

Good Soil Lutheran Ministries
Growing Together in Christ to Love and Serve



First Sunday in Lent
Feb 26, 2023
9:30 a.m.



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Rocky River, OH 44116
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YouTube: [Good Soil Lutheran Ministries](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Welcome

We welcome all who are seeking God's love and grace. We welcome all because God welcomes all, regardless of race or culture, sexual orientation, gender identity, or relationship status. We welcome all without regard to addictions, physical or mental health, imprisonment, socio-economic circumstances, or anything that too often divides us. Our unity is in Christ.

For Parents with Children

Good Soil loves kids and the "holy noise" they bring! Your children are warmly welcome in worship. Sing, pray, and respond; your children will learn by worshipping with you. There's also a "prayerground" area in the back of the sanctuary and a nursery/cry room behind that on the back left side. We pray that worshipping together as a family is a meaningful experience!

For Those Needing Hearing Assistance

Please ask an usher about our hearing assistance devices to enhance your worship experience.

Holy Communion

Christ is truly present with us in worship and through this meal. All are welcome to participate in Holy Communion here at Good Soil. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available upon request.

Key:

Bold Font – Spoken by the Congregation

Regular Font – Spoken by the Pastor or Worship Assistant

† – Please stand as you are able, in body or spirit.

*Please Note: In an effort to protect those who are vulnerable, **masking is strongly recommended**. In addition, the first four rows of pews on the left side of the sanctuary are reserved as a “masking only” section (for those who wish to be in close proximity only with others who are masking).*

First Sunday in Lent

Today's gospel tells of Jesus' temptation in the desert. His forty-day fast becomes the basis of our Lenten pilgrimage. In the early church Lent was a time of intense preparation for those to be baptized at the Easter Vigil. This catechetical focus on the meaning of faith is at the heart of our Lenten journey to the baptismal waters of Easter. Hungry for God's mercy, we receive the bread of life to nourish us for the days ahead.

Prelude

Welcome to Worship

In the Confession and Forgiveness, we are drawn by God's mercy to prepare to assemble around the Word and Sacrament. It may be seen as a return to the gift of Baptism through repentance.

† Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.
Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy God,

Too often we treat your Word like a radio station—something we can tune in and out of when it's convenient.

Our minds are full of ads, emails, news updates, and notifications. In the midst of this clutter, we tend to gravitate toward the voices that think like us—easily ignoring the voices being silenced, easily ignoring your voice.

Forgive us for failing to listen.

Forgive us for getting caught in distractions.

Forgive us for forgetting what your voice sounds like.

Drain the distractions from our minds and help us turn once again toward you. With earnest hearts we pray, amen.

Hear the good news:

even when we tune God out,

even when we prioritize other voices,

even when we do all the talking and fail to listen,

we are still held by God.

Our sins are forgiven.

Nothing could ever separate us from God's love. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn: Lord Jesus, Think on Me ELW 599

1 Lord Jesus, think on me,
and purge away my sin;
from selfish passions set me free
and make me pure within.

2 Lord Jesus, think on me,
by anxious thoughts oppressed;
let me your loving servant be
and taste your promised rest.

3 Lord Jesus, think on me,

nor let me go astray;
through darkness and perplexity
point out your chosen way.

- 4 Lord Jesus, think on me,
that, when the flood is past,
I may the eternal brightness see
and share your joy at last.

Text: Synesius of Cyrene, 375-430; tr. Allen W. Chatfield, 1808-1896, alt.

The assembly is greeted with words used by Paul in 2nd Corinthians to greet churches. The assembly also greets the presiding minister in return. It is a moment of mutuality that signifies trust, love, mutual service, and a shared hope in God.

† 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 Eleison means "Lord have mercy".

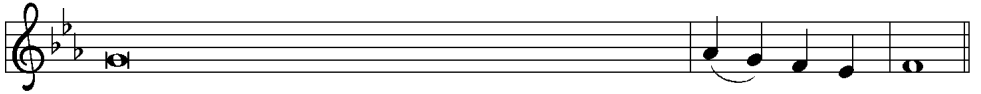
† Kyrie



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



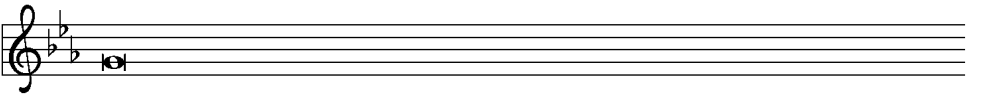
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



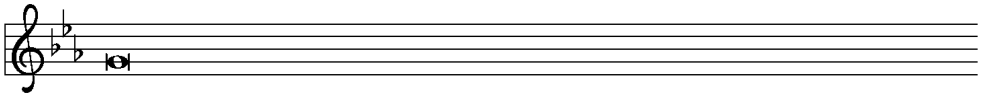
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



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, a - men.

The Prayer of the Day highlights themes from the scripture readings we are about to hear.

† Prayer of the Day

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

The Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

Old Testament Reading: Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

To put this reading into context:

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

Hear now the reading:

¹⁵The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; ¹⁷but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

^{3:1}Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?'" ²The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not

die; ⁵for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶So 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. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

Word of God. Word of Life.
Thanks be to God.

Psalm 32:1-2, 5-8, 11



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
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¹Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!

²Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!

⁵When I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my
guilt.

I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you
forgave me the guilt | of my sin.

⁶Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of
trouble;

when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.

⁷You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.

⁸“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye.

¹¹Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart.

† Lenten Acclamation



The Gospel is announced. Following the reading of the Gospel, we give thanks and praise to Jesus Christ, who is revealed to us through the Gospel reading.

† Gospel Reading: Matthew 4:1-11

To put this reading into context:

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures testing from a character who personifies evil.

The holy gospel according to Matthew.
Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. ³The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

⁵Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the

pinnacle of the temple, ⁶saying 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, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”
⁷Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”
⁸Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; ⁹and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”
¹¹Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Children’s Sermon

Children aged Pre-K through 3rd grade are invited to leave the service after the Children’s Sermon and attend the 1st part of Sunday School instruction (2nd part to resume in classes after worship.)

Sermon: The Rev. Marissa Harrison

Thinking theologically is a spiritual practice.

You’re invited to reflect on the following question:

When have you encountered religious voices or doctrinal teachings that have caused harm? How do you tell the difference between harmful and benevolent theology?

† Hymn of the Day: Restore in Us, O God ELW 328

- 1 Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.
- 2 O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flow'r.
- 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.
- 4 Three-personed God, fulfill
the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends,
may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

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*As the church,
we pray for
those in our
community
and around the
world. The
prayers are
also
responsive,
emphasizing
our own
participation.*

† Prayers of Intercession

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to your people and faithfully lead us into the future. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards, that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**


You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love especially Helen, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew, Willie, Char, Rich, Dick and Joan, Marie, Jeanette, Andrew, Patricia . . . and those whom we lift up in our hearts silently or aloud. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place and help us to be an authentically welcoming church, supporting one another on our various faith journeys. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

<p><i>A practice of the ancient church, where we recognize Christ's peace in one another and share it together.</i></p>	<p>† Passing of the Peace</p> <p>The Peace of Christ be with you always And also with you.</p> <p><i>The people greet one another saying, "Peace" or "Peace be with you" sharing the peace of Christ with one another in a no-touch or low-touch way, such as a wave, peace sign, or elbow bump.</i></p>
<p><i>God entrusts us with everything we have. Our offering is one way we give thanks to God and support the ministry of the church.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>The Meal</u> <i>God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.</i></p> <p>Offering</p> <p>God's ministry through Good Soil makes a difference, and your offering makes that possible. Help Good Soil continue making an impact by giving today at www.goodsoillutheran.org/support or by using this QR code:</p> <p>You can also use this same QR code to make a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response to help the people suffering in Turkey and Syria after the devastating earthquake. Please note "Earthquake" in the description field.</p> <p><i>Aim your phone camera at the QR code, but don't take a picture. A link will appear to click on that will take you to Good Soil's support page.</i></p> 
<p><i>The offering is brought forward to the altar to signify our gratitude</i></p>	<p>† Offering Hymn: Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross ELW 335</p> <p>Jesus, keep me near the cross, there's a precious fountain; free to all, a healing stream flows from Calv'ry's mountain.</p>

for God's
blessings.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

† Offering Prayer

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings
as we present them in faithful service
for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence
through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

† Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

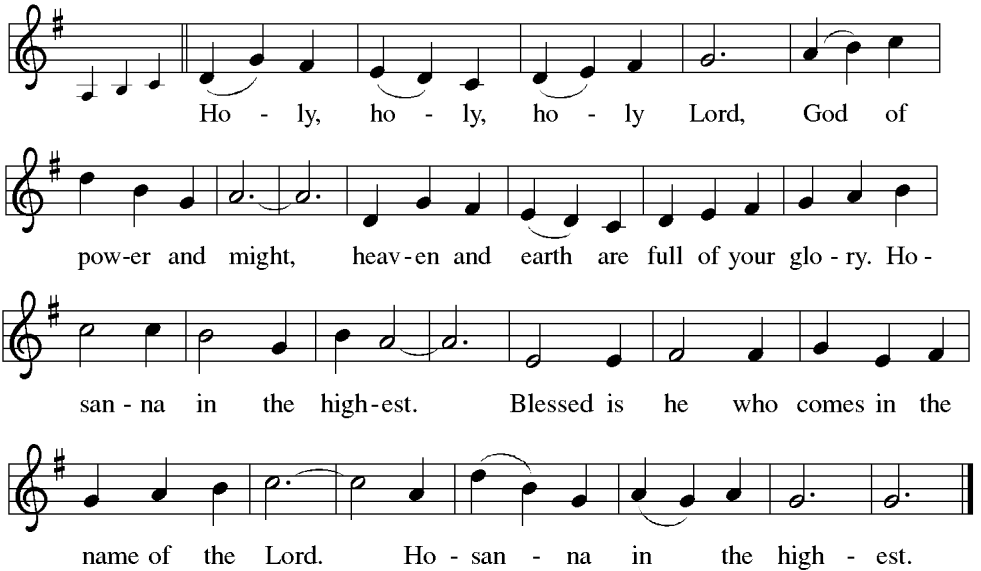
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

† Preface

† Sanctus



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

† Eucharistic Prayer and Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer is Jesus' response to his disciples when they asked him to teach them how to pray.

† Lord's Prayer

Praying together as Jesus first taught us:

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 the Table

Friends, we are all seeking something...

...Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

† Communion

Christ is with us in this meal. All who are hungry for the presence of Jesus are welcome to commune here at Good Soil. When you receive the elements, you are invited to respond with “Amen” or “Thanks be to God.”

Please wait for the usher to release your row before proceeding up front. You are invited to stand or kneel at the altar rail.

Gluten-free bread is available upon request. The wine is red; grape juice is white. Communion cups can be returned at the end tables on your way back to your seat.

Communion Hymn: Beautiful Things by Gungor

1 All this pain
I wonder if I'll ever find my way
I wonder if my life could really change
At all

2 All this earth
Could all that is lost ever be found
Could a garden come up from this ground
At all

Chorus

You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of the dust
You make beautiful things
You make beautiful things out of us

3 All around
Hope is springing up from this old ground
Out of chaos life is being found
In You

	<p><i>Bridge</i></p> <p>You make me new You are making me new You make me new You are making me new</p> <p>CCLI Song # 5665521 Lisa Gungor Michael Gungor © 2009 worshiptogether.com songs (Admin. by Capitol CMG Publishing) <i>For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com</i> CCLI License # 3013830</p>
	<p>† Post-Communion Table Blessing</p> <p>May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. Amen.</p>
<p><i>With the blessing of God, we go out to live as Christ's body in the world.</i></p>	<p>† Blessing</p> <p>God, the giver of love, † Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey. Amen.</p>
<p><i>Through the sending hymn we are sent out into the world to follow Jesus.</i></p>	<p>† Sending Hymn: O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days ELW 319</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast; inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past. 2 You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured; lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust in God's eternal word. 3 Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above; so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.

	<p>4 Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days, that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.</p> <p>Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930 Text © 1978 <i>Lutheran Book of Worship</i>, admin. Augsburg Fortress.</p>
<p><i>The dismissal sends us out as Christ's Body— fed, nourished, and ready to serve. Worship has ended, and our service begins!</i></p>	<p>† Dismissal</p> <p>Go in peace. Serve in love. Thanks be to God.</p>
	<p>Postlude</p>

You are warmly invited to gather in the upstairs lounge area for coffee hour immediately following worship.

Coffee hour discussion question: Our 1st reading today is about a garden. Share about a gardening experience you've had in your life.

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Confession and Forgiveness and Eucharistic Prayer adapted from "Seeking: Words for Worship" by Rev. Sarah A. Speed, A Sanctified Art, LLC sanctifiedart.org

Today's Worship Servants:

Presiding: The Rev. Marissa Harrison	Reader: Ellen Young
Ushers: Amanda and Alexandra Inman Bill Wahl	Counters: Dave Blocksom Ellen Young
Online Usher: Alex Alusheff	Acolyte: TJ Lanter
Livestream: Sean Lanter	Sunday School Teachers: Louise Debell (Early Learners) Mandy Forshey (Primary) Darlene Wahl (Middle Schoolers)



Announcements from Good Soil Sunday, Feb 26, 2023

For those in need of healing, comfort, or strength: Helen Andrews, Jae, Jeff, Oakley, Andrew Evatt, Willie Lee, Char Mattson, Rich Petrusky, Dick and Joan Schlupe, Marie Sternad, Andrew Sykaluk, Patricia Wancata, Jeanette Weidlich

For those celebrating their birthday:

Abbie Blocksom (Feb 26), Joan Zeager (Mar 2)

For those celebrating wedding anniversaries:

Matt and Amanda Inman (Feb 26), Scott and Kim Wylie (Mar 3)

Tune up your vocal pipes! Julia Alexander is forming a choir for an anthem to be sung later in Lent, probably on Palm/Passion, Sunday, April 2. Practice will be after worship on Sundays. Please email Julia at Julia.alexander@oberlin.edu if you are interested in participating.



Hungry for deeper connection with God and your faith community? So are we! All members and friends of Good Soil are invited to participate in small groups for the duration of the Lenten season.

Each group will meet once a week for 5 weeks to check in with one another, deepen relationships, and grow in faith together. Each group will be led by a lay leader and meet at a different time of the week, so sign up using this QR code for the day of the week and time that works best for you!

Seeds is a weekly e-newsletter with updates and highlights about God’s action among us! Use this QR code to sign up. You can also call the church office at 440-331-1773 for help signing up. It’s a great way to stay in touch with all the exciting happenings at Good Soil!



Calendar of Events		
Date	Event	Time
Sun, Feb 26	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour • Lenten Small Group via Zoom 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
Tues, Feb 28	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	Noon
Wed, Mar 1	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Thurs, Mar 2	Lenten Small Group In-Person	10:00 a.m.
Sat, Mar 4	Ladies’ Breakfast – Gene’s Place Kamms Corner	9:00 a.m.
Sun, Mar 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-Person and Livestream Worship • Sunday School • Coffee Hour • Lenten Small Group via Zoom 	9:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m. 7:00 p.m.
Tues, Mar 7	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	Noon
Wed, Mar 8	Lenten Small Group via Zoom	7:00 p.m.
Thurs, Mar 9	Lenten Small Group In-Person	10:00 a.m.
Sat, Mar 11	ELCA Anti-Racist Zoom Mtg	10:30 a.m.