

Welcome to Worship
at:
Whitnall Park Lutheran Church



First Sunday
of Lent
February 22nd, 2026

Pastor Michael Fazio is presiding.

We have come together today as members and guests to worship God and celebrate new life in Jesus Christ. We hope our worship will be uplifting and provide a source of hope and strength for the week ahead. Please sign our Guest Register and introduce yourself as you leave worship today.

If you believe that the Lord is truly present for us in the Sacrament in body and blood for the forgiveness of sin, you are welcome to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

**LENTEN WORSHIP WILL BEGIN WITH A PERIOD OF SILENT MEDITATION
DURING THE RINGING OF THE SINGING BOWL**

CALL TO WORSHIP 780 *Shepherd me, O God vs 1*

Refrain (sung by all)

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

God is my shepherd, so nothing shall I want, I rest in the meadows of
faithfulness and love, I walk by the quiet waters of peace.

Refrain (sung by all)

**Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the minister begins.

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, † one God, who brings us out of captivity into
freedom, out of the wilderness into the promised land, out of death into life.

C: Amen.

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

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

**C: We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and
deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. Forgive
us and give us strength to turn from sin and to serve you in newness
of life. Amen.**

P: By water and the Holy Spirit, God gives us a new birth, and through the
death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God forgives us all our sins. Almighty
God strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

C: Amen.

ENTRANCE HYMN *320 The Glory of These Forty Days*

- 1 The glory of these forty days we celebrate with songs of praise; for Christ, through whom all things weremade, himself has fasted and has prayed.
- 2 Alone and fasting Moses saw the loving God who gave the law; and to Elijah, fasting, came the steeds and chariots of flame.
- 3 So Daniel trained his mystic sight, delivered from the lions' might; and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became the herald of Messiah's name.
- 4 Then grant, O God, that we may, too, return in fast and prayer to you. Our spirits strengthen with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.

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 *ELW 151*

Lord, . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . have
mer - cy. Christ, . . . have mer - cy.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING *a reading from Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7*

Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent's promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.

¹⁵ The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. ¹⁶ And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden, ¹⁷ 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." ^{3:1} 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'?" ² The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³ 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.' "⁴ But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die, ⁵ for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶ 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. ⁷ 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. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD. (Ps. 32:10)

¹ Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!

² **Happy are they to whom the LORD imputes no guilt, and in whose spirit there is no guile!**

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

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

⁵ 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.

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

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

⁸ "I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go; I will guide you with my eye.

⁹ 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."

¹⁰ Great are the tribulations of the wicked; but mercy embraces those who trust in the LORD.

¹¹ Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the LORD; shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

SECOND READING *a reading from Romans 5:12-19*

Through Adam's disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ's obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

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

¹⁴ 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. ¹⁵ 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. ¹⁶ 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. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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. ¹⁹ 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.

This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *ELW Setting 10 Pg 205*

**We are turning, Lord, to hear you; you are merciful and kind,
Slow to anger, rich in blessing, and with love to us inclined.**

GOSPEL

P: The Holy Gospel according to ***Matthew 4:1-11***

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil.

² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The

tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, 'One

does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.' "

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ 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.' "

⁷ Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' "

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and

serve only him.' "¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him. This is the Holy Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 325 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

- 1 I want Jesus to walk with me; I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me; in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.
- 3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me; when I'm in trouble,
Lord, walk with me; when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

NICENE CREED

We believe in one God,

**the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,

**the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God,
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary,
and was made man.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.**

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

**We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

**ELW 754 *Jesus,*
The Very Thought
*of You Vs 1***



1 Je - sus, the ver - y thought of you fills us with sweet de - light;



but sweet-er far your face to view and rest with - in your light.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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

a brief silence.

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 speak the truth. 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.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: 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.

P: 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.

ELW 754 JESUS, THE VERY THOUGHT OF YOU VS 3

3 O Hope of ev - 'ry con - trite soul, O Joy of all the meek,
how kind you are to those who fall! How good to those who seek!

PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

OFFERING/OFFERATORY HYMN *616 Jesus Remember Me*

Jesus remember me, when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus remember me, when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus remember me, when you come into your Kingdom.

Jesus remember me, when you come into your Kingdom.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Let us pray . . .

C: God our provider, you have not fed us with bread alone, but with words of grace and life. Bless us and these your gifts, which we receive from your bounty, through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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.

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy . . . we praise
your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY *ELW 190*

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,

Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, Lord of heaven and earth.

In mercy for our fallen world you gave your only Son, that all those who believe in him shall not perish, but have eternal life. We give thanks to you for the salvation you have prepared for us through Jesus Christ.

Send now your Holy Spirit into our hearts that we may receive our Lord with a living faith as he comes to us in his holy supper.

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 all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

With your holy ones of all times and places, we praise you, O God, blessed and Holy Trinity, now and forever.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,

forever and ever. Amen.

COMMUNION

THE BODY OF CHRIST, GIVEN FOR YOU. THE BLOOD OF CHRIST, SHED FOR YOU.

As we accept the Lord's gift of His body and blood, we will receive Him in our prefilled cups containing the wafer and juice or by intinction in the fullness of faith that God's love and grace have been poured into these holy elements. We receive the Lord and share in this holy meal at the same time; One Body, One Mind, One Lord Jesus Christ. This is God's precious gift for you.

COMMUNION SONG *Pg146 Setting 3 Lamb of God*

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;
grant us peace, grant us peace.

COMMUNION HYMNS *599 Lord Jesus, Think On Me* *592 Just As I Am, Without One Plea*

COMMUNION BLESSING

P: 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 . . . Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of 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.

BLESSING

P: The God who formed us in love, who renews us through grace, and who transforms us into glory, ☩ bless you this day and always.

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN *624 Jesus, Still Lead On*

- 1 Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;
and, although the way be cheerless, we will follow, calm and fearless;
guide us by your hand to the promised land.
- 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near,
let no faithless fears o'er take us, let not faith and hope forsake us;
safely past the foe to our home we go.
- 3 When we seek relief from a long-felt grief,
when temptations come alluring make us patient and enduring;
show us that bright shore where we weep no more.
- 4 Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won;
heav'nly leader, still direct us, still support, console, protect us,
till we safely stand in the promised land.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: Thanks be to God.

