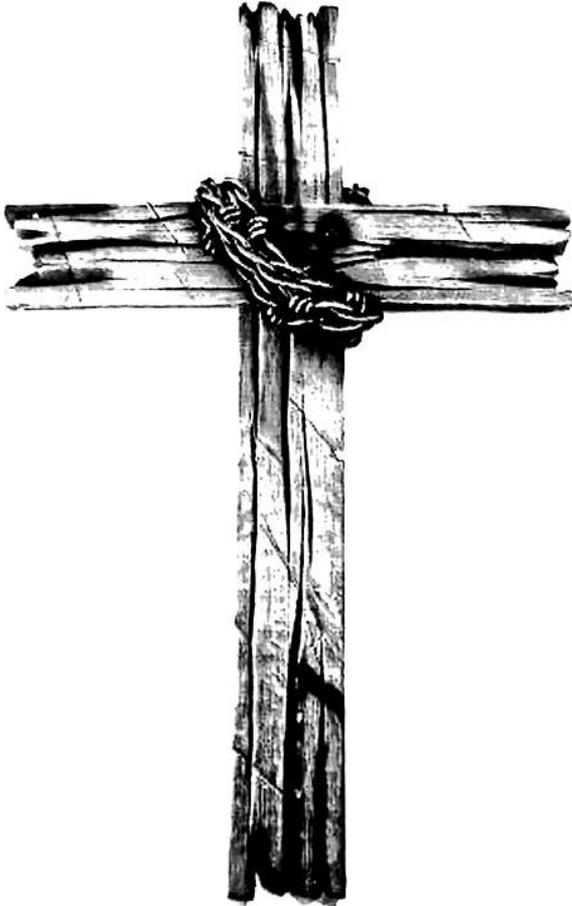


# FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

18 FEBRUARY 2024



OUR SAVIOR'S LUTHERAN CHURCH  
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

# **SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION**

## ***EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN WORSHIP, SETTING 4***

*The liturgy is in the front of the ELW starting on page 147.*

*The hymns begin in the middle of the ELW with numbers at the top of the pages.*

### **PRELUDE**

### **RINGING OF THE BELL**

### **WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **BURIAL OF THE ALLELUIA**

### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.

**C: Amen.**

P: Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Holy God,

**C: we confess that we are caught in snares of sin  
and cannot break free.**

**We hoard resources while our neighbors  
are hungry and cold.**

**We speak in ways that silence others.**

**We are silent when we should speak up.**

**We keep score in our hearts.**

**We let hurts grow into hatred.**

**For all these things and for sins only you know,  
forgive us, Lord.**

**Amen.**

P: Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world, God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

### **HYMN #304 "CHRIST, WHEN FOR US YOU WERE BAPTIZED"**

### **GREETING [PAGE 147]**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And also with you.**

♪ **KYRIE** [PAGE 147]

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...now and forever.*)

**C: Amen**

**READINGS**

**GENESIS 9:8-17 / PSALM 25:1-10 / 1 PETER 3:18-22**

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

♪ **GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** [PAGE 151] **“RETURN TO THE LORD...”**

**GOSPEL [MARK 1:9-15]**

P: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1<sup>st</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**YOUTH SERMON – NOISY OFFERING**

**SERMON – REV. LEAH HOLLOWAY-NILSEN**

**HYMN #445 “WASH, O GOD, OUR SONS AND DAUGHTERS”**

## ***Holy Baptism***

**PRESENTATION**

P: In baptism our gracious heavenly Father frees us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We are born children of a fallen humanity; by water and the Holy Spirit we are reborn children of God and made members of the church, the body of Christ. Living with Christ and in the communion of saints, we grow in faith, love, and obedience to the will of God.

*Sponsors:* We present Bowen to receive the sacrament of Holy Baptism.

P: Dylan and Kodi, called by the Holy Spirit, trusting in the grace and love of God, do you desire to have Bowen baptized into Christ?

*Parents' Response:* We do.

P: As you bring your child to receive the gift of baptism, you are entrusted with gifts and responsibilities:  
to live with him among God's faithful people,  
bring him to the word of God and the holy supper,  
teach him the Lord's Prayer, the Creed,  
and the Ten Commandments,  
place in his hands the holy scriptures,  
and nurture him in faith and prayer,  
so that he may learn to trust God,  
proclaim Christ through word and deed,  
care for others and the world God made,  
and work for justice and peace.

Kodi and Dylan, do you promise to help your child grow in the Christian faith and life?

*Parents' response:* We do.

P: Leanna and Brandon, do you promise to nurture Bowen in the Christian faith as you are empowered by God's Spirit, and to help him live in the covenant of baptism and in communion with the church?

*Sponsors' response:* We do.

P: People of God, do you promise to support Bowen and pray for him in his new life in Christ?

**C: We do.**

### **PROFESSION OF FAITH**

P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and confess the faith of the church.

Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

**C: We renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the powers of this world that rebel against God?

**C: We renounce them.**

P: Do you renounce the ways of sin that draw you away from God?

**C: We renounce them.**

P: Do you believe in God, the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father, almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: 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 again to judge the living and the dead.**

P: Do you believe in God, the Holy Spirit?

**C: 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.**

### **THANKSGIVING AT THE FONT**

P: The Lord be with you!

**C: And also with you!**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God!

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

P: We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters and by your Word you created the world, calling forth life in which you took delight. Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family, and through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom. At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you set us free from the power of sin and death and raise us up to live in you. Pour out your Holy Spirit, the power of your living Word,

that those who are washed in the waters of baptism may be given new life. To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **BAPTISM**

P: Bowen Michael, I baptize you in the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

P: Let us pray. We give you thanks, O God, that through water and the Holy Spirit you give your sons and daughters new birth, cleanse them from sin and raise them to eternal life.

Sustain Bowen with the gift of your Holy Spirit: the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord, the spirit of joy in your presence, both now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Bowen Michael, child of God, you have been sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever.

**C: Amen.**

### **WELCOME**

Congregation Representative: Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.

P: Let us welcome the newly baptized.

**C: We welcome you into the body of Christ and the mission we share: join us in giving thanks and praise to God and bearing God's creative and redeeming word to all the world.**

### **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

P: Trusting in God's promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation and a world in need.

*(Each petition ends: P: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.)*

P: Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**C: Amen.**

**SHARING OF THE PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. (*concluding...our Savior and Lord.*)

**C: Amen.**

♪ **GREAT THANKSGIVING** [*PAGE 152*]

**PREFACE** [*PAGE 153*]

P: It is indeed right...and join their unending hymn:

**C: ♪ “Holy, holy, holy...”**

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

**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.**

***Holy Communion is celebrated today.***

*All who are baptized into Christ Jesus are invited to receive Holy Communion  
Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

**COMMUNION** [*PAGE 154*] **“LAMB OF GOD...”**

**HYMN #613 “THY HOLY WINGS”**

**POST COMMUNION BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

**C: Amen**

**POST COMMUNION HYMN**

♪ **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
praise him, all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heav'nly host;  
praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.**

**POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. (*concluding*...Jesus Christ our Lord.)

**C: Amen.**

**BLESSING**

P: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**HYMN #504 "A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD"**

**DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**RINGING OF THE BELL**

**POSTLUDE**

**Pastor:** Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen

**Organist:** Jason Boussetot or Linda Whitman

**Acolyte:** David Burke

**Lector:** Neil Holmquist

**Communion Assistant:** Brian Boussetot

**Usher:** Joe Morehead

**Cleaners:** Marcia Edens

## Contact Information:

### **Rev. Leah Holloway-Nilsen**

Cell Phone: (262) 914-9392

Email: [pastorleahhollnil@gmail.com](mailto:pastorleahhollnil@gmail.com)

### **Church Office**

Phone: (563) 246-2622

Email: [clparish@fbcom.net](mailto:clparish@fbcom.net)

Website: [www.clparish.org](http://www.clparish.org)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/clparish1861](http://www.facebook.com/clparish1861)

## This Week At A Glance

Wednesday	6:15 pm	Midweek Lenten meal at Faith
	7:00 pm	Midweek Lenten Worship at Faith
	7:30 pm	Bible Jam at Faith
Sunday	8:00 am	Worship service at Faith
	9:25 am	Sunday School at Our Savior's
	10:30 am	Worship service at Our Savior's

**Those to keep in prayer:** Diane Christensen, Mallory Boussetot, Diane Sievers; the homebound: Carol Christensen, Ron Gasper, Delores Lahann, Lucy Lee Petersen, Myrna Kay Peterson, Rusty Porth, Betty Schau, Bus Seastrand and Vera St. John; and those serving in the military.

This morning through Holy Baptism, Bowen Michael Boussetot, child of Dylan and Kodi Boussetot, will be received into the family of God and the membership of Our Savior's Lutheran Church. His sponsors are Leanna Boussetot and Brandon Boussetot.

You can help the four youth planning to attend the **2024 ELCA Youth Gathering** by becoming a stockholder. Shares cost \$50 each. Investors will receive mail from the youth while at the Gathering and an invitation to a supper when they return. Forms can be found at both churches. Contact Heather Grau (563-424-0507) or Pastor Leah (262-914-9392) if you have questions.

**Jars of peanut butter** (chunky or smooth, any size, any brand) will be gathered from Ash Wednesday through Easter Sunday for the Carroll Assistance Center in Wheatland.

The **noisy offering** will be collected today, Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>.  
The 2024 recipient is Calamus-Wheatland Schools.

**March newsletter** items are due Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>.

**Midweek Lenten services** begin Wednesday, February 21.  
A meal will be served at 6:15 pm followed by worship at 7:00 pm.  
The February Wednesdays are at Faith and the March Wednesdays  
are at Our Savior's.

The Joint Council wants to form a committee to develop an **online parish directory**. Needed are two or three people from each congregation to serve on that committee. You can contact Pastor Leah, Amy Glover, or Mark Witte to volunteer or to get more information.

### **Here We Stand!**

Group travel to Germany in the steps of Luther,  
modern Germany, and stories of emigration.

July 21 – August 2, 2025

Hosted by Pastor Dennis Rodenberg

Contact Pastor Dennis (563-880-5345) for more information.

## **The Day of Decision**

*Mark 1: 9-11 In those days Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan; and as soon as he came up out of the water he saw the heavens being riven asunder and the Spirit coming down upon him, as a dove might come down; and there came a voice from heaven, "You are my beloved Son; I am well pleased with you."*

To any thinking person the baptism of Jesus presents a problem. John's baptism was a baptism of repentance, meant for those who were sorry for their sins and who wished to express their determination to have done with them. What had such a baptism to do with Jesus? Was he not the sinless one, and was not such a baptism unnecessary and quite irrelevant as far as he was concerned? For Jesus the baptism was four things.

(i) It was the moment of decision. For thirty years he had stayed in Nazareth. Faithfully he had done his day's work and discharged his duties to his home. For long he must have been conscious that the time for him to go out had to come. He must have waited for a sign. The emergence of John was that sign. This, he saw, was the moment when he had to launch out upon his task.

In every life there come moments of decision which may be accepted or rejected. To accept them is to succeed; to reject them, or to shirk them, is to fail. To every man there comes the unreturning decisive moment. The undecided life is the wasted life, the frustrated life, the discontented life, and often the tragic life.

The drifting life can never be the happy life. Jesus knew when John emerged that the moment of decision had come. Nazareth was peaceful and home was sweet, but he answered the summons and the challenge of God.

(ii) It was the moment of identification. It is true that Jesus did not need to repent from sin; but here was a movement of the people back to God; and with that Godward movement he was determined to identify himself. A man might himself possess ease and comfort and wealth and still identify himself with a movement to bring better things to the downtrodden and the poor and the ill-housed and the over-worked and the underpaid. The really great identification is when a man identifies himself with a movement, not for his own sake, but for the sake of others. In John Bunyan's dream, Christian came in his journeying with Interpreter to the Palace which was heavily guarded and required a battle to seek an entry. At the door there sat the man with the inkhorn taking the names of those who would dare the assault. All were hanging back,

then Christian saw "a man of a very stout countenance come up to the man that sat there to write, saying, 'Set down my name, sir'." When great things are afoot the Christian is bound to say, "Set down my name, sir," for that is what Jesus did when he came to be baptized.

(iii) It was the moment of approval. No man lightly leaves his home and sets out on an unknown way. He must be very sure that he is right. Jesus had decided on his course of action, and now he was looking for the seal of the approval of God. In the time of Jesus the Jews spoke of what they called the Bath Qol, which means, the daughter of a voice. By this time they believed in a series of heavens, in the highest of which sat God in the light to which no man could approach. There were rare times when the heavens opened and God spoke; but, to them, God was so distant that it was only the far away echo of his voice that they heard. To Jesus the voice came directly. As Mark tells the story, this was a personal experience which Jesus had and not in any sense a demonstration to the crowd. The voice did not say, "This is my beloved Son," as Matthew has it (Matthew 3:17). It said, "Thou art my beloved Son," speaking direct to Jesus. At the baptism Jesus submitted his decision to God and that decision was unmistakably approved.

(iv) It was the moment of equipment. At that time the Holy Spirit descended upon him. There is a certain symbolism here. The Spirit descended as a dove might descend. The simile is not chosen by accident. The dove is the symbol of gentleness. Both Matthew and Luke tell us of the preaching of John. (Matthew 3:7-12; Luke 3:7-13.) John's was a message of the axe laid to the root of the tree, of the terrible sifting, of the consuming fire. It was a message of doom and not of good news. But from the very beginning the picture of the Spirit likened to a dove is a picture of gentleness. He will conquer, but the conquest will be the conquest of love.