



english lutheran

Welcome to worship on March 1, 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



Second 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

Midweek Lenten Worship Noon & 6:15pm

CHILDCARE | Sunday mornings, Wednesday evenings.

HEARING LOOP | Use T-coil mode, or ask for headphones.

(Hearing loop currently under repair.)

HUNGRY Jar offering in March will be given to the La Crosse Area Synod Migrant Justice Mutual Aid Fund. Every person is a child of God, deserving of love, respect and dignity. This includes immigrants trying to make this area their new home. Every act of kindness, every dollar, and every moment of your time helps us communicate God's love for those who are in most need. Donations will help families right here in La Crosse with things such as housing, food, utilities, and more.

THE WHITE ROSES on the altar are in memory of Susan Link, who passed away on February 17, 2026 and Rob Rogers, who passed away on February 21. May God bless their memory among us all.



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 | Trevor Dupej, Vocal Choir, Chime Choir
Worship | Mike Schnitzius, Joan Allen, Christina Fenton, Karen Guptill, Cam Court, Bob & Kathy Weeks, Kinsley Crawford, Liam McCoy

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 ... 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 ACS #1085 | Hope of the World



1 Hope of the world, O Christ of great com - pas - sion,
2 Hope of the world, God's gift from high - est heav - en,
3 Hope of the world, a - foot on dust - y high - ways,
4 Hope of the world, who by your cross did save us
5 Hope of the world, Christ ris'n from death vic - to - rious,



speak to our fear - ful hearts by con - flict rent.
bring - ing to hun - gry souls the bread of life:
show - ing to wan - d'ring souls the path of light:
from death and deep de - spair, from guilt and sin:
who by this tri - umph con - quered grief and pain:



Save us, your peo - ple, from con - sum - ing pas - sion,
still let your Spir - it un - to us be giv - en
walk close be - side us lest the tempt - ing by - ways
we ren - der back the love your mer - cy gave us;
we would be faith - ful to your gos - pel glo - rious;



who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.
to heal earth's wounds and end all bit - ter strife.
lure us a - way from you to end - less night.
work through our lives to bring your pur - pose in.
you are our Lord and will for - ev - er reign!

Text: Georgia Harkness, 1891–1974, alt.
Music: DONNE SECOURS, *Trente quatre pseauxes de David*, Geneva, 1551
Text © 1954, ren. 1982 The Hymn Society, admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved.

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

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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 | Lift High the Cross | Vocal Choir

WORD

Young People's Message | Pastor Becky Goche

Special Music | In the Cross of Christ | Glory & Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross | Children's Chime Choir

Lesson | Genesis 12:1-4a (OT, pg 10)

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

Psalms 121

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The Lord will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the Lord watches over you; the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day,
nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The Lord will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸ **The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

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

Gospel Acclamation | Unfailing Light pg 7

During Lent

The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are: "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." The second staff continues the melody and lyrics. The third staff concludes the phrase with a double bar line.

Gospel | John 3:1-17 (NT, pg 96)

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

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do

not understand these things?

¹¹ "Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.


¹⁶ "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

¹⁷ "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him."


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

Sermon | Pastor Becky Goche


Hymn of the Day ELW #660 | Lift High the Cross




Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:



Refrain
our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbold, 1874-1956
Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947
Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

The Apostles' Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith: **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

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:

The musical score consists of six staves of music in G major, 3/8 time. The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is the One who comes, who Bless - ed is he who comes in the name, comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

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

Our Fa - ther, who art - in heav - en, hal - low - ed be Thy name, - Thy
king - dom come, thy will - be done, on earth as it is in hea - ven. Give us this
day our daily - bread, and for give - all of our sins - As we for - give
those, as Christ for - gave those who sin a - gainst us, - And lead us not
in - to temp - ta - tion, but de - liv - er us from e - vil, for Thine is the
king - dom, the pow - er and the glo - ry, for - e - ver, A - men.

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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

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us, have mer - cy on us.
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.



Communion Songs

ELW #451 | We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus



1 We are bap-tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;
 2 In the wa - ter and the wit - ness, in the break - ing of the bread,
 3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to Christ the Son,



that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life,
 in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,
 glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;



And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread - ful death like his,
 God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;
 as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re - sounds a - gain



we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.
 in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.
 in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.

Text: John C. Yivisaker, b. 1937
 Music: OUIMETTE, John C. Yivisaker
 Text and music © 1983 John C. Yivisaker

ACS #955 | Come to the Waters of Life



1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for
 2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for
 3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for
 4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,
 touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,
 truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,
 peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

Text: Ray Makeever, b. 1943
 Music: WATER OF LIFE, Ray Makeever
 Text and music © 1999 Ray Makeever, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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

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 #638 | Blessed Assurance



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

Dismissal & Postlude

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

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