



March 4<sup>th</sup> 2026

Tell Me Something Good, Vespers Service  
6:30 p.m.

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*St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church*

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## CALL TO WORSHIP & OPENING DIALOGUE

Blessed be the Holy Trinity † one God, who journeys with us these forty days, and sustains us with the gift of grace. **Amen.**

If you need good news,

**settle into this space. We have good news to share.**

If you need a word of hope,

**then trust us when we say, there is hope enough to go around.**

If you need a glimmer of joy,

**then you're in luck! We have resilient joy abounding.**

If you need to feel God's presence in your midst,

**then know that this is God's house.**

This is the good news of the gospel.

**God is here. Love is real. Joy is on the move. Let us worship our with-us God!**

## CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Lent is a season that invites us to be intentional. Lent asks us, how will you go deeper? How will you grow closer to God and your neighbor? What will you do to strengthen your faith? Despite our best efforts, that soul-tending work is often easier said than done. So let us come together as we are. Let us share our hopes, concerns, challenges, and joys. Let us embrace God's grace and speak honestly.

**Loving God, you know the desires of our heart and nothing is hidden from you. Forgive us when we fail to trust in you, when we fall into temptation, when we are swayed by false words, and when we speak false words of our own. Be patient, as we amend who we are, in the hope of becoming who you created us to be. In Christ, your beloved son, we pray. Amen.**

Faithful friends, God knows your heart. When you mean well and lose your way, God knows. When you try to do the right thing and miss the point, God knows. When you long to be close to God, and doubt your worth, God knows. You are seen. You are loved. In Christ † you are forgiven. This is the good news of the gospel! Nothing can separate you from God's love.

**Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

# GATHERING HYMN

## All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night



1 All praise to thee, my God, this night for  
2 For - give me, Lord, for thy dear Son, the  
3 Teach me to live, that I may dread the  
4 Oh, may my soul in thee re - pose, and  
5 Praise God, from whom all bless - ings flow; praise



all the bless - ings of the light. Keep me, oh, keep me,  
ill that I this day have done; that with the world, my -  
grave as lit - tle as my bed. Teach me to die, that  
may sweet sleep mine eye - lids close, sleep that shall me more  
God, all crea - tures here be - low; praise God a - bove, ye



King of kings, be - neath thine own al - might - y wings.  
self, and thee, I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.  
so I may rise glo - rious at the awe - some day.  
vig - 'rous make to serve my God when I a - wake!  
heav'n - ly host; praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost.

*\* May be sung in canon.*

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt.

Music: TALLIS' CANON, Thomas Tallis, 1505-1585

## VESPER PRAYER

Redeeming God,

As evening settles around us and the light begins to fade, we come carrying the weight of the day and the fears we rarely name aloud. So tell us something good, O God. Tell us again that we are created and formed by you, called by name, and claimed in love. Tell us again that we belong to you. When we pass through deep waters, be with us. When the current feels strong, hold us fast. When the fires of grief, anxiety, or uncertainty surround us, speak your promise that we will not be overcome. Help us trust that redemption is already at work, that your love goes before us, and that nothing we face tonight lies outside your care. In Christ we pray. **Amen.**

### Spirit, Open My Heart

The musical score is written on three staves in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody consists of quarter and eighth notes, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are printed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The lyrics are: "Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart."

Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of  
liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing  
and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart.

### **Isaiah 43: 1-3**

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. <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> For I am the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.

Word of God. Word of Life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**SERMON**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### My Life Flows On in Endless Song



1 My life flows on in end - less song; a - bove earth's lam-en - ta - tion,  
2 Through all the tu - mult and the strife, I hear that mu - sic ring - ing.  
3 What though my joys and com-forts die? The Lord my Sav-ior liv - eth.  
4 The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart, a foun - tain ev - er spring-ing!



I catch the sweet, though far-off hymn that hails a new cre - a - tion.  
It finds an ech - o in my soul. How can I keep from sing-ing?  
What though the dark - ness gath-er round? Songs in the night he giv - eth.  
All things are mine since I am his! How can I keep from sing-ing?

#### *Refrain*



No storm can shake my in-most calm while to that Rock I'm cling-ing.



Since Christ is Lord of heav-en and earth, how can I keep from sing-ing?

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826-1899

Music: HOW CAN I KEEP FROM SINGING, Robert Lowry, alt.

## **INVITATION TO THE OFFERING**

The God who speaks and summons the earth into being now speaks to us, calling us to offer of ourselves.

<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZEVQ/home>

## ***GIVE THANKS***

**Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One, give thanks because he's given Jesus Christ, his Son. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. And now let the weak say, "I am strong," let the poor say, "I am rich," because of what the Lord has done for us. Give thanks!**

## **OFFERING PRAYER & LORD'S PRAYER**

Gracious God,

Our treasures come only from you. It is only through your goodness, that we have received so much. We came into this life with nothing, and we leave the same way. Guide us, and inspire us, to share ourselves and the resources we have.

Gather us together and teach us to pray as Jesus taught.

**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.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

## Watch, O Lord

Watch, O Lord, with all those a - wake this night,  
watch, O Lord, with all those who weep; give your  
an - gels and saints charge o - ver all who sleep.

All

1 Tend your ail - ing ones:  
2 Soothe your suf - f'ring ones: in your love, Lord.  
3 Hold your griev - ing ones:  
4 Guard your lit - tle ones:

All

Rest your wea - ry ones:  
Heal af - flict - ed ones: in your love, Lord.  
Raise your fall - en ones:  
Guide your search - ing ones:

All *Refrain*

Bless your dy - ing ones:  
Shield your joy - ous ones: in your love, O Lord of all.  
Mend your bro - ken ones:  
Grant us all your peace:

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950, based on a prayer attributed to Augustine

Music: WATCH, O LORD, Marty Haugen

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## **BLESSING**

As you leave this place, when you meet anger, speak with love.

When you meet fear, speak with hope.

When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.

But no matter what, speak this good news.

For the good news of the gospel is love and justice for all.

It is joy that surprises, and nonviolence that transforms.

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world, so go forth speaking.

For if you won't, then who will?

Thanks be to God—Father, † son, and Holy Spirit for this good, good news.

**Amen.**

## **SENDING HYMN**

## I Love to Tell the Story



1 I love to tell the sto - ry of un - seen things a - bove,  
2 I love to tell the sto - ry: how pleas - ant to re - peat  
3 I love to tell the sto - ry, for those who know it best



of Je - sus and his glo - ry, of Je - sus and his love,  
what seems, each time I tell it, more won - der - ful - ly sweet!  
seem hun - ger - ing and thirst - ing to hear it like the rest.



I love to tell the sto - ry, be - cause I know it's true;  
I love to tell the sto - ry, for some have nev - er heard  
And when, in scenes of glo - ry, I sing the new, new song,



it sat - is - fies my long - ings as noth - ing else would do.  
the mes - sage of sal - va - tion from God's own ho - ly word.  
I'll sing the old, old sto - ry that I have loved so long.

### *Refrain*



I love to tell the sto - ry; 'twill be my theme in glo - ry



to tell the old, old sto - ry of Je - sus and his love.

Text: Katherine Hankey, 1834-1911  
Music: HANKEY, William E. Fischer, 1849-1936

## DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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Join us  
during this  
**season**  
of Lent.

