

# Second Sunday in Lent

March 16, 2025



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Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** "Thy Holy Wings" - arr. Mark Sedio

Lois Theesfield, piano

### Welcome

**Gathering Song:** "Beneath the Tree of Life - Gathering Song" - Marty Haugen

*Refrain - All sing together*

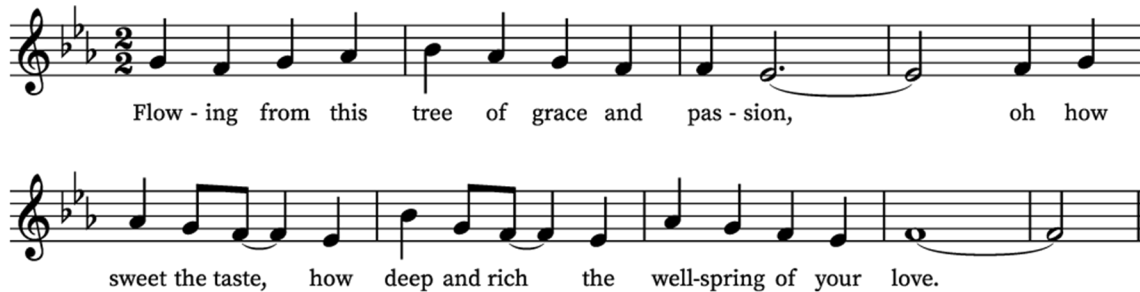
The musical score is written on six staves in 2/2 time, with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. Brackets indicate where optional phrases can be inserted. The lyrics are: \* [Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of life. [Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of life; Root of wis - dom, branch of peace, fruit of heal - ing and re - lease. [Come and gath - er] be - neath the tree of life. An arrow points to the right at the end of the final staff.

\* The following phrases may be inserted wherever there are brackets.

Streams of mercy...  
No more dying...  
Sweet forgiveness...

Lay your burdens...  
Grace and pardon...  
Joy and new hope...<sub>1</sub>

*Verse 2 - All sing together*



## Confession and Forgiveness

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

**Amen.**

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,  
**you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love,  
but our lives do not always reflect you  
and your love for the world.  
We do not show others the tender compassion  
you have shown to us.  
We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality  
you grant to all people.  
We oppress others,  
even though you have set us free again and again.  
We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.  
Transform our lives  
and guide us again in the way of the cross.  
Amen.**

Beloved in Christ,  
God's arms are always stretched open wide  
to welcome the wandering ones home.  
In + Christ your sins are forgiven.  
You have a place in God's house forever.  
**Amen.**

## Kyrie - ACS Setting 12

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

## Prayer of the Day

God of the covenant, in the mystery of the cross you promise everlasting life to the world. Gather all peoples into your arms, and shelter us with your mercy, that we may rejoice in the life we share in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## First Reading: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18

<sup>1</sup>After these things the word of the LORD came to Abram in a vision, "Do not be afraid, Abram, I am your shield; your reward shall be very great." <sup>2</sup>But Abram said, "O Lord GOD, what will you give me, for I continue childless, and the heir of my house is Eliezer of Damascus?" <sup>3</sup>And Abram said, "You have given me no offspring, and so a slave born in my house is to be my heir." <sup>4</sup>But the word of the LORD came to him, "This man shall not be your heir; no one but your very own issue shall be your heir." <sup>5</sup>He brought him outside and said, "Look toward heaven and count the stars, if you are able to count them." Then he said to him, "So shall your descendants be." <sup>6</sup>And he believed the LORD; and the LORD reckoned it to him as righteousness.

<sup>7</sup>Then he said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans, to give you this land to possess." <sup>8</sup>But he said, "O Lord GOD, how am I to know that I shall possess it?" <sup>9</sup>He said to him, "Bring me a heifer three years old, a female goat three years old, a ram three years old, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." <sup>10</sup>He brought him all these and cut them in two, laying



each half over against the other; but he did not cut the birds in two. <sup>11</sup> And when birds of prey came down on the carcasses, Abram drove them away.

<sup>12</sup> As the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram, and a deep and terrifying darkness descended upon him.

<sup>17</sup> When the sun had gone down and it was dark, a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch passed between these pieces. <sup>18</sup> On that day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, "To your descendants I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river, the river Euphrates."

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

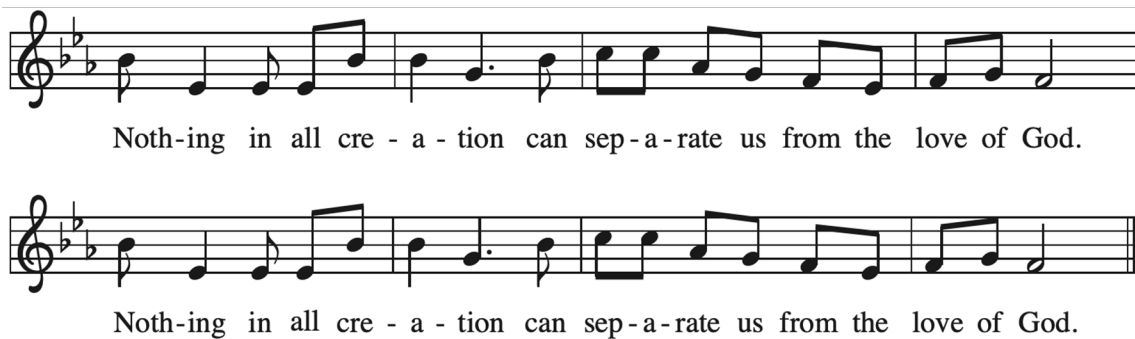
### **Second Reading: Philippians 3:17 - 4:1**

<sup>17</sup> Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. <sup>18</sup> For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. <sup>19</sup> Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. <sup>20</sup> But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>21</sup> He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. <sup>4:1</sup> Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Acclamation - ACS Setting 12**



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

## **Gospel Reading: Luke 13:31-35**

The Gospel according to Luke  
**Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>31</sup> At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus,] “Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you.” <sup>32</sup> He said to them, “Go and tell that fox for me, ‘Listen, I am casting out demons and performing cures today and tomorrow, and on the third day I finish my work. <sup>33</sup> Yet today, tomorrow, and the next day I must be on my way, because it is impossible for a prophet to be killed outside of Jerusalem.’ <sup>34</sup> Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often have I desired to gather your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you were not willing! <sup>35</sup> See, your house is left to you. And I tell you, you will not see me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.’”

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

### **Sermon**

*Pastor Rachel Mithelman*

## **Hymn of the Day: “Thy Holy Wings” - ELW #613**

### **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**

### **Sharing of the Peace**

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

### **Offering**

**Music Voluntary:** *“Spiritual Medley”* - arr. Sylvia Woods  
*Memorial Choir with Stacie Link, harp*

### **Offering Prayer**

Gracious Provider,  
you set your immense treasures among us,  
opening your heart to the world.  
As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love,  
deepen our commitment to sharing those  
treasures with others,  
through our Savior, Jesus Christ.  
**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.**

## Preface

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:

## Holy, Holy - "*Beneath the Tree of Life*" - Marty Haugen

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, ho - san-na, ho - san-na in the high - est.

Bless-ed is he, 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, ho - san - na in the high - est!

## **Words of Institution**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

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.

### **Invitation to Communion**

All who are hungry, come!  
The feast of grace is spread.

### **Hymns during Communion**

*"Lamb of God"* (see next page)  
*"Lead Me, Guide Me"* - ELW #768

## Lamb of God

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world, have

mer-cy on us. us. Grant us your peace.

## Prayer after Communion

Generous Host,  
you have shared your feast with us and made us new.  
Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,  
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,  
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**Amen.**

## Announcements

### Blessing

God our tender parent,  
God the crucified one,  
God the reconciling Spirit,  
+ bless you now and forever.  
**Amen.**

## Sending Hymn: "Guide My Feet" - ACS #987

Leader: Dave Lekwa

Leader All

1 Guide my feet  
2 Hold my hand  
3 Stand by me while I run this race.  
4 I'm your child  
5 Search my heart

Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race.  
I'm your child  
Search my heart

Guide my feet  
Hold my hand  
Stand by me while I run this race,  
I'm your child  
Search my heart

for I don't want to run this race in vain.

Text: African American spiritual

Music: GUIDE MY FEET, African American spiritual

## Dismissal

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God!**

## Postlude: "Etude" - Frederic Chopin

Lois Theesfield, piano

## Prayers for Healing

If you have a prayer request, please email [pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org](mailto:pastorkathleen@mlcnevada.org) or [emily@mlcnevada.org](mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org), or call the church office at 515-382-6509.

*Please keep Eric and Jenny Adelmund and family in your prayers following the death of Eric's father, Jesse Adelmund*

*Please keep Kathie and Lonny Flack and family in your prayers following the death of Kathie's father, Tom Rouse*

*Please keep John Pelzer and family in your prayers following the death of his father*

Judy Johnson	Marty Schuler	Carol Vincent
Gloria Jacobson	Katy Beno	Cassie Harrell
Connie Robinson	<i>sister of Sandy Christian</i>	Jean Smith
<i>sister of Shirley Klonglan</i>	Kathy Larsen	Easton Farrington
Baby Paisley	Eric Forsyth	Janice Hartz
Barb McDaniel	Crystal Vines	Jackie Byers
Ken Huffaker	Katie Bass	<i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>
<i>father of Kendra McCauley</i>	<i>niece of Judy Coverdale</i>	Donna See
Emma Nelson	Wayne Johnson	Norma Dannan
<i>granddaughter of Steve &amp; Nan Jungst</i>	Troy Vincent	<i>friend of Betty Runge</i>
Ardith Forsyth	Johann Thiel	Fred Samuelson
Gene Newsome	Mike Neal	Jaylee Bartleson
<i>friend of Mike Coverdale</i>	Christina King	George Forsyth
Eileen Miller	Sherry Kluever	Janeen Driscoll
Karen Anderson	Kim Elliott	Julie Sutherland
Caleb Roof	Pr. Marcia Kisner	Jan Cook
Evelyn Onstot	Marlene Waddell	
	<i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch</i>	

**Hospitalizations:** *If you are in the hospital or are going to be in the hospital and want us to be aware of it, please call the church office or have someone call on your behalf. Unless directed otherwise, your name will be placed on the prayer list and included in electronic notifications.*



## **Announcements**

### **MLC March Madness - Brackets open today!**

Let's celebrate March Madness with some friendly competition. Join our ESPN Tournament Challenge group "Memorial Lutheran Church" here:

[bit.ly/MLCMarchMadness2025](https://bit.ly/MLCMarchMadness2025)

Our group password is MLC2025. Brackets will be available later today (Selection Sunday) and will lock on Thursday, March 20 at 11:15 am CDT.

### **Easter Lily Dedications Due April 16**

Dedicate an Easter lily in honor or memory of a loved one and help decorate the church for Easter! Please fill out a form in the Narthex or contact the church office at 515-382-6509 or [emily@mlcnevada.org](mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org). A suggested donation is \$8 per lily (payments may be brought to the church office or dropped in the secure box outside Emily's office). Thank you!

### **New Member Orientation - Thursday, April 24 at 6 pm**

Are you interested in learning more about what it means to be a member at Memorial Lutheran? Are you considering joining the people of God at Memorial by taking the step of becoming a member? If so, we invite you to attend an orientation on the evening of Thursday, April 24. Join us for a meal and conversation about how Memorial seeks to live into God's mission here in Nevada. New members will be received in worship on Sunday, April 27. Please RSVP by e-mail Pastor Kathleen at [PastorKathleen@mlcnevada.org](mailto:PastorKathleen@mlcnevada.org).

### **Thrivent Choice Dollars Update**

Greetings on behalf of the Thrivent Choice Committee. Just a friendly reminder about designating your Thrivent dollars to Memorial as March 31 is the deadline. This past year with your generous designations we were able to assist Memorial youth in attending Lutheran Lakeside Camp (\$2,150), contribute to student personal hygiene items through Cubbies Cupboard (\$500), and help with Memorial's "A Welcoming Space= A Welcoming Place" heating and cooling project (\$2,500). Thank you for your support!

## **Celebrating our loan payoff - don't forget to update your Tithe.ly recurring giving!**

As you may have heard, we joyfully announced the payoff of our “A Welcoming Space = A Welcoming Place” heating and cooling project loan! If you have been giving through Tithe.ly as an automatic recurring gift to “A Welcoming Space=A Welcoming Place”, please make sure to cancel this giving and prayerfully consider moving it to another area in need through Tithe.ly, such as Capital Improvement or one of our special building projects. If you have questions, please contact Emily Dalthorp. Thank you!

## **Online Giving with Tithe.ly—New Funds Available for Designated Gifts**

Thank you for joining us for worship today! If you would like to support our ministries, online gifts can be made using <http://tithe.ly/> give or by scanning the QR code. ***Did you know? In Tithe.ly, you can set up one-time or recurring gifts to the General Fund, Capital Improvement Fund, Drive for the Drive Pavement Project, Sanctuary Screens Fund, Sanctuary Carpet Fund, and more!***



## **Stay Connected with Memorial**

Keep up-to-date with Memorial and community events, prayer requests, volunteer opportunities, and more; sign up to receive emails and/or periodic texts at [bit.ly/memorialconnect](http://bit.ly/memorialconnect) or by using the QR code



## **Save the Date**

### **Mid-week Lenten Worship & Supper**

*Supper provided by Council members*

When: Wednesday, March 26, supper at 6 PM followed by worship at 7 PM

### **Chili & Soup Cook-off**

*Contact the church office to bring chili or soup*

*Donations benefit ELCA World Hunger*

When: Wednesday, April 2, 6 PM

### **Church Potluck**

*Bring your favorite dish to share!*

When: Wednesday, April 9, 6 PM

### **Palm Sunday / Passion Sunday Worship**

When: Sunday, April 13, 9 AM

### **Maundy Thursday Worship**

When: Thursday, April 17, 7 PM

### **Good Friday Worship**

*Meditative harp music will be provided 30 minutes before worship begins*

When: Friday, April 18, 7 PM

### **Easter Dawn Worship**

When: Sunday, April 20, 7 AM

### **Easter Brunch**

*Fundraiser for Memorial Youth*

When: Sunday, April 20, 7:45 - 8:45 AM

### **Easter - He is Risen!**

*Egg hunt to follow 9 AM service*

When: Sunday, April 20, 9 AM

## Our 2025 Goals

*As discussed and approved at the January 2025 council meeting*

1. We will gather with Memorial members with an emphasis of creating an environment of belonging, fellowship, and family.
2. We will build on the ongoing ecumenical work.

## Our 2025 Council

Steve Lekwa, President  
Wayne Kinyon, Vice President  
Erin Rewerts, Secretary  
Hattie Rhodes, Treasurer

Carl Link  
Connie Kinyon  
Denise Rehor  
Emilia Stage

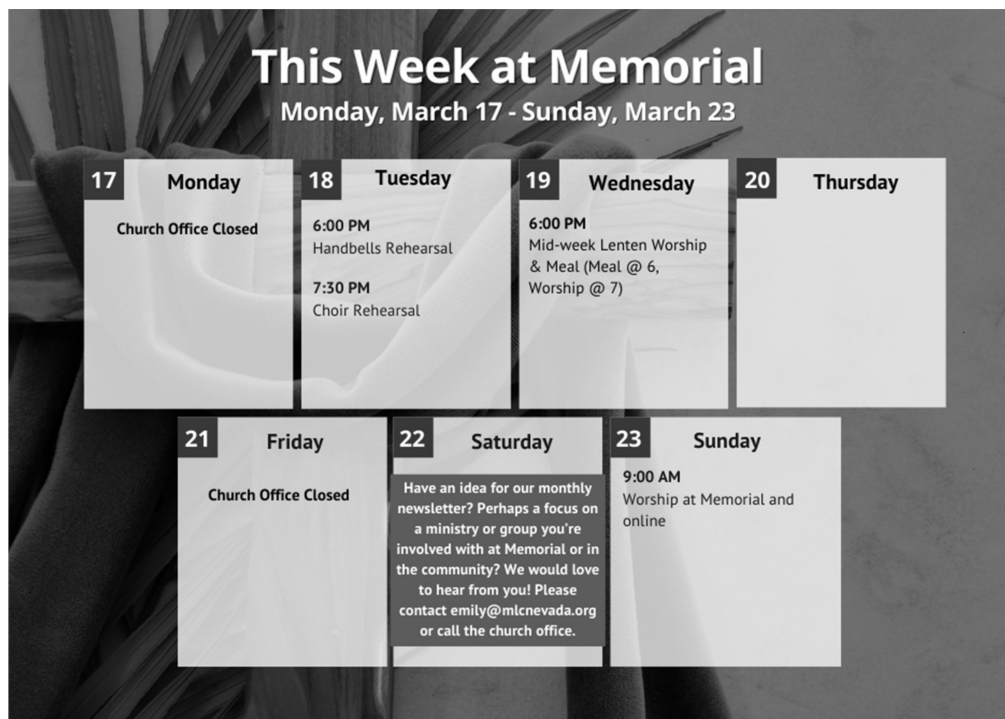
Larry Parker  
Lynn Rhodes  
Mike Neal  
Steve Jungst

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## This Week at Memorial

Monday, March 17 - Sunday, March 23

<b>17 Monday</b> Church Office Closed	<b>18 Tuesday</b> 6:00 PM Handbells Rehearsal 7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal	<b>19 Wednesday</b> 6:00 PM Mid-week Lenten Worship & Meal (Meal @ 6, Worship @ 7)	<b>20 Thursday</b>
<b>21 Friday</b> Church Office Closed	<b>22 Saturday</b> Have an idea for our monthly newsletter? Perhaps a focus on a ministry or group you're involved with at Memorial or in the community? We would love to hear from you! Please contact <a href="mailto:emily@mlcnevada.org">emily@mlcnevada.org</a> or call the church office.	<b>23 Sunday</b> 9:00 AM Worship at Memorial and online	

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@memluthnevada     Memorial Lutheran    Memorial Lutheran ELCA

Kathleen Lotz, Pastor | Lois Theesfield, Director of Music Ministry  
 Emily Dalthorp, Parish Administrator for Outreach & Engagement  
 Mike Coverdale, Custodian

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