



the good news is...

together, the impossible
is possible

March 8, 2026
3rd Sunday in Lent

PRELUDE / BELLS

GATHERING/ANNOUNCEMENTS

**STAND AS ABLE*

***THE PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

If you need good news,
settle into this space.

We have good news to share.

If you need a word of hope,
then trust us when we say,

there is hope enough to go around.

If you need a glimmer of joy,
then you're in luck!

We have resilient joy abounding.

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,
then know that this is God's house.

This is the good news of the gospel.

God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move.

Let us worship our with-us God!

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

Friends, we are like the disciples.

The day that Jesus fed 5,000, his disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd's hunger. They told Jesus to send the crowds away.

We often do the same.

Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around, but when we run into issues, we often cannot imagine how we could play a part.

That is why we need the Prayer of Confession.

For in this prayer, we remember that we can make a difference.

So friends, join me in this moment of truth telling.

Join me in prayer:

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Holy God, with you the impossible is possible.

5,000 can be fed.

The blind can see.

The hopeless can find hope.

With you the impossible is possible,

but we are quick to forget that.

We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.

We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.

We forget that you are always with us.

Forgive our small-minded ways.

Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.

But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

***WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Family of faith,

no matter how many mistakes the disciples made,

Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them. Jesus still called them beloved.

The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:

today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God.

We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone.

What good, good news. Amen!

***GATHERING SONG** *Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty (ELW #777)*

***PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

Holy God, we could press our ear to the page, hoping to hear you more clearly. We could silence all the alarms and notifications, hoping to catch a murmur of your voice.

We could still our beating hearts, and still we might miss your voice.

So today we pray, open up space in our hearts, in our spirits, in our minds, to feel your presence among us.

With you, anything is possible.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

Amen.

READING: Mark 6:32-44

³² And they went away in the boat to a deserted place by themselves. ³³ Now many saw them going and recognized them, and they hurried there on foot from all the towns and arrived ahead of them. ³⁴ As he went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and he began to teach them many things. ³⁵ When it grew late, his disciples came to him and said, "This is a deserted place, and the hour is now very late; ³⁶ send them away so that they may go into the surrounding country and villages and buy something for themselves to eat." ³⁷ But he answered them, "You give them something to eat." They said to him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread and give it to them to eat?" ³⁸ And he said to them, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." When they had found out, they said, "Five, and two fish." ³⁹ Then he ordered them to get all the people to sit down in groups on the green grass. ⁴⁰ So they sat down in groups of hundreds and of fifties. ⁴¹ Taking the five loaves and the two fish, he looked up to heaven and blessed and broke the loaves and gave them to his disciples to set before the people, and he divided the two fish among them all. ⁴² And all ate and were filled, ⁴³ and they took up twelve baskets full of broken pieces and of the fish. ⁴⁴ Those who had eaten the loaves numbered five thousand men.

The good news of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

READING: Ephesians 3:20-21

²⁰ Now to him who by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, ²¹ to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever.

Amen.

The good news of Jesus Christ. **Amen**

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY** *Precious Lord, Take My Hand (ELW #773)*

***AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

I believe in the good news of
Jesus Christ.

It sounds like welcome
and feels like home.

It sounds like laughter
and feels like mercy.

It sounds like love
and feels like a seat at the
table,

so I believe in the good news of
Jesus Christ.

I have seen it alive in the
world.

And even when my heart
aches,

even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of
reach,

I remember the one who
welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.

I remember the one who
cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.

I remember that the good
news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the
world.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

***PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Calling and equipping God, many years ago, on a hillside in Galilee,
you looked at your disciples and said, "You give them something to eat."

We read these ancient words again and are struck with the realization
that from the very beginning, you have seen good in us.

From the very beginning, you have known that we are capable of great
love.

From the very beginning, you have believed that we could make a
difference. Calling God, help us to see that truth in ourselves.

Help us to see your fingerprints in our lives.

Help us to see the ways you have equipped us to serve.

Help us to see the ways that we are capable, instead of only seeing
the ways we stumble and get in our own way.

God, we long to see ourselves as you do because we know that like that
day in the Galilee, there is still work to do.

Like that day on the hillside, this world is full of people who are hungry.

We are hungry for justice, hungry for companionship, hungry for
reasons to hope.

Like that day on the hillside, this world is full of people who need healing. We need healing for our bodies, healing for our minds, healing for broken relationships. And like that day on the hillside, there is surely enough to go around, but we doubt and deny that truth.

So call us again, loving God.

Say our names.

Hand us the baskets of bread and fish.

Tell us it's our turn.

Help us see ourselves the way you see us, for we know that together the impossible is possible. Amen

OFFERING

***OFFERING SONG** *Let the Vineyards (ELW #182)*

***GREAT THANKSGIVING**

***LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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 banquet, for all is now ready.

***BENEDICTION**

As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love.

When you meet fear, speak with hope.

When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.

But no matter what, speak this good news.

For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all.

It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms.

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking.

For if you won't, then who will?

Thanks be to God for this good, good news.

Amen.

***SENDING SONG** *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer (ELW #618)*

***DISMISSAL**

The good news is...together the impossible is possible!

Thanks be to God!

BELLS / POSTLUDE

*Words for worship for Lent-Easter
Written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed*

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

JOYFULLY SERVING

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Communion: Patti Malme

Reader: Ken Miller

Usher: Bruce Newhouse

Coffee Servers: Bruce & Tami Newhouse

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Mon., March 9th
9:00 AM Quilting at FLC
- Tues., March 10th
9:00 AM Quilting at FLC
- Wed., March 11th 3rd Week in Lent
6:00 PM Confirmation Students arrive at FLC
7:00PM Lenten Worship at FLC
7:30 PM Fisher Council
- Sun., March 15th 4th Sunday in Lent
9:00 AM Worship at BLC
10:00 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship at FLC
1:30 – 3:00 PM 1st Communion Class @ Joyce Bruness's
Pottery Shop

ASH WED	1ST SUN IN LENT	2ND SUN IN LENT	3RD SUN IN LENT	4TH SUN IN LENT	5TH SUN IN LENT
The good news is... all are invited	The good news is... so good it catches us by surprise	The good news is... great love for God and neighbor	The good news is... together, the impossible is possible	The good news is... protection and care for the vulnerable	The good news is... rooted in justice, mercy, and faithfulness
<u>Luke 14:15-24</u> (Parable of the wedding banquet)	<u>John 2:1-11</u> (Wedding at Cana) <u>Matthew 13:31-32</u> (Parable of the mustard seed)	<u>Luke 7:36-50</u> (Woman with the alabaster jar washes Jesus' feet) <u>Matthew 25:35-40</u> ("Whatever you did for the least of these, you did for me")	<u>Mark 6:32-44</u> (Feeding of the 5,000) <u>Ephesians 3:20-21</u> ("By the power at work within us [God] is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine")	<u>Matthew 19:13-15</u> (Jesus blesses the children) <u>Deuteronomy 24:17-22</u> (Care for the alien, the orphan, and the widow)	<u>John 8:2-11</u> (Jesus refuses to condemn a woman caught in adultery) <u>Matthew 23:23</u> ("You have neglected the more important matters of the law—justice, mercy, and faithfulness.")

Surely, This Must Be It

Everyone has a job. I wash the potatoes, filling the sink with slivers of potato peel. You brine the turkey, hovering by the oven all afternoon. Someone sets the table, taking care to fill a vase with asters and marigolds, sprigs of holly and shoots of evergreen. We play music while we prepare. "*What The World Needs Now is Love*" comes on. We can't get it out of our heads. We whistle along to Dionne all afternoon. And eventually, the doorbell rings.

You've invited the neighbors, the grad student who sits on the second row at church, the widower in the choir. We add seats to the table. We go around the room and share one thing we're grateful for. Eyes well as we create a laundry list of beauty. The kids get squirmy, but we're grateful for that too.

And then we eat! We scoop whipped potatoes and crisp green beans with fresh garlic. We pass the bread basket, leaving crumbs all over the table. They are tiny reminders of communion in our midst.

And at the end of the night, when we walk our guests to the car and carry sleeping children to their car seats, our neighbors say, *What a holy moment it all was*. Surely this must be what heaven feels like. Surely we *can* create it together.

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Deadline to direct your 2025 Choice Dollars is 3/31/2026

A Decorated Table Event
& Online Quilt Auction

11th ANNUAL AROUND OUR TABLE

**Saturday, April 18 at
Calvary Lutheran
Church Fellowship Hall**
1405 S. 9th St., Grand Forks, ND

- **Donate a Quilt or Quilted Item**
- **Host a Decorated Table**
- **Purchase a Seat for Brunch**

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