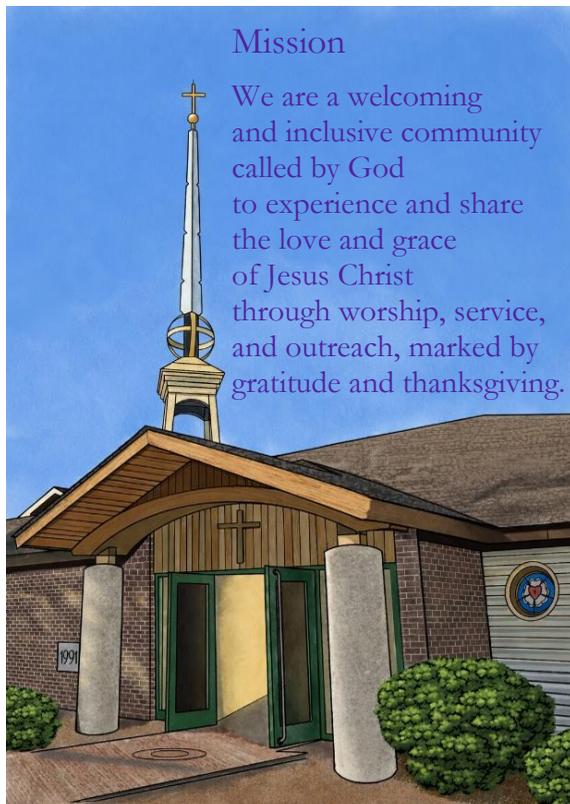


# MIDWEEK WORSHIP IN LENT

## MARCH 18, 2026



### ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

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Sunday School.....9:00AM

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

# WEEK FOUR – THANKFUL HEARTS

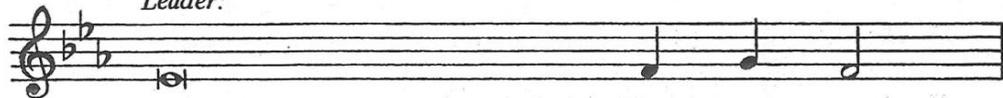
## EVENING PRAYER

*Vespers*

### OPENING

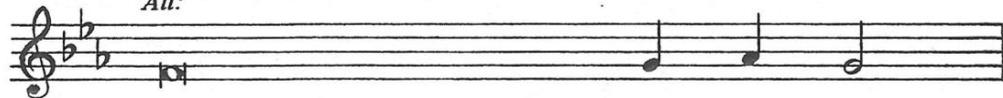
*The assembly stands. A dialogue accompanies the procession. The assembly responds to the leader.*

*Leader:*



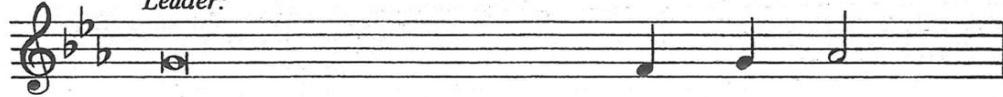
Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world;

*All:*



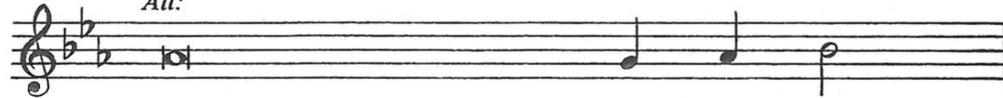
the light no darkness can o - ver - come;

*Leader:*



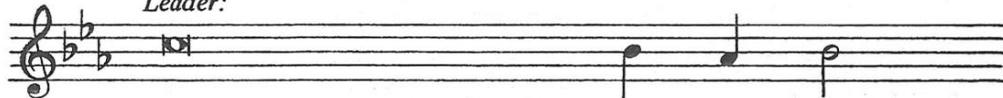
Stay with us now, for it is evening,

*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



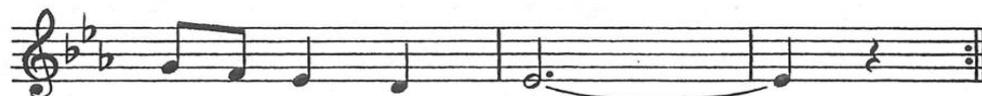
sto - ry, shine on ev 'ry land and race. Now as  
wis - dom, we can hear your qui - et song. Love that  
jus - tice, let us each re - flect your light. Might - y



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



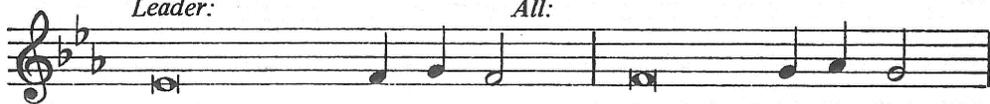
you, God of day - break, God of shad - ows, come and  
soul, Love that bursts all chains a - sun - der, set us  
way, Lov - ing Spir - it of sal - va - tion, lead us



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

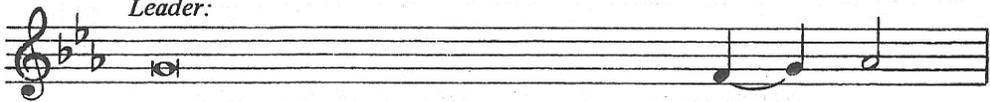
## Evening Thanksgiving

*Leader:* *All:*



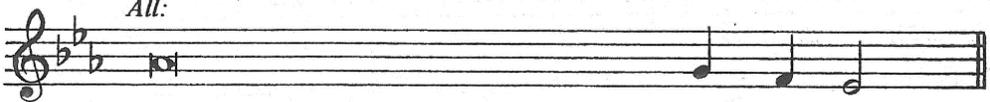
May God be with you all, and al - so with you;

*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

Ezra 3:10-13

L: A reading from Ezra.

When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the Lord, the priests in their vestments were stationed to praise the Lord with trumpets, and the Levites, the sons of Asaph, with cymbals, according to the directions of King David of Israel; and they sang responsively, praising and giving thanks to the Lord, “For he is good, for his steadfast love endures forever toward Israel.” And all the people responded with a great shout when they praised the Lord because the foundation of the house of the Lord had been laid. But many of the priests and Levites and heads of families, old people who had seen the first house on its foundations, wept with a loud voice when they saw this house, though many shouted aloud for joy, so that the people could not distinguish the sound of the joyful shout from the sound of the people’s weeping, for the people shouted so loudly that the sound was heard far away.

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: What shall I return to the Lord for all his bounty to me?

**C: I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord;**

P: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people.

**C: Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his faithful ones.**

P: O Lord, I am your servant; I am your servant, the child of your serving girl. You have loosed my bonds.

**C: I will offer to you a thanksgiving sacrifice and call on the name of the Lord.**

P: I will pay my vows to the Lord in the presence of all his people,

**C: in the courts of the house of the Lord, in your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord!**

*The assembly stands.*

**HOLY GOSPEL**

Mark 10:13-27

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

On the way to Jerusalem Jesus was going through the region between Samaria and Galilee. As he entered a village, ten men with a skin disease approached him. Keeping their distance, they called out, saying, "Jesus, Master, have mercy on us!" When he saw them, he said to them, "Go and show yourselves to the priests." And as they went, they were made clean. Then one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, praising God with a loud voice. He prostrated himself at Jesus's feet and thanked him. And he was a Samaritan. Then Jesus asked, "Were not ten made clean? So where are the other nine? Did none of them return to give glory to God except this foreigner?" Then he said to him, "Get up and go on your way; your faith has made you well."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

*The assembly sits.*

**MEDITATION**

***"Thankful Hearts"***

Pastor Stephen Bohannon



1 In a deep, un - bound - ed dark - ness, long be - fore the  
 2 Though our world is ev - er - chang - ing, you are con - stant,  
 3 Joy trans - forms our lips to boast - ing on - ly in your



first light shone, you, O God, be - yond all mer - it  
 firm, and sure, faith - ful to your cov - 'nant prom - ise.  
 match - less grace, send - ing Christ to dwell a - mong us,



worked a won - der faith makes known: in your mer - cy,  
 Trust - ing you, we live, se - cure: sing - ing prais - es,  
 Word made flesh in time and space: Friend and Sav - ior,



in your mer - cy, you em - braced us  
 sing - ing prais - es, long as heart and  
 Friend and Sav - ior, in whose life we



as your own,  
 breath en - dure, ev - er - more and ev - er - more.  
 glimpse your face,

*Leader:* The Light shines in the darkness

*All:* and the darkness has not overcome it.

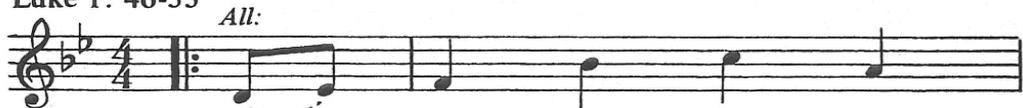
### The Annunciation

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



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.

Great and mighty are you, O Ho - ly One,  
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful 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.

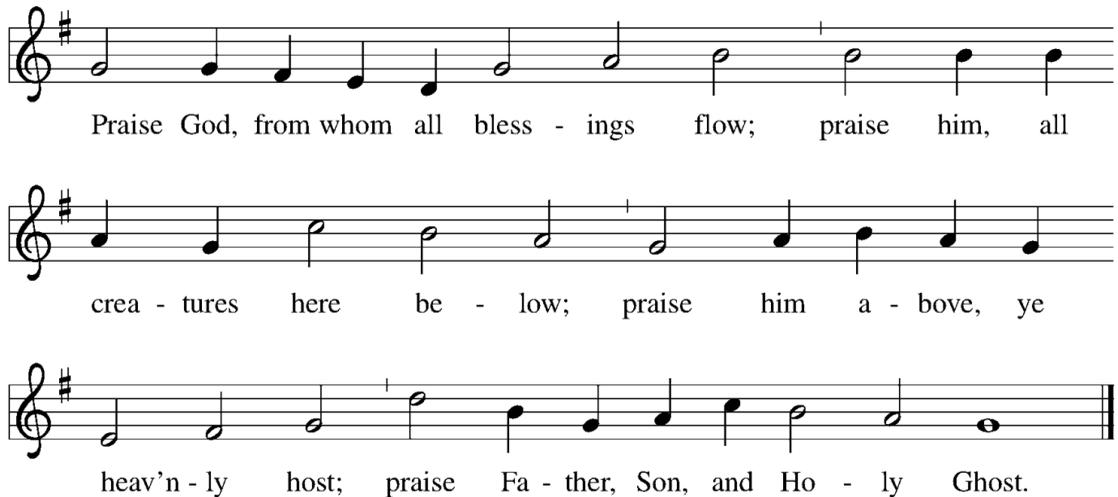
*Lenten offerings are designated to fulfill mission directives not contained within our congregation's spending plan. Our special Lenten offerings will be given to **Hope 4 Kids**. "For over 50 years, we have been committed to serving children living in impoverished environments around the world by establishing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

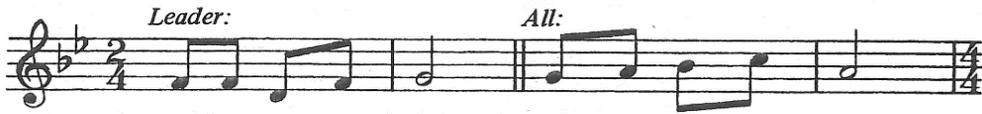
*Leader:* God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

*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

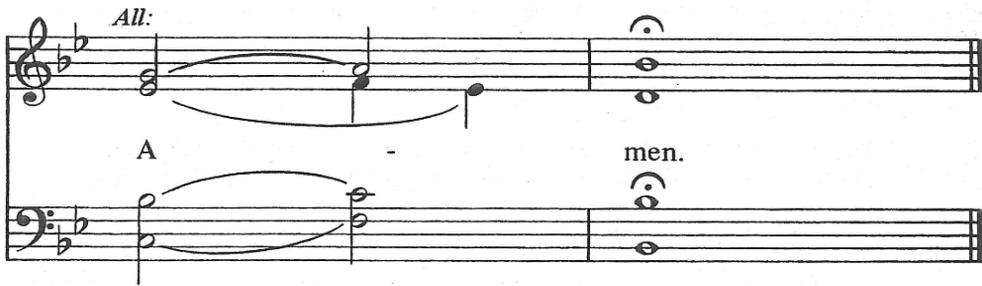


Spir - it of Love be our guide and path, for



all of our days. \_\_\_\_\_

*All:*



A - men.

*Leader:* Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.

*All:* Thanks be to God.