



# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*Today Is March 1, 2026*

+ + +

*Second Sunday in Lent*

NICODEMUS came  
to  
*Jesus*  
BY NIGHT

JOHN 3:2



**ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
12351 All Saints Place  
Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

## GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*Baptized and Set Free*

arr. Sherri Hansen

*The assembly stands.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

*O God of Mercy, God of Light*

page 13

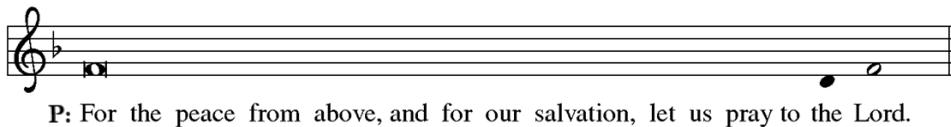
# APOSTOLIC GREETING

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.**

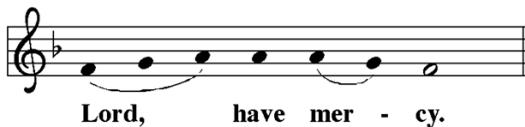
## KYRIE



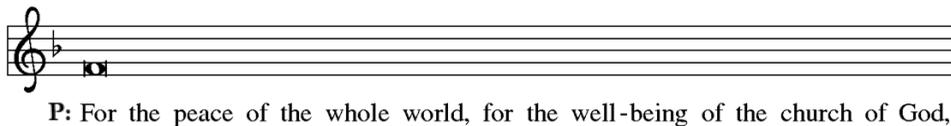
P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



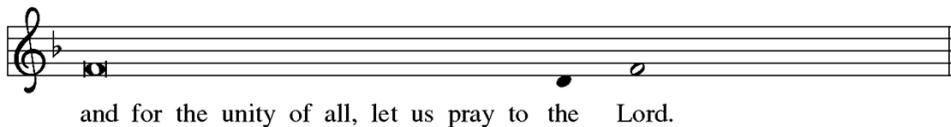
P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



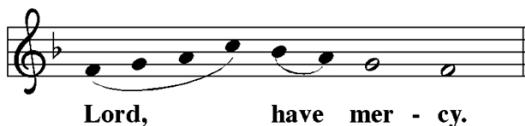
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



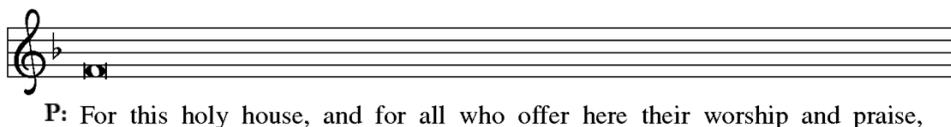
P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



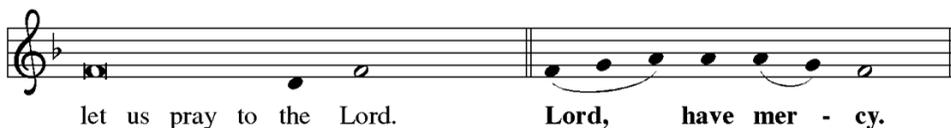
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



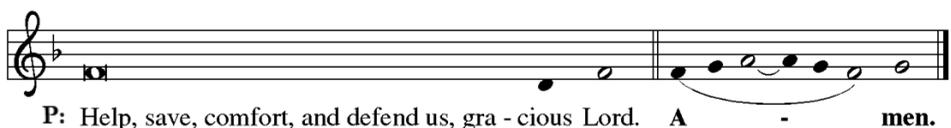
**Lord, have mer - cy.**



P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world 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.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

FIRST READING

Genesis 12:1-4a

L: A reading from Genesis.

The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 121

L: We pray the Psalm responsively.

I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

**My help comes from the Lord,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

The Lord will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

**Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

the Lord watches over you;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand;

**the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

The Lord will preserve you from all evil  
and will keep your life.

**The Lord will watch over your going out and your coming in,  
from this time forth forevermore.**

**Amen.**

SECOND READING

Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

L: A reading from Romans.

What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

L: The word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 3:1-17

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John.

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

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with that person.” Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?

“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things?

No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly is seated.*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Bohannon

*The assembly stands.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Come to the Water of Life*

page 14

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**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

*The pastor invites the assembly into prayer.*

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

*(A brief silence is kept; each petition ends with the response.)*

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

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

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

## PEACE

**P:** The peace of Christ be with you always. **C:** **And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say,  
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING

*God, You Hold Your Children Dear*  
Youth Choir

Bruhn

*The assembly stands.*

## OFFERTORY

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

ELW 186

Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

## OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: 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.**

## MEAL

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



P: The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.



P: Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.



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

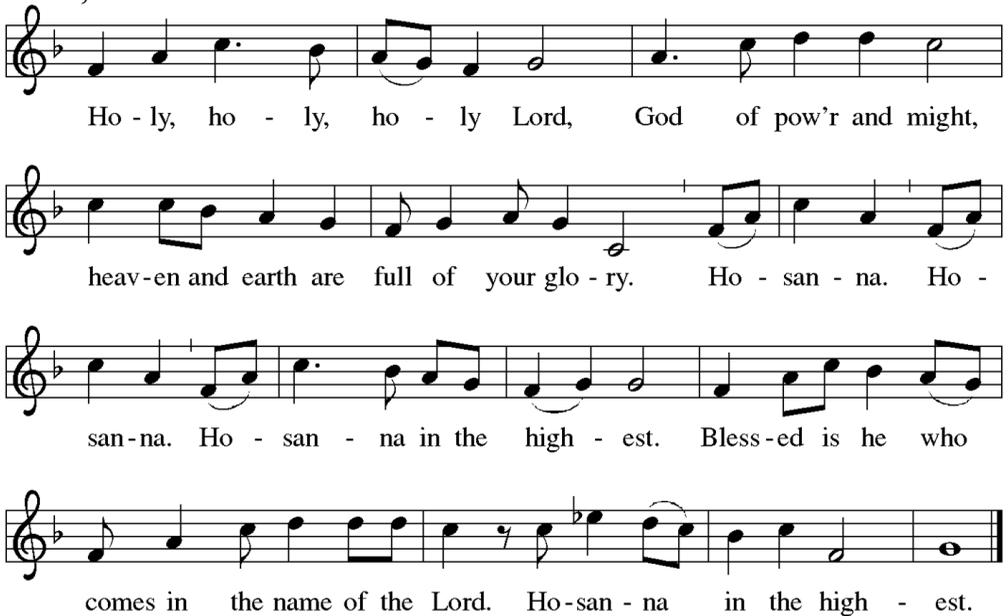


It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

*Pastor begins, "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you..." Here the pastor continues with the preface for the day, "...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:"*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
san-na. 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.

## EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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.**

## INVITATION TO COMMUNION

**P:** Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy. The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## 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.

*All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine.*

*Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available.*

*Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you:*

*The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.*

## COMMUNION HYMNS

***God Loved the World***  
***Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth***

page 15

page 16

*The assembly stands.*

## POST COMMUNION BLESSING

**P:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **C: Amen.**

## POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: 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.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

*Blessed Assurance*

page 17

### DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Believe the good news.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### POSTLUDE

*Like a River Glorious*

arr. Dan Forrest

## O God of Mercy, God of Light, ELW 714



1 O God of mer - cy, God of light, in love and  
2 You sent your Son to die for all, that our lost  
3 Teach us the les - son Je - sus taught: to feel for  
4 For all are kin - dred, far and wide, since Je - sus



mer - cy in - fi - nite, teach us, as ev - er  
world might hear your call; oh, hear us lest we  
those his blood has bought, that ev - 'ry deed and  
Christ for all has died; grant us the will, and



in your sight, to live our lives in you.  
stray and fall! We rest our hope in you.  
word and thought may work a work for you.  
grace pro - vide to love them all in you.

*Return to page 3*

## Come to the Water of Life, ACS 955



1 All who are thirst - y for mer - cy, all who are thirst - y for  
 2 All who are thirst - y for heal - ing, all who are thirst - y for  
 3 All who are thirst - y for beau - ty, all who are thirst - y for  
 4 All who are thirst - y for jus - tice, all who are thirst - y for



love; all who are thirst - y for love, for mer - cy,  
 touch; all who are thirst - y for touch, for heal - ing,  
 truth; all who are thirst - y for truth, for beau - ty,  
 peace; all who are thirst - y for peace, for jus - tice,



come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.  
 come: come to the Wa - ter of life.

*God Loved the World, ELW 323*



1 God loved the world so that he gave his on - ly  
 2 Christ Je - sus is the ground of faith, who was made  
 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your  
 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son for - gives all  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly



Son the lost to save, that all who would in  
 flesh and suf - fered death; all who con - fide in  
 trou - bled heart can cheer: Christ Je - sus res - cues  
 sins that you have done, and jus - ti - fied by  
 Spir - it, Three in One! To you, O bless - ed



him be - lieve should ev - er - last - ing life re - ceive.  
 Christ a - lone are built on this chief cor - ner - stone.  
 us from death; that is the firm - est ground of faith.  
 Je - sus' blood, your bap - tism grants the high - est good.  
 Trin - i - ty, be praise now and e - ter - nal - ly!

*Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth, ELW 735*



1 Moth - er - ing God, you gave me birth in the bright  
2 Moth - er - ing Christ, you took my form, of - fer - ing  
3 Moth - er - ing Spir - it, nur - t'ring one, in arms of



morn - ing of this world. Cre - a - tor, source of ev - 'ry  
me your food of light, grain . . . of life, and grape of  
pa - tience hold me close, so that in faith I root and



breath, you are my rain, my wind, my sun.  
love, your ver - y bod - y for my peace.  
grow un - til I flow'r, un - til I know.

*Blessed Assurance, ELW 638*



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood.  
an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love.  
watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

*Refrain*



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

## **Introduction to the day:**

*During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.*

The eternal candle for the month of March  
is sponsored by the Moessner family,  
*In memory of David Moessner...*

Today's altar flowers are given by the Bortner families,  
*In celebration of Madeline Bortner's eighth birthday...*

Texts and music of liturgy: Copyright Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB130973; Permission to reprint, podcast, and / or stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE with license #A-723531. All rights reserved. CCLI Copyright License 20449972 Size B and CCLI Active Streaming License 20449989 Size B. All rights reserved. Liturgy adapted from writings by Thom Shumer and liturgies from "Sundays and Seasons"

## **Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's**

Pastor Stephen Bohannon [sbohannon@stmatthewsva.org](mailto:sbohannon@stmatthewsva.org)  
Director of Music: Kathy Lundgren [klundgren@stmatthewsva.org](mailto:klundgren@stmatthewsva.org)  
Organist: Melvin Goodwyn [organist@stmatthewsva.org](mailto:organist@stmatthewsva.org)  
Administrative Assistant: Patti Hinson [stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org](mailto:stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org)  
Congregation Council President: Cindy Schmitt [councilpresident@stmatthewsva.org](mailto:councilpresident@stmatthewsva.org)  
Lectors: Caroline Leean  
Altar Guild: Barbara Leiby, Kathy Meier  
Tech Volunteers: Tom Meier, Rob Mouw, Dave Strand  
Ushers: Dave Carr, Mark Victorson

### **2026 Congregation Council Members:**

Cindy Schmitt, President  
Vince Amato, Evangelism Committee Chair  
Sabrina Chandler, Fellowship Committee Chair  
Hal Deadman, Property Committee Chair  
Joshua Gaetano, Day School Committee Chair  
Isora Heckel, Worship & Music Committee Chair  
Bill Quinn, Social Ministry Committee Chair  
Amy Stone, Christian Education Committee Chair  
Dave Strand, Finance & Stewardship Committee Chair  
Pat Hartline, Finance Secretary  
Darryl Lundgren, Treasurer

## Coming up at St. Matthew's

- Our midweek Evening Prayer services continue each Wednesday through Lent—the services are at 7:00PM with a soup supper before the service at 6:00PM. Please sign up on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius if you'd like to bring bread or soup. During Lent, our midweek offerings will be going to Hope 4 Kids, an organization supporting children in Namibia.
- On March 29<sup>th</sup> at 2:30PM the St. Matthew's Book Group will discuss *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir.
- Mark your calendars: We will have Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday the first week of April at 7:00PM, and our Easter Sunday Services will be held at 6:30AM and 10:00AM this year.

**For more upcoming events and announcements,  
please visit [www.stmatthewsva.org](http://www.stmatthewsva.org).**

**Use the QR code below to access the St. Matthew's calendar.**

