

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 15, 2026

10 AM



SAINT MARTIN'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Annapolis, Maryland

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS - Pastor

(Please stand as you are able)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS - Pastor

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

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

1 John 1:8

To you, O God,

all hearts are open, to you all desires known. We come to you, confessing our sins. Forgive us in your mercy, and remember us in your love. Show us your ways; teach us your paths; and lead us in justice and truth, for the sake of your goodness in Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

By water and the Holy Spirit God gives you a new birth, and through the death and resurrection of † Jesus Christ, God forgives you all your sins. The God of mercy and might strengthen you in all goodness and keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

GATHERING HYMN

O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate

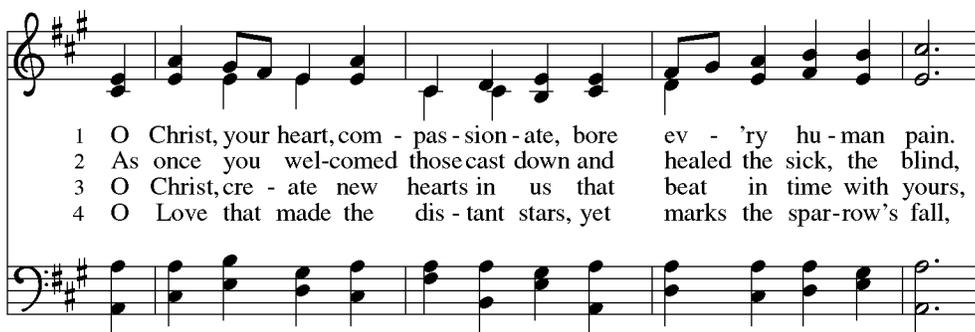
ELW 722

2 Corinthians
13:13-14

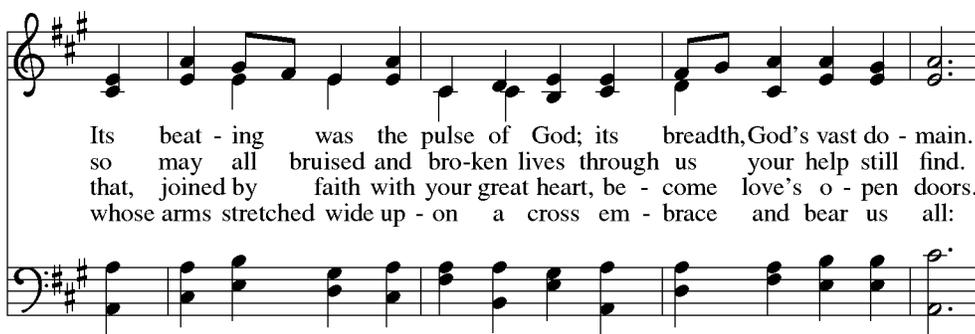
GREETING - Pastor

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

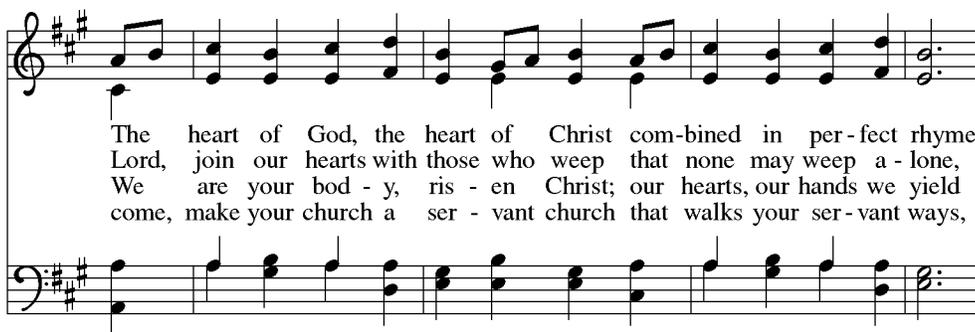
O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate



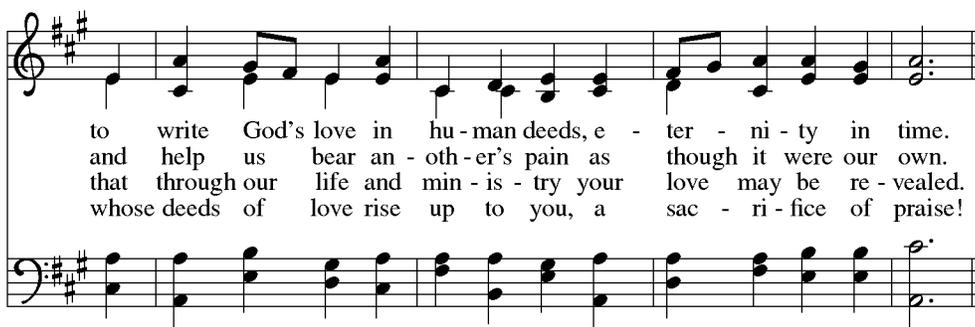
1 O Christ, your heart, com - pas - sion - ate, bore ev - 'ry hu - man pain.
 2 As once you wel - comed those cast down and healed the sick, the blind,
 3 O Christ, cre - ate new hearts in us that beat in time with yours,
 4 O Love that made the dis - tant stars, yet marks the spar - row's fall,



Its beat - ing was the pulse of God; its breadth, God's vast do - main.
 so may all bruised and bro - ken lives through us your help still find.
 that, joined by faith with your great heart, be - come love's o - pen doors.
 whose arms stretched wide up - on a cross em - brace and bear us all:



The heart of God, the heart of Christ com - bined in per - fect rhyme
 Lord, join our hearts with those who weep that none may weep a - lone,
 We are your bod - y, ris - en Christ; our hearts, our hands we yield
 come, make your church a ser - vant church that walks your ser - vant ways,



to write God's love in hu - man deeds, e - ter - ni - ty in time.
 and help us bear an - oth - er's pain as though it were our own.
 that through our life and min - is - try your love may be re - vealed.
 whose deeds of love rise up to you, a sac - ri - fice of praise!

The Kyrie is an ancient chant to begin Christian worship.

Kyrie eleison means Lord, have mercy.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



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.



For this ho-ly house, and for all who of-fer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord.



A - men.

This prayer "collects" the theme of the day.

PRAYER OF THE DAY - Assisting Minister

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.** (Please be seated)

This reading bears witness to the early church.

THE SECOND LESSON - *Lector*

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, ⁹ for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. ¹⁰ Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹ Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. ¹² For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, ¹³ but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, ¹⁴ for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Please stand as you are able)

We acclaim the living Word, Jesus Christ, present in the gospel reading.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION & PROCESSION

(The Gospel is read from the icon depicting the text for the day)

John 6:68



Glo - ry and praise to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

THE GOSPEL LESSON - *Pastor*

John 9:1-41

The Gospel of our Lord, Jesus Christ according to John the ninth chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" ³Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, ⁷saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. ⁸The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" ⁹Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am he." ¹⁰But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" ¹¹He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." ¹²They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know." ¹³They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. ¹⁴Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. ¹⁵Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." ¹⁶Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. ¹⁷So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet." ¹⁸The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight ¹⁹and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" ²⁰His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, ²¹but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." ²²His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. ²³Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." ²⁵He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." ²⁶They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" ²⁷He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not

listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?"²⁸ Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses."²⁹ We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."³⁰ The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes."³¹ We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will.³² Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind.³³ If this man were not from God, he could do nothing."³⁴ They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.³⁵ Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"³⁶ He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him."³⁷ Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he."³⁸ He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.³⁹ Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind."⁴⁰ Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?"⁴¹ Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains."

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

(Please be seated)

"Viva Vox," the Living Word of God interpreted. (Romans 10:14-17)

SERMON - Pastor

HYMN OF THE DAY **Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound** **ELW 779**

(Please stand as you are able)

Ancient church councils adopted the summary of the church's faith in the Nicene, Apostles' and Athanasian Creeds.

CONFESSION OF FAITH - Assisting Minister

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.

We pray for ourselves and particularly on behalf of others. (1 Timothy 2:1-2; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Acts 2:42)

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH - Assisting Minister

To the words "Hear us, O God," the congregation responds "**Your mercy is great.**"

Extending God's word of peace to others. (Romans 16:16; Matthew 5:23-24)

SHARING OF THE PEACE - Pastor

THE OFFERING *(Please be seated)*

We thank you for your generosity and support! We are blessed to return thanks to God through our offerings to support the work of the Church in the world. Ushers will bring the plates to those worshipping in person this day. For those worshipping online you may give electronically or by way of US Mail. Your gifts enable our day to day operational budget, our missions, and the care of those in need. Please visit www.stmartinsannapolis.org/giving or by scanning the QR Code here:

*1 Corinthians 16:1-2
2 Corinthians 9:7-9*



Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

1 A - maz - ing grace!— how sweet the sound— that
 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and
 3 Through man - y dan - gers, toils, and snares I
 4 The Lord has prom - ised good to me; his
 5 When we've been there ten thou - sand years, bright

saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but
 grace my fears re - lieved; how pre - cious did that
 have al - read - y come; 'tis grace has brought me
 word my hope se - cures; he will my shield and
 shin - ing as the sun, we've no less days to

now am found; was blind, but now I see.
 grace ap - pear the hour I first be - lieved!
 safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
 por - tion be as long as life en - dures.
 sing God's praise than when we'd first be - gun.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt., sts. 1–4; anonymous, st. 5
 Music: NEW BRITAIN, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835; arr. Edwin O. Excell, 1851–1921, alt.

OFFERTORY

Create in Me a Clean Heart

ELW 188

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 un - to me the joy of your sal - va - tion,

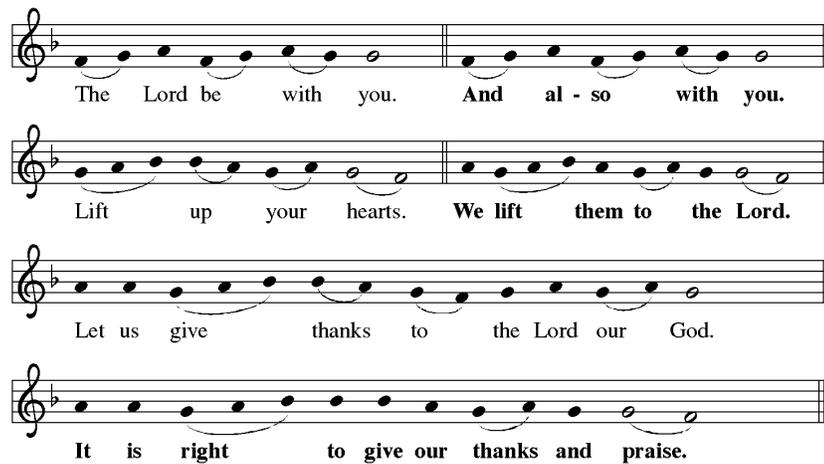
and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

OFFERING PRAYER - Assisting Minister

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. Bless these prayer shawls, that they may comfort with your love and care, through Jesus Christ, our Savior. **Amen.**

Before the Lord's supper is shared, the presiding minister leads us into thanksgiving. (Psalm 15:1)

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING - *Pastor* (Please stand as you are able)



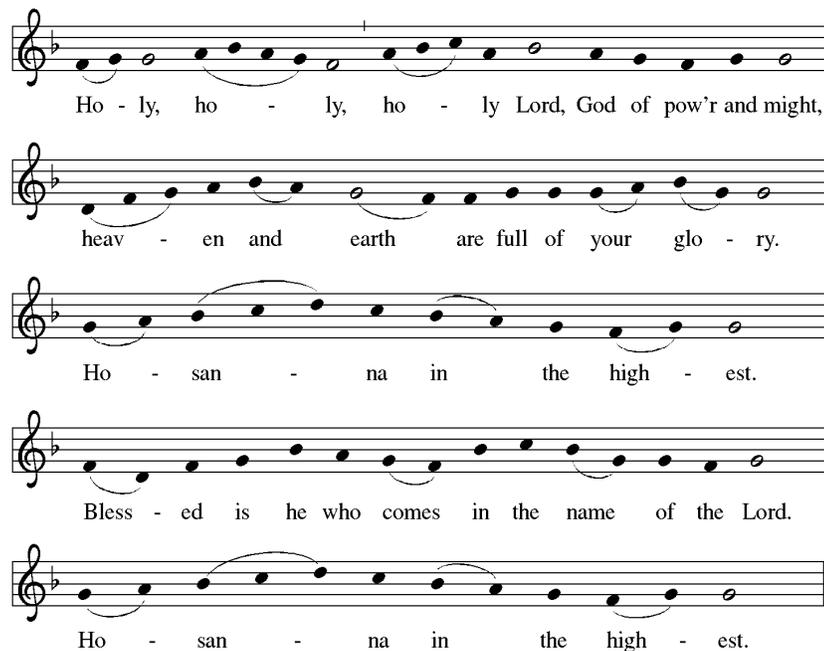
The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE - *Pastor*

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

The Sanctus is the hymn of praise that never ceases before

THE SANCTUS



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 in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In these words—Jesus institutes the sacrament for the church

WORDS OF INSTITUTION - *Pastor*

Matthew 26:26-28;
Luke 22:19-20; 1
Corinthians 11:23-26

Jesus teaches his disciples to pray. (Luke 11:24; Matthew 6:9-13)

THE 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. (Please be seated)

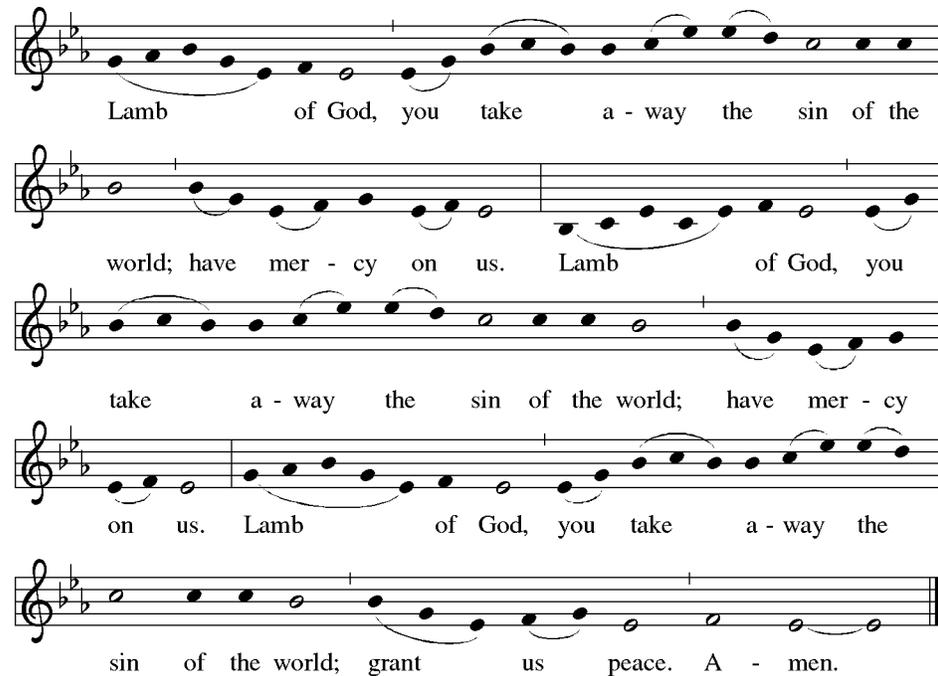
Our invitation to
Christ's Table
(adapted from Iona
Community, Scotland)

INVITATION - Pastor

This is Christ's table. It is a table of love and welcome. It is a table of fellowship with the poor.
It is a table of communion with the earth.
So, come those of you who have great faith and those of you who wish you had more.
Come, those of you who have tried to follow Jesus, and those of you who have failed.
Come, those of you who depend on this sacrament for your life, and those of you for whom it is a
new and strange thing. These are the gifts of God for the people of God. Come!

As John the Baptist
pointed to Jesus, he
said these words.
(John 1:29)

THE AGNUS DEI



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. A - men.

***Blue Communion Cards– Please remember to fill in a blue communion card each week. You can hand your blue communion cards to an usher as you come up for communion.

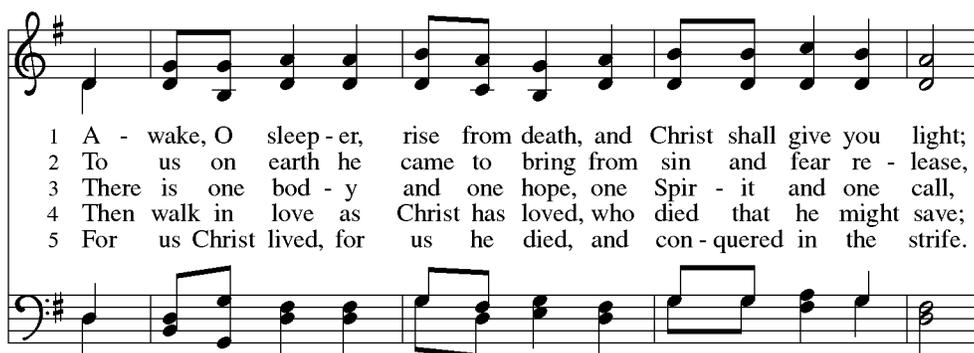
DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION - At the Lord's Table we share in the gift of Jesus' body and blood. Please bring an empty glass from the head of the aisle to receive wine from a pouring cup. Grape juice is available in the pre-filled glasses near the empty ones. If you need a gluten-free option for bread, please indicate that to the person with bread. Peel away communion kits are also available for any who so desire. Blessings will be given to those not yet communing.

COMMUNION HYMNS

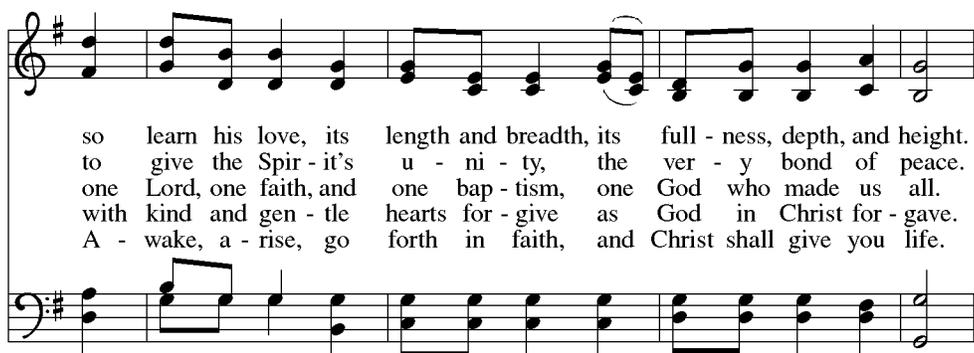
Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death
O God of Mercy, God of Light

ELW 452
ELW 714

Awake, O Sleeper, Rise from Death



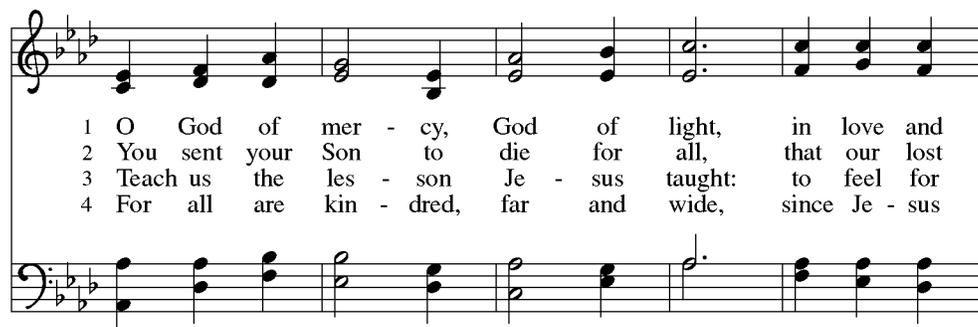
1 A - wake, O sleep - er, rise from death, and Christ shall give you light;
2 To us on earth he came to bring from sin and fear re - lease,
3 There is one bod - y and one hope, one Spir - it and one call,
4 Then walk in love as Christ has loved, who died that he might save;
5 For us Christ lived, for us he died, and con - quered in the strife.



so learn his love, its length and breadth, its full - ness, depth, and height.
to give the Spir - it's u - ni - ty, the ver - y bond of peace.
one Lord, one faith, and one bap - tism, one God who made us all.
with kind and gen - tle hearts for - give as God in Christ for - gave.
A - wake, a - rise, go forth in faith, and Christ shall give you life.

Text: F. Bland Tucker, 1895-1984
Music: AZMON, Carl G. Gläser, 1784-1829
Text © 1980 Augsburg Publishing House, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

O God of Mercy, God of Light



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.

5 In sickness, sorrow, want, or care,
 may we each other's burdens share;
 may we, where help is needed, there
 give help as though to you.

6 And may your Holy Spirit move
 all those who live to live in love,
 till you receive in heav'n above
 all those who live in you.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER - Pastor (*Please stand as you are able*)

The body and blood of our Lord, Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION - Assisting Minister

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. **Amen.**

*A personal blessing
from God in the name
of the Triune God.*

(Numbers 6:24-26)

BENEDICTION - Pastor

Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity:

God, who calls all things into existence,
Jesus Christ, who redeems us,
and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation,
✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

*On our way rejoicing.
(Colossians 3:16;
Philippians 4:4)*

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Be Thou My Vision

ELW 793

*We go forth to bless
the world*

*Luke 7:50;
Romans 10:12-13*

DISMISSAL - Assisting Minister

Go in peace. Believe the Good News.
Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Amazing Grace

- Robert J. Hughes

*All hymns, liturgies, and images are reprinted with
permission:*

ONE LICENSE, License #A-734042

AUGSBURG FORTRESS LITURGIES, Annual License #23533

Be Thou My Vision



1 Be thou my vi - sion, O Lord of my heart;
 2 Be thou my wis - dom, and thou my true word;
 3 Rich - es I heed not, nor vain, emp - ty praise,
 4 Light of my soul, af - ter vic - to - ry won,



naught be all else to me, save that thou art:
 I ev - er with thee and thou with me, Lord.
 thou mine in - her - i - tance, now and al - ways:
 may I reach heav - en's joys, O heav - en's Sun!



thou my best thought both by day and by night,
 Thou my soul's shel - ter, and thou my high tow'r,
 thou and thou on - ly, the first in my heart,
 Heart of my own heart, what - ev - er be - fall,



wak - ing or sleep - ing, thy pres - ence my light.
 raise thou me heav'n - ward, O Pow'r of my pow'r.
 great God of heav - en, my trea - sure thou art.
 still be my vi - sion, O Rul - er of all.

Text: Irish, 8th cent.; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860–1935, alt.; tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1880–1931
 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

Help Imagine the Future of St. Martin's



St. Martin's Lutheran Church is beginning an important season of conversation about the future of our ministry and campus. As we look ahead to the years to come, we want to listen carefully to the hopes, ideas, and dreams of our congregation.

You are invited to a **Vision and Listening Session** where we will begin exploring possibilities together.

This conversation will be guided by **Tom Melzoni**, a consultant from Horizons Stewardship, who will help lead us through a thoughtful discussion about the future of St. Martin's and how our facilities and resources can support the mission God is calling us to.

This gathering is the first step in a broader process that may lead toward a campaign in the near future. At this stage, the focus is on **listening, sharing ideas, and imagining what might be possible together.**

Everyone in the congregation is encouraged to participate. Your voice and perspective matter as we begin this journey.

We will have two opportunities to attend. Each session will be about 90 minutes.

Date: March 19th

Time(s): 2:00pm-3:30pm OR 6:30pm-8:00pm

Location: Fellowship Hall

Come be part of the conversation as we dream about the future of St. Martin's.

Midweek Lenten Services (Noon & Evening Opportunities)

Wednesdays: 2/25, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18, 3/25

Noontime Service

We will gather at noon in the sanctuary for a brief prayer service with reflection. Immediately following the service, you are invited to bring your own lunch and join us in the Fellowship Hall as we eat together in community.

Evening Meal, Bible Study, and Meditation

Each evening, we will gather in a new way, and you are invited to join us for as much (or as little) as you are able.



Schedule:

6:00 pm – Dinner (A lite dinner will be provided each week by one of our church groups.)

6:30 pm – Bible Study (Our Bible study will explore the biblical use of the earthly elements: Air, Fire, Water, and Earth.)

7:30 pm – Meditative Worship (Following Bible study, we will move into a time of meditative worship, with prayer stations and guided prayers centered on the element explored that evening.)

You are welcome to attend any part of the evening, in any week. You do not need to come at the beginning or attend every week. If you can only join us once, that's wonderful. If you can only come for worship, that's great too.

We hope you will join us as we ground ourselves together during this Lenten season.

Serving in Worship Today	
Preacher & Celebrant	Pastor Micah Krey
Director of Music Ministry	Adedotun Olayemi
Media Technician	Sara Wetz
Assisting Minister	Linda Wetz
Communion Assistants	Judy Houston Chaplain Paula Thistle
Lector	Bob Drumm
Ushers	Rosa Ruhf Melisa Steffens Glenn and Martha Hollenbeck
Communion Cleanup	Sandy Ourisson Carolynn Goldberg

Opportunities This Week

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

- 7:00 am** Men's Bible Study
(Double T)
- 12:00 pm** Lent Service (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 pm** Lent Service (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 19, 2026

- 11:30 am** Mid-Day Bible Study
(Double T)
- 2:00 pm** Visioning Session
(Fellowship)
- 6:30 pm** Visioning Session
(Fellowship)

Saturday, March 21, 2026

- 10:00 am** Ladies Book Club
(Lounge)

Sunday, March 22, 2026

- 8:00 am** Worship (Sanctuary)
- 10:00 am** Worship (Sanctuary)

Easter Brunch
Sunday, April 5th
9AM

Join us for fellowship and Easter brunch between services.

Assist us with planning, by signing up below.

QR Code: [QR Code]

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 29TH
8AM AND 10AM

MAUNDY THURSDAY, APRIL 2ND
NOON AND 7PM

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 3RD
NOON AND 7PM

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 5TH
8AM AND 10AM

***EASTER EGG HUNT AND BREAKFAST AT 9AM**