



*The Congregations of
First English Lutheran Church
And Zion Lutheran Parish
Welcome You to Worship*
Pastor Cheryl Rondeau-Bassett ~ 605-237-1501

Journey to the Cross

Lent Week 1 ~ February 25, 2026 ~ 6:00 pm
(congregation reads what is written in bold)

Welcome and Announcements

This Lent, we invite you to step away from the noise of everyday life and enter into a season of intentional reflection on Christ's journey to the cross.

Just as Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, preparing for His mission of redemption, we too walk a spiritual path. It is a journey that leads us through humility and repentance to the very foot of the cross—to the profound reality of Jesus' crucifixion and burial.

We recognize we do not walk this path by our own strength, but by the power of the Holy Spirit. As we journey, may you:

- Walk alongside Jesus from the dust of the desert to the deep shadow of the cross.
- Discover grace, the unconditional love of our Savior, whose sacrifice was made "for you."
- Experience the depth of Law and Gospel, finding that our repentance is met with the overwhelming promise of forgiveness.
- Renew your soul as we prepare to receive the transformative joy of Easter morning.

Let us gather around the Word, keeping our eyes fixed on the One who endured the cross for our sake. Come and see what the Lord has done. Tonight we embrace a spirit obedience and reliance on God's Word.

Call to Worship

P: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

**C: Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us,
to receive the new names we are given.**

P: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good
news.

C: Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.

P: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

**C: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.**

P: Lent calls us to journey with God.

C: Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.

Gathering Song

'I Want Jesus to Walk with Me'

#325

Greeting

P: The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus
Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Opening Prayer

Though we seek to walk in faithfulness, O God, the tempter's wild
wilderness sets traps along our path. Strengthen your living word within
us, that we may remain true to Christ, our way, our truth, our life. **C: Amen.**

Scripture Reading

Romans 5:12-19

NT pg. 119

L: Word of God, Word of Life. **C: Thanks be to God.**

Psalms 32

ELW Psalm 32

L: ¹Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin
is put away!

**C: ²Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt, and in whose
spirit there is no guile!**

L: ³While I held my tongue, my bones withered away, because of my
groaning all day long.

**C: ⁴For your hand was heavy upon me day and night; my moisture was
dried up as in the heat of summer.**

L: ⁵Then 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.

C: ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

L: ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

C: ⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

L: ⁹ 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."

C: ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

L: ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

NT pg. 2-3

P: The Holy Gospel according to... **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Holy Conversations – Lent 1

Instructions

Conversation by Jesus

Engage with questions:

Conversation by Mary, the mother of Jesus

Engage with questions:

Time of Silent Meditation

We Will Now Have Our Offering

(Lenten Offerings are designated to local Water's Edge Scholarships)

Offering Prayer for Lent

L: God of the wilderness, We give these offerings in gratitude,

C: rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

L: We give these offerings in faith,

C: trusting that you will provide for our needs.

L: We give these offerings in hope,

C: knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.

L: And with these offerings, we give ourselves;

C: May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

1. Alas! And did my Savior bleed, and did my sov'reign die? Would he devote that sacred head for sinners such as I?

5. But tears of grief cannot repay the debt of love I owe; here, Lord, I give myself away: 'tis all that I can do.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt. Music: Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Lord Jesus, we pray: **C: Hear us, and have mercy.**

P: Hear us, God of salvation....all the prayers of our hearts, **C: Amen**

Lord's Prayer

pg. 208

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.

Blessing

P: Whatever wilderness the Spirit has brought you to:
walk in boldness, as a beloved child of God
walk in peace, under the shelter of the Most High
walk in faith, knowing Christ walks with you.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

'I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say'

#332

(to the tune of the old red hymnal #499 version)

1. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Come unto me and rest; lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast." I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad; I found in him a resting-place, and he has made me glad.

2. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "Behold, I freely give the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live." I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream; my thirst was quenched, my soul revived, and now I live in him.

3. I heard the voice of Jesus say, "I am this dark world's light; look unto me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright." I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun; and in that light of life I'll walk till trav'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889. Tune title "VOX DILECTI" b y John Bacchus Dykes, 1823-76.

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, and journey with Christ.

C: We Will. Thanks be to God.

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This Week's Ministry Assistants — Lent 6 pm FELC February 25th

Organist: Lisa Berdan

Confirmation Students

Tech Desk: Matt & Bryson Karels

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Kelly Athey, Gail Olson, Nancy Pierzina; Monty Athey, Alvin Dexter, Dustin Hanson, Larry Helgeson, Harlan VanMeeteren, and George Wegner. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Ricky Anderson, Arvilla Bergseth, Adeline Burgess, Jim Hipple, Vivian Janssen, Arlen LaCombe, Roger Nornes; Aletta Simonitch; Janice Redfield in Clinton and Mary Lou Olson in Madison. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict especially Jacob Hamann, Colin Hartman, Tyler Ruby, and Thomas Halverson; and our Haitian student, Ycherson Soh and South African students Sanelisiwe Dlamini and Andiswa Mbatha. If you would like a name to be added/removed, please contact the church office.

