



“The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”

~Matthew 4:3

St. John Evangelical Lutheran Church
First Sunday in Lent – February 22, 2026
420 Beaver St., PO Box 411
Mars, PA 16046-0411

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Phone: 724-625-1830 email: office@stjohnchurchmars.org

Rev. Katie McNeal, Presiding Minister
Maizy Fisher, Director of Music Ministries

*We are delighted to have you worship with us this morning!
Know that you are welcome here just as you are.*

If you are looking for a church to call home, why not consider making this one your own? If this is your first time worshipping at St. John, please fill out the visitor information card stapled to your bulletin.

*Everything you need to follow worship can be found in this bulletin. As you are comfortable, please rise when there is an * and join in the congregational responses, noted in **bold**. All songs are marked with numbers. The red book in the pew has all the songs. Look for the large number in the upper corner of the page to find the correct song.*

*During the time of **Peace**, you are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcomed to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.). Hand sanitizer is available in each pew.*

*At the time of **Offering**, you are invited to share a gift. Envelopes are available in the pews if you prefer. Online gifts may be made using the QR code below:*



*You may also offer updates to our ongoing prayer list using the yellow cards in the pews and placing them in the offering plates. **Visitor information cards** and member attendance cards (attached to the front of the bulletin) may also be placed in the offering plates.*

*As Lutherans, we believe Christ is truly present in the elements of the Lord's Supper. At the time of **Holy Communion**, all baptized individuals are welcome to come forward via the center aisle, receive the elements, and return via the side aisles. We begin at the front of the right side, commune all on the right side, then we will invite the left side forward. When you come forward, you may receive the bread from the pastor (gluten free wafers are available), then pre-filled cups with wine or grape juice from the assisting minister. You may consume the elements after receiving them then place the empty cup in the tray held by the acolyte. Those who do not receive Holy Communion are welcome to come forward for a blessing.*

*If you need a **restroom**, restrooms are located on the bottom floor at the far side of the building from the elevator. Restrooms may be accessed either via the stairs in the rear of the sanctuary, the stairs by the Greeting Area, or the elevator.*

*A **playroom** is available downstairs for children who need a break from the worship service. This room is by the elevator on the lower level. An adult must remain with the child. Children are also welcome to utilize the books and puzzles available in the Greeting Area on the top level by the elevator.*

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to fill out the blue prayer request forms located in each pew. The cards will be collected during our hymn of the day, and prayers will be offered during the prayers of intercession.

PRELUDE and ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

WORDS OF WELCOME

Friends in Christ,
today we continue our journey through the forty days of Lent,
a journey that continues until the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.
This journey is marked by the discipline of Lent—
self-examination and repentance,
prayer and fasting,
sacrificial giving and works of love—
strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.

***GATHERING SONG *Bless Now, O God, the Journey* (ELW 326)**



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

***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.

For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For failing to recognize your coming reign,

and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,

and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For disregarding voices from the margin,

and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,

and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:

Gracious God,

have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound.

Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.

In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven.

The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you,
pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.

Amen.

***KYRIE**



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



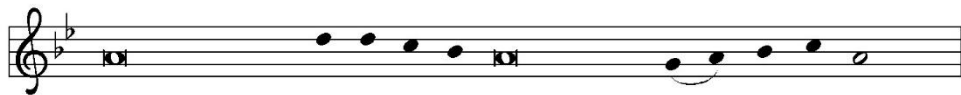
For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



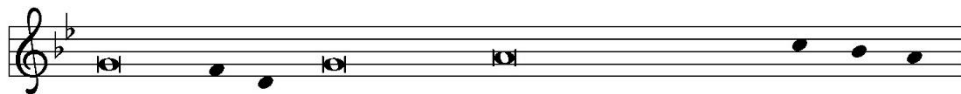
For the peace of the whole world, for the well - being of the church of



God, and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



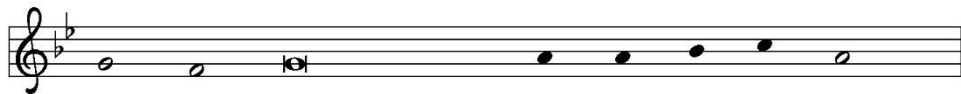
For this ho - ly house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and



praise, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men.

***PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray,

Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST READING: Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

A reading from Genesis.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

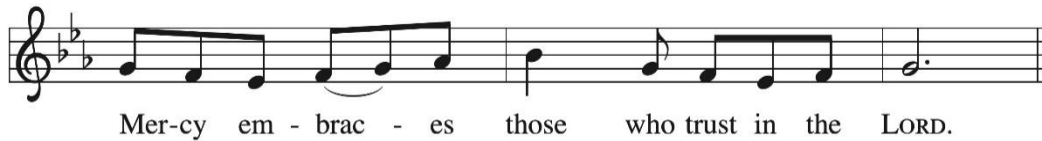
^{3:1} Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden?’” ² The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’ ” ⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” ⁶ So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. ⁷ Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 32

The psalm is chanted. The refrain is sung once through by all who wish. Then the tone by which the verses are chanted is first played by the music director, who will sing the lightly printed verses. The congregation will chant the verses printed in bold following the same chanted tone as the music director. The vertical line indicates the change in tone. The refrain is sung again by all as indicated with “R”.



- ¹ Happy are they whose transgressions | are forgiven,
and whose sin is | put away!
- ² **Happy are they to whom the LORD im- | putes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there | is no guile!**
- ³ While I held my tongue, my bones with- | ered away,
because of my groaning | all day long.
- ⁴ **For your hand was heavy upon me | day and night;
my moisture was dried up as in the | heat of summer. R**
- ⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not con- | ceal my guilt.
I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD.” Then you forgave me the guilt | of
my sin.
- ⁶ **Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in | time of trouble;
when the great waters overflow, they | shall not reach them.**
- ⁷ You are my hiding-place; you preserve | me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts | of deliverance.
- ⁸ **“I will instruct you and teach you in the way that | you should go;
I will guide you | with my eye. R**
- ⁹ Do not be like horse or mule, which have no | understanding;
who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will | not stay near you.”
- ¹⁰ **Great are the tribulations | of the wicked;
but mercy embraces those who trust | in the LORD.**
- ¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice | in the LORD;
shout for joy, all who are | true of heart. R

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

A reading from Romans.

¹² Just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned ¹³ for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. ¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin in the likeness of Adam, who is a pattern of the one who was to come.

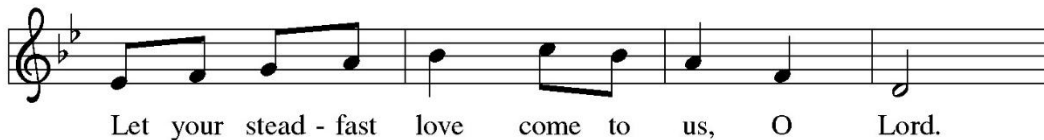
¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man's trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. ¹⁶ And the gift is not like the effect of the one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the gift following many trespasses brings justification. ¹⁷ If, because of the one man's trespass, death reigned through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man, Jesus Christ.

¹⁸ Therefore just as one man's trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man's act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. ¹⁹ For just as through the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so through the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



***GOSPEL READING: Matthew 4:1-11 (CEB translation)**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Then the Spirit led Jesus up into the wilderness so that the devil might tempt him. ² After Jesus had fasted for forty days and forty nights, he was starving. ³ The tempter came to him and said, “Since you are God’s Son, command these stones to become bread.”

⁴ Jesus replied, “It’s written, *People won’t live only by bread, but by every word spoken by God.*”

⁵ After that the devil brought him into the holy city and stood him at the highest point of the temple. He said to him, ⁶ “Since you are God’s Son, throw yourself down; for it is written, *I will command my angels concerning you, and they will take you up in their hands so that you won’t hit your foot on a stone.*”

⁷ Jesus replied, “Again it’s written, *Don’t test the Lord your God.*”

⁸ Then the devil brought him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. ⁹ He said, “I’ll give you all these if you bow down and worship me.”

¹⁰ Jesus responded, “Go away, Satan, because it’s written, *You will worship the Lord your God and serve only him.*” ¹¹ The devil left him, and angels came and took care of him.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Questions for Reflection:

- Imagine Jesus addressing you as he does the tempter’s first temptation: What word of God nourishes and strengthens you in life’s wilderness?
- Imagine the tempter addressing you: What draws your attention away from service of God alone?
- Imagine you are Jesus, responding to the tempter’s third temptation: How does your faith ground your response to the lure of worldly success, however you understand it?

CHILDREN’S SERMON

SERMON

***HYMN OF THE DAY *As Your Spirit in the Desert* (ACS 923)**

(Blue prayer cards are collected during the song.)



1 As your Spir - it in the des - ert led the Christ to
 2 As your fire and cloud - y pil - lar Is - rael's tribes to
 3 Though wild beasts may lurk in shad - ow, and dire thirst may
 4 Through the nar - row gate now draw us, past all em - pire's
 5 God of des - ert, God of prom - ise, you have bid us



dust and stone, so in - still our hearts with cour - age now to
 Ca - naan led, may your pres - ence be our com - fort, may your
 sear and sting, you have prom - ised liv - ing wa - ters wait - ing
 pull and strife, where be - yond our fear and cling - ing stands the
 jour - ney on through the days of dust and dark - ness to the



cross where Christ has gone. Let us cross in - to the
 man - na be our bread. Let us cross in - to the
 for us at the spring. Let us cross out of the
 thresh - old of new life. Let us cross out of the
 ris - ing of the dawn. Let us cross out of the



wil - der - ness so to walk where Christ has gone.
 wil - der - ness with God's man - na as our bread.
 wil - der - ness to the wa - ters of the spring.
 wil - der - ness to the thresh - old of new life.
 wil - der - ness to the ris - ing of the dawn.

***APOSTLES' CREED**

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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**

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

God of all grace, grant faith to your church. Give to all the baptized the will to resist temptation and to worship and serve you alone. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all creation, tend this earth. When human greed and disobedience threaten this planet and the life it contains, lead us by your Spirit into ways of reverence, awe, and gentleness. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all nations, preserve us from trouble. Surround all living in places of violence with your steadfast love and give resilience to all who work for peace. Grant courage to those who challenge, especially around issues of racism and systemic oppression. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all healing, mend our wounds. Bring wholeness to all who are sick, give peace to all who groan in grief, and send companions to all who are lonely or isolated, especially Geneva, Cherry, Winnie, Henry, Harry, Sally, Debi, Anne, Karen, Nan, Beverly, those on our prayer list, and all whom we remember aloud or in our hearts. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all people, provide for our community. For any among us who hunger for bread, bring nourishment. For any among us who hunger for truth, speak your life-giving word. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of all life, bring us to you. We thank you for your free and abounding grace, and for those who, by that same grace, now rest eternally in you. Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of the wilderness, we give you thanks for your overflowing, abundant mercy and your steadfast presence. Receive the prayers of your people. *(blue prayer cards are read)* Draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. **Amen.**

***SHARING THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

Let us share God's peace with one another

You are invited to turn to those around you and offer a word of peace as we prepare to receive God's grace in communion. We suggest a handshake and saying, "Peace be with you." You are also welcome to offer another gesture of peace (wave, fist-bump, smile, etc.).

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

You are invited to support the ministries of this congregation through gifts and prayers at this time. Ongoing prayer requests, connection cards, communion records, and financial gifts are collected in the plates as we remember that we offer all of ourselves to God.

OFFERTORY HYMN *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (ELW 325)

**Rise on verse 3*



1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

*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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

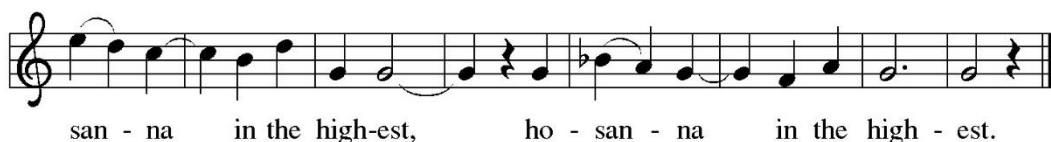
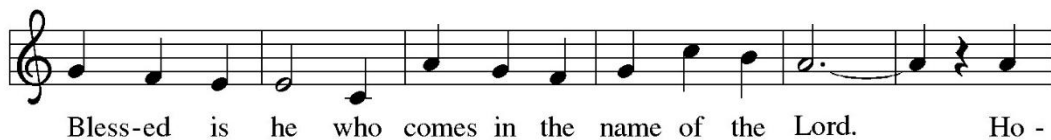
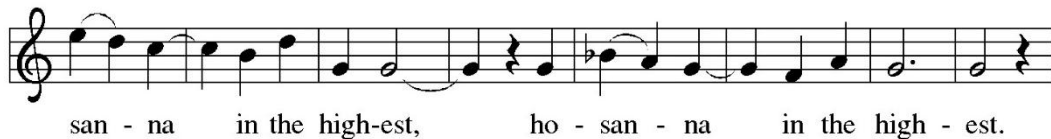
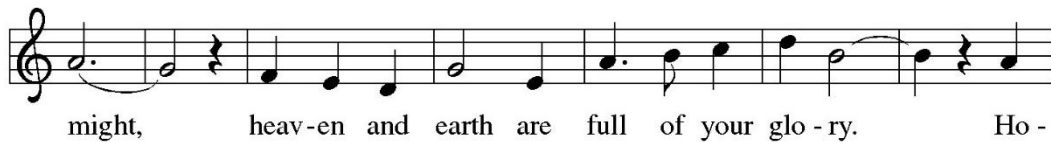
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



Holy God, mighty Lord, gracious Father:
Endless is your mercy and eternal your reign.
You have filled all creation with life; heaven and earth are full of your glory.

We praise you for the grace shown to your people in every age:
the blessing through Abram,
the offering of water in the wilderness,
the abiding Spirit who inspires and leads us,
the words of the prophets,
and, at this end of all the ages, the gift of your Son,
who proclaimed the good news in word and deed
and was obedient to your will, even to giving his life.

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 for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup,
we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Therefore, O God, with this bread and cup we remember the life our Lord offered for us.
And, believing the witness of his resurrection, we await his coming in power
to share with us the great and promised feast.

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

Send now, we pray, your Holy Spirit, that we who share in Christ's body and blood
may live to the praise of your glory and receive our inheritance with all your saints in light.

Amen. Come, Holy Spirit.

Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place,
and unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest
until he comes as victorious Lord of all.

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:
**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

***INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the table.
 Feast on God’s goodness and mercy.

Through this meal, we know forgiveness, life, and salvation as the blessings of God’s sacramental grace. In response to Jesus’ invitation, all are welcome to come forward and experience the real presence of Christ in the bread and wine. Those who do not receive the bread and wine are invited to come forward for a blessing. Grape juice and gluten free wafers are available upon request. Communion may also be brought back to the pews for those who are unable to come forward.

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, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

COMMUNION HYMN *Lord Jesus, Thou Shall Be My Song* (ELW 808)



1 *Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te;*
 1 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney;
 2 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 3 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant,
 4 I fear in the dark and the doubt of my jour - ney;



Jé - sus, je vou - drais t'an - non - cer à mes voi - sins par - tout,
 I'll tell ev - 'ry - bod - y a - bout you wher - ev - er I go:
 May all of my joy be a faith - ful re - flec - tion of you.
 to car - ry your cross and to share all your bur - dens and tears.
 but cour - age will come with the sound of your steps by my side.



car toi seul es la vie et la paix et l'a - mour:
 you a - lone are our life and our peace and our love.
 May the earth and the sea and the sky join my song.
 For you saved me by giv - ing your bod - y and blood.
 And with all of the fam - 'ly you saved by your love,



Jé - sus, je vou - drais te chan - ter sur ma rou - te.
 Lord Je - sus, you shall be my song as I jour - ney.
 Lord Je - sus, I'll praise you as long as I jour - ney.
 As long as I live, Je - sus, make me your ser - vant.
 we'll sing to your dawn at the end of our jour - ney.

COMMUNION HYMN *Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery* (ELW 334)



1 Tree of Life and awe - some mys - t'ry, in your
2 We re - mem - ber truth once spo - ken, love passed
3 Christ, you lead and we shall fol - low, stum - bling



death we are re - born; though you die in all of
on through act and word; ev - 'ry per - son lost and
though our steps may be; one with you in joy and



his - t'ry, still you rise with ev - 'ry morn, still you
bro - ken wears the bod - y of our Lord, wears the
sor - row, we the riv - er, you the sea, we the



rise with ev - 'ry morn.
bod - y of our Lord.
riv - er, you the sea.

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

***POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

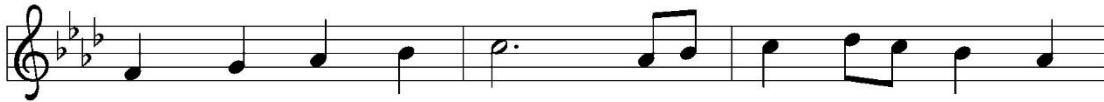
*BLESSING

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.
Amen.

*SENDING SONG *O Lord, throughout These Forty Days* (ELW 319)



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days you
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and you won; your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet you prayed and
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, and



prayed and kept the fast; in - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; lend us your nerve, your
fixed your mind a - bove; so teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, that when the fi - nal



for our sin, and free us from our past.
skill and trust in God's e - ter - nal word.
ny our - selves that we may know God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, we join in heav - en's praise.

*DISMISSAL

“So then, with endurance, let us run the race that is laid out in front of us, since we have such a great cloud of witnesses surrounding us. Let us ... fix our eyes on Jesus, faith’s pioneer and perfecter.”

(Hebrews 12:1a, 2a)

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Assisting in worship today:

Assisting Minister: Missy Kramer

Acolyte: Abby C

Offering: Josie W and Cate S

Attendance Last Week: 66 + 4 zoom

Notes for the day's texts:

This Lent we are called to expunge fantastical images of the devil from our minds and think seriously about the real presence of evil in our world. We know firsthand about the sin that caused, causes, and will cause suffering to us, our loved ones, our neighbors, our global communities, and creation itself. Sin is real; suffering is real; evil is real; indeed, the devil is real. This oppressive, tangible reality is as real as the air we breathe—felt but not always seen. Greed, envy, rage, hatred, war, discrimination, and apathy are just some of the ways the devil's forces wreak havoc upon us. These forces have one goal and one goal only: to turn us away from the will of God.

Matthew's gospel reorients us to the truth of the devil's power, and calls us to name Satan's presence in the world. In the wilderness Jesus encounters an evil as real as its opposite, resurrection. The great tempter seeks to undermine Jesus' mission before he even begins; testimony that evil has much to fear of our Jesus! Nonetheless, Jesus will not be dissuaded. "Away with you, Satan!" proclaims the redeemer of the cosmos. Thus, the Lenten journey begins—a journey that takes us to the cross, where the devil is named and crushed underfoot.

Today's Music

Bless Now, O God, the Journey. Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955–1993, Music: Welsh tune, 19th cent. GIA Publications, Inc./ Public Domain.

Psalm 32. Text: *The New Metrical Psalter*, Christopher L. Webber, © 2008. Music: ST. THOMAS, Aaron Williams, 1731-1776, Public Domain.

As Your Spirit in the Desert. Text: Susan Palo Cherwien, 1953-2021, Music: Michael D. Costello, b. 1979. Augsburg Fortress.

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me. Text: African American spiritual, Music: African American spiritual; arr. hymnal version. Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress.

Lord Jesus, You Shall Be My Song. Text: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community; tr. Stephen Somerville, b. 1931, Music: Les Petites Soeurs de Jésus and L'Arche Community. Augsburg Fortress.

Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery. Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, Music: Marty Haugen. GIA Publications, Inc.

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days. Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838–1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930, Music: A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929–2003. Public Domain / Augsburg Fortress / CPH Publishing (SESAC).

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Next Week's Readings

Genesis 12:1-4a *The blessing of God upon Abram*

Psalm 121 *I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the Lord. (Ps. 121:1, 2)*

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 *The promise to those who share Abraham's faith*

John 3:1-17 *The mission of Christ: to save the world*