

Honest Questions  
for Deeper Faith

HOLY  
SEEKING

?

 *Palestine*  
Lutheran Church

**March 8, 2026**

***Third Sunday of Lent***

*Reaching Out in Christian Love to All*

1375 Highway 210

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## **Third Sunday of Lent**

**March 8, 2026**

*In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.*

\*=Stand as you are able    **Bold Print** = congregation responds

**ELW**=Red Evangelical Lutheran Worship

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

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

### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

In the name of the Father,

and of the † Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

*The assembly kneels or stands. Silence is kept for reflection.*

Most merciful God,

**we confess that we are captive 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.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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.**

**\*GATHERING SONG “Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty” ELW 533**

Text: Benjamin Schmolck, 1672–1737; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.; Music: Joachim Neander, 1650–1680; public domain.



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,  
 2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;  
 3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant - ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;  
 4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick - en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;  
 5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.  
 where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.  
 let my soul, where it is plant - ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,  
 how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick - en, may thy word still o'er me shine  
 may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless - ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!  
 To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!  
 so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.  
 as my guid - ing star through life, as my com - fort in all strife.  
 Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

## \*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.**

## \*KYRIE

setting 7, page 175



*Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -*  
*Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .*



*so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -*  
*mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on*



*dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.*  
*us; O . . . Lord, have . . mer - cy.*



*Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -*  
*Christ, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Christ, have . .*



*so - tros. Cris - to, Cris - to, ten pie -*  
*mer - cy. Christ, . . have mer - cy on*



*dad; ten pie - dad de no - so - tros.*  
*us; O . . . Christ, have . . mer - cy.*



*Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie - dad; ten pie - dad de no -*  
*Lord, . . have mer - cy on us; O . . . Lord, have . . .*



*so - tros. Se - ñor, Se - ñor, ten pie -*  
*mer - cy. Lord, . . have mer - cy on*



there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. <sup>7</sup> He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **PSALM: Psalm 95**

<sup>1</sup> Come, let us sing to the LORD;

**let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.**

<sup>2</sup> Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving

**and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

<sup>3</sup> For you, LORD, are a great God,

**and a great ruler above all gods.**

<sup>4</sup> In your hand are the caverns of the earth;

**the heights of the hills are also yours.**

<sup>5</sup> The sea is yours, for you made it,

**and your hands have molded the dry land.**

<sup>6</sup> Come, let us worship and bow down,

**let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

<sup>7</sup> For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of God’s hand.

**Oh, that today you would hear God’s voice!**

<sup>8</sup> “Harden not your hearts,

**as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

<sup>9</sup> There your ancestors tested me,

**they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.**

<sup>10</sup> Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,

**‘The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.’**

<sup>11</sup> Indeed I swore in my anger,

**‘They shall never come to my rest.’”**

## SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

*Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.*

<sup>1</sup> Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. <sup>3</sup> And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, <sup>4</sup> and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, <sup>5</sup> and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

<sup>6</sup> For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. <sup>7</sup> Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. <sup>8</sup> But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. <sup>9</sup> Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. <sup>10</sup> For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. <sup>11</sup> But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

Vuel - va al Se - ñor, tu Dios, pues es com - pa -  
 Turn back . . . to the Lord, your God, who is

si - vo,y cle - men - te, len - to pa - ra la  
 gra - cious and mer - ci - ful, slow . . . . . to . .

i - ra y gran - de, en su mi - se - ri - cor - dia.  
 an - ger and a - bound - ing in love and faith - ful - ness.

\*GOSPEL: John 4:5-42

The Holy Gospel according to John the 4<sup>th</sup> chapter.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.*

<sup>5</sup> [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.<sup>6</sup> Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

<sup>7</sup> A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, “Give me a drink.”<sup>8</sup> (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)<sup>9</sup> The Samaritan woman said to him, “How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?” (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)<sup>10</sup> Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.”<sup>11</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?<sup>12</sup> Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?”<sup>13</sup> Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,<sup>14</sup> but

those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.”<sup>15</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water.”

<sup>16</sup> Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.”<sup>17</sup> The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’<sup>18</sup> for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!”<sup>19</sup> The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet.”<sup>20</sup> Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.”<sup>21</sup> Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.”<sup>22</sup> You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.<sup>23</sup> But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.”<sup>24</sup> God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.”<sup>25</sup> The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.”<sup>26</sup> Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

<sup>27</sup> Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?”<sup>28</sup> Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,<sup>29</sup> “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?”<sup>30</sup> They left the city and were on their way to him.

<sup>31</sup> Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.”<sup>32</sup> But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.”<sup>33</sup> So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?”<sup>34</sup> Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his

work. <sup>35</sup> Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. <sup>36</sup> The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. <sup>37</sup> For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' <sup>38</sup> I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

<sup>39</sup> Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." <sup>40</sup> So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. <sup>41</sup> And many more believed because of his word. <sup>42</sup> They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

## **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

*Children will leave to go to Children's Church*

Preschool/Kindergarten – room beside nursery in north fellowship hall

1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> grade – Upstairs to the left

3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> grades – Upstairs to the left

5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> grades – Downstairs

7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grades – Conference room

**SERMON – Refer to questions on page 18-19**

**HYMN OF THE DAY "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say" ELW 611**

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-1889; Music: English folk tune; Text and tune public domain;  
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# I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;  
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give  
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."  
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."  
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;  
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;  
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.  
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.  
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - ling days are done.

## \*APOSTLE'S 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**

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

*A brief silence.*

O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses.

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need (*especially*):

Kristy Brownfield, Marvin Edwards, Jon Irwin, Terri Irwin, Betsy Johnson, Norma McBride, Debra Ness, Larry Pote, Jean Sandquist, Tim Shoemaker, Oriett Snider, Randy Young
--

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles (*especially Mindy and Nels*).

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. We pray for:

Sally Greve, Roger Larson, Dick Cast, Cheryl (Ness) Shranklen, Marge Sheldahl, Sandy Wirtz, Ken Larson, Alice Kahler, Harold Rittgers, Esther Orn, Dick Kepler, Dennis Green, Charles Sheldahl, Cynthia Peterson, Bethine Nelson, Dick Brown, Penny Brown

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

**Amen.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**


**OFFERING**

**HYMN OF THE MONTH: “Now We Remain”**

**W&P 106**

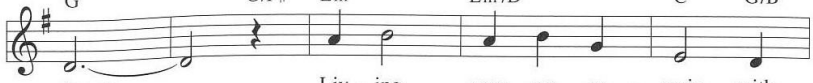
Text: David Haas, b. 1957; Music: David Haas; Text and music © 1983 GIA Publications, Inc., 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. [www.giamusic.com](http://www.giamusic.com). 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted under OneLicense.net 1-708142 All rights reserved.

*Refrain*  
G<sub>sus</sub> G G<sup>2</sup> G D/F# C/G



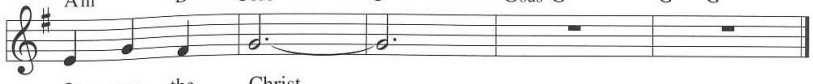
We hold the death of the Lord deep in our

G G/F# Em Em<sup>7</sup>/D C G/B



hearts. Liv - ing, now we re - main with

Am<sup>7</sup> D G<sub>sus</sub> G<sup>2</sup> G<sub>sus</sub> G G<sup>2</sup> G



Je - sus the Christ.

G<sub>sus</sub> G G<sup>2</sup> G D/F# C/G



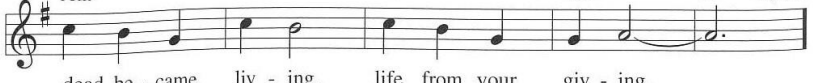
1 Once we were peo - ple a - fraid, lost in the

G D/F# Em Em<sup>7</sup>/D C G/B




night. Then by your cross we were saved;

Am<sup>7</sup> G/B C C/D D *Refrain*



dead be - came liv - ing, life from your giv - ing.

G<sub>sus</sub> G G<sup>2</sup> G D/F# C/G



2 Some - thing which we have known, some - thing we've

G D/F# Em Em<sup>7</sup>/D C



touched, what we have seen with our eyes,

Am<sup>7</sup> G/B C C/D D *Refrain*

this we have heard: life - giv - ing Word.

G<sup>sus</sup> G G<sup>2</sup> G D/F# C/G

3 He chose to give of him - self, be - came our

G D/F# Em Em<sup>7</sup>/D C

bread; bro - ken, that we might live;

Am<sup>7</sup> G/B C C/D D *Refrain*

love be - yond love, pain for our pain.

G<sup>sus</sup> G G<sup>2</sup> G D/F# C/G

4 We are the pres - ence of God; this is our

G D/F# Em Em<sup>7</sup>/D C G/B Am<sup>7</sup>

call; now to be - come bread and wine, food for the

G/B C C/D D

hun - gry, life for the wea - ry; for to

Am<sup>7</sup> G/B F C/E C/D D *Refrain*

live with the Lord, we must die with the Lord.

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

**Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**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.**

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

**\*BLESSING**

The God of steadfastness and encouragement grant you to live in harmony with one another, in accordance with Christ Jesus.

**Amen.**

The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing,  
so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

The God of all grace ✝ bless you now and forever.

**Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” ELW 623**

Text: Augustus M Toplady, 1740-1778; Music: Thomas Hastings, 1784-1872; public domain.



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;  
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;  
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.  
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,  
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,  
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;  
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.  
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.  
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.  
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

Ring of the Bell

Postlude

For streaming and printing:

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**Questions for Deeper Reflection in Faith.** The account of Jesus and the Samaritan woman in John 4:5-42 offers profound insights into identity, spiritual hunger, and the nature of true worship. These deep faith questions are designed to move beyond the surface of the narrative into its spiritual and personal implications.

Questions on Spiritual Hunger & "Living Water"

- **The Nature of Thirst:** Jesus contrasts the water from Jacob’s Well with "living water" (John 4:10). What are the "wells" in your life that you keep returning to, only to find yourself thirsty again?
- **The Source of Satisfaction:** Jesus says the water He gives will become a "spring of water welling up to eternal life" (John 4:14). Does your faith feel like an internal spring gushing forth, or a resource you have to keep "drawing" from outside yourself?
- **Misunderstanding the Gift:** The woman initially thought Jesus was talking about physical convenience—not having to walk to the well anymore (John 4:15). In what ways do you sometimes treat your faith as a tool for earthly convenience rather than spiritual transformation?

Questions on Identity & Truth

- **The "Five Husbands":** When Jesus reveals the woman's past, He doesn't do it to condemn, but to be known (John 4:17-18). What parts of your "private" life or "messy" history are you afraid to bring to the well, and how does Jesus' lack of condemnation change that?

- **The Sixth "Husband":** Some commentators suggest the woman's "five husbands" symbolize the Samaritans' history of false gods. What are the "substitutes" you have tried to "marry" your soul to instead of the true Christ?
- **Worship in Spirit and Truth:** Jesus shifts the focus from *where* to worship to *how* to worship (John 4:23-24). If physical locations and religious traditions were stripped away, what would remain of your "spirit and truth" worship?

#### Questions on Mission & Community

- **Leaving the Jar:** The woman left her water jar behind to tell the townspeople about Jesus (John 4:28). What "jars"—security, reputation, or old habits—might you need to leave behind to fully embrace your mission?
- **The Modern Samaritan:** Jesus "had to go through Samaria," a place most Jews avoided (John 4:4). Who are the "Samaritans" in your world today—the people you have been culturally or religiously conditioned to avoid—and how is Jesus calling you to reach them?
- **From Testimony to Encounter:** The townspeople eventually told the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves" (John 4:42). Is your faith currently based on the "testimony" of others (parents, pastors, books), or have you had a "personal encounter" that makes it your own?

#### Questions on Divine Timing & Food

- **Spiritual Sustenance:** Jesus told His disciples, "I have food to eat that you know nothing about" (John 4:32). What "spiritual food" gives you energy and sustains you in ways that physical food cannot?
- **The Harvest is Now:** Jesus told His disciples the fields were already "ripe for harvest" (John 4:35). Are you waiting for a "perfect time" to act on your faith, or can you see the harvest that is already in front of you?

### Those Serving in Today's Service

Pastor: Eric Klimpel

Accompanist: Mindy DeVries

Youth Liaison: Nels Dovre

Lector: Laura Kepler

Acolyte: Dobbin Wilson

*Technicians:* Brent Emerson, Owen Williams

### This Week at Palestine

Sunday, March 8, 2026 *Third Sunday of Lent*

*Name Tag Sunday*

8:30 a.m. Choir

9:30 a.m. Worship

*Music with Nels*

*"Cookie Sunday"*

10:45 – 11:30 a.m. First Communion Class

Tuesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026

10:00 a.m. Area Pastor's Study (*Pastor*)

7:00 p.m. Bible Study via Zoom

Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

7:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study

12:30 p.m. Prayer Support Group

1:00 p.m. Quilting

6:00 p.m. Lenten Light Meal

6:30 p.m. Confirmation

7:00 p.m. Worship

Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026 *Fourth Sunday of Lent*

*No Choir*

9:30 a.m. Worship; Holy Communion

5:30 p.m. Theology on Tap @ Flight

Lectionary Texts: 1Sam 16:1-13; Psalm 23; Eph 5:8-14; John 9:1-41

### **Thank you for your Gifts for Ministry:**

#### **Sunday, March 1, 2026:**

General: \$8,113.16

Improvement: \$50.00

**Attendance:** 106

Benevolence: \$205.00

Lent Special Offering: \$110.00



### **The March newsletter had a birthday omission:**

Addy Siepker's Golden birthday is March 19<sup>th</sup>.

## Tithes & Offering

Palestine will accept your offering!

1. **Bring** to worship service with you and place in offering plates.
2. **Mail** check to:  
Palestine Lutheran Church  
P.O. Box 189  
Huxley, IA 50124
3. **Give online through Easy Tithe.**  
Go to our website [www.plchuxley.com](http://www.plchuxley.com)  
and click on the bright red ONLINE GIVING  
tab on the right located above our  
"Reaching out in Christian love to all"  
statement. **OR** scan the QR code to take  
you right to our tithing page.
4. **Text GIVE** to 515-207-6435.



*Thank you. Continue to pray and know God is with us.*



## Ballard Clothing Pantry

March is Palestine's month to staff the Clothing Pantry. There will be a sign up in fellowship hall to sign up for shifts or you can go to our online sign up on our weekly announcements or at

[https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rr8989x2djV\\_nfZufdFDSR\\_YeN0N27m4\\_B3F-U-jfZU/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1rr8989x2djV_nfZufdFDSR_YeN0N27m4_B3F-U-jfZU/edit?usp=sharing). The Clothing

Pantry is a valuable service for many people in our community. It stays open only because of generous volunteers.

***Please consider staffing at least one shift.***



## Name Tag Sunday Today!

Get to know our Palestine friends.



Join us Wednesdays during Lent for a light supper @ 6:00 p.m.

March 11<sup>th</sup>

Walking Tacos

*Sponsored by Church Council*

March 18<sup>th</sup>

Lasagna

*Sponsored by Choir*

March 25<sup>th</sup>

TBA

*Sponsored by Quilters*



## Spring Plants for Easter Worship

Order your spring plant for **\$20** for Easter Sunday Worship. Call Tracy Sheldahl at 515-450-1961. Please let her know (at the time you order) if you are placing the plant in memory of or in honor of someone. The deadline to order is **Sunday, March 20<sup>th</sup>**.



## THEOLOGY ON TAP

Join us Sunday, March 15<sup>th</sup>  
at 5:30 p.m. @ Flight in  
Huxley!



## Lent Special Offering this year will go towards Joppa: Helping Homeless People for Lent

Joppa is a volunteer-driven, interdenominational nonprofit based in Des Moines, Iowa, dedicated to helping homeless individuals survive, find permanent housing, and rebuild their lives. The organization has successfully helped over 800 people off the streets, with more than 80% remaining in stable housing.

Please write in your check memo “special lent offering”.

**We are also collecting nonperishable food for our local food pantries.** Fill up a grocery bag and bring it to church now through April 11<sup>th</sup>!



We're excited to share that our church now has unlimited access to **RightNow Media**—the world's largest streaming library of video Bible study resources. This extensive library has **more than 20,000 videos** taught by leaders like Francis Chan, Jennie Allen, J.D. Greear, Dr. Tony Evans, and many more. These Bible study videos can be used as part of a group study or for personal devotions, and many series include **free discussion guides and handouts**.

rightnow MEDIA

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Free Access to 25,000+ Bible Study Videos—  
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create your free  
account and start  
browsing.



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**Welcome to Worship!** We're glad you're here (physically or virtually), guests and members alike, and pray that you will find in our worship an opportunity to praise God and hear God's Word.

### **One in a Thousand (*based on John 4*)**

Gathering water from the well is something the Samaritan woman did regularly, habitually even, drawing water up in a bucket hundreds, maybe thousands of times over the course of her life. But this time, this one in a thousand times, is different. While she is busy doing the mundane work of life, she is suddenly confronted by the Messiah—there in the flesh, asking her for a drink of water!

These forty days of Lent interrupt our regular routine and our habits, confronting us with the presence of God in Christ on his journey to the cross and, ultimately, the resurrection. This interruption of our own daily work calls us to see this Jesus who reaches out to us, promising “a spring of water gushing up to eternal life” (John 4:14). Through fasting, almsgiving, and prayer, we embrace interruptions in the regular patterns of our lives, sparking curiosity about where and how God is at work in our world, and where we are being called.

This text also shows us that Jesus may be present in unexpected ways in the faces of unexpected people. We may expect to hear the gospel from our pastor, synod bishop, or other church members. But do we have ears to hear the gospel proclaimed in the voice and experience of our neighbors—especially among neighbors too often pushed to the margins of our communities? Are we ready to encounter the signs of the gospel bubbling up outside the walls of our churches?

And like the Samaritan woman, are we ready for that one in a thousand times when the gospel feels so near and so powerful that all we can do is go out and tell everyone we know about this living water? May this Lent interrupt our habits, draw our attention to the unexpected, and send us out to proclaim the love of God to all our neighbors!