

## GATHERING TO WORSHIP

*Please take a moment during the Prelude to silence your cell phones and quietly prepare yourself for worship.*

WELCOME AND MINUTES FOR MINISTRY

PRELUDE

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Welcome to the weary and the worn.

**People: Welcome to the uneasy and the eager.**

Leader: Welcome to the skeptical and the seeking.

**People: Welcome to the early risers and those still trying to wake up.**

Leader: Welcome to the rule followers and the rule breakers.

**People: Welcome to those hungry for justice and those desperate for mercy.**

Leader: Welcome to the sinners and the saints. This is God's house. You can make yourself at home here.

**All: Let us worship our just, merciful, and faithful God!**

\*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH FOR LENT

**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.**

\*HYMN "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" Hymnal 435

## RECEIVING FORGIVENESS FROM GOD AND EACH OTHER

\*CALL TO CONFESSION

\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION:

**Holy God, we love to live our lives by the rules. We love clear answers. We love right and wrong. We love swift justice. We love to pick up stones, but you show us another way. You welcome shades of gray and nuanced conversation. You prioritize mercy over legality. You prioritize people over tradition. You prioritize love over everything. Forgive us for losing sight of what truly matters. Forgive us for clinging tighter to laws than to each other or to you. Forgive us. Soften our hearts. Root us in mercy, justice, and love. With hope for a better tomorrow, we pray. Amen.**

\*WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

Leader: Church family, Jesus saw a crowd ready to throw stones and invited them to choose another way. Jesus offered them grace, mercy, and compassion, and the same can be said for us. So hear and believe the good news of the gospel: Our God is a God of mercy. Our God is a God of compassion. Our God is a God of grace. We are forgiven, loved, and invited to choose another way. Thanks be to God for yet another second chance.

**All: Amen.**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

## HEARING THE WORD

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE

**Matthew 23:13-32**

Pew Bible p.700

**Romans 8:31-39**

Pew Bible p.801

MESSAGE

*Pastor Blake Severson*

\*HYMN “Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound” Hymnal 649

### RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

THE LORD’S PRAYER

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD

OFFERTORY

\* “Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow” Hymnal 606

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

### GOING INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN “Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me” Hymnal 438

\*CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

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*\*Those who are able please stand*

WELCOME to worship – we are glad that you’re here! If you are visiting today and would like to share your contact information with the office, there are welcome cards in the pew pockets. Please fill one out and place it in the offering plate during the collection time. Everyone is invited to stay for coffee, snacks, and fellowship in the narthex after worship.

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LARGE PRINT HYMNALS with a black cover are on the small bookcase in the rear of the sanctuary.

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Children up to Kindergarten age are welcome in the nursery. There are clipboards with coloring pages in the narthex if your children wish to stay in the sanctuary.

The communion table flowers for March are sponsored by Lucy Witt.



*Eagle River Presbyterian Church  
March 22, 2026*



# Fifth Sunday

IN LENT

## Welcome to Eagle River Presbyterian Church

March 22, 2026

### Weekly Walk

Sunday	10:00 am	Worship
Sunday	10:15 am	Children's Sunday school
Wednesday		Jersey Mike's "Day of Giving"
Wednesday	9:30 am	Coffee hour at church
Wednesday	7:30 pm	Zoom Bible study

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- Sign up to help provide dinner for the Emergency Cold Weather Shelter for Families on March 30
- Lay leaders are needed. Please sign up on the bulletin board by the kitchen.
- We are collecting candy donations for the egg hunt on Easter Sunday. Basket is on the table in the narthex.
- Eat at Jersey Mike's this Wednesday, March 25. Proceeds will go to Alaska Special Olympics!



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