

Elim Lutheran Church
Sunday, March 8, 2026
8:45 and 10:45 AM
Third Sunday of Lent



John 4:42, NRSV

The Elim Express contains announcements and happenings at Elim. Use this QR Code to the right to read the Elim Express online. Just scan it with the photo app on your phone.



Welcome to Elim Lutheran Church

- 1) Accessible restrooms and an AED are located by the exit near the parking lot. An all-gender restroom is in the Sanctuary Balcony.
- 2) Elim belongs to the Sierra Pacific Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA). To learn more, visit <https://www.spselca.net/>

Today we welcome Pastor Debbie McAllister as our guest pastor while Pastor Kathryn is out on medical leave.

WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS

10:45 AM ENDOWMENT RECIPIENT: Redwood Empire Food Bank - Trey Hart

RINGING OF THE BELL

Please stand as you are able

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Pastor: Friends, we are like the disciples.

The day that Jesus fed 5,000, his disciples could not imagine a solution to the crowd's hunger. They told Jesus to send the crowds away.

We often do the same.

Like the disciples, we try to follow Jesus around, but when we run into issues, we often cannot imagine how we could play a part.

That is why we need the Prayer of Confession.

For in this prayer, we remember that we can make a difference.

So friends, join me in this moment of truth telling.

Join me in prayer:

**All: Holy God,
with you the impossible is possible.**

5,000 can be fed.

The blind can see.

The hopeless can find hope.

**With you the impossible is possible,
but we are quick to forget that.**

We look at our hurting world and tell ourselves that nothing can be done.

We forget that you empowered the disciples to feed the crowd.

We forget that you are always with us.

Forgive our small-minded ways.

Forgive us for doubting that change could ever come.

But even more so, forgive us when we refuse to be a part of it.

With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.

Pastor: Faith family,

no matter how many mistakes the disciples made,

Jesus still washed their feet. Jesus still fed them.

Jesus still called them beloved.

The same is true for you and me, so hear and believe this good news:

All: today is a new day, and once again, we belong to God.

We are forgiven. We are called. We are not alone.

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

KYRIE

Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have mer -
cy. Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy.

Music: *Black Mountain Liturgy*, Sally Ann Morris, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

GREETING

Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

OPENING HYMN: JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS

ELW 335 VS 1,4



1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,



free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

Refrain



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Lector: Merciful God,

**All: the fountain of living water,
you quench our thirst and wash away our sin.
Give us this water always.**

**Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth
through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

Please be seated.

READING: EXODUS 17:1-7

Lector: A reading from the book of Exodus.

¹ From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. ² The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them, "Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?" ³ But the people thirsted there for water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" ⁴ So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." ⁵ The Lord said to Moses, "Go on ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go. ⁶ I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. ⁷ He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarreled and tested the Lord, saying, "Is the Lord among us or not?"

Lector: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 95

(Please read responsively)

- Lector: ¹ Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
- All: ² Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.**
- Lector: ³ For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
- All: ⁴ In your hand are the caverns of the earth;
the heights of the hills are also yours.**
- Lector: ⁵ The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
- All: ⁶ Come, let us worship and bow down,
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.**
- Lector: ⁷ For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the
sheep of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!
- All: ⁸ "Harden not your hearts,
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.**
- Lector: ⁹ There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.
- All: ¹⁰ Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'**
- Lector: ¹¹ Indeed I swore in my anger,
They shall never come to my rest.' "

READING: ROMANS 5:1-11

Lector: A reading from the book of Romans.

¹ Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, ² through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. ³ And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, ⁴ and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, ⁵ and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

⁶ For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. ⁸ But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. ⁹ Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. ¹⁰ For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. ¹¹ But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Lector: The word of the Lord.


All: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand as you are able

ALL: GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Praise and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!



Praise and hon - or to you, Lord Je - sus Christ!

Music: *Black Mountain Liturgy*, Sally Ann Morris, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

GOSPEL: JOHN 4:5-42

Pastor: The holy gospel according to John.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord**

⁵ [Jesus] came to a Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son Joseph.⁶ Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was about noon.

⁷ A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink."⁸ (His disciples had gone to the city to buy food.)⁹ The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with Samaritans.)¹⁰ Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water."¹¹ The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water?¹² Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with his sons and his flocks drank from it?"¹³ Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again,¹⁴ but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life."¹⁵ The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."

¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back."¹⁷ The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,'¹⁸ for you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true!"¹⁹ The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet.²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."²¹ Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem.²² You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews.²³ But the hour is coming and is now here when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him.²⁴ God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."²⁵ The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."²⁶ Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

²⁷ Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?"²⁸ Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people,²⁹ "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?"³⁰ They left the city and were on their way to him.

³¹ Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, “Rabbi, eat something.” ³² But he said to them, “I have food to eat that you do not know about.” ³³ So the disciples said to one another, “Surely no one has brought him something to eat?” ³⁴ Jesus said to them, “My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. ³⁵ Do you not say, ‘Four months more, then comes the harvest’? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. ³⁶ The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. ³⁷ For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows and another reaps.’ ³⁸ I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”

³⁹ Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony, “He told me everything I have ever done.” ⁴⁰ So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. ⁴¹ And many more believed because of his word. ⁴² They said to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.”

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON: Pastor Debbie McAllister

Please stand as you are able

HYMN OF THE DAY: COME, THOU FOUNT OF EVERY BLESSING ELW 807



1 Come, thou Fount of ev - 'ry bless-ing, tune my heart to sing thy grace;
2 Here I raise my Eb - en - e - zer: "Hith-er by thy help I've come";
3 Oh, to grace how great a debt-or dai - ly I'm con-strained to be;



streams of mer - cy, nev - er ceas - ing, call for songs of loud-est praise.
and I hope, by thy good plea - sure, safe - ly to ar - rive at home.
let that grace now like a fet - ter bind my wan-d'ring heart to thee.



While the hope of end-less glo - ry fills my heart with joy and love,
Je - sus sought me when a strang - er, wan-d'ring from the fold of God;
Prone to wan - der, Lord, I feel it; prone to leave the God I love.



teach me ev - er to a - dore thee; may I still thy good-ness prove.
he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre - cious blood.
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

Text: Robert Robinson, 1735–1790, alt.

Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, *Repository of Sacred Music*, Part II, 1813

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Pastor: Please join me in affirming our faith.

All: I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

It sounds like welcome
and feels like home.

It sounds like laughter and feels like mercy.

It sounds like love and feels like a seat at the table,
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.

I have seen it alive in the world.

And even when my heart aches,
even when wars rage,
even when mercy feels out of reach,

I remember the one who
welcomed the children
and led with nonviolence.

I remember the one who
cared for the vulnerable
and inspired those around him.

I remember that the good news really is good news,
for I have seen it alive in the world.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org.

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

ALM: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

ALM: O God, when suffering arises, preserve your church. Give to pastors, deacons, bishops, and all servants of your gospel the endurance that produces character and the hope that will never disappoint. We are especially thankful for Pastor Debbie who has been serving us while Pastor Kathryn recovers. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

ALM: When the waters run dry, sustain this earth. Send water to places languishing with drought, and bring relief to places damaged by floods. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

ALM: When quarrels ensue, soften our hearts. Quell hostilities between nations and peoples, and reconcile all humans across the lines of race, class, nationality, moral conviction, religion, and all else that divides or oppresses. We pray for our military, and all people in the middle east. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

ALM: When your people thirst, satisfy their needs. Send water and food to all who need nourishment. Grant welcome to all who are excluded. Show your mercy to any in need. We especially pray for Loretta, Cathy, Diane, Anita, Kathryn, Debra, Noelle, Lou, Bob, Carole, Brian, Jim, and those we name silently and aloud (brief silence). We pray for the children at Little Shepherd Orphanage Centre and Preschool who have been sick with Covid. Please pray for healing and for strength for Director Isaya Manungu as he navigates their care. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

ALM: When we gather to worship, send us your Spirit. Renew our hearts through the joyful noise we make and bless the work of our church musicians and musical ensembles, especially Lauren and members of our Elim Choirs and Band. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

ALM: O God, when death draws near, we rejoice in the promise of life with you. We remember all who have entered eternal rest, and we pray that you bring us the hope of sharing in your glory. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

ALM: O God, bless all those celebrating birthdays, anniversaries and celebrations of all kinds this week. Hear us, O God.

All: Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

Pastor: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

All: Amen.

OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

ALM: O God,

**All: maker of heaven and earth,
your steadfast love embraces all creation.
You send rain and sunshine to nourish the earth
and bring forth its bounty.
Through these gifts of bread and wine,
draw us into the death and life of your Son,
who calls us to bear witness to his saving work.
We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.**

Please stand as you are able

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

**All: Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed...
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Pastor: For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**All: Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**All: 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**

Please be seated

LAMB OF GOD

Lamb of God, you take a-way the sins of the
world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
God, you take a-way the sins of the world:
grant us peace. Grant us peace.

Music: *Black Mountain Liturgy*, Sally Ann Morris, © 2003, GIA Publications, Inc.

COMMUNION

Jesus welcomes everyone to his table and so we offer to everyone, without exception, to share in Holy Communion. If you would like to receive communion with us today, please come forward and hold out your hands. If you would like a gluten-free wafer, please let the server know. When you receive the bread you may dip it in the wine (darker in color) / juice (lighter in color). If you choose to take the individual cup, please discard the cup after drinking. If you would like to receive a blessing instead, please place your hand over your heart. If you are a visitor and would



1 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee;
 2 Not the la - bors of my hands can ful - fill thy law's de - mands;
 3 Noth - ing in my hand I bring; sim - ply to thy cross I cling.
 4 While I draw this fleet - ing breath, when mine eye - lids close in death,



let the wa - ter and the blood, from thy riv - en side which flowed,
 could my zeal no res - pite know, could my tears for - ev - er flow,
 Na - ked, come to thee for dress; help - less, look to thee for grace;
 when I soar to worlds un - known, see thee on thy judg - ment throne,



be of sin the dou - ble cure; cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.
 all for sin could not a - tone; thou must save, and thou a - lone.
 foul, I to the foun - tain fly; wash me, Sav - ior, or I die.
 Rock of A - ges, cleft for me, let me hide my - self in thee.

Text: Augustus M. Toplady, 1740–1778

Music: TOPLADY, Thomas Hastings, 1784–1872

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

ALM: God of our salvation,

**All: we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls,
 reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey.
 Through the body and blood of your Son,
 may we become Christ's body in the world,
 bearing witness to your love for all creation,
 through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

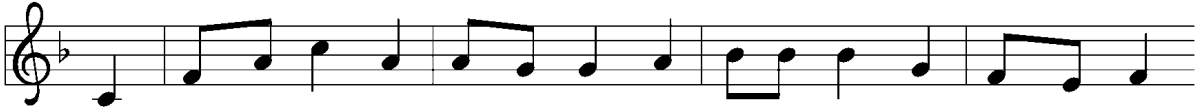
8:45 AM ENDOWMENT RECIPIENT: Redwood Empire Food Bank - Trey Hart

Please stand as you are able

BENEDICTION

Response after blessing: Amen

8:45 AM SENDING HYMN: MY HOPE IS BUILT ON NOTHING LESS ELW 596



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less than Je - sus' blood and righ - teous - ness;
2 Whendark - ness veils his love - ly face, I rest on his un - chang - ing grace;
3 His oath, his cov - e - nant, his blood sus - tain me in the rag - ing flood;
4 When he shall come with trum - pet sound, oh, may I then in him be found,



no mer - it of my own I claim, but whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.
in ev - 'ry high and storm - y gale my an - chor holds with - in the veil.
when all sup - ports are washed a - way, he then is all my hope and stay.
clothed in his righ - teous - ness a - lone, re - deemed to stand be - fore the throne!

Refrain



On Christ, the sol - id rock, I stand; all oth - er ground is



sink - ing sand, all oth - er ground is sink - ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.

Music: THE SOLID ROCK, William B. Bradbury, 1816–1868

Verse 1

**God I'm on my knees again
God I'm begging please again
I need You
Oh I need You
Walking down these desert roads
Water for my thirsty soul
I need You
Oh I need You**

Chorus

**Your forgiveness
Is like sweet sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my
ears
Like holy water (on my skin)**

Verse 2

**Dead man walking slave to sin
I wanna know about being born again
I need You
Oh God I need You
So take me to the riverside
Take me under baptize
I need You
Oh God I need You oh**

Chorus

**Your forgiveness
Is like sweet sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my
ears
Like holy water (on my skin)**

Bridge

**I don't wanna abuse Your grace
God I need it ev'ry day
It's the only thing that ever really
Makes me wanna change**

**I don't wanna abuse Your grace
God I need it ev'ry day
It's the only thing that ever really
Makes me wanna change**

**I don't wanna abuse Your grace
God I need it ev'ry day
It's the only thing that ever really
Makes me wanna change**

Chorus

**Your forgiveness
Is like sweet sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my
ears
Like holy water**

**Your forgiveness
Is like sweet sweet honey on my lips
Like the sound of a symphony to my
ears
Like holy water on my skin**

Ending

**Yeah it's like holy water on my skin
Oh it's like holy water**

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SENDING

ALM: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

All: Thanks be to God.

Next Week:

Wednesday, March 11, Mid-week Lent Service Online (Available starting at 10:00AM)

March 15, Fourth Sunday in Lent

Intro: Baptism is sometimes called enlightenment. The gospel for this Sunday is the story of the man born blind healed by Christ. "I was blind, now I see," declares the man. In baptism God opens our eyes to see the truth of who we are: God's beloved children. As David was anointed king of Israel, in baptism God anoints our head with oil, and calls us to bear witness to the light of Christ in our daily lives.

Readings: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 / Psalm 23 / Ephesians 5:8-14 / John 9:1-41

Elim Worship Team

The Rev. Kathryn Gulbranson, Pastor	Presiding Minister
Robin Merrill	Assistant Lay Minister
Lauren Haile	Music Director
Erin Hetrick-Hohenner	Office Manager (Elim Express, Announcements)
Barb Villa	Bulletin Production
Richard Maxon	Bookkeeper
Paul Haile, Andy Hohenner, Andrew Moore, Kevin Prime, Maria Svinth	Tech Audio/Video

**Special thanks to all our volunteers
who helped with our worship service**

Pastor Kathryn Gulbranson's Email - pastorkathryn@elimpetaluma.org

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