

# Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026



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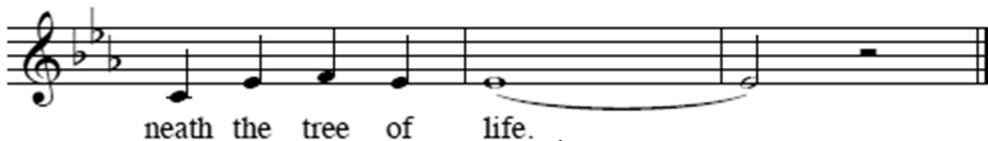
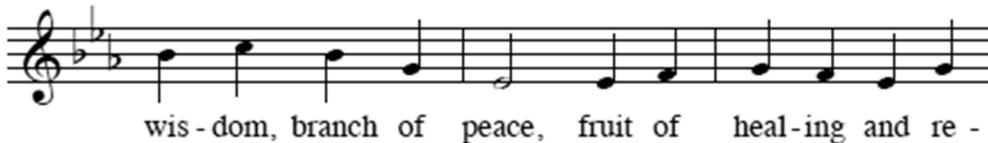
Memorial Lutheran Church | Nevada, Iowa

**Prelude:** "Blessed Quietness" - W.S. Marshall, arr. Sharon Wilson  
Pr. Kathleen Lotz, cello; Christine Heintz, flute

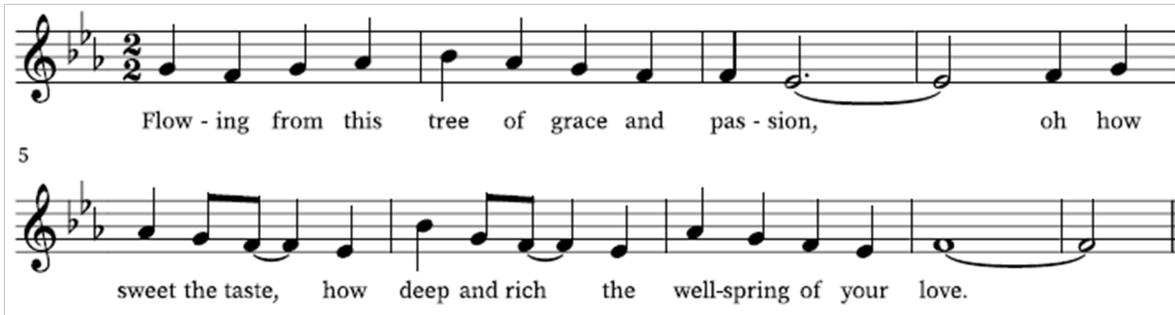
## Welcome

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

Refrain



## Verse 2



Flow - ing from this tree of grace and pas - sion, oh how  
5  
sweet the taste, how deep and rich the well-spring of your love.

## Refrain



\*[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.



## Penitential Rite



*Leader: May almighty...everlasting life.*



## 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.**

## First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a

<sup>1</sup>The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup>I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup>I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

<sup>4a</sup>So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Psalm 121

### Refrain



My help comes on - ly from the Lord, the mak - er of heav - en and earth. My  
help comes on - ly from the Lord, the mak - er of heav - en and earth.

- 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; *Refrain*
- 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. *Refrain*

## Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Children at Heart Sermon

### Gospel Acclamation - from "Now the Feast and Celebration" - Marty Haugen



*Congregation:*

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the Source of grace and

*Repeat*

mer - cy; Come, seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

## **Gospel Reading: John 3:1-17**

The Gospel according to John

**Glory to You, O Lord**

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> 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.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup>

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?”

<sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> 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.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”

<sup>11</sup> “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. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “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.

<sup>17</sup> “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 the Lord

**Praise to you, O Christ**

**Sermon**

## **Hymn of the Day: “God Loved the World” - ELW #323**

### **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:** *“Here is Love”* - Robert Lowry, arr. Sharon Wilson  
*Pr. Kathleen Lotz, cello; Christine Heintz, flute*

## **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.**

## **The Meal**

*This is Christ's table and Christ's meal. All are welcome here. Kids are welcome to commune at the discretion of their parents. If you are unable to come forward please let an usher or the pastor know so that we can bring you Communion at your seat.*

## **The 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, 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**

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

### **Hymns during Communion**

*"Jesus, Lamb of God"* - ELW #199

*"Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross"* - ELW #335

### **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.**

## **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: "Blessed Assurance" - ELW #638**

### **Dismissal**

Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Postlude:** *"Prelude and Fugue in A minor"* - Johann Kaspar Fischer  
*Lois Theesfield, organ*

## 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 Shelley Ludeman and family in your prayers following the death of her sister, Rhonda Thompson*

*Please keep Kenzie and Fred Alderson and family in your prayers following the death of Fred's mother Beverly Alderson.*

|                                    |  |  |
|------------------------------------|--|--|
| Nan Jungst                         | Loren Bryant                                   | Wayne Johnson                                |
| Paul Johnson                       | <i>brother of Arlys Neal</i>                   | Troy Vincent                                 |
| Bill Couser                        | Jill Rhodes                                    | Johann Thiel                                 |
| Mary Brinkman                      | Connie Robinson                                | Mike Neal                                    |
| Ashley and Ming Xu                 | <i>sister of Shirley Klonglan</i>              | Christina King                               |
| <i>friends of Aly Sassman</i>      | Barb McDaniel                                  | Sherry Kluever                               |
| Julia Zaffarano                    | Ken Huffaker                                   | Kim Elliott                                  |
| Joan Stensland                     | <i>father of Kendra McCauley</i>               | Pr. Marcia Kisner                            |
| Kathy Lynn Johnson                 | Emma Nelson                                    | Marlene Waddell                              |
| Teresa Krebs                       | <i>granddaughter of Steve &amp; Nan Jungst</i> | <i>friend of Virginia Palmisano-Goettsch</i> |
| Kari Toot                          | Ardith Forsyth                                 | Cassie Harrell                               |
| Tanya Sorem                        | Eileen Miller                                  | Jean Smith                                   |
| Julie & Craig Sutherland           | Karen Anderson                                 | Easton Farrington                            |
| June Copenhaver                    | Caleb Roof                                     | Janice Hartz                                 |
| <i>mother of Diane Martin</i>      | Evelyn Onstot                                  | Jackie Byers                                 |
| Pastor Andrea Myers                | Katy Beno                                      | <i>daughter of Shellie Black</i>             |
| <i>wife of Pastor Ronald Myers</i> | <i>sister of Sandy Christian</i>               | Donna See                                    |
| Charlie Lloyd                      | Eric Forsyth                                   | Norma Dannan                                 |
| Bert Ann Ray                       | Crystal Vines                                  | <i>friend of Betty Runge</i>                 |
| Wayne Kinyon                       | Katie Bass                                     | Fred Samuelson                               |
|                                    | <i>niece of Judy Coverdale</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**

### **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, we were able to provide \$2,640 to assist Memorial youth in attending Lutheran Lakeside Camp. Thank you for your support!

### **BINGO & Nachos - thank you for your donations!**

*Thank you* to all who provided prizes, helped serve, and made free-will donations at last Sunday's BINGO & Nachos event! Your generosity helped us raise more than \$400 for Memorial's Dorcas Fund, which provides assistance to individuals in need. Thank you!

### **Lutheran World Relief - National Quilt Day - March 21, 9 am - 2:30 pm**

March 21, 2026 is National Quilt Day. Come join other volunteers in recognizing this day with a day dedicated to sewing and assembling quilts for Lutheran World Relief. The work day will last from 9 am - 2:30 pm in Memorial's fellowship hall, and all are invited to bring something along to share for a potluck lunch. Please reach out to Kathy Bergmann with any questions.

### **Feeding Haiti's Kids - Friday, April 17, 6-8 pm**

We are trying to organize a group to volunteer to pack meals for Feeding Haiti's Kids at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Ames (1416 20th Street). We have 11 slots for volunteers. All volunteers must be 8 years and older and anyone under 12 must have an adult with them. Please contact Pastor Kathleen to sign up.

## **Volunteer Opportunity: Story Pals at Central Elementary**

**What:** Story Pals is a program that provides quality reading experiences for 4 to 5 year old preschoolers and supports the development of language and early literacy skills. The intended goal is to increase participant readiness for school and help spark the joy of reading!

**When:** Wednesdays, February 11th - April 29th; 8:45 - 10:15 AM OR 12:45 - 2:15 PM

**Where:** Central Elementary School, Nevada

**Sign up:** <https://share.vomevolunteer.com/rWoOOIzZ3Zb> or contact the church office

## **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.



## **Online Giving with Tithe.ly**

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!***



## General Fund 2026

### Cumulative Income vs Expenses as of January 31, 2026

Income: \$29,436

Expenses: (\$30,464)

Deficit: (\$1,028)



## **Save the Date.**

### **TODAY! Viewing of “Solas”**

*Memorial choir’s Carnegie Hall debut alongside 200+ vocalists!*

When: Sunday, March 1, 10:30 AM

Where: Chapel

### **TODAY! Book Study: “The Last Week”**

When: Sunday, March 1, 10:30 AM

Where: Library

### **Memorial at Harmony Clothing Closet - volunteers needed!**

When: Monday, March 2, 4:00 - 7:00 PM

**Mid-week Lenten Worship & Supper** (each Wednesday during Lent leading up to Holy Week)

When: Wednesday, March 4, supper at 6 PM followed by worship at 7 PM

### **Weekly Bible Study**

When: Thursday, March 5, 8:30 AM

### **Beer & Theology**

When: Thursday, March 5, 6:30 PM

Where: Cubbies on Main

### **Executive Committee Meeting**

When: Tuesday, March 10, 5:00 PM

**Mid-week Lenten Worship & Supper** (each Wednesday during Lent leading up to Holy Week)

When: Wednesday, March 11, supper at 6 PM followed by worship at 7 PM

### **Weekly Bible Study**

When: Thursday, March 12, 8:30 AM

### **Finance Team Meeting**

When: Thursday, March 12, 5:00 PM

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### **Bowling with Memorial**

When: Sunday, March 22, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

Where: Sports Bowl





# This Week at Memorial

Monday, March 2 - Sunday, March 8

|  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <p><b>2 Monday</b></p> <p>Church Office Closed</p> <p><b>4:00 - 7:00 PM</b><br/>MLC at Harmony Clothing Closet - volunteers needed!</p>  | <p><b>3 Tuesday</b></p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b><br/>Handbells Rehearsal</p> <p><b>7:30 PM</b><br/>Choir Rehearsal</p> | <p style="text-align: center;">+</p> <p><b>4 Wednesday</b></p> <p><b>6:00 PM</b><br/>Mid-week meal followed by Lenten worship</p>   | <p><b>5 Thursday</b></p> <p><b>8:30 AM</b><br/>Bible Study in Chapel</p> <p><b>6:30 PM</b><br/>Beer &amp; Theology at Cubbies on Main</p> |
| <p><b>6 Friday</b></p> <p>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.</p> | <p><b>7 Saturday</b></p>  | <p><b>8 Sunday</b></p> <p><b>9:00 AM</b><br/>Worship in-person and online</p> <p><b>10:30 AM</b><br/>Book Study: "The Last Week" Library</p> <p><b>10:30 AM</b><br/>Viewing of "Solos" in Chapel: (MLC choir's Carnegie Hall debut alongside 200+ vocalists!)</p> |   |

**Office Hours**  
Tuesday - Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM\*  
*\*Call 515-382-6509 for appointments outside of office hours*

**Memorial Lutheran Church**  
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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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