

# *The First Sunday in Lent*

**February 22, 2026**

10:30 a.m. Worship



*We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!*

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **PRELUDE**

#### **\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*P:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C: Amen.**

*P:* Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*P:* For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you:

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*P:* For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdain the living water Christ offers:

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*P:* For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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

Gracious God,

**C: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

*P:* 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. **C: Amen.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

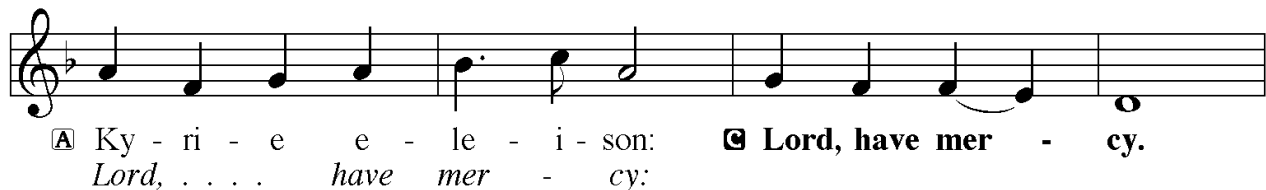
*Lamb of God*

*ELW # 336*

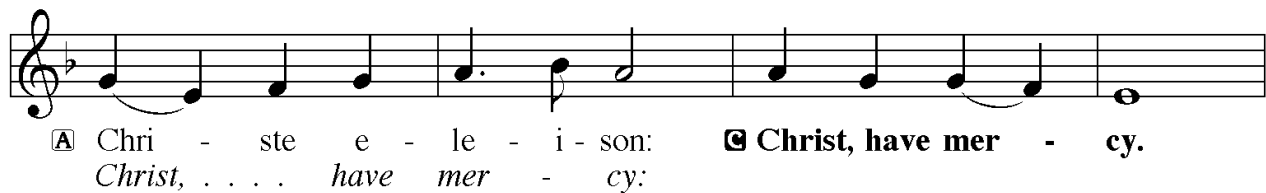
**\*GREETING**

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

**\*KYRIE**



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    Ⓑ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Chri - ste e - le - i - son:    Ⓑ Christ, have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy:



Ⓐ Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son:    Ⓑ Lord, have mer - cy.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy:

**\*HYMN OF PRAISE**

*You Are Holy*

ELW #525

1\*



Du är he - lig, du är hel. Du är all - tid myck-et mer  
You are ho - ly, you are whole. You are al - ways ev - er more



än vi nån - sin kan för - stå, du är nä - ra än - då.  
than we ev - er un - der - stand. You are al - ways at hand.



Väl - sig - nad va - re du som kom - mer hit just nu,  
Bless - ed are you com - ing near. Bless - ed are you com - ing here



väl - sig - na - de vår jord, blir till bröd på vår jord.  
to your church in wine and bread, raised from soil, raised from dead.

2



Du är he - lig, du är hel - het,  
You are ho - ly, you are whole - ness,



du är när - het he - la kos - mos lo - var dig!  
you are pres - ent. Let the cos - mos praise you, Lord!



Ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na,  
Sing ho - san - na in the high - est!



ho - si - an - na, ho - si - an - na vår Gud.  
Sing ho - san - na! Sing ho - san - na to our God!

\* May be sung in canon.

Text: Per Harling, b. 1945

Music: DU ÄR HELIG, Per Harling

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South America, and Central America, including the Caribbean.

## **\*PRAYER OF THE DAY**

*P: 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. **C: Amen.**

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

<sup>15</sup> The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, <sup>17</sup> 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.”

<sup>3:1</sup> 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?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> 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.’ ” <sup>4</sup> But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die, <sup>5</sup> for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> 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.

*L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.*

## **PSALM 32 (read responsively)**

<sup>1</sup> Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven,  
and whose sin is put away!

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,  
and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

<sup>3</sup> While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,  
because of my groaning all day long.

<sup>4</sup> **For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;  
my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.**

<sup>5</sup> 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.

**<sup>6</sup> Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble; when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.**

<sup>7</sup> You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

**<sup>8</sup> “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.**

<sup>9</sup> 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.”

**<sup>10</sup> Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.**

<sup>11</sup> Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

### **SECOND READING: Romans 5:12-19**

<sup>12</sup> 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 <sup>13</sup> for sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. <sup>14</sup> 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.

<sup>15</sup> 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. <sup>16</sup> 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. <sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> 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.

*L:* The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**\*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

*ELW # S151b*



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**

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

<sup>5</sup> Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, <sup>6</sup> 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.’ ”

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

<sup>8</sup> Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, <sup>9</sup> and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” <sup>10</sup> Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,  
and serve only him.’ ”

<sup>11</sup> Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.*

**HOMILY**

*Pastor Traci*

**\*HYMN OF THE DAY**

*You Have Come Down to the Lakeshore*

*ELW # 817*

## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

*P:* Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: 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 THE CHURCH**

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

*A:* 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*A:* 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*A:* 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*A:* 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. Hear us, O God. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*A:* 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*A:* 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. **C: Your mercy is great.**

*P:* Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.  
**C: Amen.**

**\*THE PEACE**

*P:* The peace of the LORD be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting  
that is comfortable for both you and them.*

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER**

*An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave;  
we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:*

*A: Let us pray... 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.*

**C: Amen.**

**\*GREAT THANKSGIVING**

*P:* The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

*P:* Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

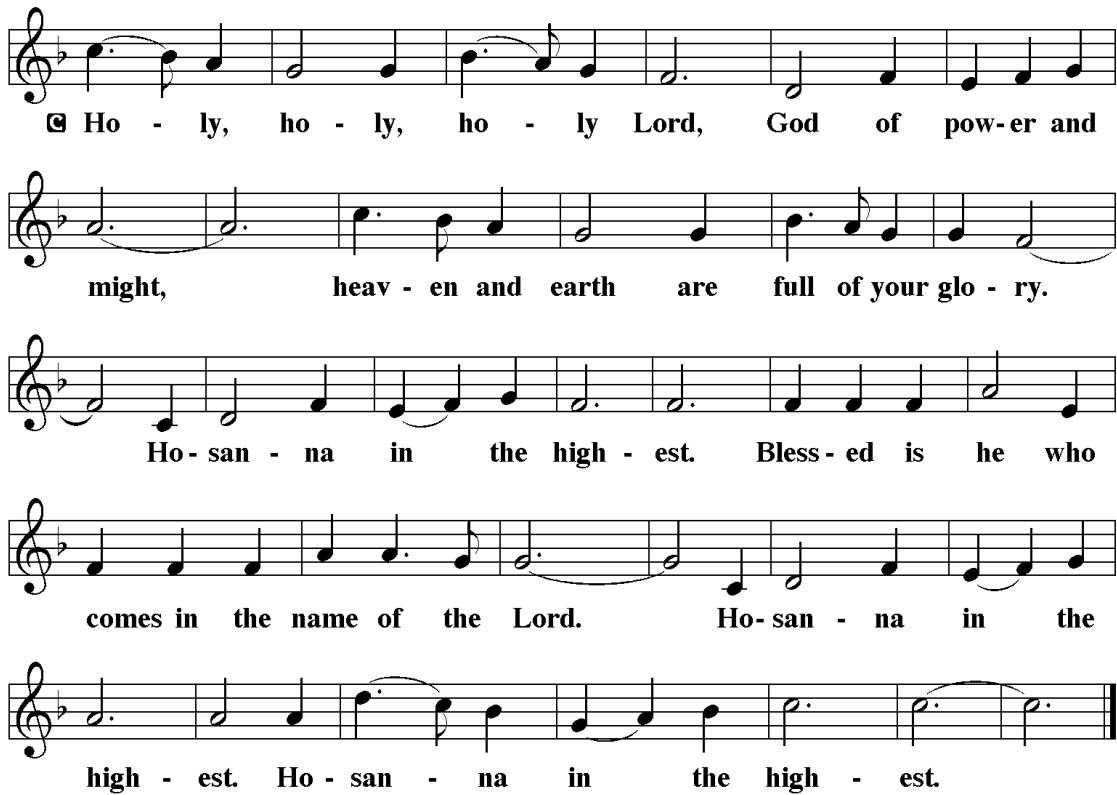
*P:* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

**\*PROPER PREFACE**

*P:* 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:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and  
 might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry.  
 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. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

### **\*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord,  
 heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
 In great love you sent to us Jesus, your Son,  
 who reached out to heal the sick and suffering,  
 who preached good news to the poor,  
 and who, on the cross, opened his arms to all.

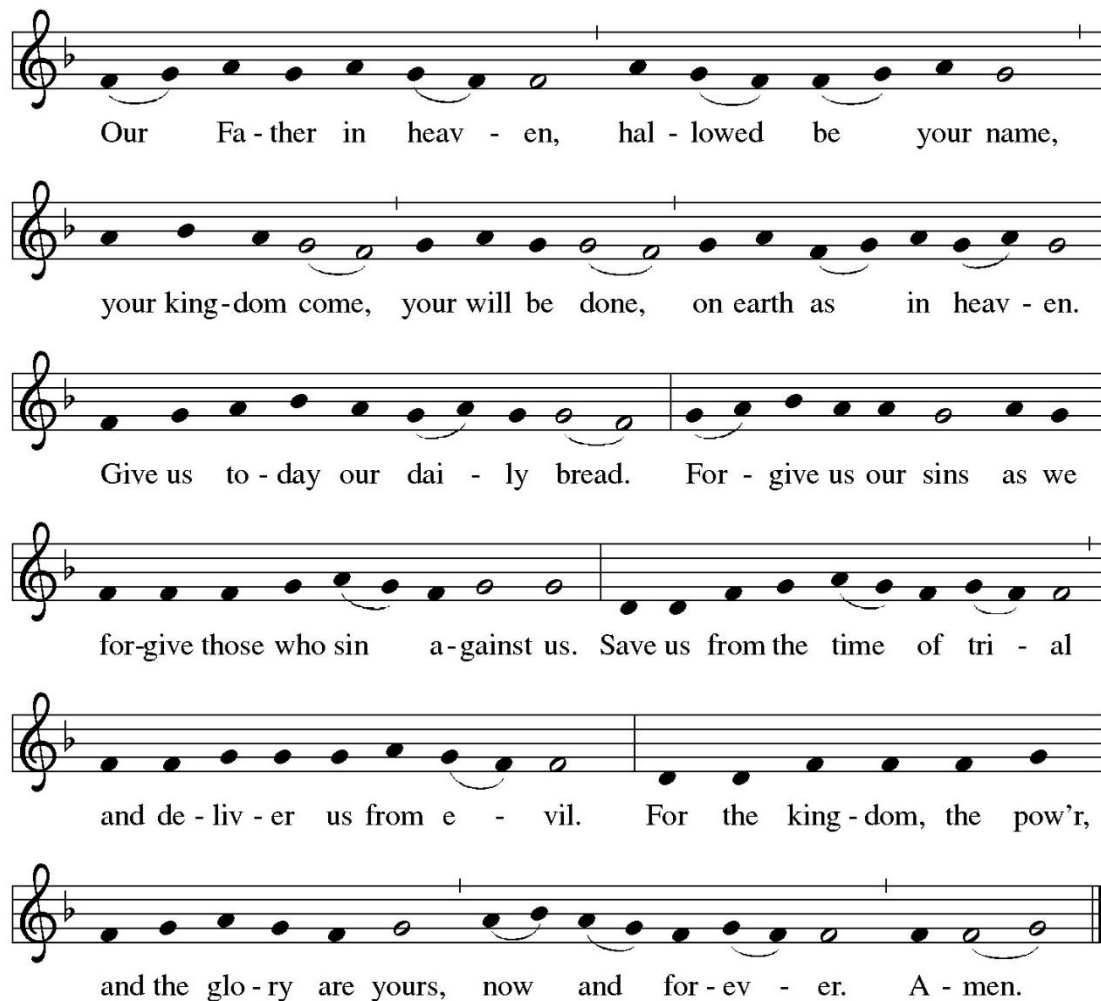
In the night in which he was betrayed,  
 our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;  
 broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
 Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.  
 Do this for the remembrance of me.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his life, death, resurrection, and ascension,  
we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who taught us to pray:

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**



Our Fa-ther in heav-en, hal-lowed be your name,  
your king-dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav-en.  
Give us to-day our dai-ly bread. For-give us our sins as we  
for-give those who sin a-gainst us. Save us from the time of tri-al  
and de-liv-er us from e-vil. For the king-dom, the pow'r,  
and the glo-ry are yours, now and for-ev-er. A-men.

**\*THE AGNUS DEI**

*Lamb of God*



**C** 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.

**\*INVITATION**

*P*: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy. **C**: **Thanks be to God.**

**\*BLESSING**

*P*: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C**: **Amen.**

**\*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

*A*: *Let us pray...* 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. **C**: **Amen.**

**\*BENEDICTION**

*P*: 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. **C**: **Amen.**

**\*SENDING SONG**

*Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross*

*ELW # 335*

**\*DISMISSAL**

*P:* Go in peace. Believe the good news. **C: Thanks be to God**

**POSTLUDE**

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

**Serving God and Us**

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree

Our Pianists – Dr. Adam Smith, Ben Decker

Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle’s Wings

Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Assisting Minister – Lottie Ebersole

Our Lector – Gavin Kuster

Our Acolyte – Gabby Decker

Our Usher – Tina Harclerode

Our Altar Guild – Laura Orczeck, Jackie Lightner

Our Audio/Video Tech – Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

**First Quarter Ventures in Faith to “Local Needs”**

**Prayers are needed for our homebound:** Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger, Jean Stonerook, Robert Winston.

*So we can give special attention to those with pressing needs, names were removed at the end of the month. Please let the office know if a name should be added to the prayer list for an extended period of time.*

**Prayer Concerns:** Baby Campbell, Juls Bratton and Charlee Howsare and family, Greta Bucharth, Doug Bush, Julie Dick, Mary Farabaugh, Ken Harkless, Marilyn Horton, Kathy Keith, Rachel Kensinger, J.C. and Naomi (Noni) Lehman & Family, Kristen Malloy, Dan Ross, John Russell, Dan Sinal, Joshua Sollenberger, Kaleb Sollenberger, Bill Stahl, Jim Stewart, and for our **Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle’s Wings.**

**Away at School:** Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jay Hoenstine,  
Jeff Hoenstine, Camden Kuster, Lacey Ripka.

**Those Serving in our Armed Forces:** Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep.

**This Week at St. Matthew:**

**814-793-2413: Office Hours**

Pastor Traci – Tues. – 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m.

Jen – Mon.-Fri. – 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

**This Week Events**

**Today –** *First Sunday in Lent*  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary

**Tuesday –** Knotty Ladies 12:30-3:00 p.m., Quilting Room

**Wednesday –** Lenten Supper 5:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall  
Worship 6:30 p.m., Fellowship Hall

**Sunday –** *Second Sunday in Lent*  
9:30 a.m. Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. Worship in Sanctuary



**St. Matthew Martinsburg**  
**Wednesday Lenten Schedule**

**5:30PM Dinner & 6:30PM Compline**  
*All in the Fellowship Hall*

**February 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Vegetable Soup & Ox Roast**  
**March 4<sup>th</sup> ~ Grilled Cheese & Tomato Soup**  
**March 11<sup>th</sup> ~ Chili & Cornbread**  
**March 18<sup>th</sup> ~ Potato Soup & Ham Sandwiches**  
**March 25<sup>th</sup> ~ Chef's Choice**

*Join us for food, fellowship, and worship  
(about ½ hour) with a focus on prayer*

## Office Closure During Inclement Weather

On days that the Spring Cove School District cancels or delays instruction due to weather, the church office will be closed as well. In the event of an emergency, Pastor Traci can be reached at 814-935-9237.



If services need to be cancelled for inclement weather, we will attempt to notify you using email (like we do for the Sunday Bulletin and Messenger) and Facebook. On days when the weather is questionable, please check these notifications before you travel. If you need a phone call instead, please let the office know.



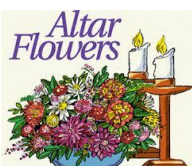
### Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church will be helping at the Food Pantry on the first and third Thursdays, March 5 and March 19, besides the regular helpers. It will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m., and Saturdays at 11:00 a.m. by appointment.

**The food items most needed for March are:** Juice, Hamburger Helper, Pancake Mix, Pancake Syrup, and Paper Towels. These or any items can be placed in the food basket at church.

*Many thanks!*  
*Linda Smith*



The 2026 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price - \$40.00

\*OPENING HYMN

Lamb of God

ELW # 336



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. O Lamb of  
fraud and sac - ri - ficed the Lamb of God.  
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.



1 Tú has ve - ni - do a la o - ri - lla, no has bus -  
 1 You have come down to the lake - shore seek - ing  
 2 You know full well what I have, Lord: nei - ther  
 3 You need my hands, my ex - haus - tion, work - ing  
 4 You who have fished oth - er wa - ters; you, the



ca - do ni a sa - bios ni a ri - cos; tan só - lo  
 nei - ther the wise nor the wealth - y, but on - ly  
 trea - sure nor wea - pons for con - quest, just these my  
 love for the rest of the wea - ry— a love that's  
 long - ing of souls that are yearn - ing: O lov - ing



quie - res que yo te si - ga.  
 ask - ing for me to fol - low.  
 fish nets and will for work - ing.  
 will - ing to go on lov - ing.  
 Friend, you have come to call me.

## Refrain / Estribillo



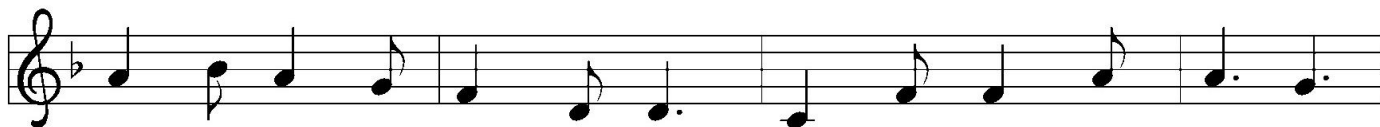
Se - ñor, me has mi - ra - do a los o - jos; son - ri - en - do,  
 Sweet Lord, you have looked in - to my eyes; kind - ly smil - ing,



has di - cho mi nom - bre. En la a - re - na he de - ja - do mi  
 you've called out my name. . . . On the sand I have a - ban - doned my



bar - ca; jun - to a ti bus - ca - ré o - tro mar.  
 small boat; now with you, I will seek oth - er seas.

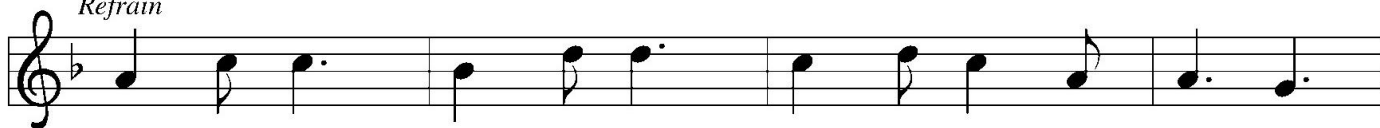


1 Je - sus, keep me near the cross, there's a pre - cious foun - tain;  
2 Near the cross, a trem - bling soul, love and mer - cy found me;  
3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God, bring its scenes be - fore me;  
4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait, hop - ing, trust - ing ev - er,

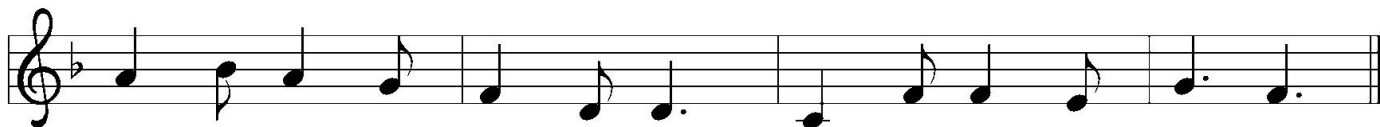


free to all, a heal - ing stream flows from Cal - v'ry's moun - tain.  
there the bright and morn - ing star sheds its beams a - round me.  
help me walk from day to day with its shad - ow o'er me.  
till I reach the gold - en strand just be - yond the riv - er.

*Refrain*



In the cross, in the cross be my glo - ry ev - er;



till my ran - somed soul shall find rest be - yond the riv - er.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915

Music: NEAR THE CROSS, William H. Doane, 1832–1915