

*WELCOME TO WORSHIP
AT
WHITNALL PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
MARCH 15TH, 2026*



Pastor Michael Fazio is presiding.

We have come together today as members and guests to worship God and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ. We hope our worship will be uplifting and provide a source of hope and strength for the week ahead.

If you believe that the Lord is truly present for us in the Sacrament in body and blood for the forgiveness of sin, you are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

LENTEN WORSHIP WILL BEGIN WITH OUR HANDBELL CHOIR

HAND BELL CHOIR ~ *Singing Bells*

CALL TO WORSHIP *780 Shepherd Me, O God vs 4*

**Refrain (sung by all) Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

You have set me a banquet of love in the face of hatred,
crowning me with love beyond my pow'r to hold.

**Refrain (sung by all) Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

CONFESSION AND FORIVENESS

All may make the sign of ✚ the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, one God, who brings us out of captivity into
freedom, out of the wilderness to the promised land, out of death into life.

C: Amen.

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and one another.
Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

**C: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed,
by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive us and
give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness of life. Amen.**

P: By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the death
and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty God
strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN *614 There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Refrain

There is a balm in Gilead to make the wounded whole;
there is a balm in Gilead to heal the sin-sick soul.

1 Sometimes I feel discouraged and think my work's in vain,
but then the Holy Spirit revives my soul again. ***Refrain***

- 2 If you cannot preach like Peter, if you cannot pray like Paul,
you can tell the love of Jesus and say, "He died for all." **Refrain**
- 3 Don't ever be discouraged, for Jesus is your friend;
and if you lack for knowledge he'll ne'er refuse to lend. **Refrain**

GREETING

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

C: And Also with you.

KYRIE ELW 151

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray . . . Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come
among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness
of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the
Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING *a reading from 1 Samuel 16:1-13*

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

¹ The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."

² Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'" ³ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." ⁴ Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" ⁵ He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. ⁶ When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." ⁷ But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." ⁸ Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ⁹ Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." ¹⁰ Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." ¹¹ Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." ¹² He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." ¹³ Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HANDBELL CHOIR ~ "Go To Dark Gethsemane" ~ arr. Jason W. Krug

PSALM 23

You anoint my head with oil. (Ps. 23:5)

¹ The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not be in want.

² **The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures and leads me beside still waters.**

³ You restore my soul, O LORD, and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴ **Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶ **Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.**

SECOND READING *a reading from Ephesians 5:8-14*

Because we now live in the divine light which is Jesus Christ, we conduct our lives in ways that reflect the light of Christ, so that our activity is truly pleasing to God.

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ELW Setting 10 Pg 205*

**We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind,
Slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel *according to John 9:1-41*

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ² His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³ Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴ We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵ As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶ When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷ saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸ The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹ Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰ But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?"

¹¹ He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight."

¹² They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³ They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴ Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵ Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶ Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷ So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸ The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹ and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰ His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹ but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²² His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³ Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." ²⁴ So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵ He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶ They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷ He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" ²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. ²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from." ³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. ³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. ³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. ³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." ³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out. ³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."

³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."

³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. ³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." ⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" ⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains." This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *553 Christ, Whose Glory Fills the Skies*

- 1 Christ, whose glory fills the skies, Christ, the true and only light,
Sun of righteousness, arise, triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near; Daystar, in my heart appear.
- 2 Dark and cheerless is the morn unaccompanied by thee;
joyless is the day's return, till thy mercy's beams I see,
till they inward light impart, glad my eyes, and warm my heart.
- 3 Visit then this soul of mine, pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
fill me, radiancy divine, scatter all my unbelief;
more and more thyself display, shining to the perfect day.

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 was made man.**

**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 with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic 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**

ELW 754 JESUS, THE VERY THOUGHT OF YOU VS 1



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

a brief silence

A: God, our shepherd, we pray that you guide the church. Lead Christians in our community and across the globe in right paths for your name's sake. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our provider, we cry out for this planet and the life it holds. Rescue endangered animals and plants, preserve threatened ecosystems, and save creatures from natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our sovereign, we plead for your peace on earth. Bring an end to war

and violence, and raise up leaders in governments, courts, businesses, schools, and community organizations who seek goodness and mercy. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: God our friend, we praise you for the diversity of people among us. Awaken us to share and receive the gifts we each possess, and stir up a spirit of understanding, celebration, and welcome for all. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: God our healer, we call to you in our need. Uplift all who are made to ill and need of your of your healing touch. . . . Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: God our home, we thank you for all who have died and completed their baptismal journeys. Grant us faith to live until we too dwell in your house forever. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

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

C: Amen.

ELW 754 JESUS, THE VERY THOUGHT OF YOU VS 3



3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,



how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERATORY HYMN 616 Jesus Remember Me

Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus remember me when you come into your kingdom.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray

C: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy we praise your name, and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *ELW 190*

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With your holy ones of all times and places, we praise you, O God, blessed and Holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

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.**

COMMUNION

THE BODY OF CHRIST, GIVEN FOR YOU. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, SHED FOR YOU.

*As we accept the Lord's gift of His body and blood, we will receive Him in our
prefilled cups containing the wafer and juice or at the rail in the fullness of faith
that God's love and grace have been poured into these holy elements.
We receive the Lord in our seats and share in this holy meal at the same time;
One Body, One Mind, One Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's precious gift for you.*

COMMUNION SONG *Pg146 Setting 3 Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS *494 For The Bread Which You Have Broken* *488 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness*

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ ✠ strengthen you and keep you in His grace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray . . . Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: Let us pray . . . The God who formed us in love, who renews us through grace, and who transforms us into glory, ✠ bless you this day and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *324 In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: Thanks be to God.

