



March 8, 2026
Third Sunday of Lent

Our Savior's Lutheran Church



Our Savior's Lutheran Church

*A congregation of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

Welcome to Worship!

We're glad that you are here
as part of worship!

**Our Savior's Lutheran Church
welcomes all!**

We gather for worship called by
God's Spirit from many places of
compass and heart. We bring stories of
where God has met and sustained us
along the way. We bring questions and
yearnings to see God's presence more
fully in our world. We are brought

together by a God
who knows us as
Creator, and who
gathers us as only a
Good Shepherd
can—to lead us into
what it means to be
God's people here
in this place.

As God's people, we
are continually



learning what it means to be truly
encouraging and supportive to all. We
are committed to care for, to love, to
understand, and to listen to each other,
regardless of ethnicity, age, sexual
orientation, gender identity, physical
or mental ability, social or economic
status. To all we extend a heartfelt
invitation to join us on this journey, as
partners in the full life and ministry of
Christ the Servant.

The Bible reminds us to “*remember
the Sabbath day*”. We remember that
“*This is the Lord's day*”, and as we
gather to worship the God who
deserves our praise, the Lord will do
for us what the Lord does: feed us,
forgive us, help and heal us. Rejoice at
all the wonderful things God is doing.

We hope that you will feel at home!

We hope you feel Christ's welcome
in our service, and hope to see you
again soon.

Third Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

* *Stand as you are able.*

Introduction

In today's gospel the Samaritan woman asks Jesus for water, an image of our thirst for God. Jesus offers living water, a sign of God's grace flowing from the waters of baptism. The early church used this gospel and those of the next two Sundays to deepen baptismal reflection during the final days of preparation before baptism at Easter. As we journey to the resurrection feast, Christ comes among us in word, bath, and meal—offering us the life-giving water of God's mercy and forgiveness.

PRELUDE, WORDS TO THE DAY, FINAL PRELUDE

*** CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

C Amen.

P Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out
all offenses.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P Gracious God,

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

C **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

C have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

P 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.

C Amen.

*** GATHERING HYMN**

"Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

ELW 533



1 O - pen now thy gates of beau - ty, Zi - on, let me en - ter there,
2 Gra - cious God, I come be - fore thee; come thou al - so un - to me;
3 Here thy praise is glad - ly chant-ed, here thy seed is du - ly sown;
4 Thou my faith in - crease and quick-en, let me keep thy gift di - vine;
5 Speak, O God, and I will hear thee, let thy will be done in - deed;



where my soul in joy - ful du - ty waits for God who an - swers prayer.
where we find thee and a - dore thee, there a heav'n on earth must be.
let my soul, where it is plant-ed, bring forth pre - cious sheaves a - lone,
how - so - e'er temp - ta - tions thick-en, may thy word still o'er me shine
may I un - dis - turbed draw near thee while thou dost thy peo - ple feed.



Oh, how bless-ed is this place, filled with so - lace, light, and grace!
To my heart, oh, en - ter thou, let it be thy tem - ple now!
so that all I hear may be fruit - ful un - to life in me.
as my guid-ing star through life, as my com-fort in all strife.
Here of life the foun - tain flows; here is balm for all our woes.

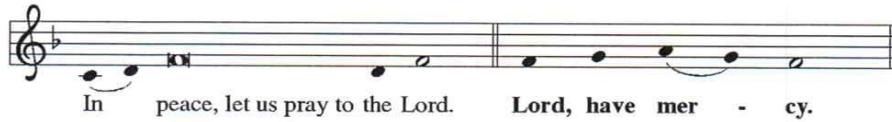
*** GREETING**

P Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God:
grace, mercy, and peace be with you all.

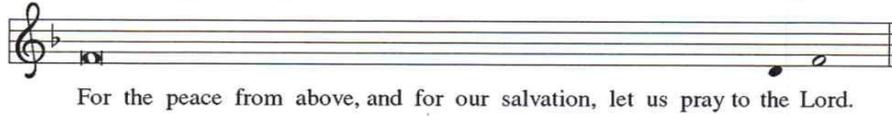
C And also with you.

* KYRIE

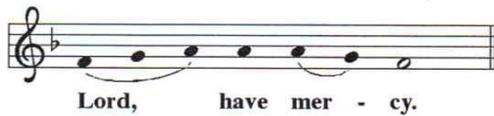
ELW Setting 3



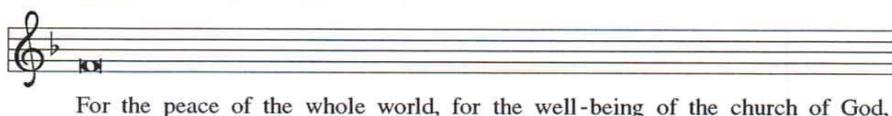
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



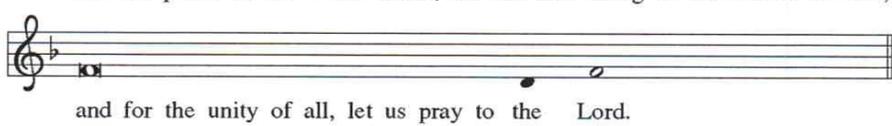
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



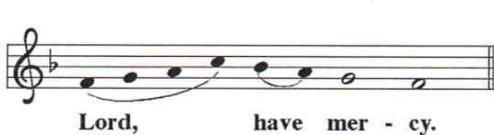
Lord, have mer - cy.



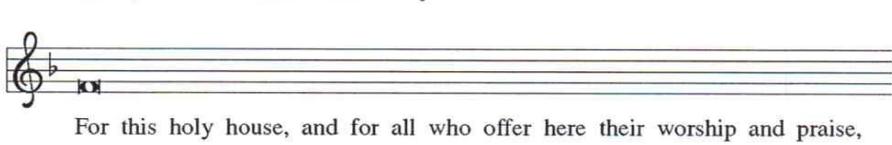
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



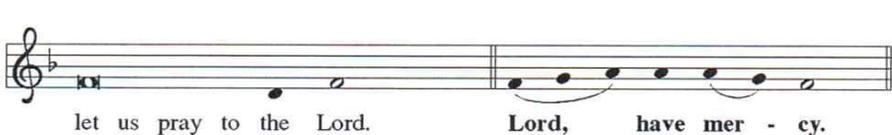
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



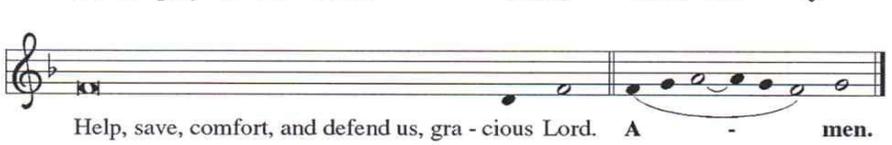
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

* HYMN OF PRAISE

Refrain



Now the feast and cel - e - bra - tion, all of cre - a - tion



sings for joy to the God of life and love and free-dom;



praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

1 Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain, whose blood has

freed and u - nit-ed us to be one great peo-ple of God. *Refrain*

2 Pow - er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and

glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. *Refrain*

3 For God has come to dwell with us, to make us peo-ple of

God; to make all things new. *Refrain*

*** PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P Let us pray.

C **Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Exodus 17: 1-7

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—“Is the LORD among us or not?”—received a very positive answer.

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, “Give us water to drink.” Moses said to them, “Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?” ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, “Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?” ⁴ So Moses cried out to the LORD, “What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me.” ⁵ The LORD said to Moses, “Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.” Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, “Is the LORD among us or not?”

A Word of God, word of life.

C **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 95

¹ Come, let us sing to the LORD;

let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.

² **Let us come before God’s presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**

³ For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.

⁴ **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**

⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.

⁶ **Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**

⁷ For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the
sheep of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!

⁸ **"Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**

⁹ There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.

¹⁰ **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**

¹¹ Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.' "

SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been

reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

A Word of God, word of life.

G Thanks be to God.

*** GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

ELW setting 3

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

***THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO JOHN 4:5-42**

G Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph. ⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."

⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) ⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.) ¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water." ¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?" ¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?" ¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." ¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, “Go, call your husband, and come back.” ¹⁷ The woman answered him, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You are right in saying, ‘I have no husband,’ ¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!” ¹⁹ The woman said to him, “Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem.” ²¹ Jesus said to her, “Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.” ²⁵ The woman said to him, “I know that Messiah is coming” (who is called Christ). “When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us.” ²⁶ Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one who is speaking to you.”

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, “What do you want?” or, “Why are you speaking with her?” ²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ²⁹ “Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?” ³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

 The gospel of the Lord.

 Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

* HYMN OF THE DAY *“For All The Faithful Women”* *ELW 419, vs 1, 8 & last*

* CREED

Please see red hymnal.

C 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 THE CHURCH

P Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.

P O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

A When the waters run dry, sustain this

earth. Send water to places languishing with drought and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

P When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class,

nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. Hear us, O God.

G Refrain.

P When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

A When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles. Hear us, O God.

G Your mercy is great.

P O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

G Refrain

P Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

G Amen.

P The peace of Christ Jesus be with you always.

G And also with you.

The sharing of God's peace with each other.

OFFERING AND * OFFERTORY *(sung)*

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free spirit.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

G 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.

*** GREAT THANKSGIVING**

The Lord be with you.

Lift up your hearts.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

That we should at all times and in all places

And also with you.

We lift them to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

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 Lord,
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

*** WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

P 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, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension,
we await his coming in glory. Pour out your Holy Spirit,
that by this Holy Communion we may know the unity we share with all your people in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. Amen

*** LORD'S PRAYER**

Q **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

LAMB OF GOD

Now the Feast and Celebration

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION

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

* POST COMMUNION PRAYER

G 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.

* BLESSING AND SENDING

P 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. Amen. Amen.** (*sung*)

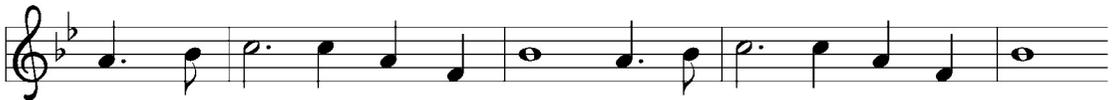
* SENDING HYMN

"Rock of Ages"

ELW # 623



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778
Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

* DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Believe the good news.

B Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Gatherings this Week:

Sunday, March 8	10:00	Worship
	11:15	Human Concerns
Monday March 9	9:15	Offering Counters
	7:00	Property & Finance
Tuesday, March 10	5:30	Worship & Music
Wed, March 11	7:30	Men’s Text Study at 4B’s
	6:00	Lenten Soup Supper and Service
Thurs. March 12	9:30	Quilters & Knitters
Sunday, March 15	9:00	Choir Practice
	10:00	Worship
	11:15	Executive Committee

26th Annual Loaves & Fishes Dinner
 An evening of good food, silent auction and raffle.
Friday, March 20, 2026
Our Savior’s Lutheran Church
 1326 1st Ave. North
 Serving: 4:30—6:30 p.m.
Free Will Offering
All Proceeds Support FISH

Thank you Betty Brumwell
 for leading worship today.
 We appreciate you very much.

Ladies, join us for a
Lenten Brunch
 Saturday, March 28, 10:30 am

“Generation to Generation”

Pastor Julia Seymour (Big Timber Lutheran Church)

Tickets \$25
 Meadow Lark Country Club
 300 Country Club Blvd., Great Falls

For Tickets please call: Elaine (406)452-3255 or Clarice (406)899-0450

SERVING MARCH 8
 Usher: Emil Vanni
 Greeter: Lorraine Myhr
 Reader: Kerrie Ramstead
 Altar Guild: Nancy Traner & Joyce Morgan
 Fellowship: Ellen Forslund
 Offer. Coll.: Lance Olson
 Counters: Helen Beckley & Clarice Flanagan
 Pianist: Michelle Payton
 Cantor: Natalie Faltin
 Worship: Betty Brumwell, LMA

SERVING MARCH 15
 Usher: Jerry Ramstead
 Greeter: Kerrie Ramstead
 Reader: Lindy Eberl
 Altar Guild: Nancy Traner & Joyce Morgan
 Fellowship: Ellen Forslund
 Offer. Coll.: Lance Olson
 Counters: Helen Beckley & Clarice Flanagan
 Pianist : Michelle Payton
 Cantor: Ellen Forslund
 Worship: Jodie Tooley, LMA