



Our Lenten theme this year is entitled, “The Parables of Jesus.” Each of our round-robin speakers will focus on a different parable of Jesus. Our round-robin series will conclude with our Good Friday service.

### Wednesday Lenten Services (7:30pm):

**The Parable of the Sower**  
Darold Bitterman

**The Parable of the Foolish Builders**  
Maurice Bueber

**The Parable of the Wicked Tenants**  
First American: March 26 – Pastor Barry Nelson

**The Parable of the Great Banquet**  
Hope: April 2 – Del Neumeister

**The Parable of the Minas**  
First American: April 9 – Pastor Kevin Czymbor

### Lenten Offerings:

First American – All Nations Family Center on the Rosebud Reservation. This is the ministry served by Johnny and Heidi Wade. Heidi is the daughter of Jan Jerke.

Hope – Split equally between Southeastern South Dakota Lutherans for Life ultrasound fund (which supports the ultrasound ministry of the Alpha Center in Sioux Falls) and the Douglas County Food Pantry.

### Lenten Suppers (6-7pm):

First American will have soup suppers on March 26<sup>th</sup> and April 9<sup>th</sup>. Hope will have a taco supper on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. A sign-up sheet will be posted in the narthex of each church for volunteers to help with these meals.

## First American Lutheran Church

### Lenten Service

**March 26, 2025**

*\*Please stand as you are able      **Bold** Items are read in unison*

Invocation & Call to Worship

Psalm 118:17-24

<sup>17</sup> I will not die but live, and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

<sup>18</sup> **The LORD has chastened me severely,  
but he has not given me over to death.**

<sup>19</sup> Open for me the gates of the righteous; I will enter and give thanks to the LORD.

<sup>20</sup> **This is the gate of the LORD through which the righteous may enter.**

<sup>21</sup> I will give you thanks, for you answered me; you have become my salvation.

<sup>22</sup> **The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone;**

<sup>23</sup> the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

<sup>24</sup> **The LORD has done it this very day; let us rejoice today and be glad.**

Opening Prayer

\* Opening Hymn – O Sacred Head, Now Wounded . . . . . Red **#61**

Lenten Reading

Matthew 26:69-27:10



<sup>69</sup> Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. “You also were with Jesus of Galilee,” she said. <sup>70</sup> But he denied it before them all. “I don’t know what you’re talking about,” he said. <sup>71</sup> Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, “This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth.” <sup>72</sup> He denied it again, with an oath: “I don’t know the man!” <sup>73</sup> After a

little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, “Surely you are one of them; your accent gives you away.” <sup>74</sup> Then he began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know the man!” Immediately a rooster crowed. <sup>75</sup> Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: “Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside and wept bitterly. <sup>27</sup> Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people made their plans how to have Jesus executed. <sup>2</sup> So they bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate the governor. <sup>3</sup> When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders. <sup>4</sup> “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.” <sup>5</sup> So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. <sup>6</sup> The chief priests picked up the coins and said, “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.” <sup>7</sup> So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. <sup>8</sup> That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this

day. <sup>9</sup> Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled: “They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price set on him by the people of Israel, <sup>10</sup> and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

**Confession of Sin: Merciful God and Heavenly Father, whose grace endures to all generations, You are patient and longsuffering and have promised to forgive the sins of those who truly repent. We have sinned against You and are unworthy of Your goodness and love. Look with compassion upon us, and hear our cries for mercy. Forgive us of all our sins, and help us to walk in a manner worthy of the calling we have received. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.**

#### Declaration of Grace/Prayers of the Church

##### Old Testament Lesson

Isaiah 5:1-7

I will sing for the one I love a song about his vineyard: My loved one had a vineyard on a fertile hillside. <sup>2</sup> He dug it up and cleared it of stones and planted it with the choicest vines. He built a watchtower in it and cut out a winepress as well. Then he looked for a crop of good grapes, but it yielded only bad fruit. <sup>3</sup> “Now you dwellers in Jerusalem and people of Judah, judge between me and my vineyard. <sup>4</sup> What more could have been done for my vineyard than I have done for it? When I looked for good grapes, why did it yield only bad? <sup>5</sup> Now I will tell you what I am going to do to my vineyard: I will take away its hedge, and it will be destroyed; I will break down its wall, and it will be trampled. <sup>6</sup> I will make it a wasteland, neither pruned nor cultivated, and briers and thorns will grow there. I will command the clouds not to rain on it.” <sup>7</sup> The vineyard of the Lord Almighty is the nation of Israel, and the people of Judah are the vines he delighted in. And he looked for justice, but saw bloodshed; for righteousness, but heard cries of distress.

##### Epistle Lesson

1 Peter 2:4-10

<sup>4</sup> As you come to him, the living Stone—rejected by humans but chosen by God and precious to him— <sup>5</sup> you also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ. <sup>6</sup> For in Scripture it says: “See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame.” <sup>7</sup> Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, “The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone,” <sup>8</sup> and, “A stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall.” They stumble because they disobey the message—which is also what they were destined for. <sup>9</sup> But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s special possession, that you may declare the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light. <sup>10</sup> Once you were not a people, but now you are the people of God; once you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy.

**\* 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.**

##### \* Confession of Faith

Augsburg Confession, Article IV on Justification

It is taught among us that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God by our own merits, works, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sin and become righteous before God by grace, for Christ’s sake, through faith, when we believe that Christ suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life are given to us. For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness. Amen.

Hymn – *Teach Me Thy Way, O Lord* . . . . . Red **#611**

##### \* Sermon Text - Gospel

\* Luke 20:9-18

<sup>9</sup> He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. <sup>10</sup> At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. <sup>11</sup> He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. <sup>12</sup> He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out. <sup>13</sup> “Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’ <sup>14</sup> “But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ <sup>15</sup> So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. “What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? <sup>16</sup> He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When the people heard this, they said, “God forbid!” <sup>17</sup> Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written: “‘The stone the builders rejected has become the cornerstone’? <sup>18</sup> Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces; anyone on whom it falls will be crushed.”

Sermon – *The Lord’s Vineyard* . . . . . Pastor Barry Nelson

\* Closing Hymn – *Ah, Holy Jesus, How Hast Thou Offended?* . . . . . Red **#69**

**\* 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.**

**\* Benediction & Doxology: (sung, p. 24 for melody): Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him, all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host: Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

**\* Dismissal: L: Go in Peace, and Serve the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.**