



March 11th 2026
Tell Me Something Good, Vespers Service
6:30 p.m.

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

Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory



1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own
2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
3 You who made the heav-en's splen-dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,
won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all
a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

Text: Greek hymn, 3rd cent., para. Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: JOYOUS LIGHT, Marty Haugen

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VESPER PRAYER

Beautiful Savior,

As evening settles in and the noise of the day grows quiet, we come before you longing to hear something good. The world has taught us how to brace ourselves, how to expect the worst, how to meet cruelty with caution and fear with distance. So speak again your better word. Tell us something good: that love can still be genuine, that goodness is worth holding onto, that hope can be practiced even now. Teach us how to rejoice without ignoring pain, how to be patient in affliction, and how to persevere in prayer when answers come slowly. Shape our hearts to love as you love—to overcome evil with good. As the night deepens, hold us in your peace. Let the beauty of your love steady our spirits and send us out into the world. In Christ we pray. **Amen.**

Spirit, Open My Heart

The musical score is written on three staves in a single system. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 4/4. The melody is written in a soprano clef. 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." The first staff contains the first line of music and lyrics. The second staff contains the second line. The third staff contains the third line and ends with a double bar line.

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.

Romans 12:9-16, 21

⁹ Let love be genuine; hate what is evil; hold fast to what is good; ¹⁰ love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. ¹¹ Do not lag in zeal; be ardent in spirit; serve the Lord. ¹² Rejoice in hope; be patient in affliction; persevere in prayer. ¹³ Contribute to the needs of the saints; pursue hospitality to strangers.

¹⁴ Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. ¹⁵ Rejoice with those who rejoice; weep with those who weep. ¹⁶ Live in harmony with one another; ²¹ Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.

Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

Beautiful Savior



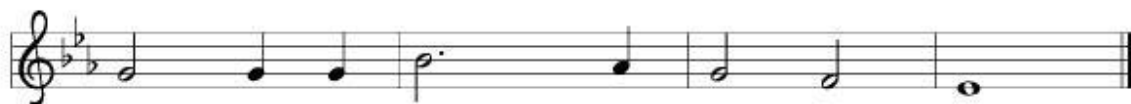
1 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, King of cre - a - tion,
 2 Fair are the mead - ows, fair are the wood - lands,
 3 Fair is the sun - shine, fair is the moon - light,
 4 Beau - ti - ful Sav - ior, Lord of the na - tions,



Son of God and Son of Man!
 robed in flow'rs of bloom - ing spring;
 bright the spar - kling stars on high;
 Son of God and Son of Man!



Tru - ly I'd love thee, tru - ly I'd serve thee,
 Je - sus is fair - er, Je - sus is pur - er,
 Je - sus shines bright - er, Je - sus shines pur - er
 Glo - ry and hon - or, praise, ad - o - ra - tion,



light of my soul, my joy, my crown.
 he makes our sor - rowing spir - it sing.
 than all the an - gels in the sky.
 now and for - ev - er - more be thine!

Text: *Gesangbuch*, Münster, 1677; tr. Joseph A. Seiss, 1823–1904
 Music: SCHONSTER HERR JESU, Silesian folk tune, 19th cent.

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.

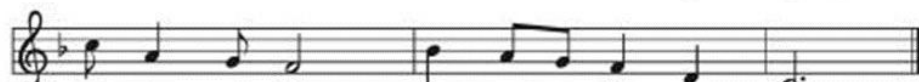
Watch, O Lord



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.



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:



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



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

What Wondrous Love Is This



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt-

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

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.

