



Pilgrim
LUTHERAN
Church

Divine Service



March 15, 2026
Fourth Sunday in Lent

Welcome

Opening Hymn

Oh God of Mercy, God of Light



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.
word and thought may work a work for you.
grace pro - vide, to love them all in you.

Confession and Forgiveness

The assembly stands. The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

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

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

Most merciful God,

We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

The minister stands and addresses the congregation.

Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Sign of Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Songs of Praise

First Lutheran Church Venice Choir

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

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. **Amen.**

First Reading

Isaiah 42

14 For a long time I have held my peace;
I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
I will gasp and pant.

15 I will lay waste mountains and hills,
and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
and dry up the pools.

16 And I will lead the blind
in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
I will guide them.

I will turn the darkness before them into light,
the rough places into level ground.

These are the things I do,
and I do not forsake them.

17 They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
"You are our gods."

18 Hear, you deaf,
and look, you blind, that you may see!

19 Who is blind but my servant,
or deaf as my messenger whom I send?

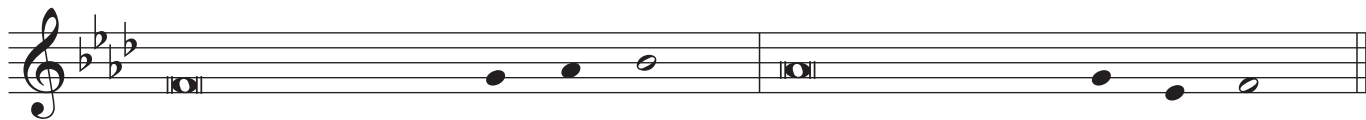
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
or blind as the servant of the LORD?

20 He sees many things, but does not observe them;
his ears are open, but he does not hear.

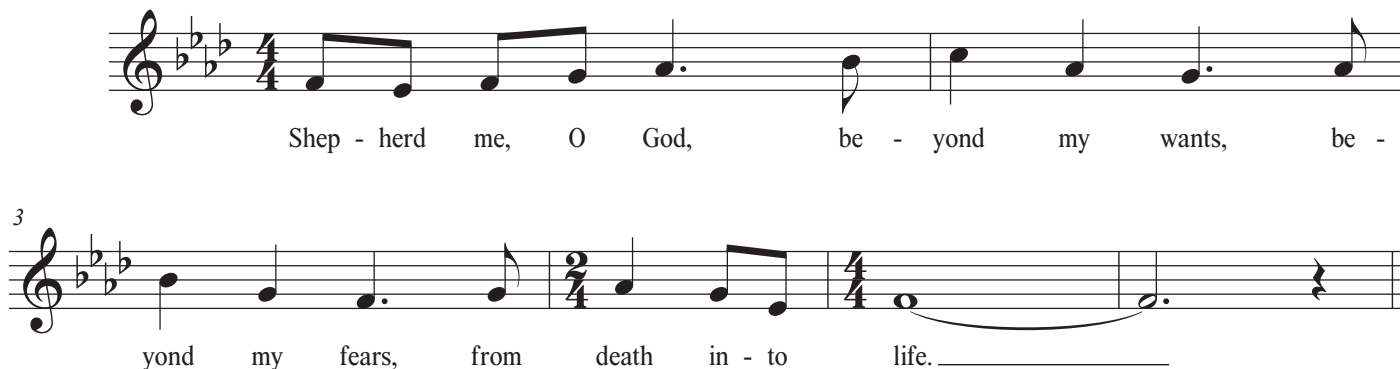
21 The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
to magnify his law and make it glorious.

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Tone



Refrain



Refrain: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

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 be- • side 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, I shall • fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they • comfort me.**

Refrain: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

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.**

**Glory be to the Father and • to the Son
and to the Holy • Spirit;
as it was in the be - • ginning,
is now, and will be forever. • Amen.**

Refrain: Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

Second Reading

Ephesians 5

8 for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Awake, O sleeper,
and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you.”

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation

Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants, beyond my fears, from death into life.

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the ninth chapter. **Glory to You, O Lord!**

As he passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed 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 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud 7 and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing.

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 So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” 16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. 17 So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” 34 They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out.

35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” 37 Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” 38 He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Confession of Faith

Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of
God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge
the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, +
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Prayers of Intercession

Following each prayer petition:

God, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Offering

The Sacrament of the Altar

The Lord be with you. **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.

It is indeed our duty and our joy...evermore praising You and saying:

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might, Heaven and earth are full of Your glory, Hosanna in the highest. Blessed + is He who comes in the Name of the Lord, Hosanna in the highest.

We proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Words of Institution

The 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.**

O Lamb of God...

Ways to Commune

Intinction – Pastor places bread in hands. Communicant dips bread in chalice held by Communion Assistant.

Sealed Cups – Gluten-Free in Blue and Alcohol-Free in Pink are available (take to seat, and we will commune together).

Prayer – Approach the communion table with arms crossing your chest.

Communion Song

Amazing Grace (My Chains are Gone)

Amazing grace how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see
'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace
The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone I've been set free
My God my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love amazing grace
(Repeat)

The earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God who called me here below
Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

Blessing

Closing Hymn

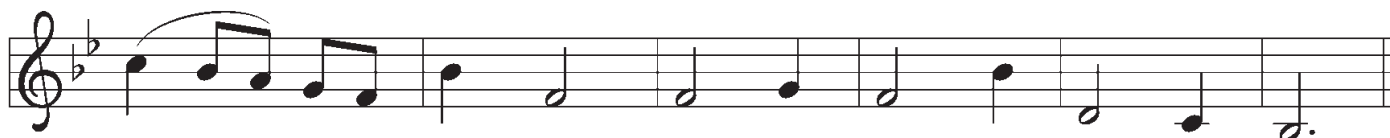
In the Cross of Christ I Glory



1 In the cross of Christ I glo - ry, tow'r - ing
2 When the woes of life o'er - take me, hopes de -
3 When the sun of bliss is beam - ing light and
4 Bane and bless - ing, pain and plea - sure, by the



o'er the wrecks of time. All the light of
ceive, and fears an - noy, nev - er shall the
love up - on my way, from the cross the
cross are sanc - ti - fied; peace is there that



sa - cred sto - ry gath - ers round its head sub - lime.
cross for - sake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
ra - diance stream - ing adds more lus - ter to the day.
knows no mea - sure, joys that through all time a - bide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872

Music: RATHBUN, Ithamar Conkey, 1815–1867

Announcements

You Never Let Go"

Even though I walk through the valley
Of the shadow of death
Your perfect love is casting out fear
And even when I'm caught in the middle
Of the storms of this life
I won't turn back I know You are near

And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear
Whom then shall I fear

Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go
Lord You never let go of me

And I can see a light that is coming
For the heart that holds on
A glorious light beyond all compare
And there will be an end to these troubles
But until that day comes
We'll live to know You here on the earth

And I will fear no evil
For my God is with me
And if my God is with me
Whom then shall I fear
Whom then shall I fear

Oh no You never let go
Through the calm and through the storm
Oh no You never let go
In ev'ry high and ev'ry low
Oh no You never let go
Lord You never let go of me

*Please use the basket in the Narthex to dispose of your used
Holy Communion Cups as you leave the Sanctuary*

Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes

Serving at Worship Today

Pastor

Lew Upchurch

Director of Music

Mary Harper

Upcoming Events



Learn more about all upcoming events at pilgrimsm.org/calendar

Mid-Week Lenten Services

"I AM with You: Moving from Ashes to Resurrection"

Lent is not a season of self-fixing; it is a season of being met by Jesus. In each encounter, Jesus reveals who He is ("I Am...") and what that means for broken, thirsty, blind, and dying people. These stories lead us steadily toward the cross and empty tomb.

3/11 First Lutheran Venice - **7pm**

3/18 Pilgrim Lutheran - **7pm**

3/25 First Lutheran Venice - **7pm**

Holy Week

3/29 Palm Sunday - **10am**

4/2 Maundy Thursday - **7pm**

4/3 Good Friday - **7pm**

4/5 Easter Sunday - **10am**

Other Dates

4/26 Pastor's Installation Sunday and BBQ - **10am**

Pilgrim Giving



Your faithful financial stewardship is as important as ever. We will be creating cards with QR code to access online giving.

Serve at Pilgrim



Interested in serving at Pilgrim? Scan the QR code or go to <https://pilgrims.org/serve-at-divine-service/> to complete an information form. We will contact you when trainings are scheduled for various service opportunities.

Bible App



Scan this QR code to download a Bible app and access scripture, devotionals, and more right from your phone!



Pilgrim
L U T H E R A N
Church

Called by the Holy Spirit,
**we are an intergenerational community of
worship and service**
that invites the people of
Santa Monica and beyond
**to flourish in the love of Jesus Christ
through Word and Sacraments.**

Lew Upchurch

Pastor

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Mary Harper

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Mathew Mulligan

Office Manager

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From Pastor:

As I settle in at Pilgrim, it would be wonderful to visit with you. If you are interested in visiting, whether it be at your home, at the church or even for coffee or lunch, please let me know.

To set up an appointment, please email me at pastor@pilgrimsm.org

God bless you!

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