



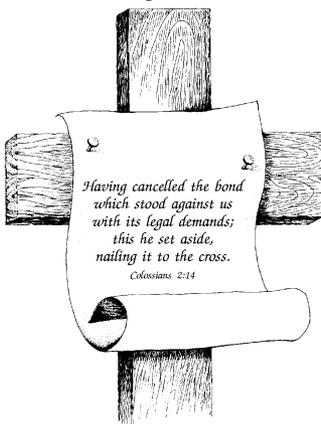
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Pastor Frank Gantt
(470-214-3401)

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Affiliation: Church of the Lutheran Confession
<https://clclutheran.org/>

WELCOME: *To all who are present today, we offer a heart-felt welcome in Jesus' name.*

In the garden, Adam faced the tempter and fell, plunging the world into sin, pain, and death. In the wilderness, Jesus faced that same tempter and stood firm, refusing every deceitful word with the truth of God. Where the first man grasped at what was not given, the Son trusted His Father completely. Because this victorious Son is now our great High Priest, we draw near with confidence, knowing that the One who overcame temptation stands in our place and speaks for us before God as our Redeemer.

ORDER OF WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER: *We ask the Lord's blessings on our worship.*

HYMN: #149

Come to Calvary's Holly Mountain

**Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the Fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows to you, to me, to all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty free remission,
Here the troubled peace, may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
He that drinks shall thirst no more.**

**He that drinks shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified. Amen.**

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Cong: (spoken) Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Beloved in the Lord: Let us draw near with a true heart to confess our sins unto God, our Father, imploring Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to have mercy upon us and to forgive us.

Pastor: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

Cong: The Maker of heaven and earth.

Pastor: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord."

Cong: And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Pastor: Almighty God, our Maker and Redeemer, we poor sinners confess unto You that we are by nature sinful and unclean and that we have sinned against You by thought, word, and deed. For this reason we flee for refuge to Your infinite mercy, seeking and imploring Your grace for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Cong: O most merciful God, who has given Your only begotten Son to die for us, have mercy upon us and for His sake grant us remission of all our sins, and by Your Holy Spirit increase in us true knowledge of You and of Your will and true obedience to Your Word, so that by Your grace we might come to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To them that believe on His name He gives the right to become children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved.

Grant this, Lord, unto us all.

Cong: Amen.

GLORY TO GOD:

**Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O, Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Have mercy on us, O Jesus! O, Jesus!**

**Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:**

**Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O, Jesus!
Amen.**

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Pastor: O Lord, as You sent Your Son into the world to crush the head of our enemy the devil and thus to overthrow his works and dominion among the children of Adam, so cause Your Word to be proclaimed in the world and give us faith to trust it, since it is our light and life. May we never become complacent or careless with Your Word so that we forfeit the salvation which You have revealed to us by Your great love toward us in Christ Jesus, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Cong: Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE LESSON: Genesis 3:1-19

(ESV) Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" (2) And 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 midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" (4) But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely 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 themselves loincloths. (8) And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. (9) But the LORD God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" (10) And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." (11) He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" (12) The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." (13) Then the LORD God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (14) The LORD God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you above all livestock and above all beasts of the field; on your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. (15) I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel." (16) To the woman he said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children. Your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." (17) And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; (18) thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. (19) By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

SECOND SCRIPTURE LESSON: Hebrews 4:14 – 5:5

(ESV) Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. (15) For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. (16) Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need. (5:1) For every high priest chosen from among men is appointed to act on behalf of men in relation to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins. (2) He can deal gently with the ignorant and wayward, since he himself is beset with weakness. (3) Because of this he is obligated to offer sacrifice for his own sins just as he does for those of the people. (4) And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was. (5) So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you."

CONFESSION OF FAITH

The Apostolic Creed

I believe God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there He will come to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church –
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the
resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.
Amen.**

HYMN: #437

Who Trusts in God, A Strong Abode

**Who trusts in God, a strong abode
In heav'n and earth possesses;
Who looks in love to Christ above,
No fear his heart oppresses.
In Thee alone, dear Lord, we own
Sweet hope and consolation,
Our Shield from foes, our Balm for woes,
Our great and sure Salvation.**

**Tho' Satan's wrath beset our path
And worldly scorn assail us,
While Thou art near, we will not fear;
Thy strength shall never fail us.
Thy rod and staff shall keep us safe
And guide our steps forever;
Nor shades of death nor hell beneath
Our souls from Thee shall sever.**

**In all the strife of mortal life
Our feet shall stand securely;
Temptation's hour shall lose its pow'r,
For Thou shalt guard us surely.
O God, renew with heav'nly dew
Our body, soul, and spirit
Until we stand at Thy right hand
Thro' Jesus' saving merit. Amen.**

THE SERMON: Matthew 4:1-11

(ESV) Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. (2) And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. (3) And 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, "'Man shall 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 set him on the pinnacle of the temple (6) and said 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, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" (7) Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'You shall 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, "Be gone, Satan! For it is written, "'You shall worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve.'" (11) Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.

“Jesus’ Victory In the Wilderness”

OFFERTORY

**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. Amen.**

GENERAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

HYMN: #777

In God, My Faithful God

**In God, my faithful God,
I trust when dark my road;
Tho' many woes o'ertake me,
Yet He will not forsake me.
His love it is doth send them
And, when 'tis best, will end them.**

**My sins assail me sore,
But I despair no more.
I build on Christ who loves me;
From this Rock nothing moves me.
To Him I all surrender,
To Him, my soul's Defender.**

**If death my portion be,
Then death is gain to me
And Christ my Life forever,
From whom death cannot sever.
Come when it may, He'll shield me,
To Him I wholly yield me.**

**O Jesus Christ, my Lord,
So meek in deed and word,
Thou once didst die to save us
Because Thy love would have us
Be heirs of heavenly gladness
When ends this life of sadness.**

"So be it," then I say

**With all my heart each day.
We, too, dear Lord, adore Thee;
We sing for joy before Thee.
Guide us while here we wander
Until we praise Thee yonder.
Amen.**

THE COLLECT FOR THE CHURCH

Pastor: Almighty God, we implore You to give to Your Church Your Holy Spirit and the wisdom that comes down from above, that Your Word, as is fitting for it, may not be bound but have free course and be preached to the joy and edification of Christ's holy people, that in constant faith we may serve You and in the confession of Your name abide until the end; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever.

Cong: Amen.

THE BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

Cong: Amen.

SILENT PRAYER

Daily Bible Readings for Home Devotions

February 23 – February 28, 2026

Mon Matthew 4:1-11 Jesus, our Substitute, was tempted in all ways like we are, yet without sin, that through both His living and His dying, we might be reconciled to God. He took no short-cuts to save us all.

Tues 2 Corinthians 6:1-10 Paul urges us to rely on God's abundant grace in all troubles, hardships, and difficulties. As the apostles were sustained through suffering, so shall all God's children also be upheld.

Wed Genesis 3 The whole reason for Jesus' suffering and death on the cross is laid out for us in this chapter. Adam and Eve's fall into sin is answered by the LORD's promise of victory over the Tempter (v15).

Thurs Psalm 16 During the Lenten season, this Psalm is worth repeating, as both Peter and Paul (Acts 2 and 13) quoted from it as referring to Jesus. In His suffering, He trusted in God's promise of resurrection(v10).

Fri Psalm 32:1-7 With the promise of forgiveness, the LORD invites us to acknowledge our sin, confessing our transgressions. The interludes (Selah) may give us pause to ponder the wonder of His deliverance.

Sat Psalm 32:8-11 May our gracious God teach us always to walk in His ways, trusting in His mercy, that others may observe our rejoicing in the LORD and also be drawn to trust His forgiving grace in Christ.