

WELCOME TO WORSHIP
AT
WHITNALL PARK LUTHERAN CHURCH
MARCH 1, 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.

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 OUR HANDBELL CHOIR

CALL TO WORSHIP 780 *Shepherd me, O God vs 2*

**Refrain (sung by all) Shepherd me, O God, beyond my wants,
beyond my fears, from death into life.**

Gently you raise me and heal my weary soul, you lead me by pathways of righteousness and truth my spirit shall sing the music of your name.

**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 666 *What Wondrous Love Is This*

- 1 What wondrous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What wondrous love is this, O my soul! What wondrous love is this that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dreadful curse for my soul, or my soul, to bear the dreadful curse for my soul?
- 2 When I was sinking down, sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down, sinking down, when I was sinking down beneath God's righteous frown, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul, for my soul, Christ laid aside his crown for my soul.

- 3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing, I will sing, while millions join the theme, I will sing.
- 4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free, I'll sing God's love for me, and through eternity I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and through eternity I'll sing on.

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: 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.**

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

FIRST READING *a reading from Genesis 12:1-4a*

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

¹ 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. ² 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. ³ 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." ^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. (Ps. 121:1, 2)

¹ I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

² **My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³ The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴ **Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵ the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶ **the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷ The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸ **The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING a reading from Romans 4:1-5, 13-17

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

¹ What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh?

² For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³ For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." ⁴ Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned

as a gift but as something due. ⁵ But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness. ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For if it is the adherents

of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵ For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression. ¹⁶ 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,¹⁷ 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. 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 *John 3:1-17*

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² 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." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ 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?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ 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." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things? ¹¹ "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. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ "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. ¹⁷ "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." This is the Gospel of Our Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY 323 *God Loved the World*

- 1 God loved the world so that he gave his only Son the lost to save, that all who would in him believe should everlasting life receive.
- 2 Christ Jesus is the ground of faith, who was made flesh and suffered death; all who confide in Christ alone are built on this chief cornerstone.
- 3 If you are ill, if death draws near, this truth your troubled heart can cheer: Christ Jesus rescues us from death; that is the firmest ground of faith.
- 4 Be of good cheer, for God's own Son forgives all sins that you have done, and justified by Jesus' blood, your baptism grants the highest good.
- 5 All glory to the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Three in One!
To you, O blessed Trinity, be praise now and eternally!

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: Faithful One, you renew us by grace. As you have inspired faith through the work of church artists and hymnwriters throughout the ages, give your church the means to praise your beauty today. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Living One, you delight in this world. The sun and moon, the wind and the water declare your goodness. Preserve this earth, and protect conservationists, scientists, and all who labor in service to creation. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Ruling One, you bless us to be a blessing. Open the hearts of all leaders to seek the flourishing of every person and lend your help to all who wait for justice, deliverance, and peace. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

A: Guiding One, you watch over our going out and coming in. Bless newcomers and new members in this assembly and all who worship your Name. Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

P: Compassionate One, you send your Son to save. Declare your word of acceptance to any who feel estranged. Tend to all who are struggling with illness or loss Hear us, O God.

C: Your mercy is great.

P: Eternal One, you neither slumber nor sleep. Be our keeper in life and in death. Thank you for our beloved who have died, and for your promise which saves this whole world by your love. 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 pre-filled cups containing the wafer and juice or at the rail in the fullness of faith that God's love and grace have been poured into these holy elements.

We receive the Lord in our seats 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

*451 We Are Baptized In Christ Jesus
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: Let us pray . . . 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 638 *Blessed Assurance*

- 1 Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain

This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior, all the day long:
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

- 2 Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

Refrain

- 3 Perfect submission, all is at rest; I in my Savior am happy and blest,
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

Refrain

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Christ is with you!

C: **Thanks be to God.**

