed the LORD, and the LORD^[b] reckoned it to him as righteousness.

⁷Then he said to him, “I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess.” ⁸But he said, “O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?” ⁹He said to him, “Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon.” ¹⁰He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying each half over against the other, but he did not cut the birds in two. ¹¹And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

¹²As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

¹⁷When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. ¹⁸On that day the Lord made a covenant with Abram, saying, “To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the River Euphrates.

Psalm 27

¹The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold^[a] of my life;
of whom shall I be afraid?

²**When evildoers assail me
to devour my flesh—
my adversaries and foes—
they shall stumble and fall.**

³Though an army encamp against me,
my heart shall not fear;
though war rise up against me,
yet I will be confident.

⁴**One thing I asked of the LORD;
this I seek:
to live in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
to behold the beauty of the LORD,
and to inquire in his temple.**

⁵For he will hide me in his shelter
in the day of trouble;
he will conceal me under the cover of his tent;
he will set me high on a rock.

⁶**Now my head is lifted up
above my enemies all around me,
and I will offer in his tent
sacrifices with shouts of joy;
I will sing and make melody to the LORD.**

⁷Hear, O LORD, when I cry aloud;
be gracious to me and answer me!

⁸**“Come,” my heart says, “seek his face!”
Your face, LORD, do I seek.**

⁹Do not hide your face from me.
Do not turn your servant away in anger,
you who have been my help.
Do not cast me off; do not forsake me,
O God of my salvation!

¹⁰**If my father and mother forsake me,
the LORD will take me up.**

¹¹Teach me your way, O LORD,
and lead me on a level path
because of my enemies.

¹²**Do not give me up to the will of my adversaries,
for false witnesses have risen against me,
and they are breathing out violence.**

¹³I believe that I shall see the goodness of the LORD
in the land of the living.

¹⁴**Wait for the LORD;
be strong, and let your heart take courage;
wait for the LORD!**

Second Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

¹⁷ Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸ For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. ¹⁹ Their end is destruction, their god is the belly, and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. ²⁰ But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. ²¹ He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. ^{4:1} Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

***Gospel Announcement**

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.
Glory to you, O Lord.

Gospel: Luke 13:31-35

³¹ At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” ³² He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. ³³ Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ ³⁴ Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! ³⁵ See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

The Gospel of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Children’s Message

Pastor Hans Anderson

Message- “Valley of Lament”

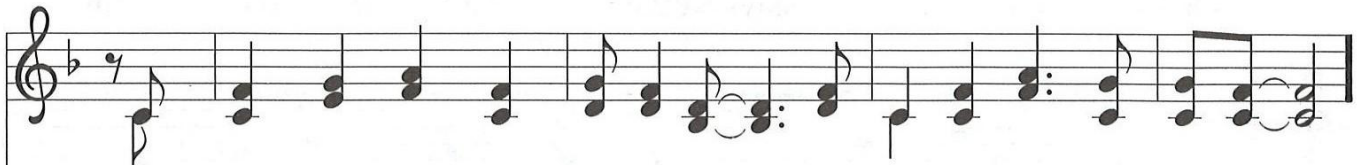
Pastor Hans Anderson



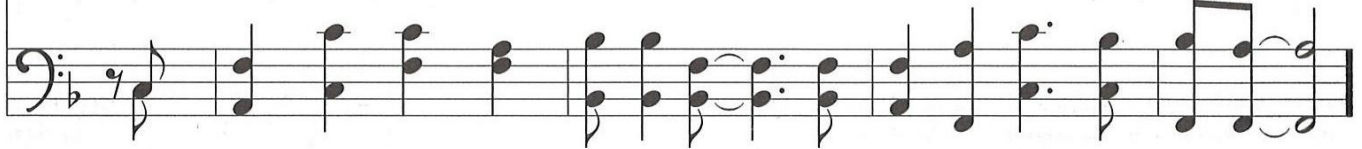
Song of the Day: "My Life Flows On in Endless Song" (ELW 763)



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam - en - ta - tion,
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.
3 What though my joys and com - forts die? The Lord my Sav - ior liv - eth.
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring - ing!



I catch the sweet, though far - off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing - ing?
What though the dark - ness gath - er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing - ing?



Refrain



No storm can shake my in - most calm while to that Rock I'm cling - ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav - en and earth, how can I keep from sing - ing?



***Statement of Faith – The 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 People:**

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you give shelter to living things as numerous as the stars. Strengthen the voice of prophets who call humanity to faithful care for the planet, that they would not be silenced but heeded as your messengers. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you raised up leaders like Abram, Sarai, and Paul to show your people what it means to rely on your promises. Guide today’s leaders to work for justice and safeguard the world for future generations. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you are the stronghold of our life. Care tenderly for those who are ill in body or mind, and for people living in fear or need. May all know they are not alone. We pray for the following..... God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Holy God, you offer us citizenship in heaven. Unite communities of faith who are divided over earthly things, that following the way of your Son, they may set aside grudges and serve their neighbors with generosity and love. God, in your mercy,
receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.
Amen.

Offering

♩ = 100 C N.C. F G

Ev - 'ry - bod - y's got some - thing to of - fer; young and old, the
prince and the pau - per. Ev - 'ry - bod - y's got some - thing to of - fer in the name of the Lord.

*Offertory Prayer

Gracious Provider,
you set your immense treasures among us,
opening your heart to the world.
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,
deepen our commitment to sharing those
treasures with others,
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

*Words of Institution

*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;
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.



† Communion †



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.

Holy Communion Distribution

Babies N Bibles & Club 45 go upstairs to the Nursery

*Post Communion Prayer

Generous Host,
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

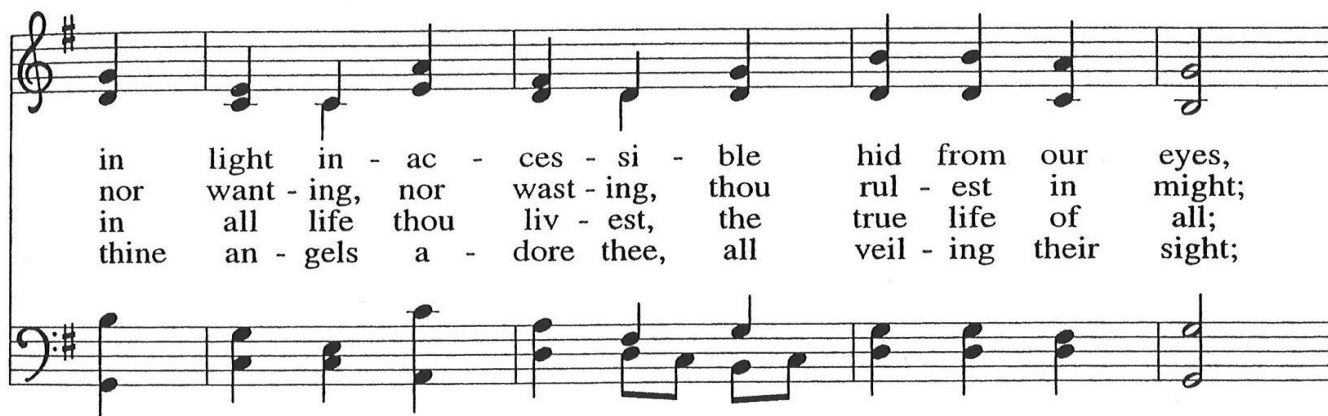
*Blessing:

God our tender parent,
God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit,
† bless you now and forever.
Amen.

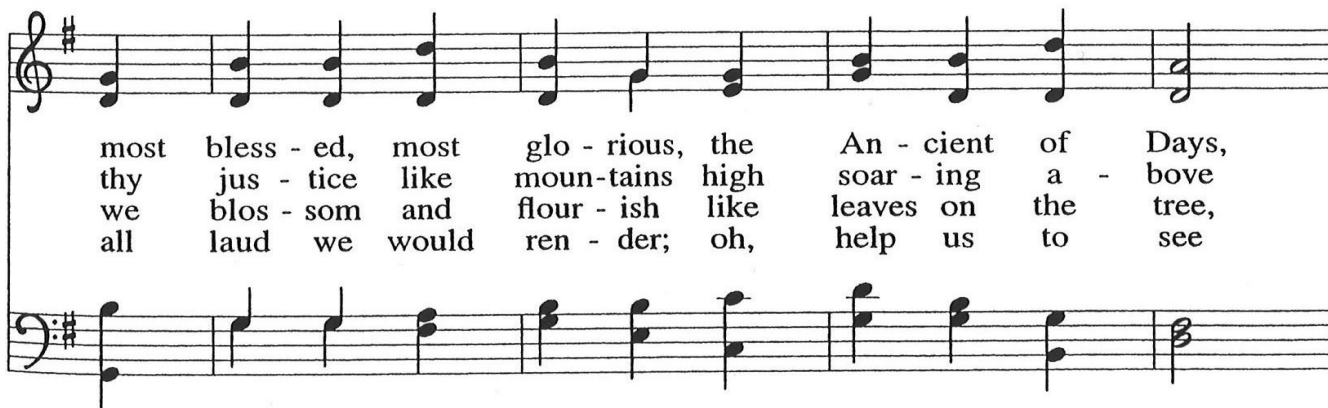
*Sending Hymn: "Immortal, Invisible, God only Wise" (LBW 834)



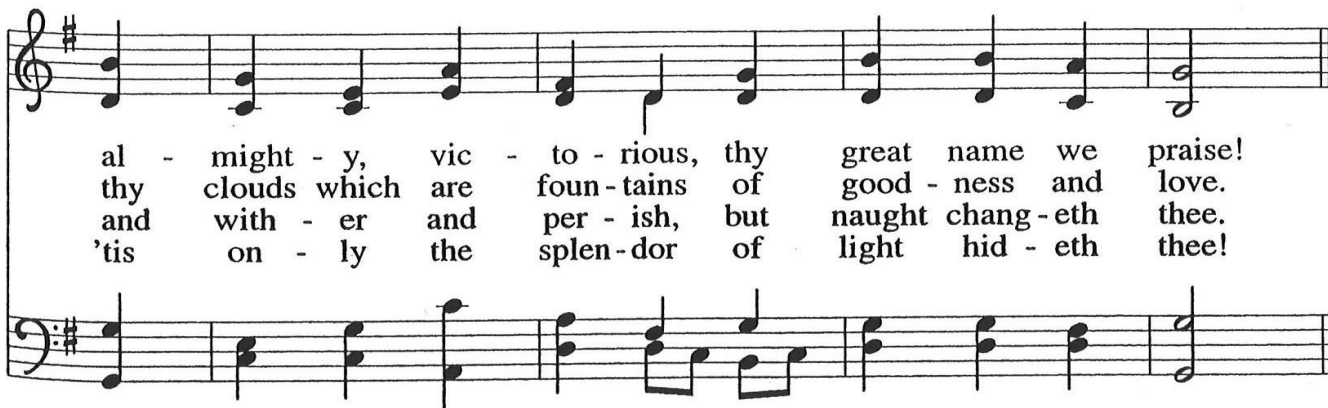
1 Im - mor - tal, in - vis - i - ble, God on - ly wise,
 2 Un - rest - ing, un - hast - ing, and si - lent as light,
 3 To all, life thou giv - est, to both great and small;
 4 Thou reign - est in glo - ry; thou dwell - est in light;



in light in - ac - ces - si - ble hid from our eyes,
 nor want - ing, nor wast - ing, thou rul - est in might;
 in all life thou liv - est, the true life of all;
 thine an - gels a - dore thee, all veil - ing their sight;



most bless - ed, most glo - rious, the An - cient of Days,
 thy jus - tice like moun - tains high soar - ing a - bove
 we blos - som and flour - ish like leaves on the tree,
 all laud we would ren - der; oh, help us to see



al - might - y, vic - to - rious, thy great name we praise!
 thy clouds which are foun - tains of good - ness and love.
 and with - er and per - ish, but naught chang - eth thee.
 'tis on - ly the splen - dor of light hid - eth thee!

***Dismissal:**

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

Thanks be to God!



Reader: Rene Frigaard
Communion Server: Val Johnson
Zoom: Cora Hohnstadt
Sound: Rene Frigaard
Ushers: Paul Pearson, Jace & Vince Norman
Altar Guild: Val Johnson & Jodi Perry
Coffee Counter: Hoplin Families
Brenda Anderson

The Week Ahead

Sunday, March 16, 2025

2nd Sunday in Lent

Worship Service 9:00 AM

Babies N Bibles and Club 45 following communion

Fellowship & Coffee Time 10:00 AM

Church Council 10:00 AM

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

Out to Lunch 11:00 AM

Wednesday, March 19, 2025

SOUP SUPPER 5:00 PM

Lenten Service 6:00 PM

Thursday, March 20, 2025

Dorcas Circle 9:00 AM

Operation Sandwich 10:00 AM

Naomi Circle 1:30 PM

Friday, March 2025

Audit Committee 10:00 AM

Sunday, March 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent/Noisy Offering

Worship Service 9:00 AM

Babies N Bibles and Club 45 following communion

Fellowship & Coffee Time 10:00 AM

Announcements

To view **Sunday Services** via Zoom, go to www.zoom.us and select the blue “Join a Meeting” link at the top center of your screen. Type in the following Meeting ID number and click the blue “Join” button.

Sunday worship, 9:00 a.m. – Meeting ID 893 3233 9261 Passcode: 053380

Bulletins can be sponsored for \$25.00 per week. The sign-up sheet is on the *Called to Serve* bulletin board in the Narthex.

Lenten Soup Suppers

Soup suppers for 2025 are continuing through April 9. The sign up sheet for volunteers and food donations is posted in the narthex.

Please come every Wednesday for a warm meal and the Lenten Church Service. Food for your body and soul—begins at 5:00 pm and done by 7:00 pm

A Lenten Stewardship Project

First Lutheran Church Women will be collecting donations of bars of soap.

The collection box will be in the church narthex. Donations can be given anytime the church is open. The bars of soap collected will be given to the My Little Church, the Tiger's Den Food Shelf and the Pine River Backus Food Shelf.



FLCW continues to collect used eyeglasses for donation to the Minnesota Lions Club. Accepted are eyeglasses (frames with lenses intact), non-prescription eyeglasses and reading glasses. (no lenses without frames or frames without lenses please). The basket for these donations is on the small table as you come in the side door by the Seek Him Room.



Please make sure you designate your Choice Dollars by March 31st, or they are forfeited. Thank you.

Next week's **Noisy Offering** will be going to the PRB Food Shelf. March is Minnesota Food Shelf Month. Thank you for donating to this wonderful cause.

Families as you register your children for **Summer Bible Camp** REMEMBER: First Lutheran Church will pay all Summer Bible Camp Costs after the deposit. (If deposit is a challenge contact Denice Smith at 218-820-4522). Transportation to and from camp is the responsibility of the camper's family. Carpooling has been a tradition in the past. Camp registration information is available at www.vlm.org. There are early registration, sibling and bring a friend discounts.



Prayers of Healing, Care and Joy

Those with medical concerns...

Caleb Prushek, great nephew of Jane Orth

Cleone Hoplin

Grace Anderson



Those in the service...

Senior Master Sergeant Bradford, son of Bill & Kaye Schroeder

Major A.J. Depman, nephew of Bill & Kaye Schroeder

Sgt Christopher Krecklau, son of Mary & Randy Krecklau

E-6 Nathaniel & E-6 Amanda Mitchell, nephew of Mary & Randy Krecklau

ATTENDANCE & OFFERING

Sunday, Mar. 9, 2025

Attendance: 86

Offering

Mar. 9, 2025	\$2,159.00	Weekly Budget:	\$3,301.40
Direct Deposit:	\$ 75.00		
Total Offerings:	\$2,234.00		

Year-to-Date (Fiscal year starts September 1)


2024-2025 Giving:	\$85,890.41	Expenses:	\$79,243.26
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Income less Expenses for February:

\$12,034.00 - \$12,639.41 = (-\$605.41)

If you would like a visit from pastor or have a pastoral care need, please contact Pastor Hans Anderson at 218-820-9166 or email him at pastorhanspineriver@gmail.com


Opening Hymn: "Thy Holy Wings"



1 Thy ho - ly wings, O Sav - ior, spread gent - ly o - ver me,
2 Oh, let me nes - tle near thee, with - in thy down - y breast
3 Oh, wash me in the wa - ters of No - ah's cleans - ing flood.



and let me rest se - cure - ly through good and ill in thee.
where I will find sweet com - fort and peace with - in thy nest.
Give me a will - ing spir - it, a heart both clean and good.



Oh, be my strength and por - tion, my rock and hid - ing place,
Oh, close thy wings a - round me and keep me safe - ly there,
Oh, take in - to thy keep - ing thy chil - dren great and small,



and let my ev - 'ry mo - ment be lived with - in thy grace.
for I am but a new - born and need thy ten - der care.
and while we sweet - ly slum - ber, en - fold us one and all.

Text: Carolina Sandell Berg, 1832-1903, sts. 1, 3; Gracia Grindal, b. 1943, st. 2; tr. composite
Music: Swedish folk tune; arr. hymnal version
Text © 1983 Gracia Grindal, admin. Selah Publishing Co., Inc.
Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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