

*WELCOME TO WORSHIP
AT
WHITNALL PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
MARCH 22ND, 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 A PERIOD OF SILENT MEDITATION
DURING THE RINGING OF THE SINGING BOWL**

CALL TO WORSHIP 780 *Shepherd Me, O God vs 5*

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

Surely your kindness and mercy follow me
all the days of my life;

I will dwell in the house of my God forevermore.

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

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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 328 *Restore in Us, O God*

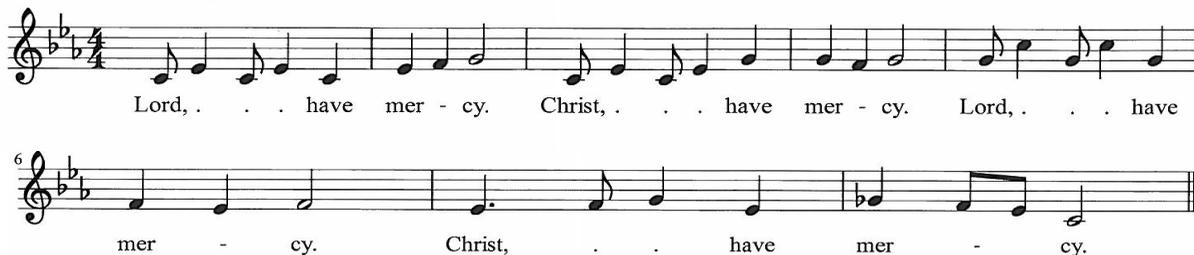
- 1 Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.
- 2 O Spirit, wake in us the wonder of your pow'r;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives like springtime bud and flow'r.
- 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life that death cannot destroy.
- 4 Three-personed God, fulfill the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends, may see you face to face.

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 . . . Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all
from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised
to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days, through Jesus
Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one
God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING *a reading from Ezekiel 37:1-14*

*Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though
dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times
Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."*

¹ The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the
LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me all
around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³ He
said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴ Then
he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word
of the LORD. ⁵ Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you,
and you shall live. ⁶ I will lay sinews on you and will cause flesh to come upon you and
cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that
I am the LORD." ⁷ So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I prophesied,
suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone.

⁸ I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin

had covered them, but there was no breath in them. ⁹ Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰ I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, a vast multitude. ¹¹ Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.'" ¹² Therefore prophecy and say to them: Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people, and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ And you shall know that I am the LORD when I open your graves and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴ I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 130

I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;

² **O LORD, hear my voice! Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.**

³ If you were to keep watch over sins, O LORD, who could stand?

⁴ **Yet with you is forgiveness, in order that you may be feared.**

⁵ I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits; in your word is my hope.

⁶ **My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning, more than those who keep watch for the morning.**

⁷ O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love; with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸ **For the LORD shall redeem Israel from all their sins.**

SECOND READING *a reading from Romans 8:6-11*

For Paul, Christian spirituality entails living in the reality of the Holy Spirit. The driving force behind our actions and values is not our sinful desire for self-satisfaction but the very Spirit by which God raised Jesus from the dead and will also raise us from the dead.

⁶ To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace.

⁷ For this reason the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law—indeed, it cannot, ⁸ and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh; you are in the Spirit, since the Spirit of God dwells in you.

Anyone who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, then the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. ¹¹ If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit that dwells in 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:1-45*

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now a certain man was ill, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ² Mary was the one who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair; her brother Lazarus was ill. ³ So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, "Lord, he whom you love is ill." ⁴ But when Jesus heard it, he said, "This illness does not lead to death; rather, it is for God's glory, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it." ⁵ Accordingly, though Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus, ⁶ after having heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was. ⁷ Then after this he said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just now trying to stone you, and are you going there again?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours of daylight? Those who walk during the day do not stumble because they see the light of this world. ¹⁰ But those who walk at night stumble because the light is not in them." ¹¹ After saying this, he told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to awaken him." ¹² The disciples said to him, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will be all right." ¹³ Jesus, however, had been speaking about his death, but they thought that he was referring merely to sleep. ¹⁴ Then Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵ For your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him." ¹⁶ Thomas, who was called the Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go, that we may die with him." ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. ¹⁸ Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, some two miles away, ¹⁹ and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them about their brother. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, while Mary stayed at home. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But even now

I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, ²⁶ and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world." ²⁸ When she had said this, she went back and called her sister Mary and told her privately, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." ²⁹ And when she heard it, she got up quickly and went to him. ³⁰ Now Jesus had not yet come to the village but was still at the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ The Jews who were with her in the house consoling her saw Mary get up quickly and go out. They followed her because they thought that she was going to the tomb to weep there. ³² When Mary came where Jesus was and saw him, she knelt at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved. ³⁴ He said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to weep. ³⁶ So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?" ³⁸ Then Jesus, again greatly disturbed, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, already there is a stench because he has been dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. And Jesus looked upward and said, "Father, I thank you for having heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I have said this for the sake of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³ When he had said this, he cried with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet bound with strips of cloth and his face wrapped in a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go." ⁴⁵ Many of the Jews, therefore, who had come with Mary and had seen what Jesus did believed in him. This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY *#334 Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery*
General Vs 1 and Vs 1-5

General

Light of life beyond conceiving, mighty Spirit of our Lord;
give new strength to our believing, give us faith to live your word.

Lent 1

From the dawning of creation you have loved us as your own;
Stay with us through all temptation, make us turn to you alone.

Lent 2

In our call to be a blessing, may we be a blessing true;
may we live and die confessing Christ as Lord of all we do.

Lent 3

Living Water of salvation, be the fountain of each soul;
springing up in new creation, flow in us and make us whole.

Lent 4

Give us eyes to see you clearly; make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly as your gospel shining bright.

Lent 5

God of all our fear and sorrow, God who lives beyond our death,
hold us close through each tomorrow, love as near as ev'ry breath

HYMN DURING HEALING ~ #666 *What Wondrous Love Is This*

Laying on of Hands and Anointing

*Those who wish to come forward for a time of personal prayer
and laying on of hands please come forward at this time.*

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: We pray for Your church. Grant life and peace to all who gather in your name. Breathe into us so that we may share your message of forgiveness, hope, and love. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for creation. Renew landscapes that have dried up, prosper the work of those who restore homes and habitats after natural disasters. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for the nations. Unbind leaders trapped by fear to act boldly for justice, free all who live in places of war and violence, and guide refugees to safety. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: We pray for this assembly. Ready the hearts and spirits of all preparing to be baptized. Deepen our wonder at the mystery of your resurrection and life. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: We pray for all people in need. Take away the stone of poverty that weighs down so many. Console any who weep and heal all who are sick Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: We offer our thanksgiving for all people who have died in faith. Give us faith to trust in your power to redeem and save, and bring us up from our graves to life in you. 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!

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp). The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a 3/4 time signature. The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes. The lyrics are written below the staff. The second staff continues the melody and lyrics, ending with a double bar line.

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 by intinction 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 *#773 Precious Lord, Take My Hand*
#502 The King of Love My Shepherd Is

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 *758 You Are the Way*

- 1 You are the way; to you alone from sin and death we flee;
all those who search for God, you find and by your grace set free.
- 2 You are the truth; your word alone true wisdom can impart;
you only can inform the mind and purify the heart.
- 3 You are the life; the rending tomb proclaims your conqu'ring arm;
and those who put their trust in you not death nor hell shall harm.
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life; grant us that way to know,
that truth to keep, that life to win, whose joys eternal flow.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: Thanks be to God.

