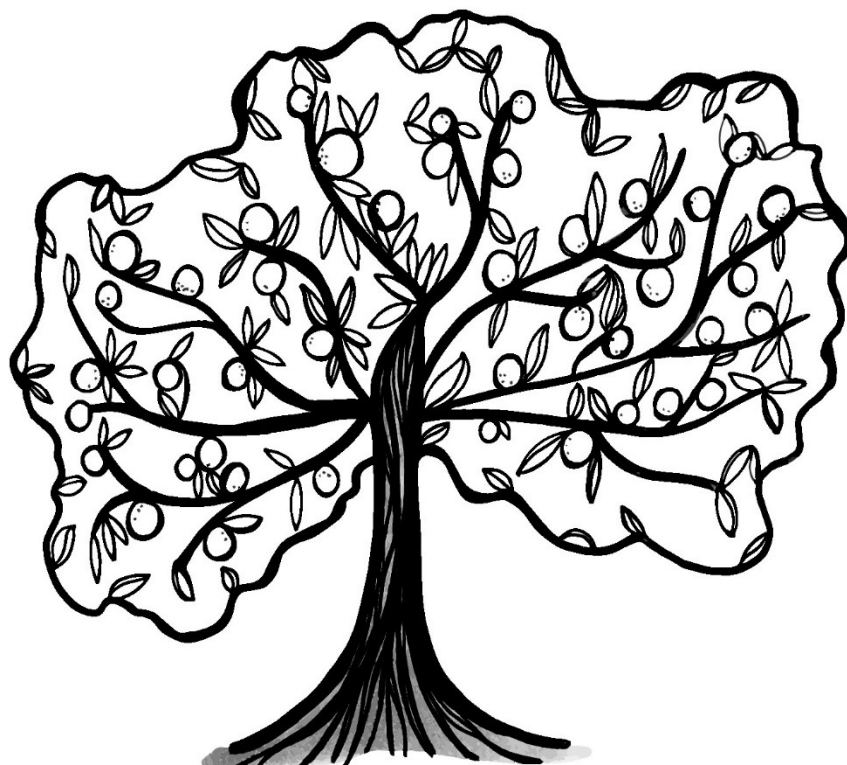


Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church

“Growing Relationships with God, Each Other, and Our Neighbors in the Way of Jesus”



First Sunday in Lent

Saturday, February 21, 2026, 4:00 PM

Sunday, February 22, 2026, 9:00 AM

Welcome...There's a place for you here!

Welcome to the Lord's Table

All Christians, regardless of church membership or affiliation, are invited to the Lord's Table to share Holy Communion. You may come forward through the center aisle to share communion around the table and then return to your seat through the side aisles. You may also share communion while remaining in your seat. Bread and cups prepared in advance are available from baskets at the top of the ramps, or you may let an usher know to have those who are serving at the table come to serve you.

Bread, wheat wafers, or gluten-free wafers are available, as well as alcoholic wine (lighter color) or nonalcoholic grape juice (darker color). Paper towel-lined baskets are provided for empty cups at the end of the first pew and at the top of the ramps. Those who are not partaking may also come forward to receive a verbal blessing.

Welcome to all God's children

During the Sunday service, the youngest children of God are invited to come forward for a message especially for them. "Busy bags" are hung along the wall in the sanctuary for use during services. Toys and books are also found in and near the glass-enclosed room at the end of the gallery seating. Children of all ages are welcome to share holy communion with a grownup's guidance.

You'll find a changing table in the restroom near the top of the spiral staircase in the entryway. Another changing table is located just outside the glass-enclosed room. An unstaffed nursery is located at the bottom of the spiral staircase in the entryway, as a place for a grownup to stay with their child.

Restrooms in the entryway are single-occupant and gender-inclusive. They are located in two cubes made of mirrors, one on either side of the entryway.

Sunday services are livestreamed, and some worshipers may be seen in the broadcast. Those seated behind the ramps will not be seen on camera.

(thank you for silencing your phone as you worship)

PRELUDE

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

(silence is kept for reflection)

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

"Oh Lord, Throughout These Forty Days"

ELW 319

GREETING

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

And also with you.

KYRIE *(Now the Feast)*

ELW 157

In peace, in peace, let us pray to the ...

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all, let us pray to the ...

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to love your word, let us pray to the ...

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.
Help, save, and defend us, O God. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE (Sun.)

FIRST READING: **Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7**

A reading from Genesis:

¹⁵ The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the Lord God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: **Psalm 32** (*read responsively*)

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,
because of my groaning all day long.

⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal my guilt.
I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."
Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.

⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

⁸ **"I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;
I will guide you with my eye.**

⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you."

¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations of the wicked;**

but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

A reading from Romans:

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

ACS 918

Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.

Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in - vi - ta - tion.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The Gospel of our Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON: Pastor Nathan Pratt

HYMN OF THE DAY

“When We Are Tested”

ACS 922 (*next page*)

When We Are Tested



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

INSTALLATION OF CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS & OFFICERS

The following people have been elected by the congregation to positions of leadership as members of our congregation council . . .

*Andy Steenrod, Athena Minto, Julie Gosselin, Kären Nielsen, Kim Haigh,
Mark Trinklein, Ron Hurner, Ron Londré, Susan Bakken, Tim Kluessendorf*

. . . People of God, I ask you: Will you support these, your elected leaders, and will you share in the mutual ministry that Christ has given to all who are baptized?

We will, and we ask God to help us.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Each petition ends, "Hear us, O God."

The assembly responds, "Your mercy is great."

*In our prayers . . . Audrey Enright, Chris Smith, Clare, Cristina, Dan,
Darrell Reynolds, David Bjorkman, Deb Dulek, Eric, Gary Brown, Ginny Trendel, Janelle Schowalter, Jean
Wishau, Jill, Jim Broetzmann, Jo Anne Rempfer,
Julie Reynolds, Karen Tyykila, Kinsley, Lauren, Pastor Marcy Wieties, Paul,
Ray Palenik, Ron, Scott, Sean.*

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

BELL CHOIR ANTHEM (Sun) "O Sacred Head Now Wounded"

OFFERING

Use the QR code to reach our online giving page:



OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray: 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.

HOLY COMMUNION

Now the Feast

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.

It is our duty and delight . . . we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and
 might; heav - en and earth are filled with your
 glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed is the one who comes in your name. Ho -
 san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Holy God, you alone are holy, you alone are God. The universe declares your praise: beyond the stars; beneath the sea; within each cell; with every breath.

We praise you, O God.

Generations bless your faithfulness: through the water; by night and day; across the wilderness; out of exile; into the future.

We bless you, O God.

We give you thanks for your dear Son: at the heart of human life; near to those who suffer; beside the sinner; among the poor; with us now.

We thank you, O God.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Remembering his love for us on the way, at the table, and to the end, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit: in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world.

Blessing, praise, and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus, by your Spirit, in your church, without end. **Amen.**

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

DISTRIBUTION *(see inside of bulletin cover for communion directions)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

SENDING SONG "Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church" ELW 321

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Today's Worship Leaders

Preacher: Pastor Nathan Pratt; Presider: Pastor Beth Ann Stone
Musician: Michael Becker; Minister of Music: Dimitri Shapovalov
Sun. Greeter: Candy Zicarelli
Sat. Reader: *One needed*; Sun. Reader: *One needed*
Sun. Communion Assistants: Donna Braaten, Carol Wiechers
Coffee Hour Refreshments: Kirsten Graves, Peggy Zurawski
Video Producer: John Simpson

Worship Leaders for 2/28 & 3/1:

Sun. Greeter: Lynne Besaw
Sat. Reader: *One needed*; Sun. Reader: Susan Bakken
Sun. Communion Assistants: Elaine Klandrud, Stephen Gifford
Coffee Hour Refreshments: Jayne Armbruster, Kim Veltus
Video Producer: Becky Litwin

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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THIS WEEK AT MPLC: Feb. 22 – Mar. 1

Sun. Feb 22

9:00 AM: Worship (Sanctuary)

10:15 AM: Coffee Hour (Fellowship)

10:15 AM: Sunday School (Education Level)

10:15 AM: Adult Ed (Mygatts)

Mon. Feb 23

6:00 PM: Black History Film – Marshall (Fellowship)

Tues. Feb 24

11:00 AM: Chair Yoga (Fellowship)

6:30 PM: Bell Choir (Sanctuary)

Wed. Feb 25

5:30 PM: Soup & Bread Supper (Fellowship)

6:30 PM: Midweek Lent Worship (Sanctuary)

7:00 PM: Adult Choir (Choir Room)

Thurs. Feb 26

9:30 AM: Quilters (Fellowship)

Sat. Feb 28

4:00 PM: Worship (Sanctuary)

Sun. Mar. 1

9:00 AM: Worship (Sanctuary)

10:15 AM: Coffee Hour (Fellowship)

10:15 AM: Sunday School (Education Level)

10:15 AM: Adult Ed (Mygatts)

1:30 PM: Community Meal Prep (MPLC Kitchen)

We are called by Jesus to **love God and one another**, to practice generous hospitality, and to serve all unconditionally. We fully welcome you to join us, embracing your race, culture, ethnicity, age, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, physical abilities, mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, background, and wherever you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God and are welcome here. You are accepted and openly affirmed just as you are. We commit ourselves to undertaking the work of racial equality and social and economic justice. We invite you to join us as we joyfully and inclusively love and serve God and our community, as **we are all one in Christ Jesus.**

MPLC STAFF DIRECTORY

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