

# Serving through Faith; Serving Selflessly

March 15,  
2026



Fourth Sunday  
in Lent

**Welcome, guests!** We're delighted you could join us. If you have any questions or want more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to assist you. This folder includes all the details about our services, with the congregational responses indicated by indented, bold letters. Please take a moment to fill out the guest register at the church entrance; it will be used only by the pastor and elder. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. May the Lord bless this service as Christ comes to you!

**THEME FOR TODAY'S READINGS:** Jesus calls us from selfishness rooted in sin to selfless service. We can see the world through the lens of either selfishness or selflessness. Selfishness puts oneself first and leads to favoritism, pride, and envy. However, repentance involves abandoning self-reliance, trusting in Christ's substitutionary sacrifice, and living lives of selfless service modeled after our Savior, who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for us.

**MORNING PRAYER:** Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**ORDER FOR TODAY'S SERVICE:** COMMON WORSHIP WITH COMMUNION— CW, p.15



**OPENING HYMN:**

#302

LORD, TO YOU I MAKE CONFESSION

**\*\*Please Stand for the Last Verse\*\***

1 Lord, to you I make con - fes - sion: I have  
 2 Yet, though con - science' voice ap - pall me, Fa - ther,  
 3 For your Son has suf - fered for me, Giv'n him -  
 4 Lord, on you I cast my bur - den— Sink it



sinned and gone a - stray; I have mul - ti - plied  
 I will seek your face. Though your child I dare  
 self to res - cue me, Died to save me and  
 in the depths be - low! Let me know your gra -



trans - gres - sion, Cho - sen for my - self my way.  
 not call me, Yet re - ceive me to your grace.  
 re - store me, Rec - on - ciled and set me free.  
 cious par - don; Wash me, make me white as snow.



Led by you to see my er - rors,  
 Do not for my sins for - sake me;  
 Je - sus' cross a - lone can van - quish  
 Let your Spir - it leave me nev - er;



Lord, I trem - ble at your ter - rors.  
 Do not let your wrath o'er - take me.  
 These dark fears and soothe this an - guish.  
 Make me on - ly yours for - ev - er.

Text: Johann Franck, 1618–77, abr.; tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–78, alt.  
 Tune: HERR, ICH HABE MISSGEHANDELT (87 87 88) Johann Crüger, 1598–1662.



C: A - men.

In the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

**CONFESSION OF SINS**

Beloved in the Lord: let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins to God our Father, asking him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

Holy and merciful Father, I confess that I am by nature sinful and that I have disobeyed you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have done what is evil and failed to do what is good. For this, I deserve your punishment both now and in eternity. But I am truly sorry for my sins, and trusting in my Savior Jesus Christ, I pray: Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner.

**LORD, HAVE MERCY**

*KYRIE*

C: Lord, have mer - cy on us. Christ, have mer - cy  
on us. Lord, have mer - cy on us.

God, our heavenly Father, has been merciful to us and has given his only Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: A - men.

**PRAYER AND PRAISE**

In the peace of forgiveness, let us praise the Lord.

**GLORY BE TO GOD**

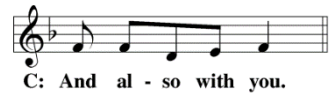
*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS*

C: Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will toward men.  
We praise you, we bless you, we wor-ship you, we glorify you,  
we give thanks to you, for your great glory, O Lord God, heav'n-ly King,  
God the Fa-ther al - mighty. O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je-sus Christ;  
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the  
sin of the world; have mercy on us. You take away the



sin of the world; re - ceive our prayer. You sit at the right hand of  
 God the Father; have mercy on us. For you on - ly are holy;  
 you on - ly are the Lord. You only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Spirit,  
 are most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**



C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.

Let us pray.

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - - men.

**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

**FIRST LESSON:**


**HOSEA 5:15 – 6:3**

*True repentance and selfless service involve more than just saying the right words. On the surface, this confession of Israel appears beautiful, but at its core, it is empty. This is unrepentant Israel's idea of "repentance." The words may sound good, but there is no admission of guilt, God doesn't accept it, and the results do not follow.*

***I will go. I will return to my place until they admit their guilt and seek my face. In their distress, they will earnestly seek me.***

***Come, let us return to the Lord. For he has torn us to pieces, but he will heal us. He has struck us, but he will bandage our wounds. After two days, he will revive us. On the third day, he will raise us up, so that we may live in his presence. Let us acknowledge the Lord. Let us pursue knowledge of the Lord. As surely as the sun rises, the Lord will appear. He will come to us like a heavy rain, like the spring rain that waters the earth.***

*Refrain*



Bless-ed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord.

*Psalm tone*



*Refrain*

As the deer pants for streams of water,\*  
 so my soul pants for you, O God.  
 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.\*  
 Where can I go and meet with God?  
 Why are you downcast, O my soul?\*  
 Why so disturbed within me?  
 Put your hope in God,\*  
 for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

*Refrain*

Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me;\*  
 let them bring me to the place where you dwell.  
 Then will I go to the altar of God, my joy and my delight.\*  
 I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.  
**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\***  
**and to the Holy Spirit,**  
**as it was in the beginning,\***  
**is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

*Refrain*

**SECOND LESSON**

**ROMANS 8:1 – 10**

*One of Scripture's greatest chapters begins with one of its most comforting verses: Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. Christ's life redeemed humanity because it met God's demands and freed us from the Law of sin. Now we are free to live by the Spirit.*

***So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.***

***To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.***

***But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.***

#### VERSE OF THE DAY

For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)

***\*\*Please Stand\*\****

#### GOSPEL

#### MATTHEW 20:17 – 28

***Jesus revealed the plan of the Father to his disciples: the Son of God would leave his heavenly throne and selflessly give his freedom to his enemies, his body to the torturer, his life to the executioner so that he might be our Savior. Instead of marveling at the depth of his love and self—sacrifice, the disciples argued about positions of greatness in glory.***

*After the announcement of the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



***As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside; and on the way he said to them, "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and experts in the law, and they will condemn him to death. They will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock, flog, and crucify him. On the third day, he will be raised."***

***Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to him with her sons, kneeling and asking something of him. He said to her, "What do you want?" She said to him, "Promise that in your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on your right hand and one on your left hand."***

***But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to him, "We are." He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not for me to give; rather these places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."***

***When the ten heard this, they were angry with the two brothers. But Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. It will not be that way among you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, and whoever wants to be first***

*among you will be your slave—just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

*After the Gospel, the congregation sings:*



C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

### **NICENE CREED**

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day, he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

***\*\*Please Be Seated\*\****

# HYMN OF THE DAY:

#486

## LORD OF GLORY, YOU HAVE BOUGHT US



1 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us With your  
 2 Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Glad - ly,  
 3 Won - drous hon - or you have giv - en To our  
 4 Yes, the sor - row and the suf - f'ring Which on  
 5 Lord of glo - ry, you have bought us With your



life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the  
 free - ly, of your own. With the sun - shine of your  
 hum - blest char - i - ty In your own mys - te - rious  
 ev - 'ry hand we view Chan - nels are for gifts and  
 life - blood as the price, Nev - er grudg - ing for the



lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice,  
 good - ness Melt our thank - less hearts of stone  
 sen - tence, "You have done it un - to me."  
 of - f'ring Due by sol - emn right to you,  
 lost ones That tre - men - dous sac - ri - fice.



And with that have free - ly giv - en Bless - ings  
 Till our cold and self - ish na - tures, Warmed by  
 Can it be, O gra - cious Mas - ter, That you  
 Right of which we may not rob you, Debt we  
 Give us faith to trust you bold - ly, Hope, to



count - less as the sand To th' un - thank - ful and the  
 you, at length be - lieve That more hap - py and more  
 need what we can do, Say - ing by your poor and  
 may not choose but pay Lest that face of love and  
 stay our souls on you; But, oh, best of all your



e - vil With your own un - spar - ing hand.  
 bless - ed 'Tis to give than to re - ceive.  
 need - y, "Give as I have giv'n to you?"  
 pit - y Turn from us a - noth - er day.  
 gra - ces, With your love our love re - new.

Text: Eliza S. Alderson, 1818–89, alt.  
 Tune: HYFRYDOL (87 87 D) Rowland H. Prichard, 1811–87.

**SERMON TEXT:**

**MATTHEW 20:17 – 28**

**SERMON THEME:**

**SELFISH BY SIN; SELFLESS BY FAITH IN JESUS**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

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## CREATE IN ME

C: Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -  
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -  
way from your pres-ence, and take not your Ho - ly Spir - it  
from me. Re-store un - to me the joy of your sal - va -  
tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it. A - men.

**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

*OFFERING – Paul tells us in 2 Corinthians 9: 7: “Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver.” This service is our gift to our guests; should you feel obliged to give, we thank you for your generosity.*

### PRAYER OF THE CHURCH FOR LENT

Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.

**We confess that without your love, we are lost.**

Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author, and perfecter of our faith.

**Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**

Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.

**By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**

Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.

**Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

**Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

*SPECIAL PRAYERS AND INTERCESSIONS*

Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*SILENT PRAYERS*

Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**THE 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.**

*\*\*Please Be Seated\*\**

**DISTRIBUTION HYMN**

**#376**

**JESUS, YOUR BLOOD AND RIGHTEOUSNESS**



1 Je - sus, your blood and right - eous - ness My beau - ty  
 2 Bold shall I stand in that great day— Who can a  
 3 Lord, I be - lieve your pre - cious blood, Which at the  
 4 Lord, I be - lieve were sin - ners more Than sands up -  
 5 When from the dust of death I rise To claim my



are, my glo - rious dress; Mid flam - ing worlds, in  
 word a - gainst me say? Ful - ly through you ab -  
 ver - y throne of God For - ev - er will for  
 on the o - cean shore, You have for all a  
 man - sion in the skies, E'en then this shall be



these ar - rayed, With joy shall I lift up my head.  
 solved I am From sin and fear, from guilt and shame.  
 sin - ners plead, For me—e'en for my soul—was shed.  
 ran - som paid, For all a full a - tone - ment made.  
 all my plea: Je - sus has lived and died for me.

6 Jesus, be worshiped endlessly!  
 Your boundless mercy has for me,  
 For me and all your hands have made,  
 An everlasting ransom paid.

Text: Nicolaus L. von Zinzendorf, 1700–60, abr.; tr. John B. Wesley, 1703–91, alt.  
 Tune: ST. CRISPIN (LM) George J. Elvey, 1816–93.

**\*\*Please Stand\*\***

**THE SACRAMENT**



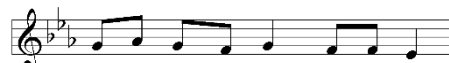
C: And al - so with you.

The Lord be with you.



C: We lift them up un - to the Lord.

Lift up your hearts.



C: It is good and right so to do.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is truly good and right that we should at all times and in all places give you thanks, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who brought the gift of salvation to all people by his death on the tree of the cross, so that the devil, who overcame us by a tree would in turn by a tree be overcome. Therefore, with all the saints on earth and hosts in heaven, we praise your holy name and join their glorious song:

**HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



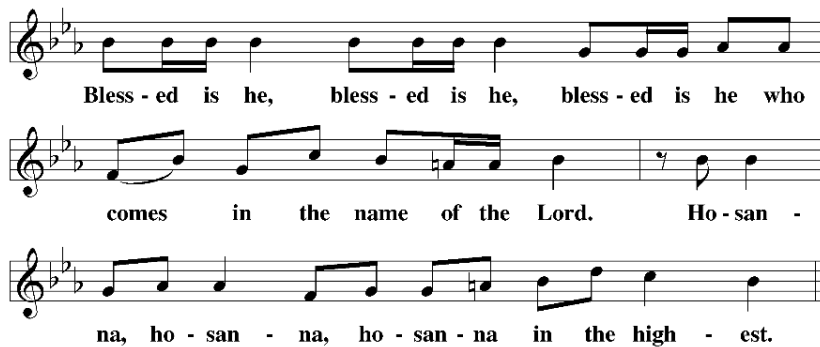
C: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of heav - en - ly hosts:



heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san -



na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.



Bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he, bless - ed is he who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san -  
na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

**WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my (†) body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my (†) blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."



The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
C: A - men.

**O CHRIST, LAMB OF GOD**

*AGNUS DEI*



C: O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
have mer - cy on us. O Christ, Lamb of God,  
you take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.  
O Christ, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;  
grant us your peace. A - men.

**\*\*Please Be Seated\*\***

## DISTRIBUTION

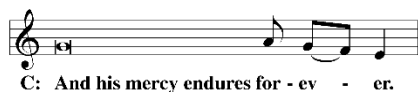
*DISTRIBUTION – Please come forward at the direction of our usher. We do practice close communion according to Paul’s guidance in 1 Corinthians 11:27: “For if anyone eats and drinks in an unworthy manner because he does not recognize the Lord’s body, he eats and drinks judgment upon himself.” Therefore, if you are not a member of the ELS or WELS, please talk to Pastor Emmons before communing. Thank you for respecting our practices.*

*\*\*Please Stand\*\**

## SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing  
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-  
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the  
Gen-tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra-el.



C: And his mercy endures for - ev - er.

O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

## CLOSING PRAYER

We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this holy supper. We pray that through it, you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



C: A - men.

## BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord, make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look on you with favor and (†) give you peace.



C: A - men. A - men. A - men.

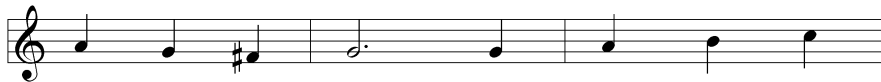
*\*\*Please Be Seated\*\**

**CLOSING HYMN:**

#401

**YOUR WORKS, NOT MINE, O CHRIST**

1 Your works, not mine, O Christ, Speak glad -  
 2 Your blood, not mine, O Christ, Can heal  
 3 Your cross, not mine, O Christ, Has borne  
 4 Your death, not mine, O Christ, Has paid  
 5 Your right - eous - ness, O Christ, A - lone



ness to this heart. They tell me all  
 my sin - ful soul; Your wounds, not mine,  
 the dread - ful load Of sins that none  
 the ran - som due; Ten thou - sand deaths  
 can cov - er me; No oth - er right -



is done; They bid my fear de - part.  
 con - tain The balm that makes me whole.  
 could bear But the in - car - nate God.  
 like mine Would have been all too few.  
 eous - ness Can set a sin - ner free.

*Refrain*

To whom but you, who can a - lone For



sin a - tone, Lord, shall I flee?

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808-89, alt.

Tune: ST. JOHN (66 66 88) *The Parish Choir*, London, 1850.

## WHAT WE BELIEVE:

- Every word of the Bible is inspired, inerrant, and the only source of absolute truth.
- The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit form the triune God, the only true God.
- All humans are born dead in sin and deserve eternal condemnation.
- Jesus Christ is the true God; he was conceived in Mary's womb by the Holy Spirit, assuming His human nature to His divine nature.
- Only through His perfect work of redemption, which includes His perfect life and innocent death, are all sins for all people forgiven and given credit for His perfect life.
- Only those whom the Holy Spirit, through Word and Baptism, blesses with faith in Jesus' redemptive work, receive the benefit of it.
- The day is drawing near when Jesus will return, all believers will be with Him in heaven, all unbelievers will be condemned to eternal torment, and this present world will be destroyed.

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Lenten Season:** Please mark your calendars to join us for this time of preparation. We invite you to join us on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. for our midweek Lenten services; this year, our theme is “It is finished.” We will explore the fulfillment of the Old Testament book of Zechariah.

**Sunday Morning Bible Study:** We continue our focus on the Pauline letters with Galatians. Please join us at 9:00 a.m. We hope you find this Bible study enlightening! Feel free to bring your questions. You may come and go as needed. Reading is optional, and questions are always welcome.

**Passion of the Christ:** Mark your calendar! Pastor Emmons and Tammi will host a movie night on March 27 at 6 pm. We will watch “The Passion of the Christ.”

**Holy Week Schedule:** Holy Week begins on March 29 with Palm Sunday, followed by Maundy Thursday on April 2, Good Friday on April 3, and Easter on April 5. Our midweek services are at 5:30 pm, and our Sunday services are at 10:30 am. We will observe communion on Maundy Thursday but not on Palm Sunday or Easter. Please consider scheduling a private absolution with Pastor Emmons on April 2 before our evening service.

**West Coast Conference:** The ELS churches on the West Coast will gather for a conference on April 22 and 23 at Saved by Grace Lutheran Church in Gresham, Oregon. Pastor Emmons will attend that conference.

**Seminarian Noah Gernander:** We, as a congregation, have adopted Seminarian Noah Gernander. Please sign the Easter card for him and his family. We plan to send his family a gift card for gas, groceries, and diapers. You may either place it in the collection plate or send it directly to him at the Seminary: 6 Browns Ct., Mankato, MN 56001.

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