

FAITH LUTHERAN CHURCH

4515 Dobie Road
Okemos, MI 48864
517-349-0620



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 22, 2026
10:00 AM

Pastor
Administrative Assistant
Music Director
Organist/Pianist
Sound Technicians
Church Office Email
Website
Facebook Page

Rev. Megan Floyd
Kalea Sanford
Debra Borton-McDonough
Bruce Williams
Cody Boyan & Raymond Herek
faith@faithlutheranokemos.org
www.faithlutheranokemos.org
facebook.com/faithlutheranokemos

WiFi: Faith Lutheran; Password: LutheranFaith

WELCOME STATEMENT

We, at Faith Lutheran Church, welcome you as God’s beloved child, “for in Christ Jesus... [we] are all children of God through faith.” (Galatians 3:26). No matter your age, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, marital status, neurodivergent status, faith background, political leanings, or mental, intellectual or physical ability – you are welcomed here just as you are. In this church, we commit to pursue gender and racial equity in all that we do, and to support one another as chosen family, being parents and siblings for each other regardless of who we have as biological family (Mark 3:31-35). For we are all one in Christ Jesus and rely on the unconditional nature of God’s love and grace to be our help and guide as we strive to serve our world.

For safety reasons, please do not allow your children to wander unsupervised past the coat racks or downstairs during the church service. Our nursery is open but not staffed. You are welcome to use it, but please do not leave your children unattended.

PRELUDE

“When We Are Tested”

arr. Albin C Whitworth

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

All: Amen.

Let us turn in confession to the one who knows us completely.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Pastor: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:
Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word:
Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For failing to recognize your coming reign,
and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition,
and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs
of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent,
and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life:
Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.

Pastor: 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.

All: Amen.

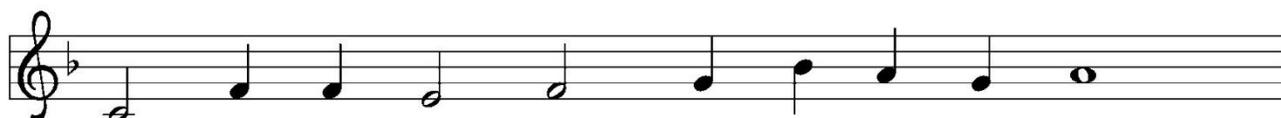
GATHERING HYMN: Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church (ELW 321)



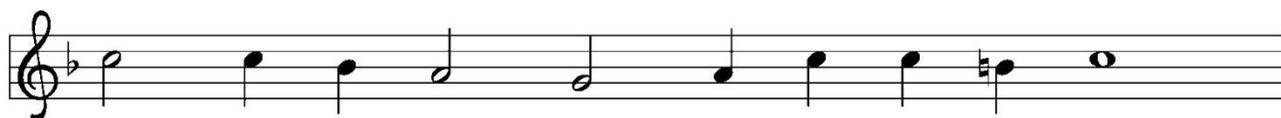
1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,



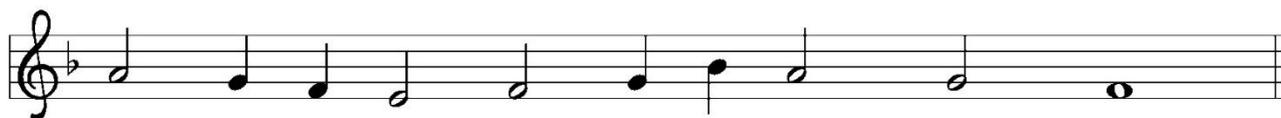
walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;



led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,



moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,



far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.
so we are dead and live with you in God.
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

GREETING

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

All: **And also with you.**

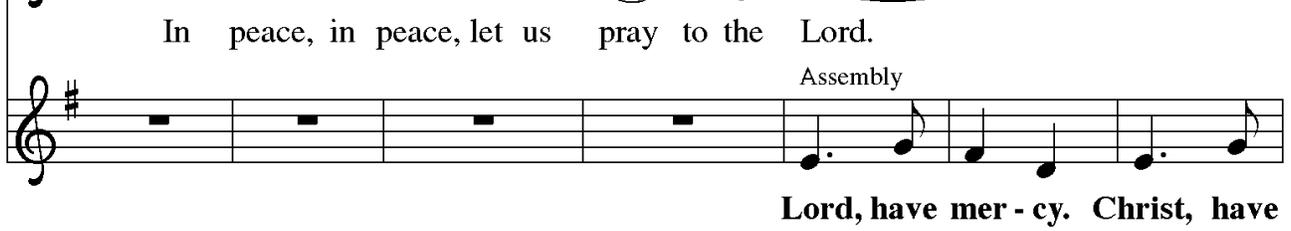
KYRIE

Leader

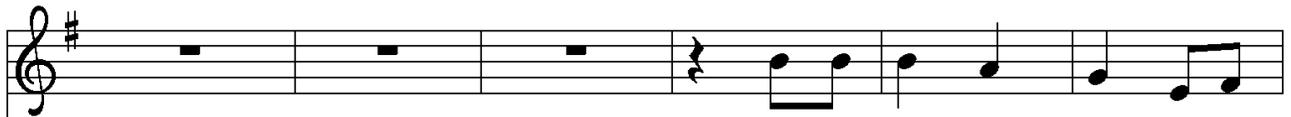


In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

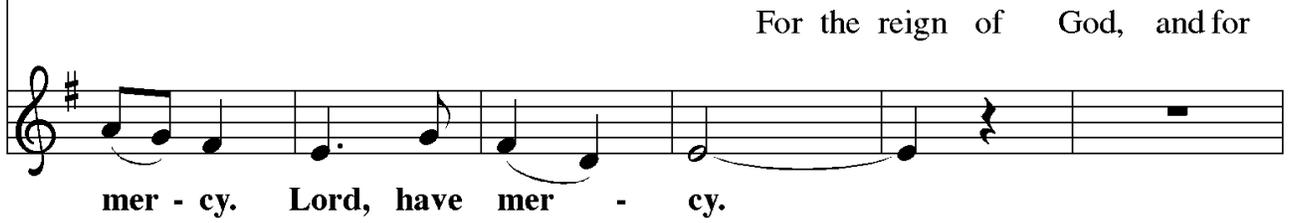
Assembly



Lord, have mer - cy. Christ, have



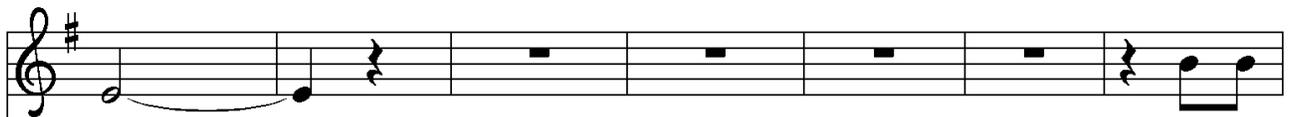
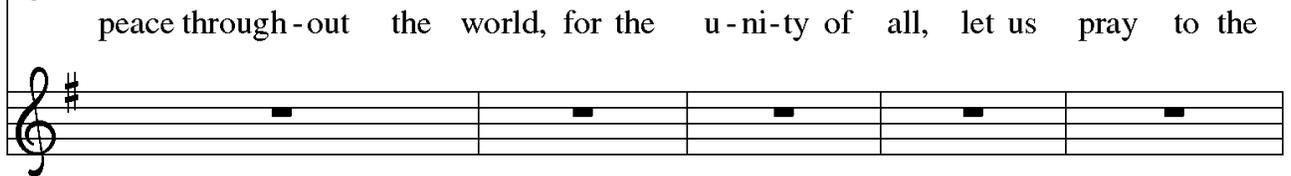
For the reign of God, and for



mer - cy. Lord, have mer - cy.



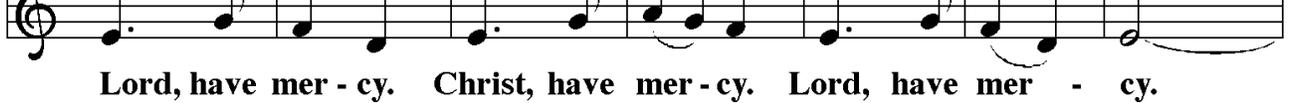
peace through - out the world, for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the



Lord.



For your



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

Continued on next page

peo - ple here who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your

word, let us pray to the Lord.

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

Help, save, and de - fend us, O God.

mer - cy. A - men.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Asst: 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.

All: Amen.

The assembly may be seated.

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

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 32

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,
and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt,
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

³ While I held my tongue, my bones withered 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.**

⁵ Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and did not conceal 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.

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.

SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON (Noisy offering for Partner Synod Honduras)



Please stand as you are able.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: A Return to the Lord

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.

GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11

Jesus experiences anew the temptations that Israel faced in the wilderness. As the Son of God, he endures the testing of the evil one.

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’ ” ¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

Pastor: The Gospel of the Lord.

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

The assembly may be seated.

SERMON

Pastor Megan Floyd

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY: When We Are Tested (ACS 922)



1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,



fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
trad - ing the truth for the pow'r to con - trol,
sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

APOSTLES CREED

Pastor: Joining the saints from every time and place, let us confess our faith.

**All: 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

Sing the alternate verse The Lord is my song...

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: when I call, an - swer me.
OR *The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: all my hope comes from God.*

O Lord, hear my prayer, O Lord, hear my prayer: come and lis - ten to me.
The Lord is my song, the Lord is my praise: God, the well-spring of life.

Asst: 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 Grace,

All: your mercy is great.

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

All: Amen.

Repeat “The Lord is my song.”

PEACE

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

The assembly may be seated.

OFFERING

“O Love, How Deep, How Broad, How High”
Chancel Choir

Lloyd Larson

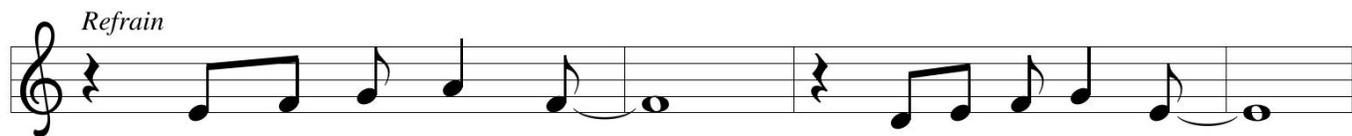
LITURGICAL HAND WASHING

Pastor and assisting ministers sanitize and wash their hands.

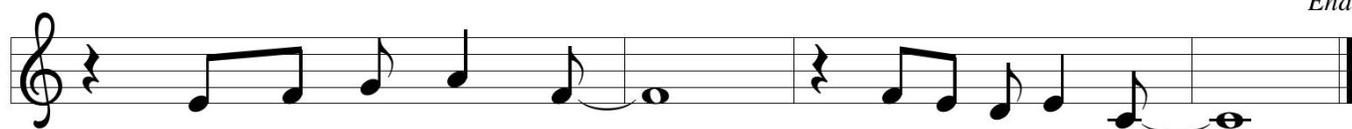
“I wash my hands in innocence, and go around your altar, O Lord, singing aloud a song of thanksgiving, and telling all your wondrous deeds.” – Psalm 26:6

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING RESPONSE: Change My Heart, O God (ELW 801)



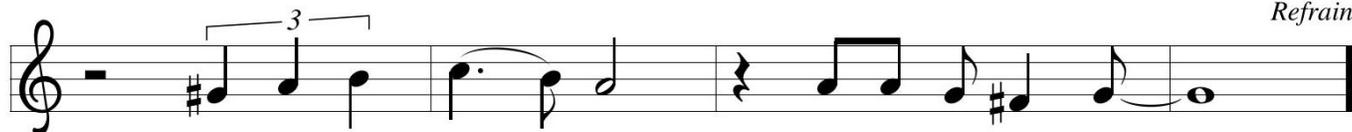
Change my heart, O God; make it ev - er true.



Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.



You are the pot - ter; I am the clay.



Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.

OFFERING PRAYER

Asst: 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.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

PREFACE

Pastor: 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, HOLY, HOLY: Santo, Santo, Santo (ELW 473)

Sing Spanish, then English



San - to, san - to, san - to, mi co - ra - zón te_a - do - ra.
Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly, my heart, my heart a - dores you.



Mi co - ra - zón te sa - be de-cir: San - to_e-res Se - ñor.
My heart is glad to say the words: You are ho - ly, God.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Pastor: 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.

LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Praying now in whatever language or translation is the language of your heart, we pray as children of God:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kin[g]dom 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 kin[g]dom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Pastor: Come to the table.
Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

The assembly may be seated.

All are invited to come to the table to receive what the Lord offers. If, however, you would prefer not to receive communion, you may still come to the table for a blessing.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request when you come to receive communion at the altar rail.

Our trays have wine (darker liquid) in the outer part of the tray, and grape juice (lighter liquid) in the center. Please choose whichever you prefer. Drop your empty cup in one of the baskets on the stands.

If it would be easier for you to have communion brought to you, please let an usher know and we will be happy to serve you at your seat.

If you have any further questions, please ask an usher.

LAMB OF GOD



1 Your on - ly Son, no sin to hide, but you have
 2 Your gift of love we cru - ci - fied. We laughed and
 3 I was so lost, I should have died, but you have



sent him from your side to walk up - on this guilt - y
 scorned him as he died. The hum - ble king we named a
 brought me to your side to be led by your staff and



sod and to be - come the Lamb of God.
 fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God. O Lamb of
 rod and to be called a lamb of God.



God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the ho - ly Lamb of God. Oh, wash me



in your pre - cious blood, my Je - sus Christ, the Lamb of God.

COMMUNION SONG: Open Our Eyes, Lord (WP 113)

O - pen our eyes, Lord; we want to see

Je - sus, to reach out and touch

him, and say that we love him.

O - pen our ears, Lord, and help us to

lis - ten. O - pen our eyes,

Lord, we want to see Je - sus.

Please stand as you are able.

Pastor: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

All: **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Asst: 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.

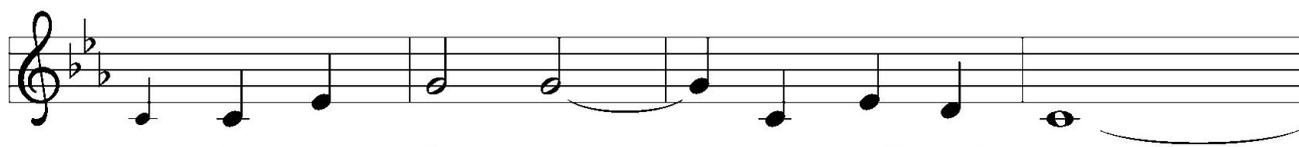
All: Amen.

BLESSING

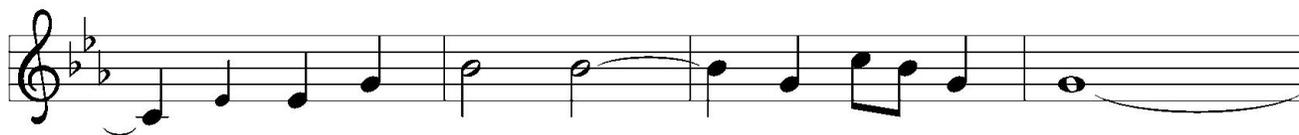
Pastor: Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:
God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always.

All: Amen.

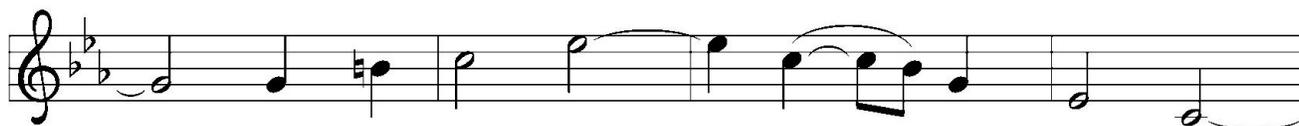
SENDING SONG: I Want Jesus to Walk with Me (ELW 325)



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.

DISMISSAL

Asst: Go in peace. Believe the good news!

All: **Thanks be to God.**

The assembly may be seated.

POSTLUDE

"Prelude and Fugue in D Minor"

J.S.Bach

CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday, February 22

Worship Service@10am: **First Sunday in Lent**
H.S. Youth Group @5:45 pm at Hawk Island County Park

Monday, February 23

Scouts @7pm in Sunday School/Room

Tuesday, February 24

Bible Study @12pm in Library and on Zoom

Wednesday, February 25

Quilters@9:30am
Girl Scouts @5:30pm in Sunday School/Youth Room
Faith Bells @6:15pm
Evening Prayer Service @7:15
Chancel Choir @7:45pm

Sunday, March 1

Worship Service@10am: **Second Sunday in Lent**
Pantry Meeting @11:30 in Library

FAITH VOLUNTEERS

February 22

Greeter(s): Jeff & Melinda Schultz
Usher(s): Bill Floyd/John Backman
Coffee Hour: Ray & Angie Herek
Counters: Jamie Royalty/Ramona Backman
Noisy Offering:
Acolyte: Tabitha Richardson
Reader: John McCracken
Lay Assistant: Ray Herek
Altar Care: Diane Hill

March 1

Greeter(s): John & Phylis Schleicher
Usher(s): John McCracken/Jane Durga
Coffee Hour:
Counters: John McCracken/Randy Royalty
Noisy Offering: N/A
Acolyte: Tabitha Richardson
Reader: Brenda Kopf
Lay Assistant: Harold Sollenberger
Altar Care: Jamie Royalty



We invite you to hold these people in your prayers each day this week.

We pray for all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and overall health and wellness, especially Joe, Barb, Sue, Troy, Krista, Eric, Beth, Logan, Garrett, Melinda, Rick, Kathy, Grace, and Marj.

We pray for all those in military service, especially those connected to our community: Alex, Braxton, Joey, Jon, Landon, Hannah, Joe, Reuben, Lane, and Aiden.

We pray for the larger church, especially Presiding Bishop Yehiel Curry and Bishop Julie Schneider-Thomas, our synod prayer partner Cross of Christ in Petoskey, their pastor Rev. Sherry McGuffin and our companion synods in Papua New Guinea and Honduras.

****New additions to our prayers are listed in bold; names will remain on the printed list for six weeks. Please contact the church office or Pastor Megan to add or reinstate names to the prayer list.***

Prayer Partners Letter

We are participating in this activity and would love you to add your signature. The letter is located on the table under the bulletin board entitled "Prayer Partners."

ANNOUNCEMENTS



WELCA Triennial Gathering, July 16-19, 2026, Des Moines, Iowa! Women of the ELCA are gathering in Des Moines this summer under the theme, "I Am Worthy," based on Psalm 139:14: "I am fearfully and wonderfully made." The conference offers four days of inspirational speakers, workshops, Bible Study, and a quilting exhibit... plus fellowship and more. Pastor Megan is considering going – it is a drivable distance (8- hour drive), and we have money for education available to offset the cost with scholarships. Please let her know if you are interested in going! There are flyers on the information tables with more information.