



Our Savior's Lutheran Church – Cleveland, MN

First Sunday of Lent

February 22, 2026

We are called to let our light shine as instruments of the Holy Spirit so all may know God's love.



Messianic Secret

by T. Denise Anderson

Inspired by John 2:1-11

14"x18" Acrylic on canvas

The Good News is... so good it catches us by surprise!

(To view a larger, hi-res image, click [here](#) or on the photo.)

Call to Worship

The good news of the gospel is:

**manna in the desert, water turned into wine,
love after loss, forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is:

**release for the captive, hope for the hopeless,
mourning turned to dancing, and strangers turned to friends.**

So come on in. There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

Let us worship this good-news God.

Confession & Forgiveness

You may have heard, "All is fair in love and war," or "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." But God says, "Forgive seventy times seven." God says, "I am slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love." God says, "Turn the other cheek." God's mercy catches us by surprise. So with wonder and gratitude, let us go to God in prayer.

Let us pray:

Loving God, somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful, we have to be serious.

We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.

We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.

We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.

But you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed.

You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.

And all of a sudden, we wonder:

Can we be like that mustard seed?

Can we be faithful and unruly?

Can we be playful and curious?

Can we be messy and still be yours?

We know the answer already.

The Spirit whispers: yes, yes, yes.

Forgive our doubt. Pull us closer into your embrace.

With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.

God's grace is wild and unruly. God's mercy is abundant and surprising.

God's love is expansive and unending. So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?"

the answer is and always will be:

yes, yes, yes.

This is the good news of the gospel.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Opening Hymn

“Great is the Lord”

Purple #53

Great is the Lord, he is holy and just, by his power we trust in his love. Great is the Lord, he is faithful and true, by his mercy he proves he is love. Great is the Lord, and worthy of glory. Great is the Lord, and worthy of praise. Great is the Lord, now lift up your voice, now lift up your voice: Great is the Lord! Great is the Lord!

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.**

Prayer of the Day

Holy One, it is easy to see the mustard plant and forget to marvel at the seed. It is easy to taste good wine and not appreciate it. It is easy to miss the holy that is in our midst. So as we turn to your text today, we pray, surprise us. Speak to us. Move through us. Draw us closer to your good news. We wait with bated breath. Amen.

First Reading – Romans 5:12-19 *Death came through one; life comes through one*

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

Psalm 32 *Proclaim the greatness of the LORD; worship upon God's holy hill.*

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

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

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

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

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.

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

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

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

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.”

Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.

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

Gospel – John 2:1-11 *Wedding at Cana*

Before: The holy Gospel according to . . . **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

Children's Message

Message

Pastor Liz Rossing

Hymn of the Day

"All are Welcome"

Red #641

1. Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safely live, a place where saints and children tell how hearts learn to forgive. Built of hopes and dreams and visions, rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of Christ shall end divisions: **Refrain**

Refrain

All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak, and words are strong and true, where all God's children dare to seek to dream God's reign anew. Here the cross shall stand as witness and as symbol of God's grace; here as one we claim the faith of Jesus: **Refrain**

3. Let us build a house where love is found in water, wine and wheat: a banquet hall on holy ground where peace and justice meet. Here the love of God, through Jesus, is revealed in time and space; as we share in Christ the feast that frees us: **Refrain**

4. Let us build a house where hands will reach beyond the wood and stone to heal and strengthen, serve and teach, and live the Word they've know. Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face; let us bring an end to fear and danger: **Refrain**

5. Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word. Built of tears and cries and laughter, prayers of faith and songs of grace, let this house proclaim from floor to rafter: **Refrain**

Apostles' Creed

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 to the dead. 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.

Prayers of the People

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Offering & Giving Prayer

Gracious God, giver of every good and perfect gift, teach us to give to you all that we have and all that we are, that we may praise you not with our words only, but with our whole lives.

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.

Announcements

Blessing

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, \pm bless us now and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“This is the day”

Purple #141

This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made, that the Lord has made; we will rejoice, we will rejoice and be glad in it, and be glad in it. This is the day that the Lord has made; we will rejoice and be glad in it. This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**