

# First Mennonite Church of Halstead

February 22, 2026

*Lord, teach me to walk in kindness  
this month and beyond. May my  
actions reflect your love, and may  
others see your heart through  
mine. "Be kind to one another,  
tenderhearted, forgiving one  
another, as God in Christ forgave  
you" (Ephesians 4:32, ESV).*

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**Gathering Music** – Cindy Siemens

**Welcome and Announcements** - Casey Jacob  
*February Birthday Blessing and Offering*

**Centering Music** – The Dinner Bells  
*Beneath the Cross of Jesus* – arr. Paul E. Koch

**\*Call to Worship** – Pastor Steve

# \*Worship Through Singing – I Sing the Mighty Power of God –

VT #182

Chords: Bb, Gm, Bb, Eb, F, Bb

1 I sing the might-y pow'r of God, that made the moun-tains rise,  
2 I sing the good-ness of the Lord, that filled the earth with food.  
3 There's not a plant or flow'r be-low, but makes thy glo-ries known,

that spread the flow-ing seas a-broad and built the loft-y skies.  
God formed the crea-tures with a word, and then pro-nounced them good.  
and clouds a-rise, and tem-pests blow, by or-der from thy throne.

I sing the wis-dom that or-dained the sun to rule the day.  
Lord, how thy won-ders are dis-played, wher-e'er I turn my eye,  
While all that bor-rows life from thee is ev-er in thy care,

The moon shines full at God's com-mand and all the stars o-bey.  
if I sur-vey the ground I tread, or gaze up-on the sky!  
there's not a place where we can flee but God is pres-ent there.

**\*Worship Through Singing – Love Divine, All Loves Excelling –**  
 VT #638

The musical score is presented in four systems, each with a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is B-flat major (two flats) and the time signature is 2/2. Chord diagrams are placed above the vocal line for each system.

**System 1:** Chords: Bb, F7, Bb, Eb, Bb/F, F, Bb.  
 1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, joy of heav'n, to earth come down,  
 2 Breathe, O breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry trou-bled breast.  
 3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er, let us all thy life re-ceive.  
 4 Fin-ish, then, thy new cre-a-tion; true and spot-less let us be.

**System 2:** Chords: F7, Gm, Eb, Bb/F, F7, Bb.  
 fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy faith-ful mer-cies crown.  
 Let us all in thee in-her-it, let us find the prom-ised rest.  
 Sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-more thy tem-ples leave.  
 Let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-ly re-stored in thee.

**System 3:** Chords: Gm, D7, Gm, D, Bb, F/C, C, F, F7.  
 Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion, pure, un-bound-ed love thou art.  
 Take a-way the love of sin-ning; Al-pha and O-me-ga be.  
 Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing, serve thee as thy hosts a-bove,  
 Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry, till in heav'n we take our place,

**System 4:** Chords: Bb, F7, Gm, Eb, Bb/F, F7, Bb.  
 Vis-it us with thy sal-va-tion; en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.  
 End of faith, as its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.  
 pray, and praise thee with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.  
 till we cast our crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise.

**Offering & Offertory** – Mennonite Biblical Seminary

*God of Grace and God of Glory* - arr. Paul E. Koch

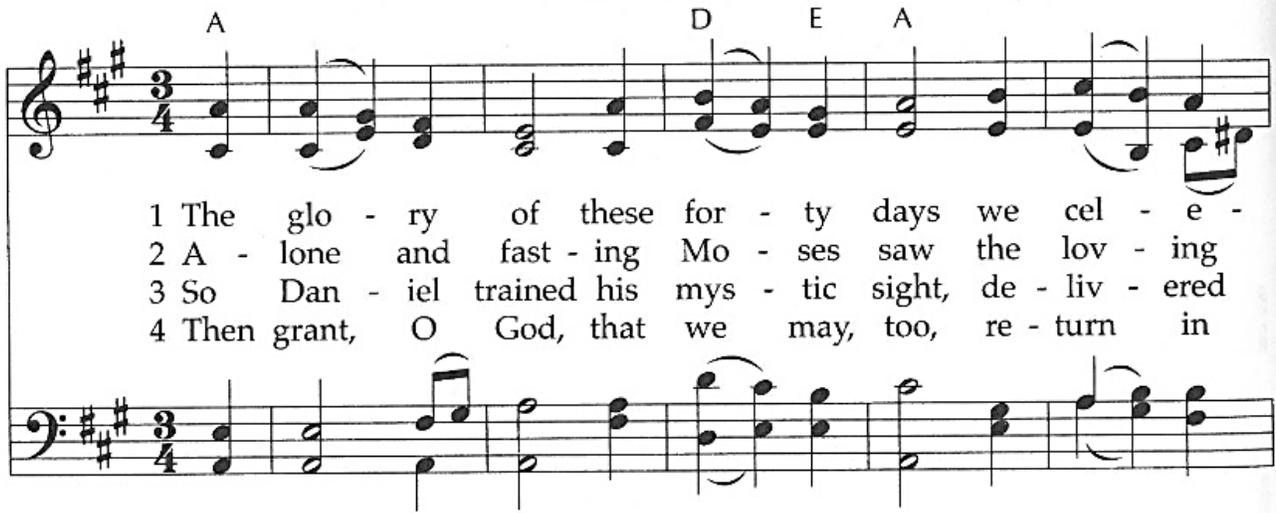
The Dinner Bells

**Scripture** – Matthew 4:1-11 (p. 1499-1500)

**Children's Time** – Brocia Mueller

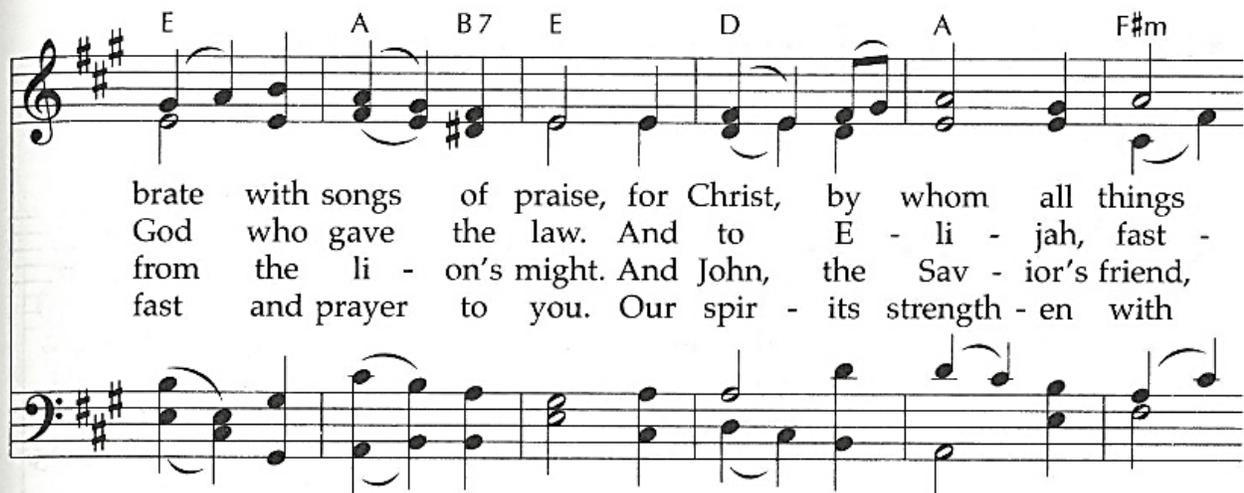
# Worship Through Singing – The Glory of These Forty Days – VT

#305



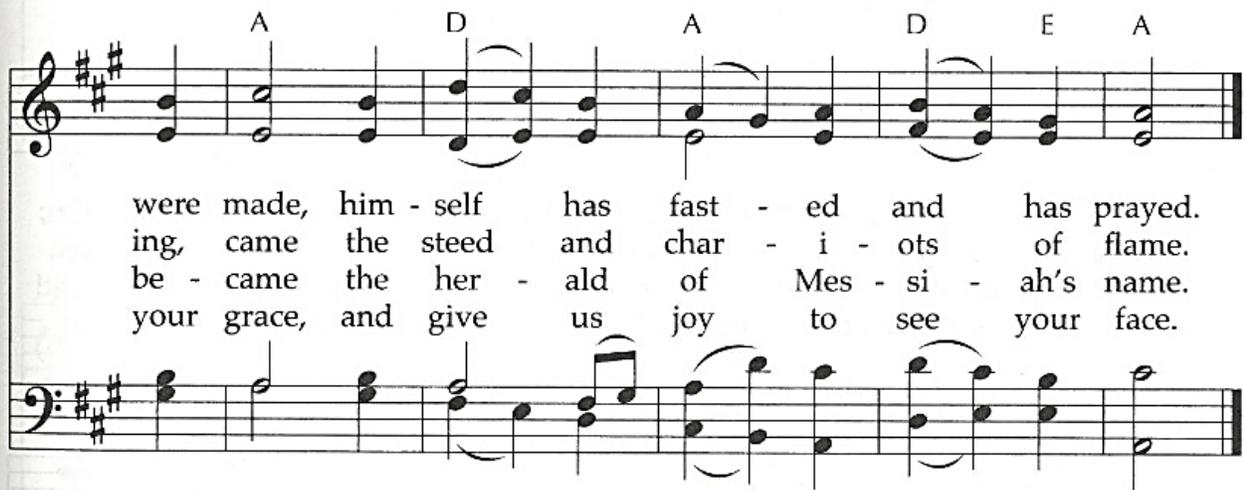
A D E A

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



E A B7 E D A F#m

brate with songs of praise, for Christ, by whom all things  
God who gave the law. And to E - li - jah, fast -  
from the li - on's might. And John, the Sav - ior's friend,  
fast and prayer to you. Our spir - its strength - en with



A D A D E A

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

# Worship Through Singing – Seek Ye First – VT #417

Descant

Al - le - lu - ia, al -

D F#m G D G

1 Seek ye first the king - dom of God and its  
 2 Ask, and it shall be giv - en un - to you; seek, and

le - lu - ia, al - le -

D Em7 A7 D F#m

right - eous - ness, and all these things shall be  
 ye shall find; knock, and the door shall be

lu - ia, al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

G D G D Em7 A D

add - ed un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!  
 o - pened un - to you. Al - le - lu, al - le - lu - ia!

## **Congregational Prayer** – Pastor Steve

**Message** – Pastor Steve

*Stones, Spectacles, and Shortcuts*

**Response Song** – *Wonderful Merciful Savior* – Lyrics Projected

**\*Closing Prayer**

**\*Sending Song** – *Who You Say I Am* – Lyrics Projected

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude** – Cindy Siemens

\*Please stand if you are able

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### **CHURCH CALENDAR**

Feb. 22	10:30 a.m.	The Dinner Bells play during worship
	12:00 p.m.	Last Sunday Potluck
	12:30 p.m.	Advanced Bells practice
	6:00 p.m.	Community Worship Service at Halstead Life.Church
Feb. 23	6:00 p.m.	Nurture Ministry meeting
	7:00 p.m.	Church Council meeting
Feb. 24	6:30 p.m.	VBS planning meeting
Feb. 25	5:00 p.m.	Kids Club
	6:00 p.m.	Wednesday Night Supper
	6:45 p.m.	Adult Bible study
	8:00 p.m.	Easter Cantata practice
Feb. 26	1:00 p.m.	Care Team meeting
Feb. 27	10:00 a.m.	Pie making for the Verenike Supper
Feb. 28	4:30 p.m.	Verenike Supper

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**There is a community worship service tonight at 6:00 p.m.** at Halstead Life.Church on Main Street.

**The deadline for the March newsletter** is tomorrow, February 23.

**VBS planning begins this week! If anyone would like to** join the planning team, we have our first meeting on Tuesday, February 24, at 6:30 p.m.. You can help us out by starting to save brown packing paper that comes in deliveries and keeping your eye out for (super cheap) greenery and fake plants at yard sales and thrift shops. This year's theme is Rainforest Falls.

**There will be a Care Ministry meeting this Thursday,** February 26, at 1 p.m.

**A pie bakng day will be held at the church on Friday,** February 27, at 10 a.m. Supplies will be purchased for 20 pies for the carryout portion of the meal, but more pies are still needed for the Verenike Supper. If you would like to join the group, you are welcome to bring your supplies to the church and bake with us!

**Our Verenike supper is this Saturday, Feb. 28,** from 4:30 – 7:00 p.m. There is still a need for workers and food items. Please check out the sign-up sheets on the bulletin board to see where you can help!

**It's time to bless our college students again!** We will be collecting snacks (tortilla chips, salsa queso, skittles, other candy, etc.), gift cards (Fast food, gas, etc.) We will be collecting items under the coat rack throughout the month of March. Thank you for your contributions!

**A very heartfelt thank you from the Senior High youth** group for the church's generous donations and compliments about the fundraiser meal. We appreciate your continuous support!

**The March/April issue of the Upper Room is available** on the table at the back of the sanctuary.

**A Lenten reading card has been placed in your church mailbox.** The Nurture Ministry encourages you to use these readings as a way to prepare for the celebration of Easter on April 5. Extra copies are available on the usher's small table at the back.

**The MCC Comforter Blitz will be March 2-4** at Journey facilities at Yoder. More information can be found on their website: <https://mcc.org/events/mcc-comforter-blitz>

**MCC Fellowship Meals: Help cover Relief Sale expenses** by participating in a Fellowship Meal this year! You may choose to Host or be a guest in the traditional "Fellowship in Dining" way. As a guest, you will be invited to attend the host's church worship service followed by a meal in their home. Another option is to host a fellowship meal for your own congregation.

**Dates:** March 8 or March 15 (dates for congregational meals are flexible)

**Guest Donation:** \$25 per meal (proceeds go toward MCC Sale expenses)

**Deadline:** Sign up to be Host or Guest by February 25.

**Contact:** Alan and Marilyn Mueller or Barb at [bj.reeves@live.com](mailto:bj.reeves@live.com) for a form to complete. Forms are also available on the bulletin board.

**The Swiss Mennonite Cultural and Historical Association's** annual meeting will be held on March 8 at 2:30 p.m. at Hopefield Mennonite Church, 1823 Aztec Lane, Moundridge. Glen Ediger, a Bethel College graduate, will be our guest speaker. He will be speaking about "Mennonites, Farming, Wheat and Threshing Stones." Entertainment will be provided by Sam Shilts. There is no need to RSVP.

**Bethel College Updates: Thurs., Feb. 26** – Bethel College Wind Ensemble concert, Chris Miertschin, director, 7 p.m., Krehbiel Auditorium in Luyken Fine Arts Center.

**Camp Mennoscah Updates: Online Registration for the Spring Scrapbook and Crafts Retreat** on March 13-15 is open. Activities and lodging will be at Main Camp. A link to register was sent with the bulletin packet. **Online Registration for the 2026 Summer Youth Camps** is also open. The theme for the summer is "In the Wilderness." Through the new, strange and unknown of "wilderness," we will discover the sacred within each person and all creation and meet God there. Summer Youth Camps are for youth in grades 3-12

(Fall 2026). A link to register was sent with the bulletin packet.

**PRAYER OPPORTUNITIES**

- Keep Brad Rodenberg in prayer as he recovers from back surgery. May it be a smooth and quick road to recovery. We rejoice that the surgery was successful!
- Pray for the Verenike Supper this weekend, for the people planning it, for enough food and workers, and that the supper will be enjoyed by all who attend
- Pray for those in our church who are not able to attend in person. Pray that they would still feel connected and valued as part of our congregation.
- Western District Conference Pray for strong, trusting relationships between leaders, congregations, and the communities they serve.
- Mennonite Mission Network: Anicka Fast trains and mentors historians and archivists in Africa, Asia and Latin America, to help promote a recognition of global Anabaptist history. She and her family currently reside in the Netherlands but are planning to move back to Canada this summer. Pray for heartwarming farewells as they prepare for their move and a smooth transition into their new home, especially for the children and their schooling.

**SUNDAY INFORMATION**

<b>NURSERY TODAY</b>	Jason Mueller, Kaitlen Ortman, Emmit Jacob
<b>PIANIST/ORGANIST</b>	Cindy Siemens
<b>OFFERING LAST SUNDAY</b>	
AMBS	\$40.00
Church Budget	1,175.00
MCC Sale	100.00
MC USA	50.00
Wednesday Supper	91.00
Western District Conference	778.00
<b>ATTENDANCE LAST SUNDAY</b>	80
<b>OFFERING NEXT SUNDAY</b>	MC USA
<b>NURSERY NEXT SUNDAY</b>	Marilyn Mueller, Tia Regier, Kalyn Ortman