



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
 3600 25th St, Columbus, IN 47203
 Phone: (812) 372-1256 Web site: www.flccolumbus.org
 Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., Tuesday-Thursday
 Facebook: First Lutheran Church (Columbus, IN)

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP
March 8, 2026 - 11:15 a.m.
THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

WELCOME TO THE LORD'S HOUSE!

We are so glad to have you with us this morning! There is an extended time of praise and worship at the beginning of the service, and we want you to worship your Lord as you feel comfortable. All forms of worship are acceptable, such as singing, clapping, standing, sitting, kneeling, and dancing. Please worship your God in a way that draws you closer to Him!

GREETINGS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

BRIEF ORDER OF CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

You may either stand or kneel.

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart: we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: AMEN.

OPENING PRAYER:

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*see below*

¹From 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. ²The 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?" ³But 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?" ⁴So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵The 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. ⁶I 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. ⁷He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

WORSHIP & PRAISE**SECOND READING: Romans 5:1-11***see below*

¹Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ²through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵and 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.

⁶For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰For 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. ¹¹But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

TIME OF OPEN PRAYER**OFFERING****BLESSING OF THE OFFERING****SHARING OF THE PEACE:**

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always

C: And also with you

Please share the PEACE of the Lord with one another.

*see back of bulletin***GOSPEL READING: John 4:5-42**

After the reading of the Gospel:

P. The Word of the Lord

C. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON: "Encountering God in Ordinary and Unexpected Places" Pastor Amy Bartleson Balcam

WORSHIP & PRAISE

APOSTLES' CREED:

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER:

C: Amen

THE 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 TO COMMUNION:

P: Come to God's table. There is a place for you and enough for all.

HOLY COMMUNION:

Please stand as you are able

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

C: Amen

POST COMMUNION PRAYER:

P. Let us pray. We give you thanks almighty God that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift – in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen

BENEDICTION:

P: The Lord bless you, and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace.

C: Amen.

SENDING WORSHIP & PRAISE**SERVING FIRST TODAY**

Pastor: Pastor Amy Bartleson Balcam

Greeters, Ushers, Communion Assistants, Candle-lighting:
John & Mary Ellen Wyman, Dave Stocks, Magen Pillar, Anna East,
Travis East

WOUNDED HEALER PRAISE BAND

Erika East, Annette Hull, Jennifer & Mike Langevin, Matt Pillar

Today's altar flowers are given by Bob & Lucie Stricker in honor of Kristel's birthday.