



March 25th 2026
Tell Me Something Good, Vespers Service
6:30 p.m.

St. John Immanuel Lutheran Church

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Monday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Thursday 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

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

Keeping God,

When Lent asks us to tell the truth about our brokenness, our sorrow, and our limits—tell us something good. Tell us that you watch, even when we cannot. Tell us that you hold, even when our footing slips. Tell us that the darkness is not stronger than your care. Keep our coming in and our going out. Keep those we love. Keep those we fear for. Keep those who cannot yet believe that anything good remains. Stay awake with us, O God, until morning comes.

Amen.

Spirit, Open My Heart

The image shows a musical score for the hymn "Spirit, Open My Heart". It consists of three staves of music in a single system, all written in a treble clef with a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The melody is simple and hymn-like. The lyrics are written below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The first staff contains the lyrics "Spir-it, o - pen my heart to the joy and pain of". The second staff contains "liv-ing. As you love may I love, in re - ceiv - ing". The third staff contains "and in giv - ing. Spir - it, o - pen my heart." The music 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.

Psalm 121

I lift up my eyes to the hills—from where will my help come? My help comes from God, Creator of heaven and earth. God will not let your foot slip; God who watches over you will not slumber. God who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. God is your keeper; the shade at your right hand. The sun shall not strike you by day nor the moon by night. God will keep you from all evil; and will keep your life. God will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. Word of God. Word of Life.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

How Great Thou Art



1 O Lord my God, when I in awe - some won - der con - sid - er
2 When through the woods and for - est glades I wan - der, I hear the
3 But when I think that God, his Son not spar - ing, sent him to
4 When Christ shall come, with shout of ac - cla - ma - tion, and take me



all the works thy hand hath made, I see the stars, I hear the might - y
birds sing sweet - ly in the trees; when I look down from loft - y moun - tain
die, I scarce can take it in, that on the cross my bur - den glad - ly
home, what joy shall fill my heart! Then I shall bow in hum - ble ad - o -



thun - der, thy pow'r through - out the u - ni - verse dis - played;
gran - deur and hear the brook and feel the gen - tle breeze;
bear - ing he bled and died to take a - way my sin;
ra - tion and there pro - claim, "My God, how great thou art!"

Refrain



Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to thee, how great thou



art! How great thou art! Then sings my soul, my Sav - ior God, to



thee, how great thou art! How great thou art!

Text: Carl G. Boberg, 1859-1940; tr. and adapt. Stuart K. Hine, 1899-1989
Music: O STORE GUD, Swedish folk tune; adapt. Stuart K. Hine
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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-ZEVO/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

This Is My Father's World



1 This is my Fa-ther's world, and to my lis-t'ning ears all
2 This is my Fa-ther's world; the birds their car - ols raise; the
3 This is my Fa-ther's world; oh, let me not for - get that,



na - ture sings, and round me rings the mu - sic of the spheres.
morn - ing light, the lil - y white, de - clare their mak - er's praise.
though the wrong seems oft so strong, God is the rul - er yet.



This is my Fa-ther's world; I rest me in the thought of
This is my Fa-ther's world; he shines in all that's fair. In the
This is my Fa-ther's world; why should my heart be sad? The



rocks and trees, of skies and seas; his hand the won - ders wrought.
rus - tling grass I hear him pass; he speaks to me ev-'ry - where.
Lord is king, let heav - en ring; God reigns, let earth be glad!

Text: Maltbie D. Babcock, 1858–1901

Music: TERRA PATRIS, Franklin L. Sheppard, 1852–1930, adapt.

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.

