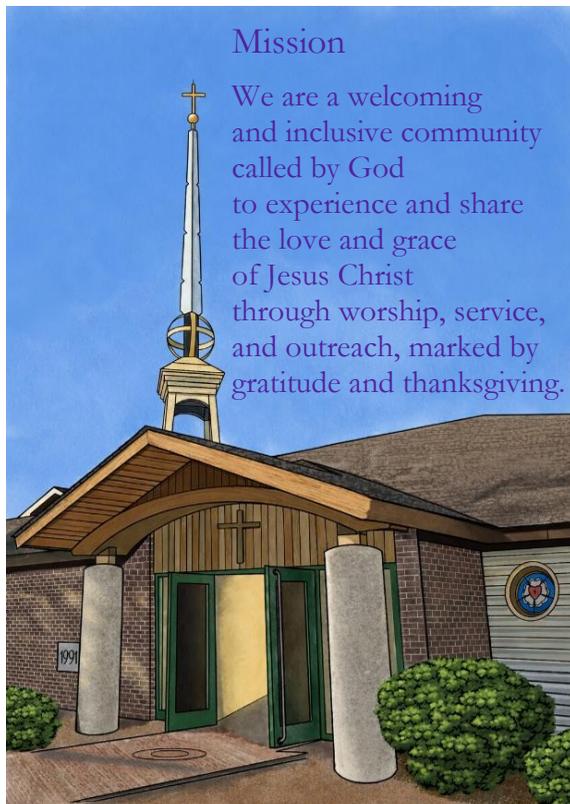


MIDWEEK WORSHIP IN LENT

FEBRUARY 25, 2026



ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

12351 All Saints Place
Woodbridge, VA 22192
Phone (703) 494-3090

E-Mail: stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org
www.stmatthewsva.org

Sunday School.....9:00AM

Weekly Sunday Worship..... 10:00AM

WEEK ONE – COME

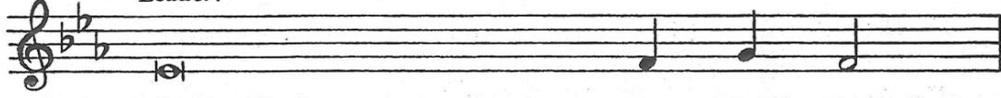
EVENING PRAYER

Vespers

OPENING

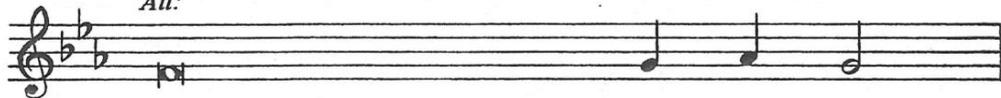
The assembly stands. A dialogue accompanies the procession. The assembly responds to the leader.

Leader:



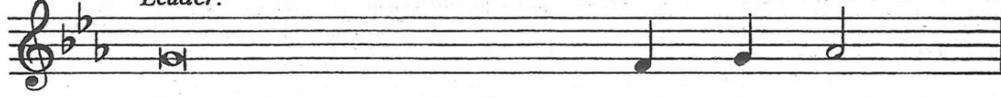
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:



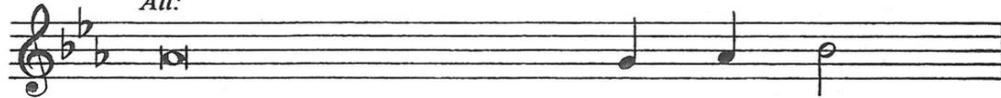
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Leader:



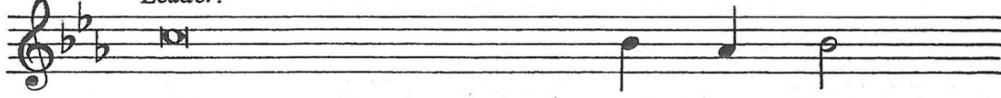
Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All:



and the day is al - most over.

Leader:



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:



and shine within your peo-ple here. —

Evening Hymn

All: a tempo



1. Joy-ous light of heav-'nly glo - ry, lov - ing
2. In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the
3. You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev - 'ry



glow of God's own face, you who sing cre - a - tion's
blaz - ing sun of dawn, in the light of peace and
danc - ing star of night, make us shine with gen - tle



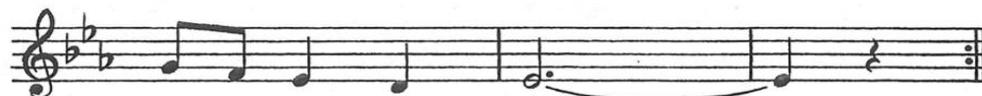
sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



eve - ning falls a - round us, we shall raise our songs to
fills the night with won - der, love that warms the wea - ry
God of all cre - a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our



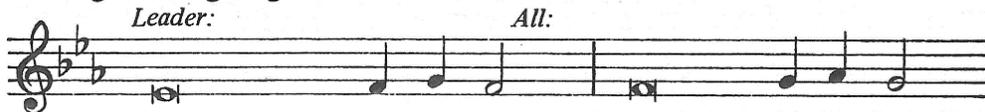
you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



light our hearts a - new. _____
free and make us whole. _____
on to end - less day. _____

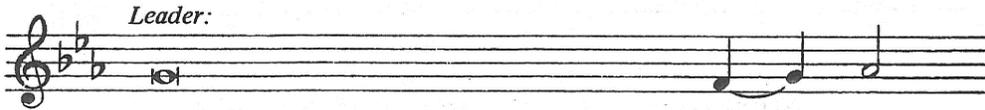
Evening Thanksgiving

Leader: *All:*



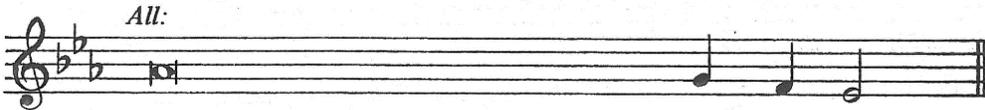
May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

Leader:



Let us sing our thanks to — God,

All:



It is right to give God thanks and praise.

Leader: Blessed are you, Creator of the universe—from old you have led your people by night and day. May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

All:



A — men.

The assembly sits.

FIRST READING

Romans 7:15-25

L: A reading from Romans.

I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree that the law is good. But in fact it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. For I know that the good does not dwell within me, that is, in my flesh. For the desire to do the good lies close at hand, but not the ability. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I do. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it but sin that dwells within me. So I find it to be a law that, when I want to do what is good, evil lies close at hand. For I delight in the law of God in my inmost self, but I see in my members another law at war with the law of my mind, making me captive to the law of sin that dwells in my members. Wretched person that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! L: The word of the Lord. **C: Thanks be to God.**

All:

Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -
 fore you, the lift - ing up of my
 hands as an of - fer - ing to you.

Leader or Group One:

— O God, I call to you, come to me

All or Group Two:

O God, I

now; O hear my voice when I

call to you, come to me now; O

cry to you. ————— Let my prayer rise

hear my voice when I cry to you.

up like in cense be - fore you, the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. _____ Keep watch with - in me, God;
of-fer-ing to you. Keep

deep in my heart may the light of your love be
watch with - in me, God; deep in my heart may the

burn - ing bright. _____ Let my prayer rise
light of your love be burn - ing bright.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the
Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to
fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you. _____ All praise to the God of all- Cre-
of-fer-ing to you. All

a - tor of life; all praise be to Christ and the
praise to the God of all- Cre - a - tor of life; all

Spir - it of love. _____ Let my prayer rise
praise be to Christ and the Spir - it of love.

up like in - cense be - fore you, the
 Let my prayer rise up like in - cense be -

lift-ing up of my hands as an of-fer-ing to
 fore you, the lift-ing up of my hands as an

you.
 of - fer - ing to you.

Leader: May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that in union with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives.

All: Amen.

P: The Lord is gracious and full of compassion, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

C: Lord, you are good to all, and your compassion is over all your works.

P: All your works shall praise you, O Lord, and your faithful ones shall bless you.

C: They shall tell of the glory of your kingdom and speak of your power,

P: that all people may know of your power and the glorious splendor of your kingdom.

C: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom; your dominion endures throughout all ages.

P: You, Lord, are faithful in all your words, and loving in all your works.

C: The Lord upholds all those who fall and lifts up those who are bowed down.

The assembly stands.

HOLY GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25-30

P: The Gospel according to St. Matthew.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

At that time Jesus said, “I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father, and no one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.

“Come to me, all you who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

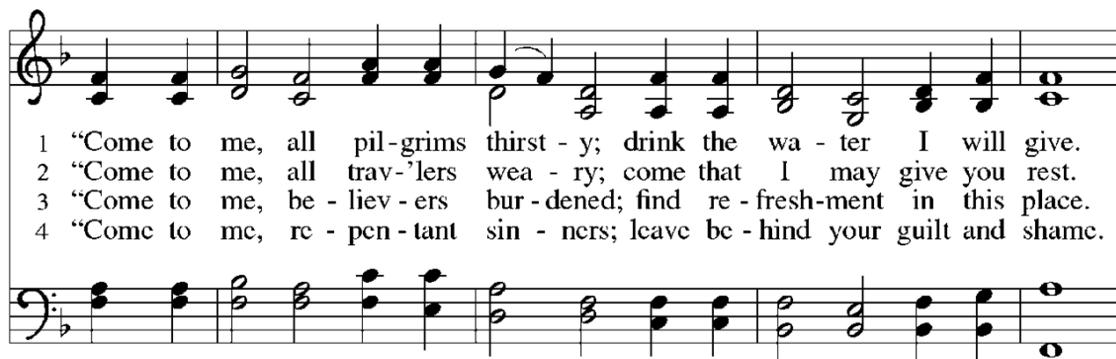
C: Praise to you, O Christ.

The assembly sits.

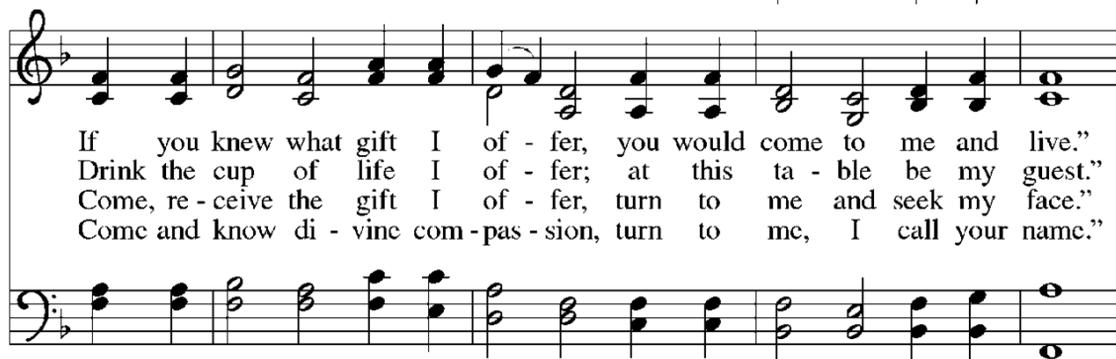
MEDITATION

“Come”

Pastor Stephen Bohannon



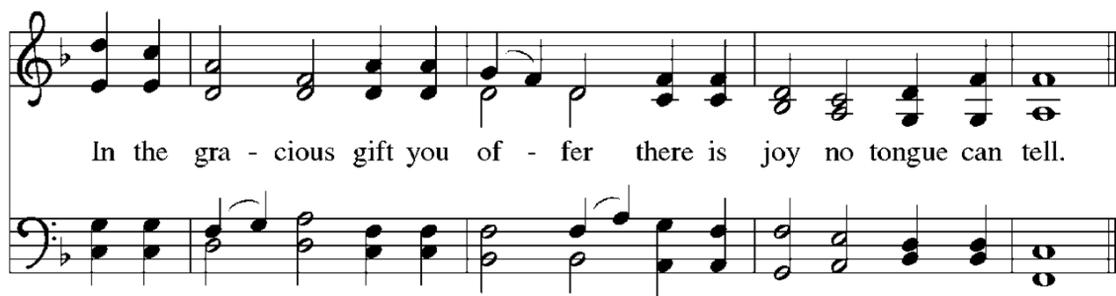
1 "Come to me, all pil-grims thirst - y; drink the wa - ter I will give.
 2 "Come to me, all trav-'lers wea - ry; come that I may give you rest.
 3 "Come to me, be - liev - ers bur - dened; find re - fresh - ment in this place.
 4 "Come to me, re - pen - tant sin - ners; leave be - hind your guilt and shame.



If you knew what gift I of - fer, you would come to me and live."
 Drink the cup of life I of - fer; at this ta - ble be my guest."
 Come, re - ceive the gift I of - fer, turn to me and seek my face."
 Come and know di - vine com - pas - sion, turn to me, I call your name."

Refrain


Je - sus, ev - er - flow - ing foun - tain, give us wa - ter from your well.



In the gra - cious gift you of - fer there is joy no tongue can tell.

Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,

strong is your kind - ness ev - er - more.
strong is your jus - tice strong your love,

How you fa - vor the weak and low - ly one,
As you prom - ised to Sar - ah and A - bra - ham,

hum - bling the proud of heart.
kind - ness for - ev - er - more.

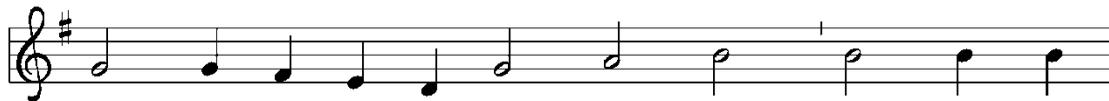
*Lenten offerings are designated to fulfill mission directives not contained within our congregation's spending plan. Our special Lenten offerings will be given to **Hope 4 Kids**. "For over 50 years, we have been committed to serving children living in impoverished environments around the world by establishing economic, spiritual, water, educational, and feeding programs. In addition to these programs, we have been leading teams of volunteers on two-week international mission trips bringing life-saving provisions and the spirit of Jesus." Last year St. Matthew's equipped Hope 4 Kids to complete a kitchen facility at a boarding school in Namibia associated with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia, ELCRN. The kitchen feeds over 100 children and staff on a daily basis.*

The Lutheran church in Namibia is made up of 3 different denominations: the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Namibia (ELCIN), the Evangelical Lutheran Church in the Republic of Namibia (ELCRN), and the German Evangelical Lutheran Church-ELCIN (GELC-ELCIN).

The assembly stands.

OFFERTORY

ELW 884



Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise him, all



crea - tures here be - low; praise him a - bove, ye



heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

L: Let us pray. Blessed are you, O God, maker of all things, through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts: ourselves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love, through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

The assembly kneels or sits.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

A *All:*
Repeat continuously

(Hmmm)

B

God of mer - cy, hold us in love.

Leader: **A** **B**

1. In peace, in peace, we pray to you:

Leader: **A** **B**

2. For peace and sal-va-tion, we pray to you:

Leader: **A** **B**

3. For peace be-tween na-tions, for peace be-tween peo-ples:
4. For us who are gath-ered to wor-ship and praise you:
5. For all of your ser-vants who live out your gos-pel:
6. For all those who gov-ern, that jus-tice might guide them:
7. For all those who la-bor in ser-vice to oth-ers:
8. Grant weath-er that nour-ish-es all of cre-a-tion:
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from dan-ger:
10. For all the be-lov-ed who rest in your mer-cy:

Leader:

Help us, com - fort us, all of our days:

All:

Keep — us, hold — us, gra - cious God.

Leader: Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

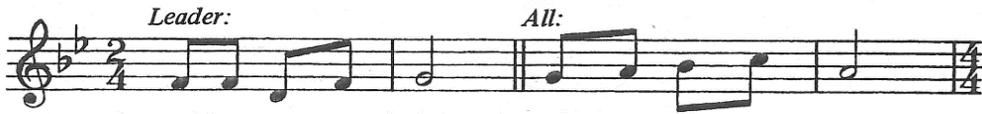
Leader: God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your Kingdom come: your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the Kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The assembly stands.

Final Blessing

Leader: *All:*



Let us bless our God: praise and thanks to you.

Presider:



May God, Cre - a - tor bless us and keep us, may



Christ be ev - er light for our lives, may the

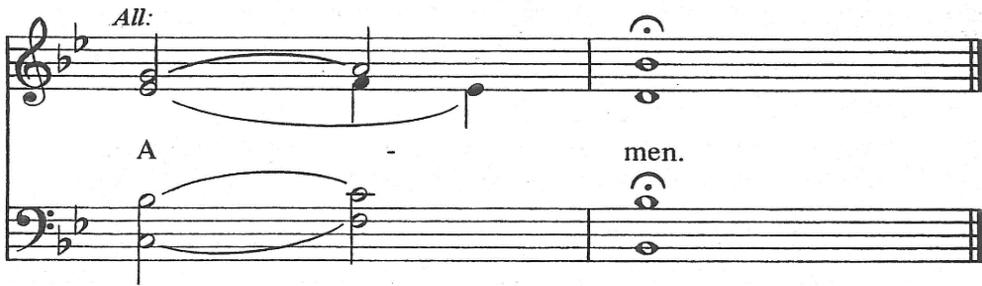


Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days. _____

All:



A - men.

Leader: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.