Centering Music
Welcome
Lent is a kind of journey. We start with ashes on our foreheads—a reminder that our journey will someday end. We complete the journey with Christ in Jerusalem, on the cross, and in the empty tomb. We are buoyed by God’s covenantal promises along the way.

Call to Worship (Psalm 19)
The heavens declare the glory of God,
And the sky proclaims God’s handiwork.
The teaching of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul.
The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart.
The commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes.
The fear of the Lord is clean and endures forever.
Let the words of our mouths and the meditation of our hearts be acceptable in your sight.
O Lord, you are my strength and my redeemer.

Confession and Forgiveness
Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.
Amen.

Held in God’s mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,
we confess that we are caught in snares of sin
and cannot break free.
We hoard resources while our neighbors
are hungry and cold.
We speak in ways that silence others.
We are silent when we should speak up.
We keep score in our hearts.
We let hurts grow into hatred.
For all these things and for sins only you know,
forgive us, Lord.
Amen.

Here is a flood of grace:
Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us,  
breaks every snare of sin,  
washes away our wrongs,  
and restores the promise of life through ✝️ Jesus Christ.  
Amen.

Gathering Hymn: Oh, That the Lord will Guide My Ways ELW 772

Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways

1. Oh, that the Lord would guide my ways to keep his statutes still!
2. Order my footsteps by your word and make my heart sincere;
3. Assist my soul, too apt to stray, a stricter watch to keep;
4. Make me to walk in your commands, 'tis a delightful road;

Oh, that my God would grant me grace to know and do his will!  
let sin have no dominion, Lord, but keep my conscience clear.  
and should I e'er forget your way, restore your wand’ring sheep.  
or let my head or heart or hands of fend against my God.

Text: Isaac Watts, 1674–1748, alt.  
Music: EVAN, William H. Havergal, 1793–1870

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 (ELW Setting 10)

1. Have mercy on us, Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
2. Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
3. Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.

We come to hear your living word; it saves us from despair.  
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may be given.  
Renew us with your saving pow’r; create in us new hearts!

Canticle of Praise (ELW Setting 10) Verse 3
Prayer of the Day

Holy God,
through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only 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 20:1-17

After escaping from slavery, the Israelites come to Mount Sinai, where God teaches them how to live in community. The Ten Commandments proclaim that God alone is worthy of worship. Flowing from God, the life of the community flourishes when based on honesty, trust, fidelity, and respect for life, family, and property.

1 God spoke all these words:
2 I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; 3 you shall have no other gods before me.
4 You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. 5 You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, 6 but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.
7 You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.
8 Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. 9 Six days you shall labor and do all
your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you.

You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor’s house; you shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25
The word of the cross is pure foolishness and nonsense to the world because it claims that God is mostly revealed in weakness, humiliation, and death. But through such divine foolishness and weakness, God is working to save us. The center of Paul’s preaching is Christ crucified.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation
We proclaim Christ crucified,
The power of God and the wisdom of the Lord.

Gospel Reading: John 2:13-22
The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money
changers and overturned their tables. 16 He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” 17 His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” 18 The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” 19 Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” 20 The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” 21 But he was speaking of the temple of his body. 22 After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken. The Gospel of our Lord. 
Praise to you, O Christ!

Message

Hymn of the Day: Canticle of the Turning

ELW 723

Canticle of the Turning

My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the work great, things in me, and my spirit sings of the God of my heart is great, and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.

Though I am small, my... God, my all, you... depths of the past to the end of the age to be.

From the halls of pow’r to the fortress tow’r, not a justice tears every tyrant... from his throne.

Though the nations rage from age to age, we remain The king beware for your member who holds us fast: God’s mercy must declare liv’r us from the conquer’or’s crushing grasp.

You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight, and my
Your weary name puts the proud to shame, and to
The hungry poor shall... weep no more, for the
This saving word that our forebears heard is the
Confession of Faith
Living together in trust and hope, let us confess our faith.
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 Intercession
Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.
A brief silence.

You alone are God. We thank you for the gift of sabbath rest. Awaken the church to the mystery of your presence and give us glad hearts as we receive the good news of your deliverance. Bless the ministry of our partners in Magulilwa, Tanzania and at China Service Ventures. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.
You renew creation. Drive out those who would make the earth a marketplace. Protect rainforests, mountaintops, oceans, and wilderness areas from commercial exploitation. Unite nations, policymakers, and businesses in efforts to reduce carbon emissions. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.
You judge the nations. We pray for an end to war and strife in every land. Strengthen international efforts to negotiate peace and provide humanitarian aid to people fleeing from conflict. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.
You bring healing and hope. We give thanks for physicians, nurses, researchers, therapists, and public health workers who prevent and treat illness. We pray for any who are sick especially those we name before you now… Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.
You abide with your people. Sustain any in this community undergoing life transitions: marriage, divorce, childbirth, adoption, moving, graduation, employment change, or a death in the family especially those we name before you now… We pray for those preparing for baptism. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.
Here other intercessions may be offered.
You bring life from death. We remember our loved ones who have died, confident that they have new life in you. May we trust that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.
Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Amen.

Peace
The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

Offering
AGLC gives in the style of our Tanzanian partners. You may place any gift in the basket as you come forward for communion. If you don’t have a physical gift to share, you are encouraged to dip your hand in the basket as a reminder that God uses you to do God’s work in the world.

Offering Song: Create in Me a Clean Heart WOV 732
Offering Prayer
Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.
Amen.

Holy Communion
Thanksgiving
O God, Creator of our wilderness world,
O God, Savior of the lost,
O God, Comforter of the sick and suffering,
We give you thanks for your everlasting might;
We glorify you for your covenant of mercy.

For forty days you cleansed the earth with the waters of the flood.
We praise you, O God.
For forty days you illumined Moses with the words of the law.
We praise you, O God.
For forty years you fed your people with manna from heaven.
We praise you, O God.

You became truly human in Jesus our brother.
For forty days, with fasting and prayer, he renounced the power of the devil.
Save us, O God.
Transform us, O God, with your lively Spirit.
Make this food into manna for our journey.
Save us, O God.

Jesus’ Invitation

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.

Call to the Table
Amazing Grace Lutheran Church practices open communion. All are welcome. No exceptions. Please feel welcome to stop by our prayer station to light a candle after receiving communion.
Bread for the journey. A feast for hungry hearts. Come!

Distribution
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.
The wine used in worship is alcohol-free. Gluten-free bread is available upon request.

Communion Hymn(s): Lamb of God Setting 10
Prayer after Communion
Generous God,
at this table we have tasted your immeasurable grace. As grains of wheat are
gathered into one bread, now make us one loaf to feed the world; in the name
of Jesus, the Bread of life.
Amen.

Announcements

Benediction
Beloved,
we are God’s own people,
 holy, washed, renewed.
God bless you and keep you,
shower you with mercy,
fill you with courage,
and ✝️ give you peace.
Amen.

Sending Hymn: O God, My Faithful God ELW 806
O God, My Faithful God

1 O God, my faithful God, true fountain ever flowing,
   with-out whom nothing is, all perfect gifts bestowing:
give me a healthy frame, and may I have within
   a conscience free from blame, a soul unstained by sin.

2 Give me the strength to do with ready heart and willing
   whatever you command, my calling here fulfilling—
give me a healthy frame, and may I have within
   whatever I have wrought, for you must give success.

3 Keep me from saying words that later need recalling;
guard me, lest idle speech may from my lips be falling;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheerless;
then to my words give grace, lest I offend the weak.

4 When dangers gather round, oh, keep me calm and fearless;
help me to bear the cross when life seems dark and cheerless;
and, by your Spirit it’s might, to live at peace with all.

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585–1647; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Music: WAS FRAG ICH NACH DER WELT; Abraham Fritsch, 1629–1701

Dismissal
Go in peace. Share your bread!
Thanks be to God!

Postlude