St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church March 9th, 2025



WELCOME

To our Church Family

We're Glad You're Here!

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🥿 St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

We are so glad that you chose to worship with us today. If you are visiting with us for the first time, please visit our Welcome Center in the North Narthex. As our way of saying thank you, you will receive a St. Paul's Welcome Bag with a coffee cup and information about our church. You may also want to download our new St. Paul's App and visit our website. Information on both is in the Welcome Bag. For our young worshipers we have children's packets to play and color with during the service. These are on the white stand near the east entrance to our sanctuary.

You are welcome at the table!

If you have been baptized and believe Christ is present in the Eucharist (Holy Communion), you are welcome to join us at the table. Please come forward at the direction of the ushers and return to your seats using the side aisles. If you do not wish to partake in the Sacrament but would like to receive a blessing, please just cross your hands over your chest when you come forward.

Grape juice and Gluten-free wafers are available on request. Grape juice is in the colored glasses in the center of the communion tray. If you are not able to come forward and would like to receive communion, please inform an usher and the pastor will bring communion to you.

Altar Flowers

The **Altar flowers** were given today by Barb Palmer & Liz Duplain in memory of Robert Haas. The **Throne Flowers** were given today by Lynda & Greg Klein in honor of Matthew's 1st birthday.

Introduction

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

Readings and Psalm

Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand

Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

Romans 10:8b-13

If you confess that Jesus is Lord, you will be saved

Luke 4:1-13

The temptation of Jesus in the wilderness for forty days

The Westminster Strike

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude The Lone, Wild Bird Emma Lou Diemer (1927-2024)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. *Silence is kept for reflection.*

Compassionate One,

you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In + Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say

ELW 611

GREETING

During this time, the presiding minister and the assembly greet each other.

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 (**ELW p. 120**)



PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

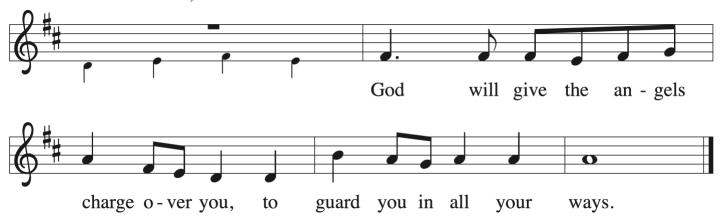
A reading from Deuteronomy.

¹ When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, 2 you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." 4 When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, 7 we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. 8 The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; 9 and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16



- ¹ You who dwell in the shelter of [|] the Most High, who abide in the shadow of [|] the Almighty—
- 2 you will say to the LORD, "My refuge $^{\mid}$ and my stronghold, my God in whom I $^{\mid}$ put my trust." R
- ⁹ Because you have made the | LORD your refuge, and the Most High your | habitation,
- 10 no evil † will be fall you,

nor shall affliction come | near your dwelling.

- ¹¹ For God will give the angels charge | over you, to guard you in | all your ways.
- 12 Upon their hands they will | bear you up, lest you strike your foot a- | gainst a stone. R
- ¹³ You will tread upon the lion | cub and viper; you will trample down the lion | and the serpent.
- ¹⁴ I will deliver those who | cling to me;
 I will uphold them, because they | know my name.
- ¹⁵ They will call me, and I will | answer them; I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.
- ¹⁶ With long life will I | satisfy them, and show them | my salvation. R

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

A reading from Romans.

8b "The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart"

(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you

will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved." The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 124)



GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written,

^{&#}x27;Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying

to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you,

to protect you,'

 11 and

'On their hands they will bear you up,

so that you will not dash your foot against a stone."

¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.' " ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Rev. Mark Kreemer **SERMON**

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days **HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 319**

CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation

> he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;

he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the scriptures;

he ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son,* who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

After each petition the following response is given

God, in your mercy,

receive our prayer.

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

ANTHEM: The Glory of These Forty Days Josquin des Prez (c. 1450-1521) Chancel Choir

The glory of these forty days, we celebrate with songs of praise; for Christ, by Whom all things were made, himself has fasted and has prayed. So grant us, Lord, to willing be full oft in fast and prayer with Thee; Our spirits strengthen with Thy grace, and give us joy to see Thy face. O Father, Son, and Spirit blest, to thee by every prayer addressed, Who art in threefold Name adored, from age to age, the only Lord.

^{*}Or, "who proceeds from the Father." The phrase "and the Son" is a later addition to the creed.



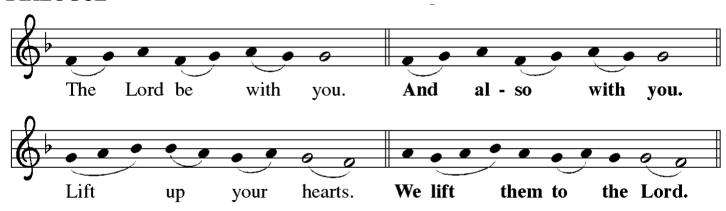
OFFERING PRAYER

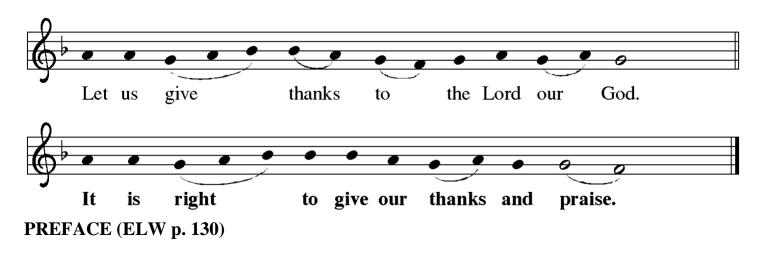
Let us Pray

Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Amen.

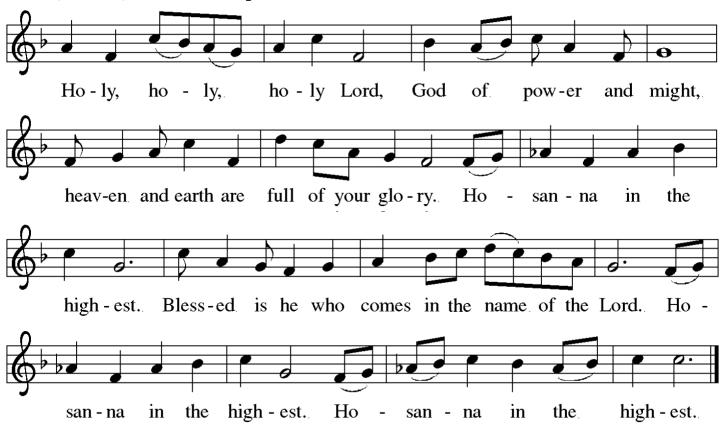






It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ......And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (ELW p. 130)



THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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,

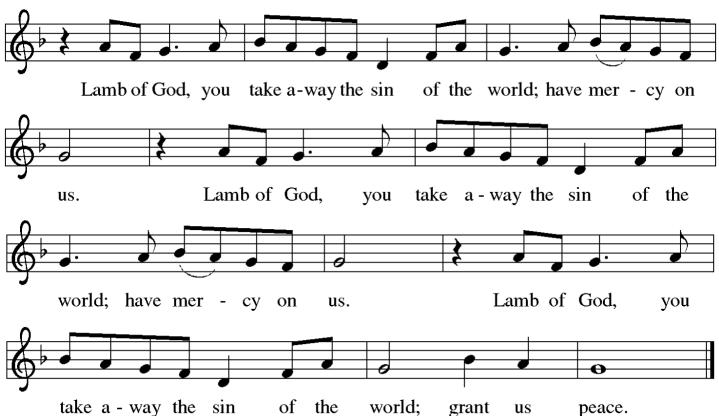
forever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

All who are hungry, come!

The feast of grace is spread.

COMMUNION



COMMUNION

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us Pray

Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW 326

BLESSING

God our tender parent, God the crucified one, God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever.

Amen.

DISMISSAL

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

Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

Postlude in F minor

Luise Adolpha Le Beau (1850-1927)

Music Notes

Emma Lou Diemer played the piano and composed at a very early age and became organist in her church at age 13. She majored in composition at the Yale Music School (BM, 1949; MM, 1950) and at the Eastman School of Music (Ph.D., 1960). She studied in Brussels, Belgium, on a Fulbright Scholarship and spent two summers of composition study at the Berkshire Music Center. Through the years she fulfilled many commissions (orchestral, chamber ensemble, keyboard, choral, vocal) from schools, churches, and professional organizations. Most of her works are published. An active keyboard performer (piano, organ, harpsichord, synthesizer), she gave concerts featuring her own music at Washington National Cathedral, St. Mary's Cathedral and Grace Cathedral in San Francisco, Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, and elsewhere.

Luise Le Beau was a German composer of classical music. She began writing music when she was 15 years old and made her debut as a concert pianist with the Baden Court Orchestra when she was 18. She briefly studied piano with Clara Schumann, though her primary teacher was Joseph Rheinberger. He was a champion of her playing and compositions, introducing her to Hanslick, Liszt, and Brahms. She eventually settled in Baden-Baden, where she was able to present a number of chamber concerts and premier her opera, Haudmoth. She also established herself as a music critic. Her music is notable for her strict use of form with innovative phrase structures and colorful harmonies.

In our prayers today we will remember

Darlene Lewis, Betty Scott, Molleigh Wagner, Anna Lagenfeld, Jay Danielson, Dan Lint, Rich Sadler, Chrissy Sturtz, Shirley Douglas, Matt Moore, Amy Williams, Phyllis Wilson, Jackie Whitman, Jessie Shaffer, Mark King, Rick Theiss, Ariane Roberts, and David Fox.

Upcoming St. Paul's Cathedral Concert

Theis concert is FREE and open to all. Your freewill offering is gratefully received.

OPUS 216, String Ensemble Sunday, March 9, 4 pm

Equally versed in classical and non-classical styles, our ensemble has created a niche experience for high-level performances that can cover any genre, from classical to French café jazz, Top 40, hip hop, South American and midcentury American jazz, Irish and American fiddle, original music, and improvisation.

Trained at top-tier conservatories like the world-renowned Cleveland Institute of Music, Manhattan School of Music, Juilliard and others, our musicians make Cleveland their home for its vibrancy, professional development opportunities, arts and culture. When they aren't performing events with OPUS 216, ensemble musicians perform nationally and internationally, from Lincoln Center in New York City, to subbing with major orchestras, such as the Chicago Symphony, Pittsburgh Symphony, Cleveland Orchestra, Atlanta Symphony, and others. Ensemble musicians have performed onstage across the country with everyone from John Legend to Michael Buble, Brian Wilson, Andrea Bocelli, and more.

Additional Concerts:

Malone University Choir, Sunday, March 23, 4:00 PM Sonnenberg Station, Sunday, April 6, 3:00 PM

Capital Campaign Report

Remaining Phase One Projects	\$377,000
Funds raised	\$348,174
Remaining funds	\$ 28,826
to be raised	

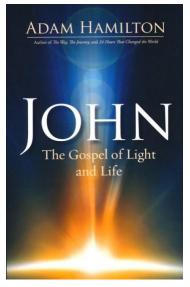
Adult Sunday School Class

God is With Us

I am with you and will keep you wherever you go.... (Genesis 28:15a)

During the month of March, we will continue to study the life of Jacob and watch the ways in which God's presence and promise of keeping guide and protect him. Even when Jacob fails, God's grace is poured out. And so it is with us!

We meet together each Sunday morning at 11:30 for fellowship and Bible study, top floor of Parish Hall. An elevator is available for your convenience.



Thursday Morning Bible Study

John: The Gospel of Light and Life

By: Adam Hamilton

The Gospel of John is the most deeply spiritual of the four gospels. This writing is filled with rich images and profound truths, but John notes that his aim in writing the gospel is that readers will not only believe in Jesus Christ, but that they "may have life in his name."

Adults, youth, and children alike can experience a season of spiritual growth and life-changing renewal in Adam

Hamilton's six-week, DVD-series, John: The Gospel of Light and Life. You'll follow the life, ministry, death, and resurrection of Jesus through the Gospel of John and understand the context of some of the best-known verses in the New Testament.

Community Social Media Pages

Facebook & Instagram, Search "Massillon Lutheran Churches"

Facebook

"St Paul's Lutheran Church in Massillon" or "Cathedral Concerts at St Paul's"

Windows to Wonder: A Devotional Crafting Series for Lent 2025

This Lent, engage your faith through devotional crafting with Windows to Wonder, a creative series inspired by Nicodemus' journey in the Gospel of John. Choose from three free creative options: a mystery cross-stitch stitch-along, a crochet-along shawl, or weekly creative writing prompts. Each craft is paired with a devotional podcast co-hosted by Pastors Tina Crog and Angel Jackson, exploring how we see Jesus more clearly over time.

Deepen your faith with this prayerful, hands-on Lenten journey! All materials are free. Visit www.stitchologycrafts.com/windowstowondersal

Forty Days of Giving

We have bottled water, personal water bottles, cold water on our refrigerator doors, rainforest showerheads. Our daily water supply is simply not a matter that we think about often. But in many countries, obtaining daily water is sometimes impossible or may involve walking many miles to the nearest well which may or may not provide safe water on any given day.

This Lenten season we will be joining in the ELCA Safe Water Access project to provide a well in a needy community. Please consider picking up a Lenten folder and donating one dollar a day during Lent. If we can collect just 62 folders, we can provide an entire well!!! You can fold a bill into the slots, merely put the bills inside the folder, or enclose a check written to St. Paul. Thank you so much for your generosity during the 40 days of Lent.

Welfare and Social Action Committee Evangelism Committee

Download the St. Paul's Phone APP

Go to your Google or Apple app store on your smart phone and download the "My Church" by Pushpay. It is a free download.

Open the app and search for St Paul's by typing STPLC APP.

Then click on the St Paul's logo—that's it.



To take advantage of all the app's features you must create an account. Get notifications and reminders of upcoming events, access our live stream worship and worship bulletins, send prayer requests, and see the church calendar. You can even give electronically.

Thank you to those serving today:

Presiding Minister Rev. Mark Kreemer

Director of Music Dr. Abigail Haake

Assisting Minister Scott Larson

Lector Lynda Klein

Greeter Brady & Morgan Rupp

Communion Assistants Tracie Schmolt & Carol Stoner

Sacristan Lynda Klein

Ushers Gary Collard, Chris Hall,

Shane Jackson, & Craig Maurer

Soundboard Jim Johnson

Video/Live-Stream John Stanko

Massillon Area Clergy Association Community Lenten Worship Services

March 12th St. Paul's Lutheran 127 Cherry Rd NE, Massillon, OH 44646 Rev. David Oliver Kling preaching on prayer

March 19th St. Timothy's Episcopal 226 3rd St SE, Massillon, OH 44646 Rev. Ash Welch preaching on fasting *incense will be used

March 26th St. John's UCC 101 Tremont Ave SE, Massillon, OH 44646 Rev. Tina Crog preaching on almsgiving

April 2nd First UMC 301 Lincoln Way E, Massillon, OH 44646 Rev. David Anderson preaching on penitence

April 9th First Baptist Church 20 Sixth St. SE, Massillon, OH 44646 Rev. Ed Hill preaching on repentance

Through the season of Lent, churches in the Massillon area will once again join together for worship and Holy Communion, rotating locations and preachers. Our focus this year is "The Five Themes of Lent."

A light dinner of soup and salad will be served at 5:30pm. Then at 6:30pm, we will worship together. Childcare may be provided. Offerings will go to the Family Living Center, which provides housing for local families in need.

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GATHERING SONG Heard the Voice of Jesus Say ELW 611

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O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days **HYMN OF THE DAY** ELW 319 "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE, License #A-734490. All rights reserved

COMMUNION I Want Jesus to Walk With Me **ELW 325**

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Bless Now, O God, the Journey SENDING SONG ELW 326 "Permission to podcast / stream the music in this service obtained from ONE LICENSE,

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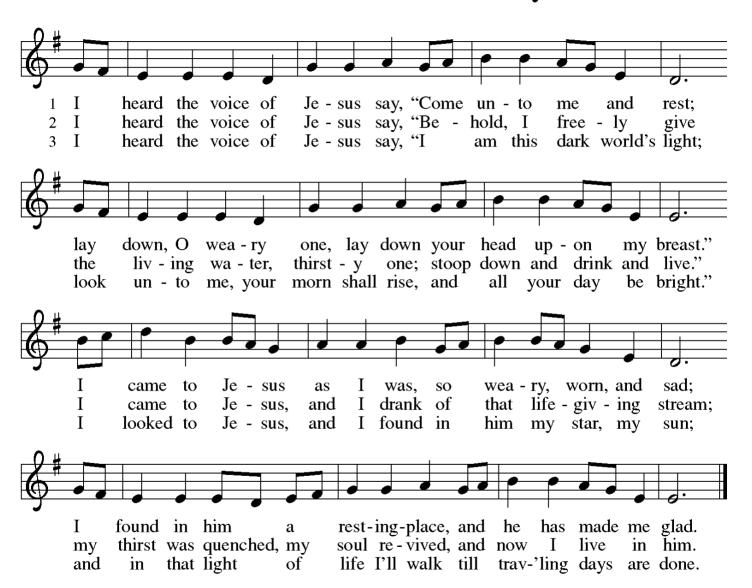


An Identity on Which We Can Rely

In Luke's gospel, the story of Jesus' temptation comes immediately after his baptism and a lengthy listing of his ancestors. Both help confirm the identity of Jesus as the Messiah and the Son of God. Now Jesus is led into the wilderness, where his identity is put to the test by the devil. The specific temptations are in some ways secondary to the question that introduces two of them. Twice the devil asks, "If you are the Son of God . . ." (Luke 4:3, 9), perhaps implying that the devil believes he knows better than Jesus what it means to be God's Son. But Jesus, "full of the Holy Spirit," is able to stand firm in his identity and deny the devil's attempts to redefine who he is.

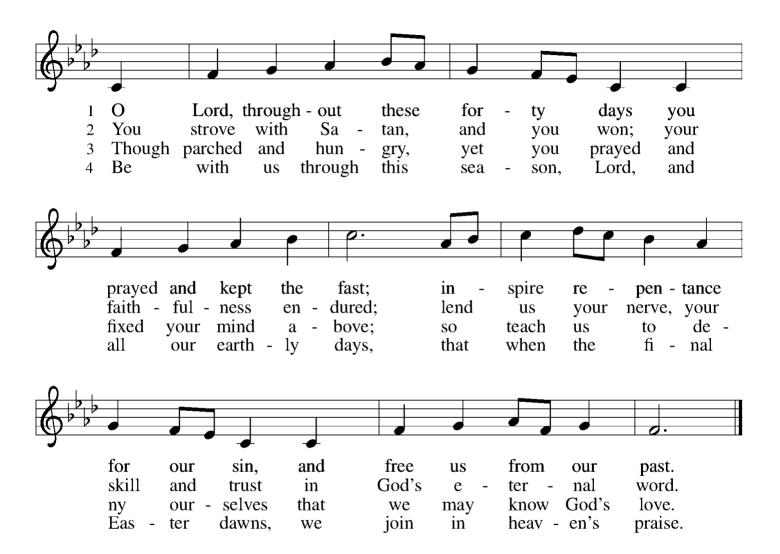
In our baptisms, we too are given the identity of God's child, and we are given the presence of the Holy Spirit. Our baptisms do not protect us from temptation, even as Jesus himself endured temptation. However, in our baptisms we are given an identity that can help us endure the temptations and the challenges that our lives are bound to include. Baptism gives us the confidence to trust that our identity is defined by our relationship to God, and not by anything else. In this confidence, we can accept our failures and shortcomings and live boldly in a manner that seeks to emulate Christ's own life.

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–1889 Music: KINGSFOLD, English folk tune

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

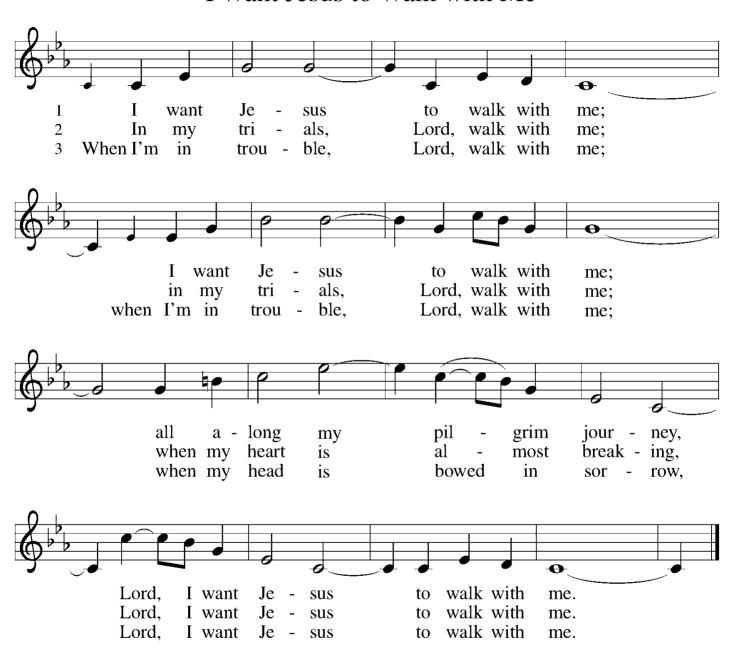


Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816 Text © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress

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I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



Text: African American spiritual

Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

Bless Now, O God, the Journey



- 1 Bless now, O God, the jour ney that all your peo ple make,
- 2 Bless so journ-ers and pil grims who share this wind-ing way;
- 3 Di vine e ter nal lov er, you meet us on the road.



way of give and the path through noise and lence, the si take. hope burns through the rors, your love sus-tains the day. vour ter We lands prom - ise where milk and hon-ey flow, wait for



The trail is found in and winds the moun-tain des ert round, We yearn for ho - ly free dom while of bound; ten we are but wait-ing not for plac all round. es, you meet us a



leads be-side still road where faith is found. then ters, the wa road where faith is found. geth - er we are ing the to seek Our cov - e - nant is writ ten roads, as faith is found. on

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

Music: LLANGLOFFAN, Welsh tune, 19th cent.

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