March 8, 2026 ☩

Third Sunday in Lent

We welcome you to First Lutheran Church!

"God's Work. Our Hands. To serve ALL people."

An asterisk * invites you to stand in body or in spirit, and you are invited to read aloud responses found in **bold.**

P: Indicates the Presider. AM: Indicates the Assisting Minister.

We Gather

Prelude - Ciacona in e minor Dieterich Buxtehude

Words of Welcome

***Gathering Hymn** - no. 777 vs 1-4 "Come to Me, All Pilgrims Thirsty"

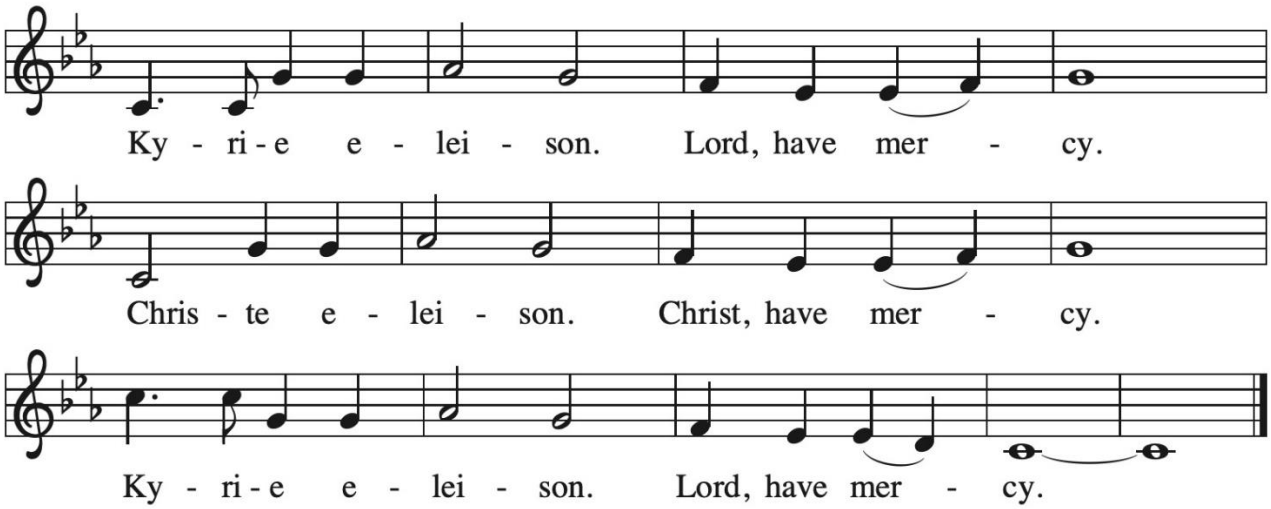
***Confession and Forgiveness**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.
Let us confess our sin before God, who removes our guilt and blots out all offenses.
Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.** For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and dishonor you: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.** For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for your word: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.** For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.** For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.** For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.** For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.** God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ.
In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace.
Amen.

*__Apostolic Greeting__ P: 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.**

*__Kyrie__ – page 31, *All Creation Sings, Setting 12*



*__Prayer of the Day__

P: Merciful God, the fountain of living water, you quench our thirst and wash away our sin. Give us this water always. Bring us to drink from the well that flows with the beauty of your truth through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

We Listen to God's Word

First Reading: Exodus 17:1-7

1 From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as
the LORD commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to
drink. 2 The people quarreled with Moses and said, "Give us water to drink." Moses said to them,
"Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the LORD?" 3 But the people thirsted there for
water, and the people complained against Moses and said, "Why did you bring us out of Egypt,
to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?" 4 So Moses cried out to the LORD, "What
shall I do for this people? They are almost ready to stone me." 5 The LORD said to Moses, "Go on
ahead of the people and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff
with which you struck the Nile and go. 6 I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at
Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink." Moses did
so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. 7 He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the
Israelites quarreled and tested the LORD, saying, "Is the LORD among us or not?"

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 95- *The psalm will be spoken responsively by whole verse.*

1 Come, let us sing to the LORD;
let us shout for joy to the rock of our salvation.
2 **Let us come before God's presence with thanksgiving**
and raise a loud shout to the LORD with psalms.
3 For you, LORD, are a great God,
and a great ruler above all gods.
4 **In your hand are the caverns of the earth;**
the heights of the hills are also yours.
5 The sea is yours, for you made it,
and your hands have molded the dry land.
6 **Come, let us worship and bow down,**
let us kneel before the LORD our maker.
7 For the LORD is our God, and we are the people of God's pasture and the sheep of God's hand.
Oh, that today you would hear God's voice!
8 **"Harden not your hearts,**
as at Meribah, as on that day at Massah in the desert.
9 There your ancestors tested me,
they put me to the test, though they had seen my works.
10 **Forty years I loathed that generation, saying,**
'The heart of this people goes astray; they do not know my ways.'
11 Indeed I swore in my anger,
'They shall never come to my rest.' "

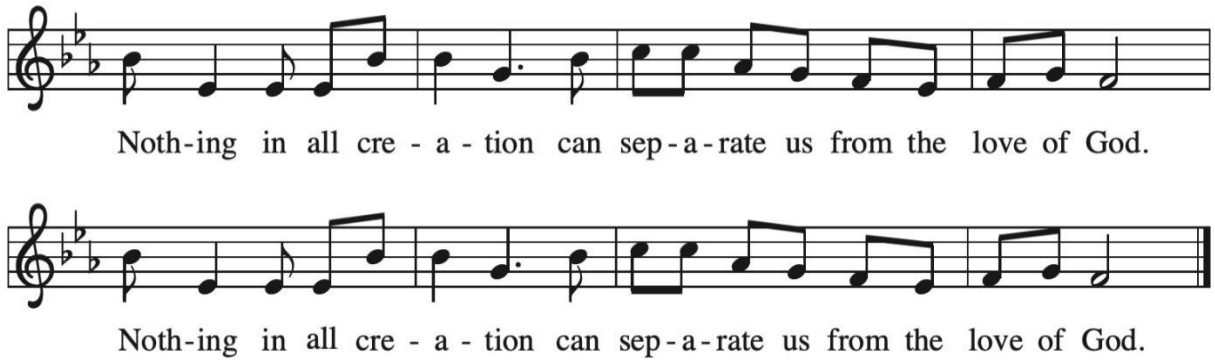
Second Reading: Romans 5:1-11

1 Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, 2 through whom we have obtained access to this grace in which we stand, and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God. 3 And not only that, but we also boast in our afflictions, knowing that affliction produces endurance, 4 and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, 5 and hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.

6 For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly. 7 Indeed, rarely will anyone die for a righteous person—though perhaps for a good person someone might actually dare to die. 8 But God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. 9 Much more surely, therefore, since we have now been justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath of God. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, much more surely, having been reconciled, will we be saved by his life. 11 But more than that, we even boast in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

Word of God. Word of Life. **Thanks be to God.**

*__Gospel Acclamation__ "Nothing in all creation" – page 34, *All Creation Sings, setting 12*



*__Gospel:__ John 4:1-42

The Gospel of John, the 4th Chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more
disciples than John" 2(although it was not Jesus himself but his disciples who baptized), 3he left
Judea and started back to Galilee. 4But he had to go through Samaria. 5So he came to a
Samaritan city called Sychar, near the plot of ground that Jacob had given to his son
Joseph.[6] Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired out by his journey, was sitting by the well. It was
about noon.

[7] A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." [8] (His
disciples had gone to the city to buy food.) [9] The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that
you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" (Jews do not share things in common with
Samaritans.) [10] Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God and who it is that is saying to
you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him, and he would have given you living
water." [11] The woman said to him, "Sir, you have no bucket, and the well is deep. Where do you
get that living water? [12] Are you greater than our ancestor Jacob, who gave us the well and with
his sons and his flocks drank from it?" [13] Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water
will be thirsty again, [14] but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be
thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal
life." [15] The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may never be thirsty or have to
keep coming here to draw water."

[16] Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come back." [17] The woman answered him, "I
have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband,' [18] for you have
had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is
true!" [19] The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. [20] Our ancestors worshiped on
this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem." [21] Jesus
said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither
on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. [22] You worship what you do not know; we worship what we
know, for salvation is from the Jews. [23] But the hour is coming and is now here when the true
worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to
worship him. [24] God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and
truth." [25] The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When

he comes, he will proclaim all things to us." [26] Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

[27] Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman, but no one said, "What do you want?" or, "Why are you speaking with her?" [28] Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, [29] "Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?" [30] They left the city and were on their way to him.

[31] Meanwhile the disciples were urging him, "Rabbi, eat something." [32] But he said to them, "I have food to eat that you do not know about." [33] So the disciples said to one another, "Surely no one has brought him something to eat?" [34] Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. [35] Do you not say, 'Four months more, then comes the harvest'? But I tell you, look around you, and see how the fields are ripe for harvesting. [36] The reaper is already receiving wages and is gathering fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. [37] For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' [38] I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor. Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor."

[39] Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me everything I have ever done." [40] So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them, and he stayed there two days. [41] And many more believed because of his word. [42] They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this is truly the Savior of the world."

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

Sermon – Deacon Brenda Handel-Johnson

*__Hymn__ –ACS (See back page) "Come to the Water of Life"

*__The Apostles' Creed__ –

Together let us profess our faith.

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.

*__Prayers of Intercession__

AM: Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs. *After each petition*: Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

AM: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

*__Sign of Peace__ P: The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**
Please offer one another some sign of Christ's peace.

Offering – For electronic giving please scan the QR on announcement page and ***Thank you!***

Offering music – Soul Adom Yourself With Gladness Johannes Brahms

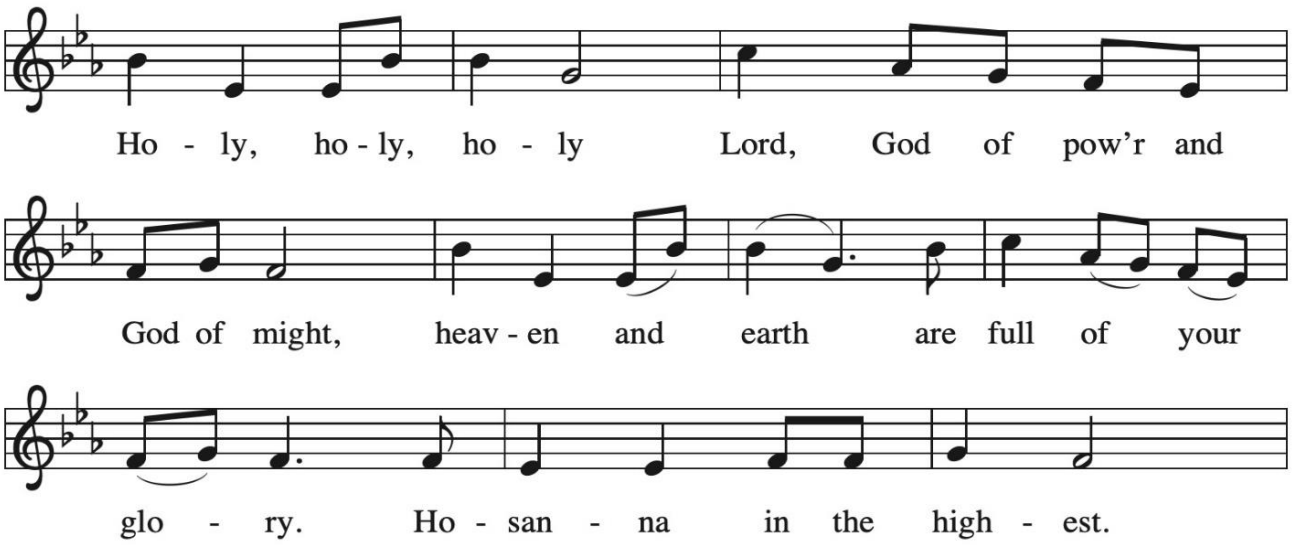
*__Offering Prayer__

AM: 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. We ask this in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

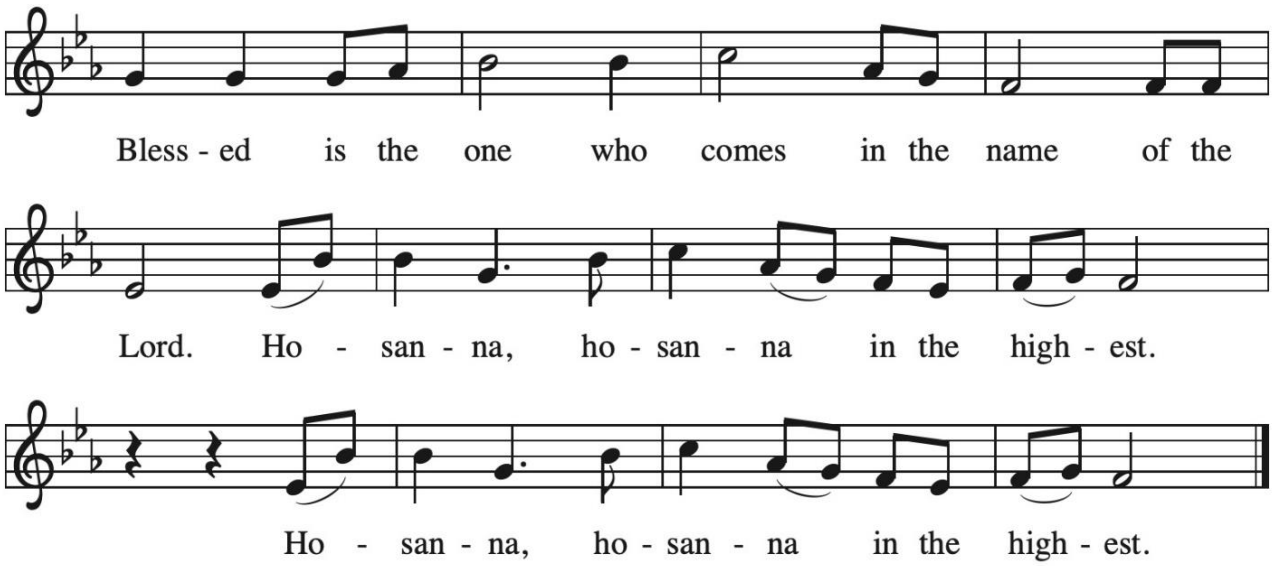
We Share God's Holy Meal

*__Great Thanksgiving and Preface__ – spoken

*__Holy, Holy, Holy__ - page 36 from *All Creation Sings, Setting 12*



Holy, Holy, Holy continues…



***Words of Institution**

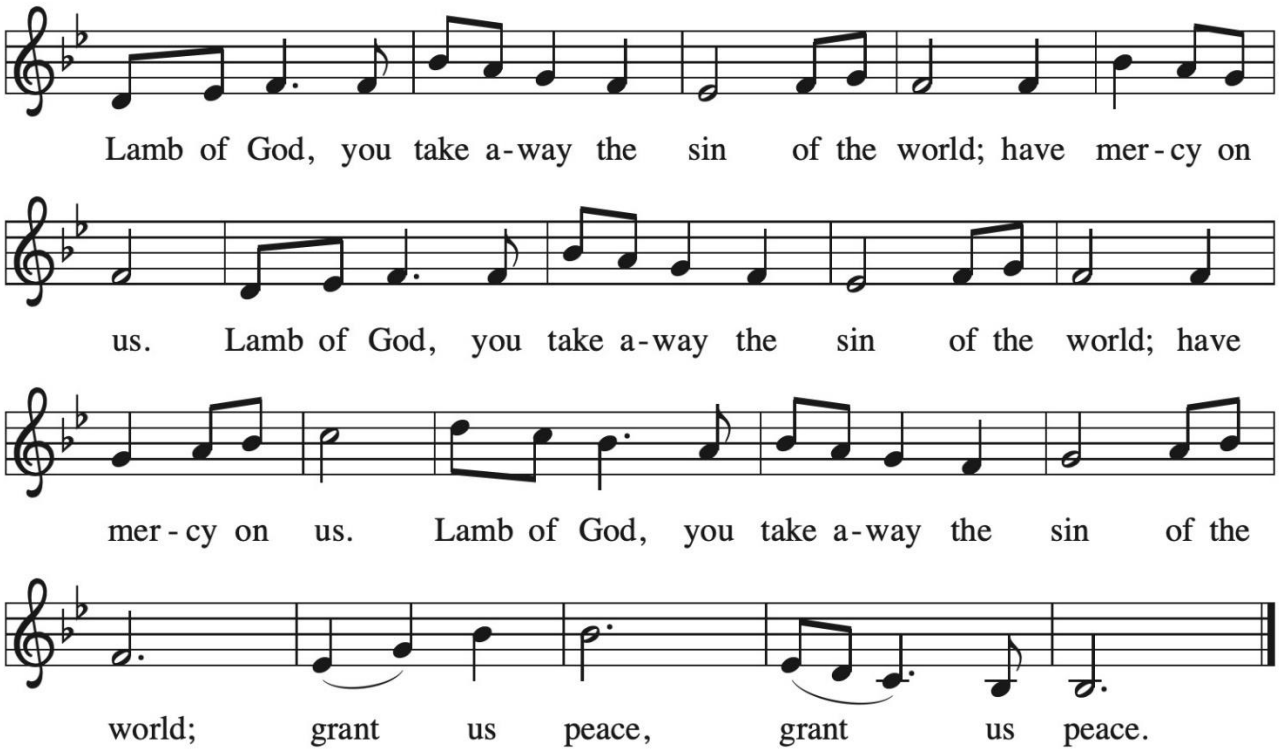
***The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours, now and forever.
Amen

***Invitation to the Table** – P: Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

Distribution of Communion - *we will be serving communion continuously.*

Lamb of God – page 40, *All Creation Sings, Setting 12*



Hymn –no. 623 "Rock of Ages"
Hymn - no. 332 "I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say"

Prayer After Communion
P: 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.**

We Go in Peace

Announcements

***Sending Hymn** – no. 618 "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

***Blessing & Dismissal**

P: 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.**

AM: Go in peace. Believe the good news. **Thanks be to God.**

***Postlude** – Guide Me Ever, Great Redemer Theodore Beck

In Worship Today
Pastor: Chris Culuris
Preacher: Brenda Handel-Johnson
Organist: David Fienen
Assisting Minister: Cheryl Kautt
Director of Choirs:
Sarah Chambers

Ushers: Lucas Chambers, Steve Bolint, Tom Thorkelson
Communion Preparers: Carrie and Keith Stelter
Communion Servers: Ted Kunze
Acolyte: Olive Chambers

Tech: Shanon Nowell
Bread Baker: Nancy Thorkelson

Prayers: We pray for those on our long-term list: Joan Williams, Betty Gustafson, Paul Aasen, Shirley Storkson, Lenore Schnobrich, Gloria Kane, Harvey Kane, Karen Handel, Erika Schuldt, Ruth Edberg, Bob Lamb, Dorothy and Paul Lutz, Steve Erickson, Barbra Grabowski (Ted Kunze's sister), Garrett Paul, Mary Ann Scharf, David Ribar, Nate Tuener (family friend of Bob and Rhoda Stenson), and Sandy Grochow.

Acknowledgments

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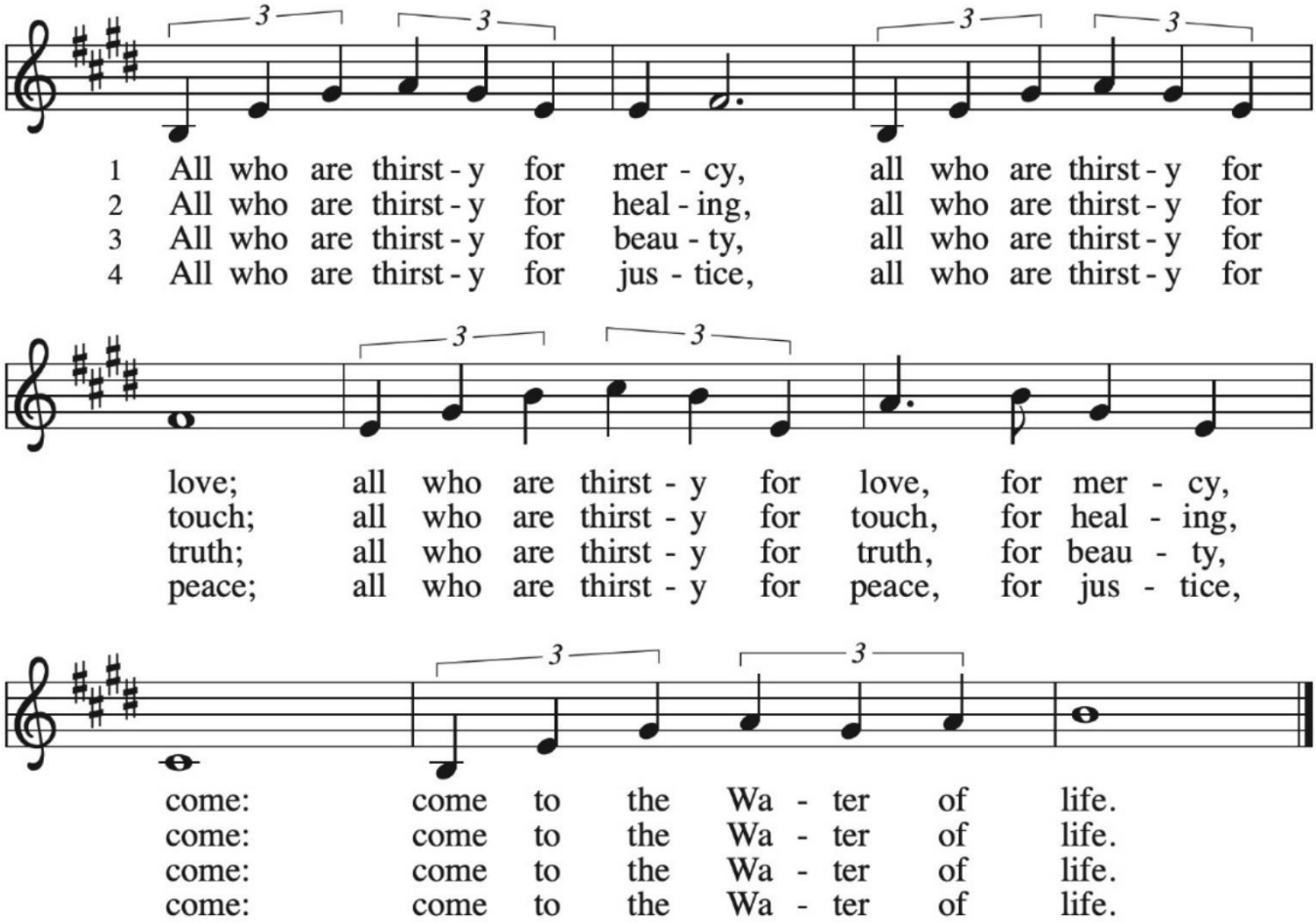
Come to the Water of Life



FLC Refrigerator Page

Worship, Education and Service:

- The members of the **Fellowship Committee**, Carol Solberg and Betty Thompson will be serving fellowship after worship today.
- **First Forum meets today after worship** with Blake and Andy from the St. Peter Funeral Home sharing info about funeral planning.
- **Pontius Pilate's Passion**: This Lenten season, join Annalise Rivas for an exploration of the Passion story like you've never seen it before. Wednesday evenings from 6:45-7:30pm in the Pioneer Parlor, February 11 - April 8.
- **We are collecting toothpaste** for the St. Peter Area Food Shelf during March. Please drop donations in the box in the gathering space.
- Sue Erickson with Lutheran Social Services is looking for volunteer drivers for **Meals On Wheels**. If interested call 507-550-0730 and leave a message.
- The **FLC Mission Quilter**s need someone to drive the quilts to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in South St. Paul. If you would do this, please contact Sharon Malm or Mary Long.
- **Senior High Youth group** meets this Wed., March 11 at 6:45 in the Youth Room.

Events at FLC and around the area:

- **Soup Supper this Wed., Mar. 11, 5:15 – 6:15pm**: Social Justice and Lifelong Learning Committees are providing our soup supper.
- **A Noisy Offering** will be collected on Wednesday nights for the St. Peter Area Food Shelf throughout March.
- We are in the midst of the **March Food Share Drive**. If you would like to contribute to this effort, there's still time. Thanks for your help.
- **FLC is hosting the USD Chamber singers in concert on Thursday, March 19.** <u>We are organizing overnight housing for 40 musicians.</u> Can you provide a bed and breakfast for 2 or more singers? Sign-up sheet is on the table in the Gathering Space or send Deacon Brenda a note and thank you!
- Monday morning **Bible Study** continues at 9:30am in the chapel.
- June 28th- July 2 is the **Adult BWCA** trip. If interested call Mark Szybnski at 507-380-9180 or email him at markszybnski@gmail.com.

Please use the QR code below for electronic giving and thank you!

QR offering code