

# THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

March 1, 2026

*Second Sunday in Lent*

*We Gather in God's Name . . .*

## PRELUDE

### PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

I lift up my eyes to the hills – where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let [my] foot slip – he who watches over [me] will not slumber; indeed, he who watches over [all] will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord watches over [me] – the Lord is [my] shade at [my] right hand; the sun will not harm [me] by day, nor the moon by night. [As well], the Lord will keep you from all harm – he will watch over your life; the Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore. (Adapted from Psalm 121).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

### \*CALL TO WORSHIP

One: We trust in God who neither slumbers nor sleeps.

**All: May we be born of water and the Spirit, born from above.**

One: He calls us to his Kingdom. We strive to be worthy.

**All: God so loved the world that he gave his only Son to bring us back to the Father. Through our faith in Jesus, we will have eternal life.**

\*OPENING HYMN “There’s a Spirit in the Air” #433

### \*CALL TO CONFESSION

God beckoned Abram and Sarai to a new life in a country unknown to them, and they obeyed without arguing. God calls us to live a life in which we can be born anew. Will we repent and be faithful to His call? Let us silently ask for forgiveness if we are afraid and hesitate to go where he calls us.

### \*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

\*RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS “I Love the Lord, Who Heard My Cry” #362

**Singing:** I love the Lord, who heard my cry  
And pitied every groan.  
Long as I live and troubles rise,  
I’ll hasten to God’s throne.  
I love the Lord, who heard my cry  
And chased my grief away.  
O let my heart no more despair  
While I have breath to pray.

### \*THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Since God has forgiven us in Christ, let us forgive one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus the Christ be with you all.

**All: And also with you.**

. . . *to Proclaim God’s Word*

FIRST READING Genesis 12: 1-4a p. 10

SECOND READING Romans 4: 1-5, 13-17 p. 154

ANTHEM “Cleft For Me” Choir

GOSPEL READING John 3: 1-17 p. 93

One: The word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON “How Can It Be?” Pastor Judy Sibley

\*HYMN OF RESPONSE “Lord, You Give the Great Commission” #429

. . . *to Give Thanks to God . . .*

### WE OFFER OUR GIFTS TO GOD

### THE OFFERTORY

### \*OFFERING RESPONSE

“Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” #592

**Singing:** Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him, all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

### \*PRAYER OF DEDICATION

**Thank you, Jesus, that we can satisfy hunger and foster hope. It is through you that we are able to give generously, if it is only the widow’s single coin. With this offering we commit our lives to your will in our community, among our neighbors, and to those who are strangers in a strange land. Help us to do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with you. Amen.**

### PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD’S PRAYER

One: Lord in your mercy,

**All: hear our 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

\*COMMUNION HYMN “We Come as Guests Invited” #517

### INVITATION TO THE LORD’S SUPPER

### GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

**All: And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

**All: We lift them up to the Lord.**

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**All: It is right to give our thanks and praise**

One: . . . Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels, with prophets, apostles, and martyrs, and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**All:** Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

**One:** ... Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen. Great is the mystery of faith:

**All:** Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

**One:** ... Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen.

#### WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

**One:** The gifts of God for the people of God.

**All:** Let us keep the feast.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

... and to Be Sent in God's Name

\*CLOSING HYMN "Song of Hope" #432

#### BENEDICTION

RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION "Go with God"  
Lt. Blue Songbook #138

**Singing:** Go with God. Go with God.  
As you leave this place, go with God.  
God will direct your way, God will light ev'ry day.  
As you leave this place, go with God.

#### POSTLUDE

## The Upper Room

"Spring Is On The Way"

Sunday, March 1, 2026

Read Psalm 139: 1-12\*

*"Even the darkness will not be dark to you; the night will shine like the day, for darkness is as light to you."*

---Psalm 139:12 (NIV)

I live in the far north, and as winter sets in, the nights become long and all of creation seems to lie dormant. People often feel downcast. You read it in their faces. You see it in the way they brace against the wind and pass by looking at the ground, their focus only on reaching their destination.

Feeling the onslaught of this weariness, I decided to go forward for prayer on Sunday morning. The pastor prayed for me and then paused. I still remember what he said next: "Spring is on the way!" He was right. Skies eventually became blue and days got longer. People started to smile and stopped to talk in the streets.

It can be like that in our spiritual lives as well. Jesus never said the narrow ways would be easy. On the contrary. He told us to expect trouble and warned us that the way ahead would be demanding. But Jesus promised that he would be with us all the way. What a comfort it is to know that we are not expected to walk this path alone.

And that is how we find joy even when it is still winter. Through faith we hold on to the assurance that the Lord is with us, and spring is on the way.

**Prayer:** "Dear God, help us to keep our eyes on you, knowing that you are with us even when the night is long." Amen.

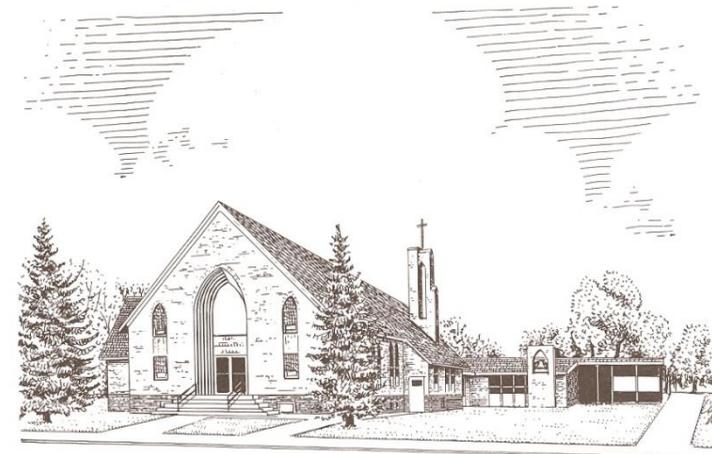
--Carol Westerlund (Uusimaa, Finland)

#### Thought for the Day:

"For lo, the winter is past, the rain is over and gone" (Song of Sol. 2:11, KJV)."

(If you would like to read **The Upper Room** each day, you may pick up a copy in the narthex.)

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