



Welcome to worship on February 22, 2026

Pastoral Staff

Rev. Becky Goche

Ministers:

All Baptized Members

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

In Christ, we welcome, worship, and work in the world.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Live life abundantly. By the grace of God, we shall be a healthy, mission-focused congregation, full of life.

OUR WELCOME STATEMENT

The faith community of English Lutheran Church is rooted in Christ and committed to living life generously. We celebrate diversity of sexual orientation, gender identity, race, ethnicity, age, economic status, marital status, physical or mental ability. We are united in the Holy Spirit as we embrace our differences.

We welcome all as we strive to be a community equipped for God's mission in the world.

We invite you to join us as we seek to promote racial equity, social and economic justice, and care for our environment.

Wherever you are on your faith journey, **there is a place for you here.**

englishlutheran.org



First Sunday in Lent Unfailing Light

WELCOME TO THIS SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION. Lutherans believe that Christ, the Incarnate Word of God, is truly present in the Lord's Supper and that in this meal of the baptized children of God our Lord gives forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. All who seek the mercy and grace of God in this Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus are welcome to the Lord's Table.

WORSHIP | Saturdays 5:00pm, **Sundays 9:00am**

CHILDCARE | Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings.

HEARING LOOP | Use T-coil mode, or ask for headphones.
(Hearing loop currently under repair.)

HUNGRY Jar offering in February will be given to Global Refuge, chosen by our 5th/6th Grade Sunday School class. For more than 85 years, Global Refuge (formerly Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service) has provided the resources, guidance, and community to help New Americans. Global Refuge is committed to helping people reimagine the possibilities, provides a soft place to land, and since 1939, has built a legacy of compassion by walking with more than 800,000 new neighbors as they rebuild their lives in the United States.

THE WHITE ROSE on the altar is in memory of Susan Link, who passed away on February 17, 2026. May God bless her memory among us all.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS! Ruth Ellefson, Bev Kratt, Pearl Lunney, Dean Marin, Rachel Quarberg, Tyler & Allison Ziegelman and children August and Margaret. We're so glad you're here!



GIVE ONLINE | Visit englishlutheran.org/onlinegiving, use the QR code, download the Vanco Mobile Faith app, or text an amount (no decimal point or dollar sign) to 855.929.1663. Give a one-time offering, or set up a recurring donation!

TODAY'S LEADERS:

Musicians | Luke Thering, English Ringers

Worship | Mike Schnitzius, Maddie Sweeney, Jon Hartfield, Joan Allen, Karen Guptill, Kirsten Gabriel, Julie Kriewald, Brody Frost, Kinsley Crawford, Gus Martin

GATHERING

ELW – red hymnal | ACS – purple hymnal

Prelude & Welcome to Worship

Confession & Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity ... forgives our sin, and heals our lives. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses. Have mercy, O God, **against you, you alone, we have sinned. In your compassion, cleanse us from our sin and take away our guilt. Create in us a new heart and give us a steadfast spirit. Do not cast us away, but fill us with your Holy Spirit and restore your joy within us. Amen.**

God's steadfast love ... In the name of ✝ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. **Amen.**

Gathering Song ELW #325 | I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

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

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Special Music | English Ringers

WORD

Young People's Message | Pastor Paul Sannerud

Lesson | Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7 (OT, pg 2)

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32

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

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

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

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

⁵ Then 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.

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.**

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

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

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."

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

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

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Acclamation | Unfailing Light pg 7

During Lent



We do not live by bread a -



lone, but by ev - 'ry word that comes from your mouth, O



Je - sus Christ, Son of the liv - ing God.

Gospel | Matthew 4:1-11 (NT, pg 3)

The holy gospel according to Matthew... **Glory to You, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written,

'One does not live by bread alone,

but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,'
 and 'On their hands they will bear you up,
 so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

'Worship the Lord your God,
 and serve only him.' "

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Sermon | Pastor Paul Sannerud

Hymn of the Day ELW #504 | A Mighty Fortress Is Our God



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, a sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land all threat - 'ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, no thanks to foes, who



to - rious; he breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod and
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, whom
 your us, we trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; they
 fear it; for God him - self fights by our side with



wins sal - va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe
 God him - self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be?
 can - not o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage;
 weap - ons of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house,



has sworn to work us woe! With craft and dread - ful might
 The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord,
 in bat - tle we'll en - gage! His might is doomed to fail;
 goods, hon - or, child, or spouse, though life be wrenched a - way,



he arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 God's on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 God's judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 they can - not win the day. The king - dom's ours for - ev - er!

Reception of New Members

People of God, do you promise to support and pray for *these new members* in *their* life in Christ? **We do, and we ask God to help and guide us.**

Let us welcome *these siblings* in Christ to this community of faith. **We rejoice with you in the life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world.**

Prayers of Intercession

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive the prayers ... from death to life. **Amen.**

Peace

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

MEAL

Offering & Offering Prayer

O God, maker of heaven and earth, your steadfast love embraces all creation. You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth and bring forth its bounty. Through these gifts of bread and wine, draw us into the death and life of your Son, who calls us to bear witness to his saving work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

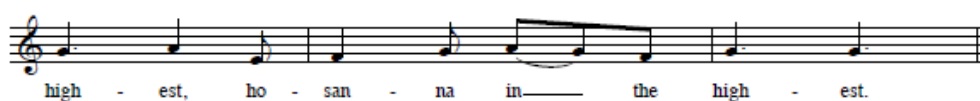
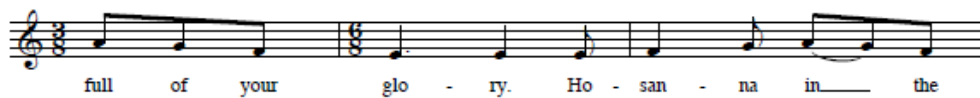
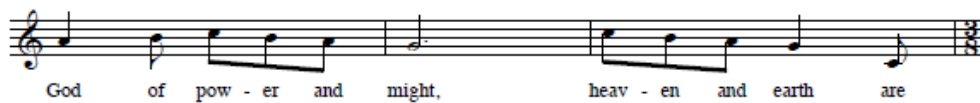
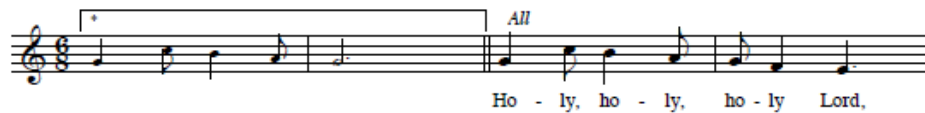
Great Thanksgiving

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 ... join their unending hymn:



Words of Institution

During the Words of Institution, we invite you to raise the bread and the cup respectively as the pastor does. In this way, we are church together. 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.

Lord's Prayer

Gathered around the table 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.**

Invitation & Distribution of Communion

This is the body of Christ, given for you. This is the blood of Christ, shed for you.

Lamb of God | Unfailing Light

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. It consists of three staves of music with lyrics underneath. The first staff begins with a four-measure rest, followed by the lyrics 'Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the'. The second staff has a first ending bracket labeled '1., 2.' and the lyrics 'world; have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.'. The third staff has a second ending bracket labeled '3.' and the lyrics 'world; grant us peace, grant us peace.'.



Communion Songs

ELW #597 | My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less



1 My hope is built on nothing less than
2 When darkness veils his lovely face, I
3 His oath, his covenant, his blood sus -
4 When he shall come with trumpet sound, oh,



Je - sus' blood and righteousness; no merit of my
rest on his un - changing grace; in ev - 'ry high and
tain me in the rag - ing flood; when all sup - ports are
may I then in him be found, clothed in his righ - teous -



own I claim, but wholly lean on Je - sus' name.
storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797-1874, alt.

Music: MELITA, John B. Dykes, 1823-1876

ELW #595 | Jesus Loves Me



1 Je - sus loves me! this I know, for the Bi - ble tells me so;
2 Je - sus loves me! he who died heav - en's gates to o - pen wide;
3 Je - sus loves me! he will stay close be - side me all the way;



lit - tle ones to him be - long, they are weak, but he is strong.
he will wash a - way my sin, let his lit - tle child come in.
when at last I come to die, he will take me home on high.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me, yes, Je - sus loves me,



yes, Je - sus loves me, the Bi - ble tells me so.

Text: Anna B. Warner, 1820-1915, alt.

Music: JESUS LOVES ME, William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868

Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord ... strengthen all who will receive this sacrament. **Amen.**

Prayer After Communion

Let us pray together... **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.**

SENDING

Announcements

Special Music | Children's Chime Choir

In the Cross of Christ I Glory and Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

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 Hymn ELW #807 | Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless - ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith - er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt - or dai - ly I'm con - strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud - est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan - d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end - less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan - d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good - ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

Dismissal & Postlude

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