The First Sunday in Lent March 9, 2024

10:30 a.m. Worship

We ask that all present sign our Friendship Sheet. After you add your name to the sheet, please pass it toward the center aisle. Then return it to the outside aisle so that you become familiar with our family in Christ. These sheets help our



pastor and congregation with our ministry. If you are looking for a church home, we invite you to join us here at St. Matthew to worship and serve Christ together!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- *P:* Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. *C:* Amen.
- P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.
- P: Compassionate One,
- C: 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.
- P: 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. C: Amen.

*OPENING HYMN

O Lord, throughout These Forty Days

ELW # 319

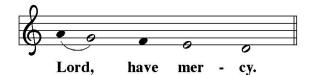
*GREETING

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. C: And also with you.

*KYRIE *ELW # S147*

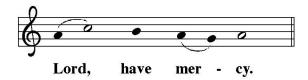


In peace, let us pray to the Lord.





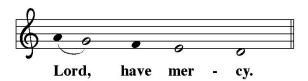
For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.

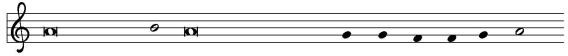




For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,







For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,





Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

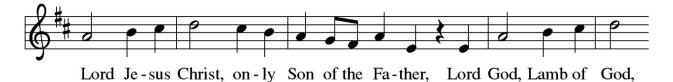


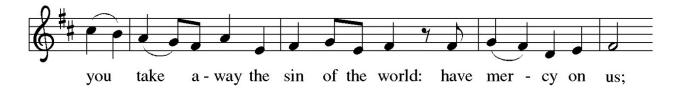
Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth.



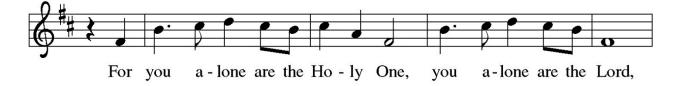
Lord God, Heat on IJ Ising, at Imgile y God and Tu their, we















*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: 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. *C:* Amen.

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

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." 4When 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. ⁶When 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.

L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.

PSALM 91:1-2, 9-16 (read responsively)

- 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 and my stronghold, my God in whom I put my trust."
- ⁹ Because you have made the Lord your refuge, and the Most High your habitation,
- ¹⁰ no evil will befall 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 against a stone.
- 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.

SECOND READING: Romans 10:8b-13

^{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."

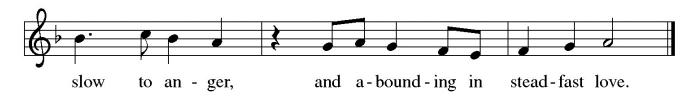
L: The word of the Lord. C: Thanks be to God.



ELW # S151b



Re-turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,



*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,

'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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. C: Praise to you, O Christ.

HOMILY Pastor Traci



Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Music: SLANE. Irish traditional

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*APOSTLES' CREED

P: Let us confess our faith through the words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: 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 THE CHURCH

- A: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.
- A: Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.
- A: Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.
- A: Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy, *C:* receive our prayer.
- A: Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.
- A: Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill. God, in your mercy, *C*: receive our prayer.
- A: Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy, C: receive our prayer.
- P: 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. C: Amen.

*THE PEACE

P: The peace of the LORD be with you always.

C: And also with you.

Please share the peace with those around you using a greeting that is comfortable for both you and them.

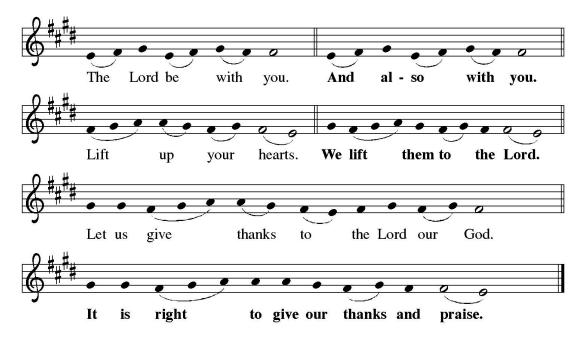
*OFFERTORY PRAYER

An offering plate is located near the entrance to the nave; we offer thanks for the abundance God has first shown us:

A: 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. C: Amen.

*GREAT THANKSGIVING

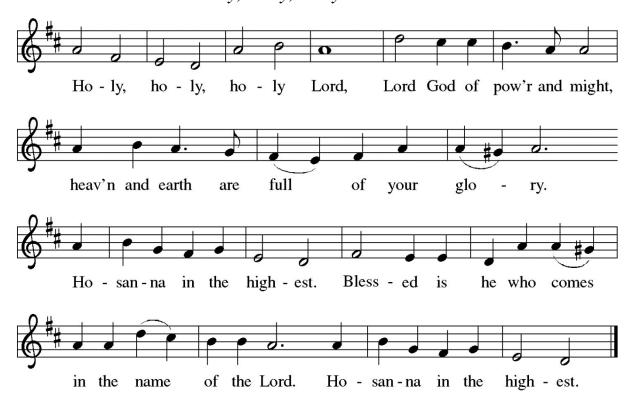
ELW # S152



*PROPER PREFACE

P: 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. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace.

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:



*EUCHARISTIC PRAYER & WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P:Blessed are you, O God of the universe.

Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.

Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.

Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness to the land of milk and honey.

Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.

Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.

Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,

our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;

broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

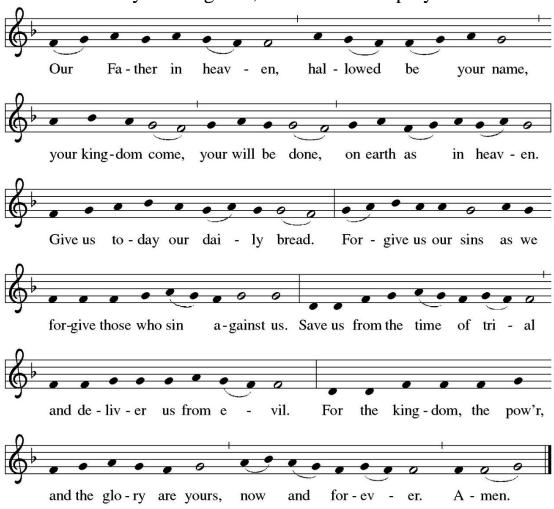
Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

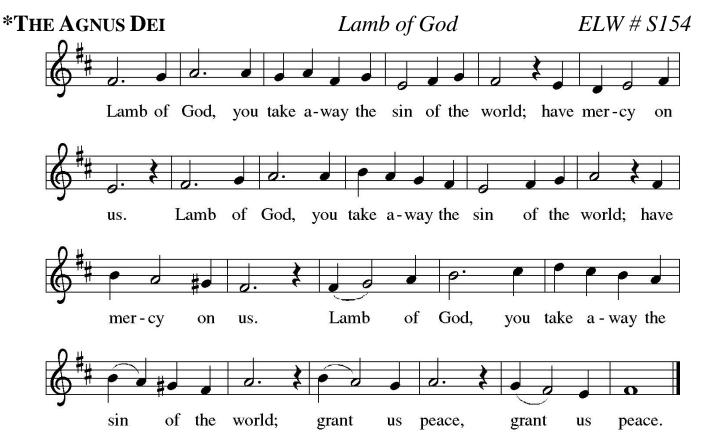
This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

O God of resurrection and new life: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Grace our table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love. *C:* Amen.

*LORD'S PRAYER

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:





*INVITATION

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

*BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our LORD Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. C: Amen.

*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: 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. C: Amen.

*BENEDICTION

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





*DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you. C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE

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Also, please be advised that our parking lot has surveillance cameras and that our worship service is video recorded and/or live-streamed on social media.

Serving God and Us

Our Ministers - the People of St. Matthew

Our Pastor – Rev. Traci Marriott

Our Organists – Mary Nelson, DeAnna Cree

Our Missionary Family – Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings

Our Administrative Assistant – Jen Ripka

Our Assistant Administrative Assistant – Laura Orczeck

Our Sexton – Phil Claar

Our Assisting Minister – Greg Haffling

Our Lector – Destarta Carberry

Our Acolyte – Jay Hoenstine

Our Usher – Steve Oswalt

Our Altar Guild – Jeannie Smith, Cindy Snyder

Our Audio/Video Tech - Camden Kuster

Our Offering Counters – Jim Barley, Beth Garner

First Quarter Ventures in Faith to "Local Needs"

This Week at St. Matthew: 814-793-2413: Office Hours

Pastor Traci – Wed. 2:00-5:00 p.m. Jen – Mon. – Fri. 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

This Week Events

Today – 1st Sunday in Lent

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Monday – Social Ministry Meeting, Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday – Council Meeting, Window Room/Zoom 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday – Meager Meal, Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m.

Lenten Service, Fellowship Hall 6:45 p.m.

Thursday – Life After Doom Book Study, Zoom 7:00 p.m.

Sunday – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Sunday School 9:30 a.m. Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

St. Patrick Baked Potato Bar & Game Day,

Fellowship Hall 11:30 a.m.

Prayers are needed for our homebound: Mary Jane Allision, Fred Brandenburg, Linda Claar, Mary Creps, Gerry Girolami, Betty Helsel, Ruth Johnson, Audrey & Dan Kensinger.

So we can give special attention to those with pressing needs, names will be removed at the end of the month. Please let the office know if a name should remain longer or be removed sooner.

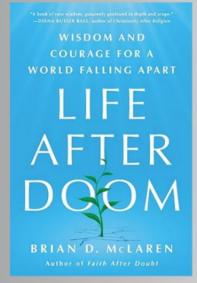
Prayer Concerns: Amy & Family, Avery, Randy Barrett, Greta Buchart, Doug Bush, Dr. Ramon Burket, Caleb, Warren Campbell, Phillip Claar, Dave Clayton, Greg Comer, Terry Creek, Brian Fleck, Jim Fritz, Betty Helsel, Marilyn Horton, Don Hosterman, Baby James, Ruth Johnson, Joe Keller, Darren Kreutzer, Connie Lamborn, Linda Lehman, Bill Lively, Kristen Malloy, Karrie McCall & Family, Betty McDowell, Rick McIntyre, Aunt Mica, Carl Miner, Nathan, Olga Perlov, Deb Peters, Bekah Ross, Dan Ross, John Russell, Paul Ruth, Margie Smith, Dorothy Stahl, Jean Stonerook, Cindy Thomas, Tiffany Townsend, Joey Tremmel, Drew Wenzel, Susan Werner, Jean White, Joel Widmann, Pete Williams, Jody Zelanko, and for our Missionaries: Robin Abrol, On Eagle's Wings.

Away at School: Max Baker, Christopher Bush, Olivia Day, Jeff Hoenstine, Lacey Ripka.

Those Serving in our Armed Forces: Bradley Buchart, Melody Estep, Colin Guyer, Nathan Smith (Germany).

Join us for a new Cross Country Book Study

St. Matthew Lutheran Church of Martinsburg, PA & Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd of Duluth, MN



Meet members of our extended church family as Pastor Traci & Pastor Lisa lead this weekly Zoom discussion of Brian McLaren's <u>Life After Doom</u>
--an honest and eye-opening portrayal of our current predicament in human history

Thursdays, March 6, 13, 20, & 27 7PM EST / 6PM CST

See your Pastor for the Zoom Link

Although scripture begins with a call to tend God's creation, we know we have fallen far short in our stewardship of the earth. Brian McLaren's latest book explores the situation we're in, what's coming next, and how we are called to live faithfully in our world of turmoil. With members of Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, Duluth MN, we'll discuss this important topic every Thursday in March by Zoom (7PM). Although this is not a hard text to understand, it is a serious and sobering topic, best studied in community. We will begin March 6th by introducing ourselves and responding to the introduction of the book.



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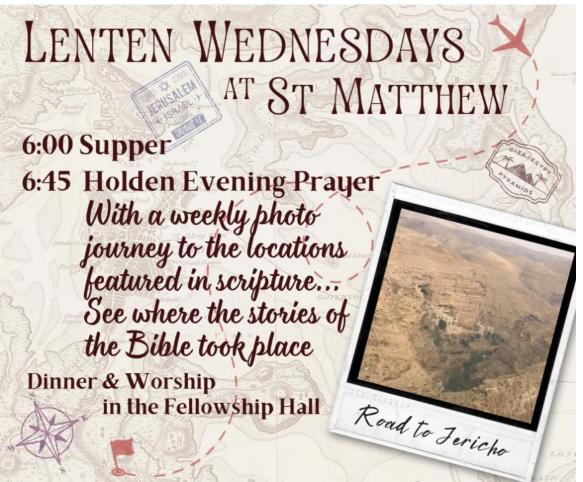
If services need to be cancelled for inclement weather, we will attempt to notify you using email (like we do for the Sunday Bulletin and Messenger) and Facebook. On days when the weather is questionable, please check these notifications before you travel. If you need a phone call instead, please let the office know. Please contact the church office if you would

like to be added to the mailing list to receive offering envelopes (or if you would like to have your name/address changed or removed).

Office Closure During Inclement Weather

On days that the Spring Cove School District cancels or delays instruction due to weather, the church office will be closed as well. In the event of an emergency, Pastor Traci can be reached at 814-935-9237.





Martinsburg Food Pantry



Volunteers from Martinsburg Grace Brethren Church will be helping at the Food Pantry on the first and third Thursdays, March 6 and March 20. It will be open to distribute food from 9:00a.m. until 11:00a.m., and on Saturdays at 11:00a.m. by appointment.



The food items most needed for March are: Peanut Butter, Pasta Sauce, Scalloped Potatoes. Rice Sides and Juice. These or any items may be placed in the food basket at church.

Thank you! Linda Smith

Church Messenger

The March 2025 *Messenger* is now available at the St. Matthew **Website** (stmatthewlc.com), and on your recent **Email** message from St. Matthew by using the link listed in the body of the message. A paper copy of the *Messenger* is available in the news rack in the church Narthex. By calling the church office at (814-793-2413), you can request a paper copy to be sent by mail to your home or provide an email address and a copy can be emailed to you each month as soon as it is published. Do not hesitate to call the church office if you need help in securing a copy of the *Messenger*. Your readership and articles are always appreciated.

Altar Flowers



The 2025 Altar Flower chart is posted on the Narthex bulletin board. Altar Flowers are a perfect way to remember loved ones or to honor loved ones. There are plenty of dates available. Please sign up now for the Sunday you wish to place flowers on the Altar. Price: \$40.00

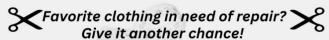
3rd Annual St. Patrick's Good Luck Game Day & Baked Potato Bar



Baked Potatoes, Toppings, Drinks & Desserts Provided

Bring Your Favorite Board Game Or Card Game

Community Mending Ministry at St. Matthew

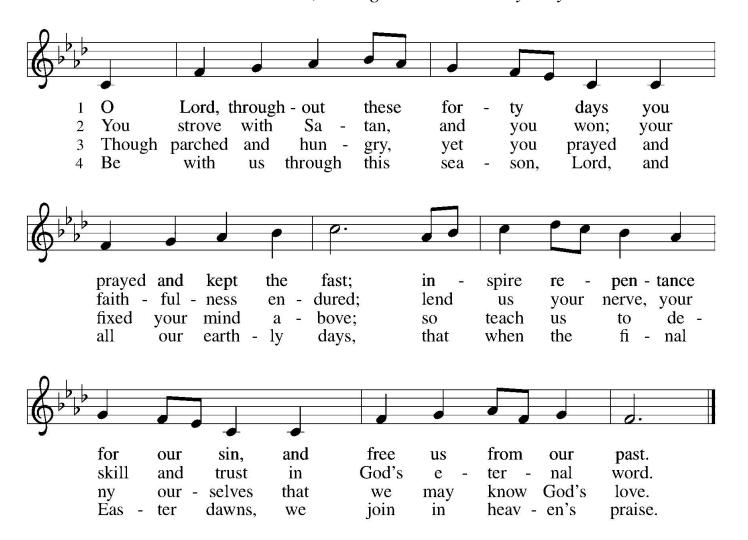


Bring laundered clothes that need mending to work on yourself or get help from our sewers. Materials, machines, & expertise provided. And we'll have snacks!

Feel free to stay for supper at 6PM and/or Lenten Worship at 6:45PM

> Wednesday, March 19 from 2:30 to 4:30PM St. Matthew Lutheran Martinsburg Fellowship Hall 115 E Penn Street (Maple Street Parking Lot)





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

Music: CONSOLATION, A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816

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Text: Ruth Duck, b. 1947 Music: SLANE, Irish traditional

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