



**MESSIAH**  
**LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
MADISON, ALABAMA

**March 1, 2026**  
***Second Sunday in Lent***



*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

***Good Morning and Welcome!***

If you are an online worshiper or guest today, please leave a record of your time with us online. Thank you!

**[Online Guest Form](#)**

# ORDER OF WORSHIP SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT

## *Evangelical Lutheran Worship Holy Communion Setting Three*

*\* Please stand as you are able*

**PRELUDE** “Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word” (Wayne L. Wild)

Melanie Payne

**WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**INTROIT**

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” (Converse/Sherman) Notabella - Rhonda Gaede, Director

**\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.  
*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

**\*GATHERING SONG** “The God of Abraham Praise”

ELW 831 (verses 1-4)

1 The God of A-br'ham praise, who reigns en-throned a - bove;  
2 The God of A-br'ham praise! At your su-preme com-mand  
3 The God of A-br'ham praise! Your all-suf-fi-cient grace  
4 Your prom-ise you have sworn; I on your oath de-pend.

An - cient of ev - er - last - ing days, and God of love—  
from earth I rise and seek the joys at your right hand.  
shall guide me all my pil-grim days in all my ways.  
I shall, on ea-gle wings up-borne, to heav'n as-cend.

The image shows a musical score for the gathering song. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a piano accompaniment line (bass clef). The key signature is three flats (B-flat, E-flat, A-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are printed below the vocal line. The first system contains four verses of the song, and the second system contains the concluding lines of the song.

"I Am the One I Am"— by earth and heav'n con - fessed;  
 I all on earth for - sake— its wis - dom, fame, and pow'r—  
 You deign to call me friend; you call your - self my God!  
 I shall be - hold your face; I shall your pow'r a - dore,

I bow and bless the sa - cred name for - ev - er blest.  
 and you my on - ly por - tion make, my shield and tow'r.  
 And you will save me to the end through Je - sus' blood.  
 and sing the won - ders of your grace for - ev - er - more.

Text: Thomas Olivers, 1725–1799, alt., based on the *Yigdal*, c. 14th cent.  
 Music: YIGDAL, Jewish melody; arr. Meyer Lyon, 1751–1797

**\*GREETING**

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

**KYRIE**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

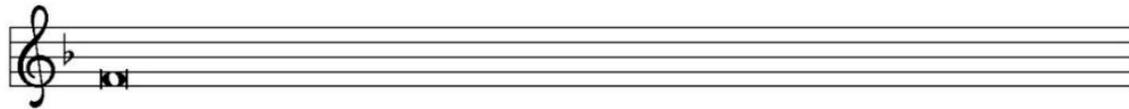
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



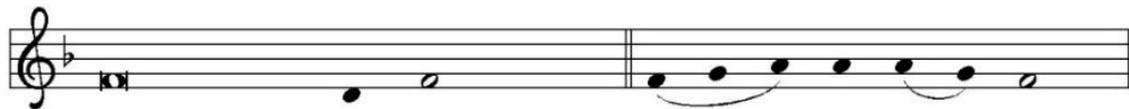
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



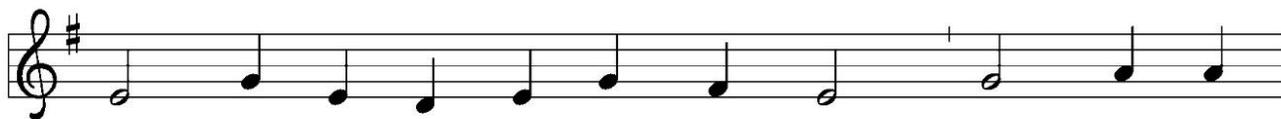
let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



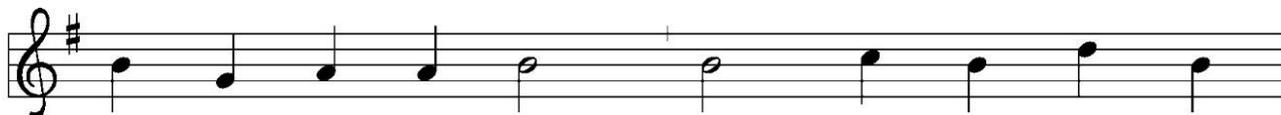
Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

\*CANTICLE OF PRAISE "Glory of These Forty Days"

ELW 320 (verse 1, 4)



→ 1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we cel - e -  
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the lov - ing  
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de - liv - ered  
 → 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, re - turn in



brate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all  
 God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,  
 from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride - groom's  
 fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en



things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.  
fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.  
friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.  
with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862–1947, alt.

Music: ERHALT UNS, HERR, J. Klug, *Geistliche Lieder*, 1543

Outside USA: Text from *The English Hymnal*, © Oxford University Press 1906, All rights reserved.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

TEMPLE TALK SES (Southeastern Synod)

Lee Smith

## FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

<sup>1</sup> The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM

Psalms 121

<sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

<sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

<sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

<sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

<sup>5</sup> the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

<sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

<sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

<sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

## SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

## CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

Bonnie Flowers

## GOSPEL FANFARE

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

### \* GOSPEL ANNOUNCEMENT

The Holy Gospel according to John, the 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

### \*GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

<sup>1</sup> Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. <sup>2</sup> He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” <sup>4</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” <sup>5</sup> Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. <sup>6</sup> What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” <sup>9</sup> Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” <sup>10</sup> Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

<sup>11</sup> “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. <sup>12</sup> If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? <sup>13</sup> No one has ascended into heaven

except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. <sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

<sup>16</sup> “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pastor Kris Schroeder

\*HYMN OF THE DAY “God Loved the World”

ELW 323 (verse 1-4)

1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly

Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed

him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

**\*APOSTLES CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.  
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church,  
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  
Amen.**

**\*PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

**\*PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

**OFFERING**

Anthem (8:30): "God So Loved the World" (Stainer)

Choir

Organ Solo (11:00): "Andante in C minor" (J. Blied)

Melanie Payne

**\*PRESENTATION OF GIFTS "God Loved the World"**

ELW 323

5 All glory to the Father, Son,  
and Holy Spirit, Three in One!  
To you, O blessed Trinity,  
be praise now and eternally!

**\*OFFERING PRAYER**

O God, 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.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING AND PREFACE**

The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en 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 who  
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

### \*LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

### \*INVITATION TO COMMUNION

### COMMUNION SONG "Lamb of God"

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the

world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**DISTRIBUTION**

**HYMN “We Are Baptized in Christ Jesus”**

ELW 451

1 We are bap - tized in Christ Je - sus, we are bap - tized in his death;  
2 In the wa - ter and the wit - ness, in the break - ing of the bread,  
3 Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther, glo - ry be to Christ the Son,

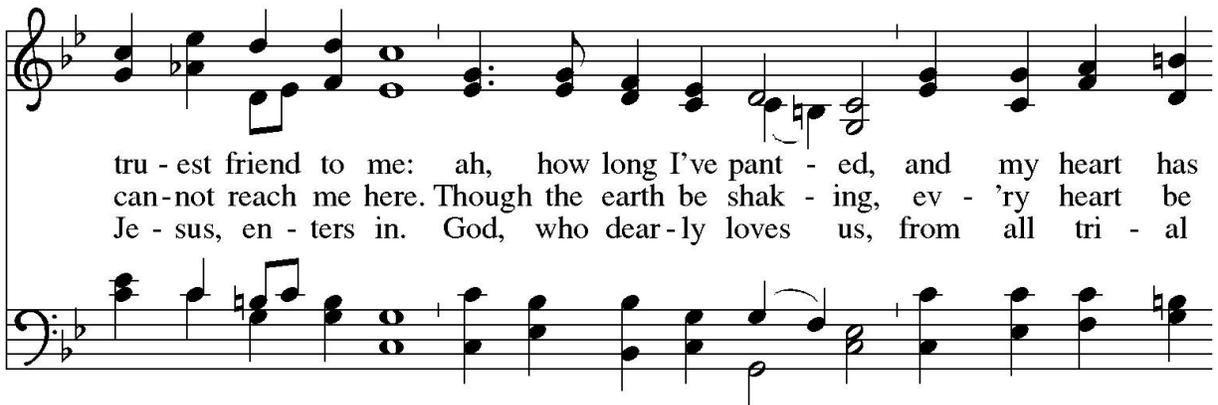
that as Christ is raised vic - to - rious, we might live a brand new life.  
in the wait - ing arms of Je - sus who is ris - en from the dead,  
glo - ry to the Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er three and ev - er one;

And if we have been u - nit - ed in a dread - ful death like his,  
God has made a new be - gin - ning from the ash - es of our past;  
as it was in the be - gin - ning, glo - ry now re - sounds a - gain

we will all be re - u - nit - ed, for he lives.  
in the los - ing and the win - ning we hold fast.  
in a song that has no end - ing. . . . A - men.



1 Je - sus, price-less trea - sure, source of pur - est plea - sure,  
 2 In thine arm I rest me; foes who would mo - lest me  
 3 Hence, all fears and sad - ness, for the Lord of glad - ness,



tru - est friend to me: ah, how long I've pant - ed, and my heart has  
 can-not reach me here. Though the earth be shak - ing, ev - 'ry heart be  
 Je - sus, en - ters in. God, who dear-ly loves us, from all tri - al



faint - ed, thirst - ing, Lord, for thee! Thine I am, O spot - less Lamb;  
 quak - ing, Je - sus calms my fear. Light-nings flash and thun - ders crash;  
 saves us, gives sweet peace with-in. I have borne this world - ly scorn;



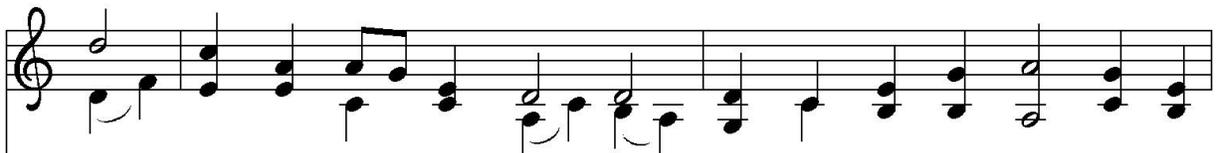
no - thing in this world can hide thee, naught I ask be-side thee.  
 yet, though sin and hell as - sail me, Je - sus will not fail me.  
 still in thee lies pur - est plea - sure: Je - sus, price-less trea - sure!



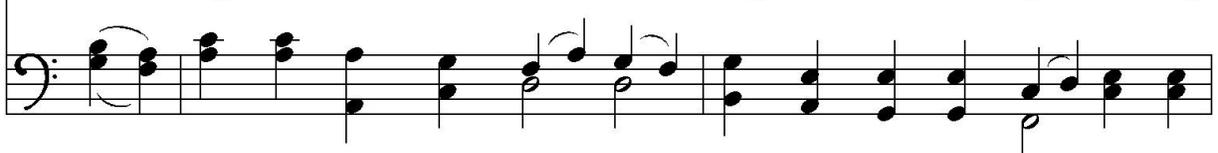
1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
 2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
 I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
 God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
 when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
 be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
 who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
 I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
 soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
 sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
 on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.



Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Paul J. Christiansen, 1914–1997, alt.

Arr. © 1955 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

**\*POST COMMUNION PRAYER**

**\*POST COMMUNION CANTICLE "Come With Us O Blessed Jesus"**

ELW 501



Come with us, O bless - ed Je - sus, with us ev - er - more to be.



And, in leav - ing now thine al - tar, let us nev - er - more leave thee!



Let thy bright ce - les - tial cho - rus nev - er cease the heav'n - ly strain;



but in us, thy lov - ing chil - dren, come with peace, good will to reign.

Text: John Henry Hopkins Jr., 1820-1891  
Music: WERDE MUNTER, Johann Schop, 1600-1665

**\*BLESSING**

**\*SENDING SONG "Lift High the Cross"**

ELW 660

*Refrain*

Musical notation for the first system of the sending song, including a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides harmonic support with chords and bass lines.

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till

Musical notation for the second system of the sending song, including a treble and bass staff. The treble staff has a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. The bass staff has a key signature of one flat and a 4/4 time signature. The melody is in the treble staff, and the bass staff provides harmonic support with chords and bass lines.

all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.

1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
 2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
 3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
 4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:

*Refrain*

our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
 bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
 as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
 praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956  
 Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947  
 Text and music © 1974 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

**\*DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Believe the good news. **We will! Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** "Little Prelude in A minor" (JS Bach)

## WE REMEMBER IN THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH TODAY

Norma Freymuth  
Don & Lizzie Palmer  
Lindsey & the Porter Family  
Kevin  
Leighann  
Connie Stanger  
Victoria Zutter

Larry Frakes  
Brittany Schultz  
Stephen  
Rich  
Kenneth  
David  
Bryant

David  
Sharon  
Beth  
Kathi  
Pam  
Bob Gustafson

**ALL ARE INVITED** to enjoy coffee and fellowship after service in the Fellowship Hall.

**NURSERY** staffed by Hannah Seitz, is through the double doors in the Narthex leading to the Sunday School classrooms. Newborns, toddlers, and children up to Pre-K are welcome.

**LENTEN WEDNESDAY SOUP SUPPERS.** Kitchen leads and soup makers are needed for our Wednesday Soup Suppers through April 29<sup>th</sup>. We need at least 4-5 soups to feed everyone. Please sign up using the QR code provided or at the Welcome Center. Thank you! POC Dorothy Seitz.



**CHILI COOK OFF THIS SATURDAY, MARCH 7.** Is your chili going to win this year? Find out this Saturday at 5p. Still time to enter your favorite chili or sign up to bring a side or dessert with the QR code provided. Fellowship and plenty of cozy bowls of chili await. Everyone is welcome!



**SPRING LANDSCAPING CLEAN UP DAY, SATURDAY, MARCH 28.** We need your help to spread pine straw and beautify MLC's landscaping prior to Holy Week and the Easter season. From 9a – noon. Drop in and stay as long as you're able to. Please bring rakes and gloves.

**CALL FOR YOUTH AND ADULTS TO TAKE PART IN OUR ANNUAL DINNER THEATER. The Tragedy of Orpheus: A Comedy** is back in production. Open to all youth and adults to join in for laughs and fun in putting on this play. Rehearsals start in Spring with performance in early August. Contact Pr. Bill at [prbillschroeder@gmail.com](mailto:prbillschroeder@gmail.com) or reach out to him in person.

**KIT MINISTRY – Hand Towels, Dark Colors**

**FOOD PANTRY – Peanut Butter + Jelly**

**\*\*CHURCH CALENDAR\*\***

**Sunday, March 1**

8:00 a.m. - Choir Warm Up  
8:30 a.m. - \*Service of Worship ELW Setting  
Three with the Lord's Supper  
9:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study/Sunday School for  
all ages  
11:00 a.m. - Service of Worship ELW Setting  
Three with the Lord's Supper  
5:00 p.m. - Youth  
6:30 p.m. - Notabella Rehearsal

**Tuesday, March 3**

9:00 a.m. - Comforters  
6:30 p.m. - Pub Theology

**Wednesday, March 4**

5:00 p.m. - Confirmation Class  
6:00 p.m. - Lenten Soup Suppers  
7:00 p.m. - Adult Choir Rehearsal

**Thursday, March 5**

11:00 a.m. - ArtReach  
6:30 p.m. - Kit Ministry

**Saturday, March 7**

5:00 p.m. - Chili Cook-Off

**Sunday, March 8**

8:30 a.m. - \*Service of Worship ELW Setting  
One with the Lord's Supper  
9:45 a.m. - Adult Bible Study/Sunday School for  
all ages  
11:00 a.m. - Service of Worship ELW Setting One  
with the Lord's Supper  
5:00 p.m. - Youth Group  
6:30 p.m. - Notabella Rehearsal

\*service is live streamed on mlutheran.org and on  
MLC's App

**LOOKING AHEAD**

March 28 - Spring Landscaping  
March 29 - Palm Sunday / Egg Hunt +  
Children's Easter Party

April 2 - Maundy Thursday  
April 3 - Good Friday  
April 5 - Easter Sunday

**ATTENDANCE** February 15 Online: 66 February 22: 8:30 - 62 11:00 - 54

**8:30 Worship**

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Cantor	Emily Willis
Lector	Jacque Fry
Usher	Bruce Peter
Altar Guild	LeeLinda Baggett
Stream Team	Glen Long, Stephen Strand

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**11:00 Worship**

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Greeter	John and Mary Burke
Cantor	Emily Willis
Lector	Jutta DeMarsh
Usher	Tom McNamara
Altar Guild	Jutta DeMarsh
Stream Team	Lee Seitz

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