



*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 5 ~ March 25, 2026 ~ 6:00 pm

(congregation reads what is written in bold)

Welcome and Announcements

As we began our journey to the cross at the start of Lent, you were asked to step away from the noise of everyday life and enter into a season of intentional reflection. Jesus began His ministry after 40 days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan.

As we come to the close of our Lenten journey, we are at the end of His journey just before entering the city of Jerusalem, being arrested, and crucified. Our journey has taken us along dusty roads to meet with several of those who knew Jesus... Hearing of their experiences and the influence Jesus had on their lives... from Mary the mother of Jesus, pondered things in her heart at Jesus birth... to Lazarus tonight who will become a living example of the power and authority Jesus has over death itself.

Each has found the unconditional love of our Savior and the overwhelming peace of forgiveness promised to all who repent.

As we gather one last time before Holy Week, let us keep our eyes fixed on the One who endured the cross for our sake.

Tonight, let us embrace a spirit obedience and trust in God's Word once more to be transformed by the promise fulfilled and joy of Easter morning.

Let us stand for the call to worship

Call to Worship (*inspired by Ezekiel 37: 1-14, John 11: 1-45*)

L: The prophet asks: Can our soul-weary bones live again?

C: O God, you know!

L: We ask: Can we dance again after mourning, loss and grief?

C: O God, you know!

L: The gift is sure and unmistakable:

C: God's breath poured out as new life for weary souls!

L: Let us celebrate the gift of God's new life,

C: And come to worship God in laughter and dancing!

Gathering Song 'Beneath the Cross of Jesus' #338

1. Beneath the cross of Jesus I long to take my stand; the shadow of a mighty rock within a weary land, a home within a wilderness, a rest upon the way, from the burning of the noontide heat and burdens of the day.

2. Upon the cross of Jesus, my eye at times can see the very dying form of one who suffered there for me. And from my contrite heart, with tears, two wonders I confess: the wonder of his glorious love and my unworthiness.

3. I take, O cross, your shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss, my sinful self my only shame, my glory all, the cross.

Text: Elizabeth C. Clephane, 1830-1869. Music: Frederick C. Maker, 1844-1927.

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

Compassionate God, the wind of your Spirit is the very sign of life for all who long for you. One breath from you and we are rescued from the arid valley of dry bones, given muscles and sinews and joy with which to praise you, and filled with the holy hope you grant to all your faithful children. Let our whole lives be filled with the life-breath of the Spirit, that what has lain dormant may burst into bloom, and what looks to us to be death may be revealed as but sleep before the emergence of new life.

C: Amen.

Scripture Reading

First Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

OT pg. 625

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

Psalm 130

ELW Psalm 130

L: ¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

C: ² O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

L: ³ If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

C: ⁴ Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.

L: ⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

C: ⁶ My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.

L: ⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

C: ⁸ For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.

Gospel Reading: John 11:1-45

NT pg. 80

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 5

Instructions

Conversation by Peter the Rock

Engage with questions:

Conversation by Lazarus

Engage with questions:

Time of Meditation

We Will Now Have Our Offering

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

Offertory Hymn 'Softly & Tenderly Jesus is Calling' vs. 1-2 #608

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me. See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

(Refrain): **"Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!) You who are weary, come home." Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"**

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me? Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? (Refrain)

Text & Music: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909.

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.

Prayers for Intercession (*inspired by Ezekiel 37: 1-14, John 11: 1-45*)

P: O God, who always listens to us, who breathes new life into us call us forward to resurrection.

A brief silence.

P: O God, who always listens to us, who breathes new life into us,

C: call us forward to resurrection.

P: Heavenly Father, through the death and resurrection....so that we may serve you in the world; **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: Go now, and embrace the hope to which God has called you. Recognize Christ in friend and stranger, and as Christ has been gracious to you, so be gracious to those in need.

And May almighty God bless you on your journey to the cross...
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit
May Christ Jesus restore you to life in Him
And may the Holy Spirit assure you of renewed life ever after in Christ.
C: Amen.

Sending Song

'Lamb of God, Your Only Son'

#336

Dismissal

P: Go in peace, and journey to Christ.

C: We Will. Thanks be to God.

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This Week's Ministry Assistants — Wed. 6 pm FELC, March 25th

Organist: Marilyn Hanson

Tech Desk: Liz Ketz & Cameron Anderson

Assisting: Confirmation Students

Ushers: Tami Lundberg, Paula Reisdorph, Jackie & Mel Domine

Next Week's Ministry Assistants — Sun. March 29th (Palm Sunday)

Organist: Carol Ydstie

Greeters: Garry & Ethel Swenson

Tech Desk: Cody Backstrand & Kim Anderson

Lector: Miley Block

Acolytes: Cameron & Jace

FWV: Becky Parker & Marge Dragseth

Ushers: Ev Johnson, Brent Zahrbock, Marilyn Chindvall, & Ron Athey

Next Week's Ministry Assistants — Wed. 1 pm FWV, April 1st

Organist: Marilyn Hanson

Lay Assistant(s): Evangelism Member(s)

Next Week's Ministry Assistants — 7 pm Good Friday, April 3rd

Organist: Carol Ydstie

Tech Desk: Marge Dragseth, Matt & Bryson Karels

PRAYERS FOR HEALING and COMFORT for Kelly Athey, Gail Olson, Nancy Pierzina; Monty Athey, Alvin Dexter, Dustin Hanson, Larry Helgeson, Katelyn Renne, and George Wegner. AT FAIRWAY VIEW NEIGHBORHOODS: Ricky Anderson, Arvilla Bergseth, Adeline Burgess, Jim Hipple, Vivian Janssen, Arlen LaCombe, Aletta Simonitch, Janice Redfield in Clinton and Mary Lou Olson in Madison. ALL OUR MILITARY who are deployed to areas of conflict; 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.



UPCOMING CALENDAR

Fri – 3/27 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

Sun – 3/29 Palm Sunday (No Sunday School)



9:00 am Worship – First Communion – Children Singing
– Broadcast on KDIO & YouTube Live

10:30 am Fairway View Service (pre-recorded FELC service)

10:30 am Palm Sunday – First Communion - Zion Service

Mon – 3/30 11:00 am Staff Meeting

Tues – 3/31 NO DAY OF LOVE

4-5:00 pm Bible Study at Donnie's Diner (Fairway View)

Wed – 4/1 NO CONFIRMATION CLASSES



9:00 am Circle 4 Bible Study (church lounge)



9:30 am Channel 3 Broadcast

1 pm Holy Week Service with Communion at Fairway View

5:30 pm Channel 3 Broadcast

7:00 pm Senior Choir

Thurs. – 4/2 7:00 pm Maundy Thursday Service – Communion at Zion



Fri – 4/3 9:00 am Bulletins Printed

7:00 pm Good Friday Tenebrae at FELC



Sun – 4/5 EASTER – RESURRECTION SUNDAY



7:00 am Sunrise Worship – Communion

8:00 am FELC Youth Easter Breakfast

9:00 am Worship – Communion

– Broadcast on KDIO & Facebook Live

10:30 am Fairway View Worship (Pre-recorded)

10:30 am Easter Worship – Communion at Zion Church

