



## Season of Lent 2026

Saint James Lutheran Church – Johnston, Iowa

*We're glad you're here and hope you will come again!*

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### The Gathering

*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.*

### Confession and Forgiveness

*All may make the sign of the cross, as the presiding minister begins.*

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

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses. Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:  
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:  
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:  
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:  
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:  
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

## Gathering Song — February 21/22, Feb 28/March 1, 8, 15

### Now Is the Time of Grace

1  
Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.

2  
Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.

The image shows a musical score for two parts of a song. The first part is labeled '1' and the second part is labeled '2'. Both parts are written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first part ends with a double bar line, and the second part ends with a double bar line and a repeat sign.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on 2 Corinthians 6:2 and Isaiah 58:6-9

Music: TIME OF GRACE, Marty Haugen

Text and music © 2009 Augsburg Fortress

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*Leader/Choir sings verses. Assembly joins on the refrain.*

Vs 1 This is the fast... to break the yoke of oppression. Refrain.

Vs 2 Sharing your bread... this is what God requires. Refrain.

Vs 3 Then shall your light... God's love shall go before you. Refrain.

## March 28/29#344 – All Glory, Laud and Honor

### 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.**

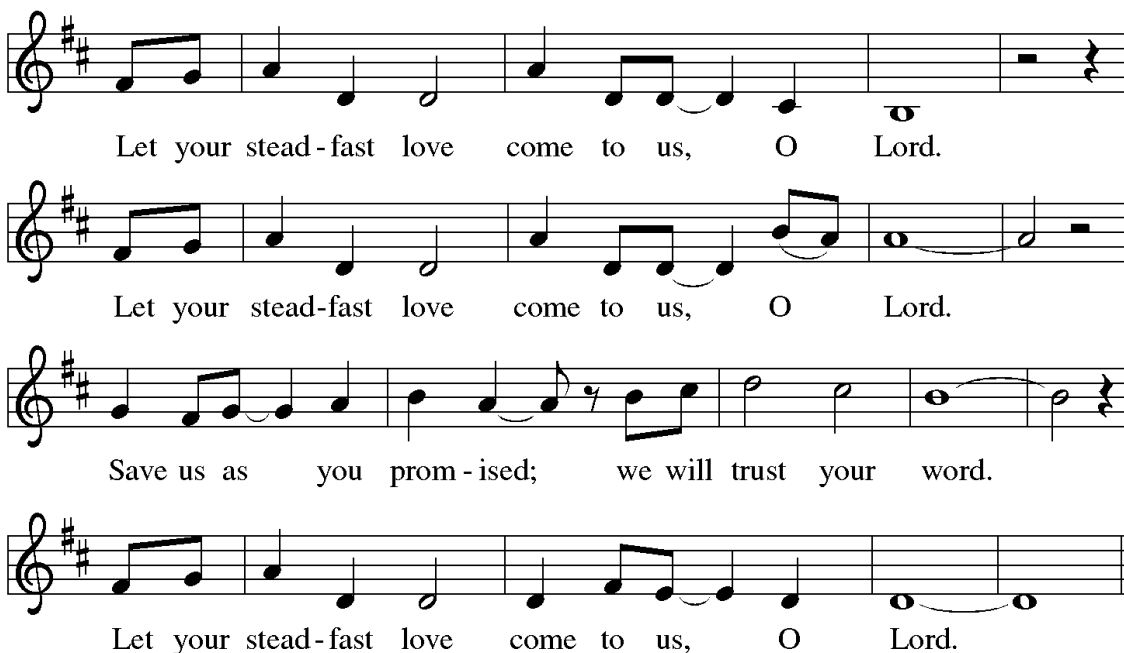
**Prayer of the Day** – *see insert*

## WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.*

**Lessons – see insert**

### Lenten Acclamation



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

**Gospel – see insert**

Before: The Holy Gospel according to Saint... **Glory to You, O Lord.**

After: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

### Sermon

#### Hymn of the Day

February 21/22	#821 – Shout to the Lord
February 28/29	#666 – What Wonderful Love is This
March 7/8	#619 – I Know that My Redeemer Lives! Vss 1, 5-8
March 14/15	#611 – I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say
March 21/22	#336 – Lamb of God
March 28/29	#335 – Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

## **The Creed**

Let us confess our shared faith in the words of the Apostles' Creed.

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

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.\*  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come 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 Intercession – *see insert***

## **Peace**

*On Saturdays the peace is shared after the dismissal.*

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

## **Offering**

*An offering is collected.*

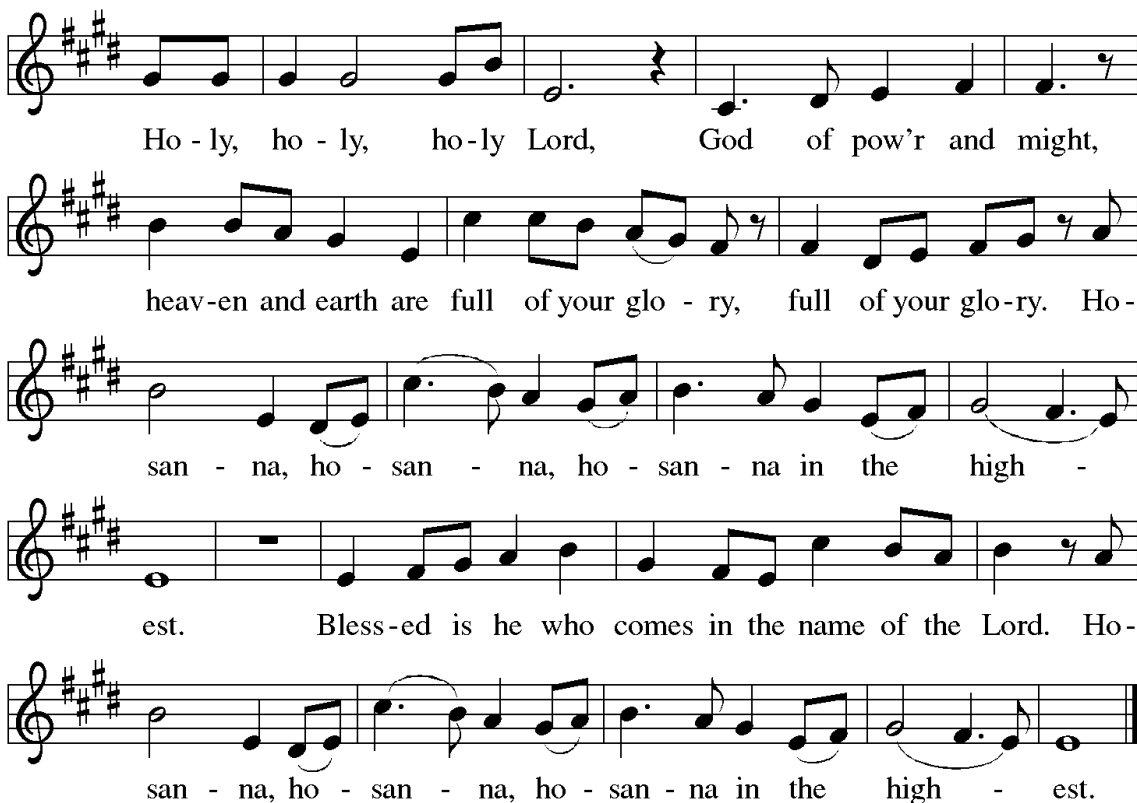
*On Saturdays, the offering is collected as people gather for worship.*

## MEAL

*God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.*

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 right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry, full of your glo-ry. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high -  
est. Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God. You are most holy, and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life.

We give you thanks for his coming into the world to fulfill for us your holy will and to accomplish all things for our salvation.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.**

Remembering, therefore, his salutary command, his life-giving passion and death, his glorious resurrection and ascension, and the promise of his coming again, we give thanks to you, O Lord God Almighty, not as we ought but as we are able; we ask you mercifully to accept our praise and thanksgiving and with your Word and Holy Spirit to bless us, your servants, and these your own gifts of bread and wine, so that we and all who share in the body and blood of Christ may be filled with heavenly blessing and grace, and, receiving the forgiveness of sin, may be formed to live as your holy people and be given our inheritance with all your saints.

To you, O God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory in your holy church, now and forever. **Amen.**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.**


**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.**

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

*All are welcome at the Lord's table. We receive communion by dipping the bread into the cup.*

# Return to God

Leader




1 In all af - flic - tion  
 2 With great en - dur - ance  
 3 In ev - 'ry hard - ship  
 4 With hum - ble spir - it  
 5 By speech that's truth - ful  
 6 To cease op - pres - sion  
 7 By lov - ing jus - tice  
 8 With gen - tle kind - ness

Assembly



1 In all af - flic - tion  
 2 With great en - dur - ance  
 3 In ev - 'ry hard - ship  
 4 With hum - ble spir - it  
 5 By speech that's truth - ful  
 6 To cease op - pres - sion  
 7 By lov - ing jus - tice  
 8 With gen - tle kind - ness

All



re - turn, re - turn to God.

Text: Marilyn Haskel, b. 1945

Music: RETURN TO GOD, Marilyn Haskel

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## **SENDING**

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.*

### **Announcements**

#### **Prayer after Communion**

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

#### **BLESSING**

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, ✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

#### **SENDING SONG**

February 21/22	#325 – I Want Jesus to Walk with Me
Feb 28/March 1	#597 – My Hope is Built on Nothing Less
March 7/8	#333 – Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land
March 14/15	#540 – Go Make Disciples 2x
March 21/22	#338 – Beneath the Cross of Jesus
March 28/29	#351 – O Sacred Head, Now Wounded

#### **DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**