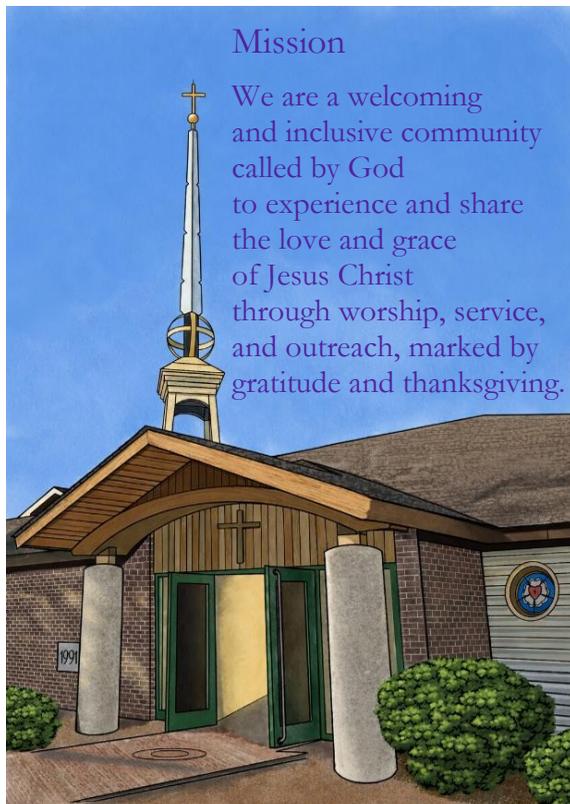


MIDWEEK WORSHIP IN LENT

MARCH 11, 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 THREE – LOVE AND GRACE

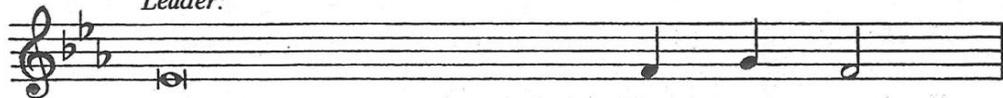
EVENING PRAYER

Vespers

OPENING

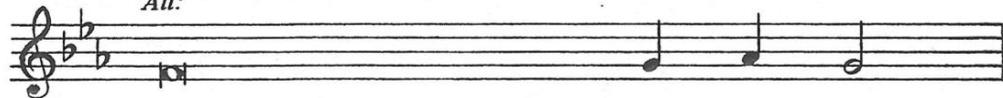
The assembly stands. A dialogue accompanies the procession. The assembly responds to the leader.

Leader:



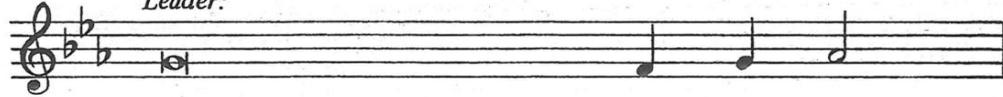
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

All:



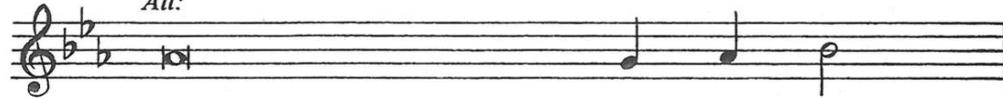
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

Leader:



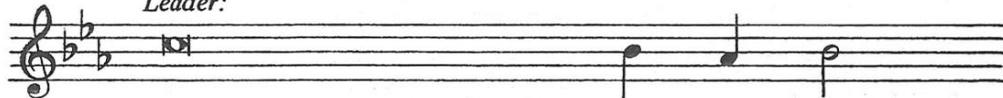
Stay with us now, for it is evening,

All:



and the day is al - most over.

Leader:



Let your light scat - ter the darkness,

All:



and shine within your peo-ple here. —

2 poco rit.

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



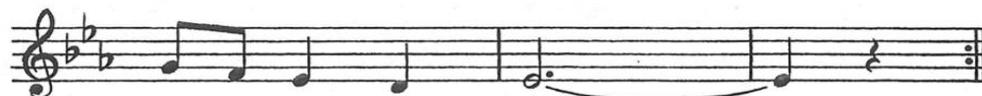
sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



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



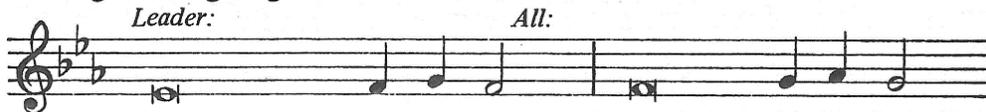
you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



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

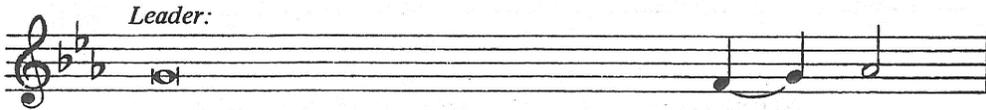
Evening Thanksgiving

Leader: *All:*



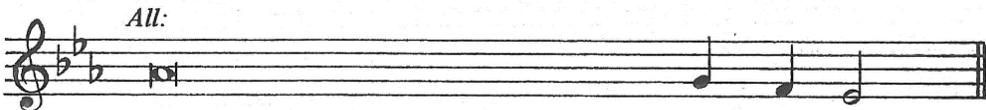
May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

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

Isaiah 43:1-7

L: A reading from Isaiah.

But now thus says the Lord, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you, and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you. For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior. I give Egypt as your ransom, Cush and Seba in exchange for you. Because you are precious in my sight and honored and I love you, I give people in return for you, nations in exchange for your life. Do not fear, for I am with you; I will bring your offspring from the east, and from the west I will gather you; I will say to the north, "Give them up," and to the south, "Do not withhold; bring my sons from far away and my daughters from the end of the earth—everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

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

Mark 10:13-27

P: The Gospel according to St. Mark. **C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

People were bringing children to him in order that he might touch them, and the disciples spoke sternly to them. But when Jesus saw this, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs. Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it." And he took them up in his arms, laid his hands on them, and blessed them.

As he was setting out on a journey, a man ran up and knelt before him and asked him, "Good Teacher, what must I do to inherit eternal life?" Jesus said to him, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments: 'You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness. You shall not defraud. Honor your father and mother.' " He said to him, "Teacher, I have kept all these since my youth." Jesus, looking at him, loved him and said, "You lack one thing; go, sell what you own, and give the money to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; then come, follow me." When he heard this, he was shocked and went away grieving, for he had many possessions.

Then Jesus looked around and said to his disciples, "How hard it will be for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!" And the disciples were perplexed at these words. But Jesus said to them again, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is rich to enter the kingdom of God." They were greatly astounded and said to one another, "Then who can be saved?" Jesus looked at them and said, "For mortals it is impossible, but not for God; for God all things are possible."

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

The assembly sits.

MEDITATION

“Love & Grace”

Pastor Stephen Bohannon

HYMN

That Priceless Grace

ELW 591



1 That price-less grace, that price-less grace, that price-less
2 That price-less blood, that price-less blood, that price-less
3 That pain-ful death, that pain-ful death, that pain-ful
4 That pre-cious word, that pre-cious word, that pre-cious



grace, which gave me life: Je - sus' life is price-less grace.
blood was shed for me: Je - sus' blood is price-less grace.
death took sins a - way: Je - sus' death is price-less grace.
word, which brought me light: Je - sus' word is price-less grace.



That price - less grace is life for me.

Text: Emmanuel F. Y. Grantson, b. 1949
Music: THAT PRICELESS GRACE, Ghanaian traditional
Text © 1999 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

Leader: The Light shines in the darkness

All: and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Annunciation

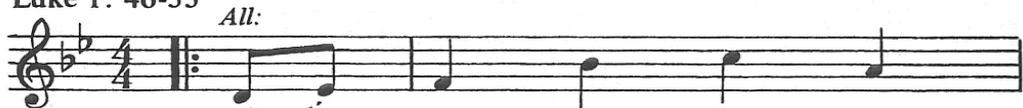
Luke 1: 26-28, 30-32, 38

Leader: An angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God Most High." And Mary said, "I am the servant of my God, I live to do your will."
(immediately to "The Magnificat")

The Magnificat

Luke 1: 46-55

All:



1.3. My ——— soul pro - claims your
2. You have cast the might - y



great-ness, O God, and my spir - it re-joic - es in
down from their thrones, and up lift - ed the hum - ble of

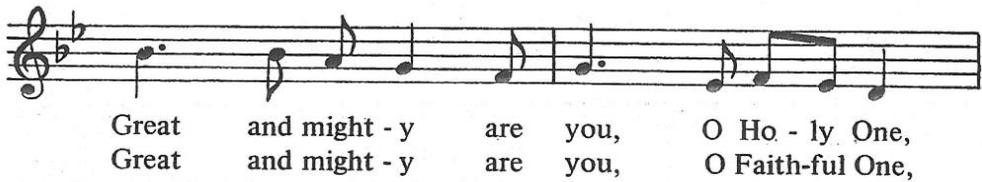


you,
heart, You have looked with love on your
You have filled the hun - gry with

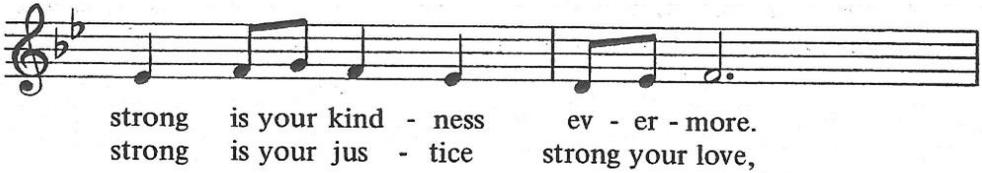


ser-vant here, and blessed me all my life through.
won-drous things, and left the wealth-y no part.

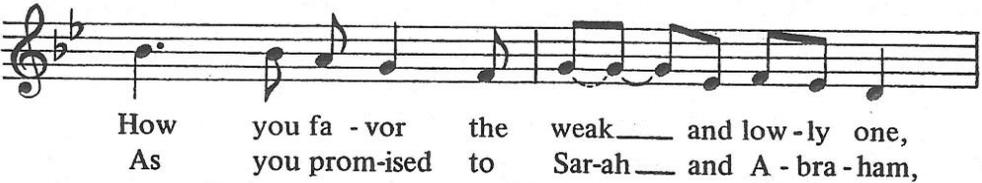
fine last time



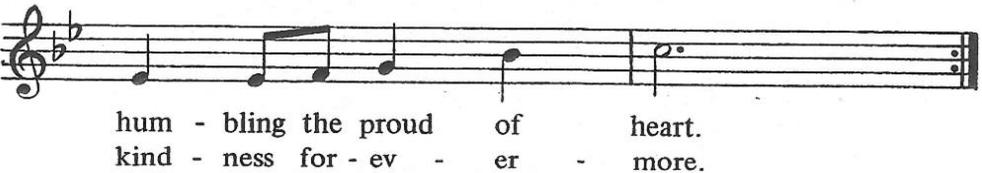
Great and might - y are you, O Ho - ly One,
Great and might - y are you, O Faith - ful One,



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.

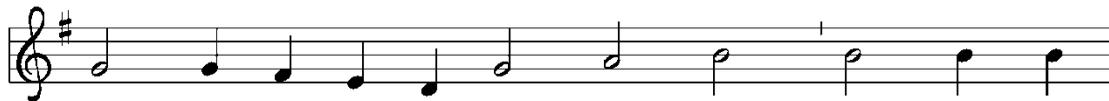
*Lenten offerings are designated to fulfill mission directives not contained within our congregation's spending plan. Our special Lenten offerings will be given to **Hope 4 Kids**. "For over 50 years, we have been committed to serving children living in impoverished environments around the world by establishing 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.

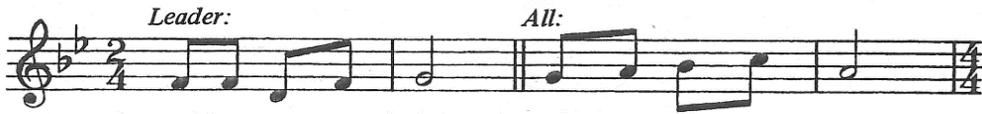
Leader: God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

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

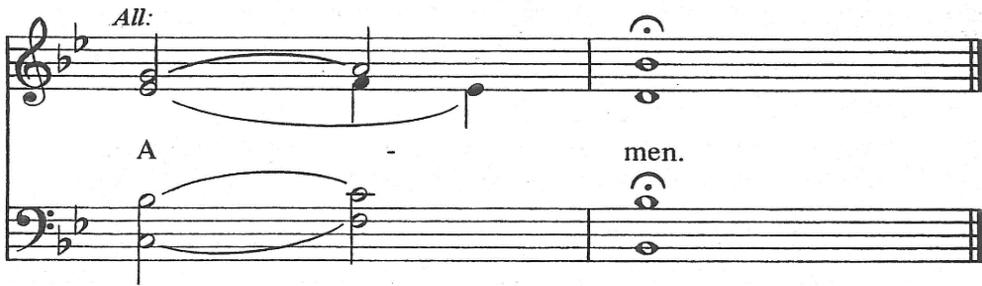


Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days. _____

All:



A - men.

Leader: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.