3rd Sunday of Lent

March 8, 2026

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
A Reconciling in Christ Congregation
Norwood, PA ~ Phone: 610.586.5860
www.immanuelnorwood.org

The People of Immanuel are Ministers of the Church
The Rev Scott R. Lee, Pastor
Kathleen Schneider, Director of Music

PRELUDE *(Prayerful time for reflection.)*

^MISSION STATEMENT:
C: We of Immanuel are claimed, gathered, and sent by God to live Christ's example through worship, education, and service.

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.**

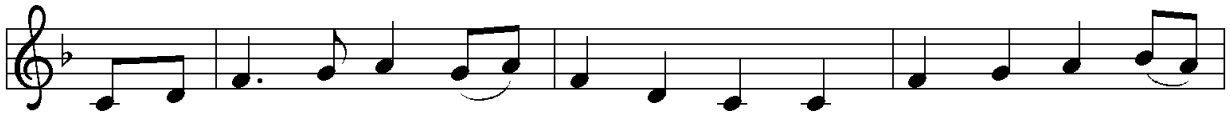
For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting signs of your healing and hope in the world:
Gracious God, **have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

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.**

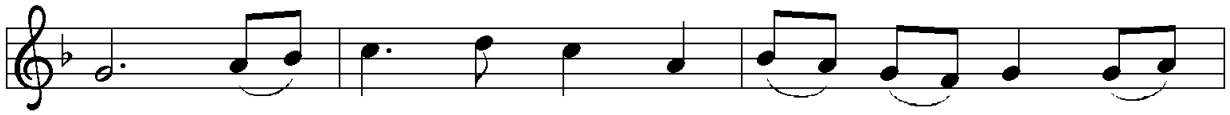
God's steadfast love, grace, and forgiveness abound. Through faith, the free gift of God, you have been clothed in the righteousness of Christ. In the name of ✠ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. The Spirit of the One who raised Christ from the dead dwells in you, pours God's love into your hearts, and gives you life and peace. **Amen**

^OPENING HYM

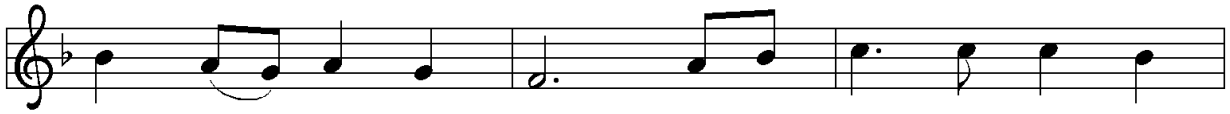
All Are Welcome



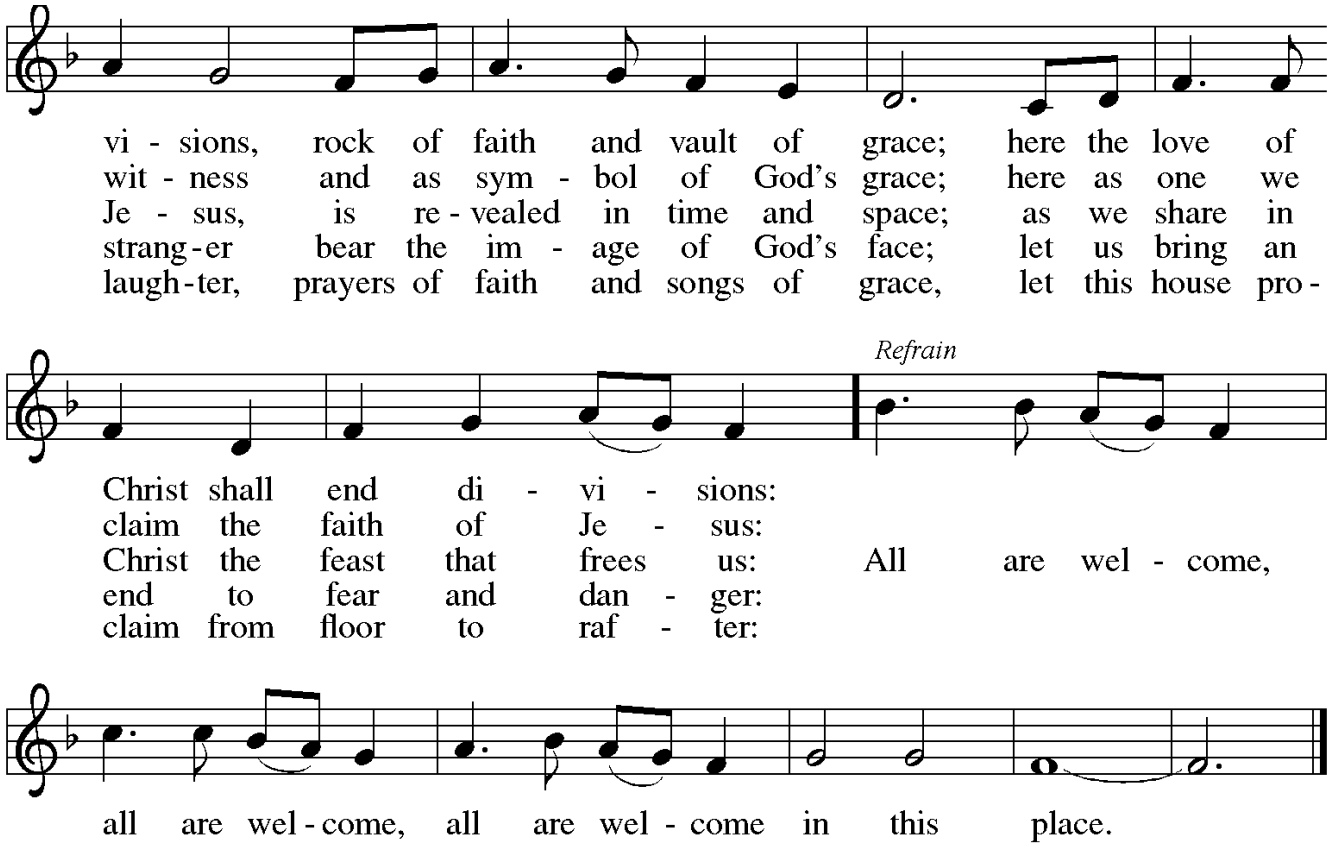
1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
2 Let us build a house where proph-ets speak, and words are strong and
3 Let us build a house where love is found in wa - ter, wine and
4 Let us build a house where hands will reach be - yond the wood and
5 Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and vi - sions



live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
true, where all God's chil - dren dare to seek to
wheat: a ban - quet hall on ho - ly ground where
stone to heal and strength - en, serve and teach, and
heard and loved and trea - sured, taught and claimed as

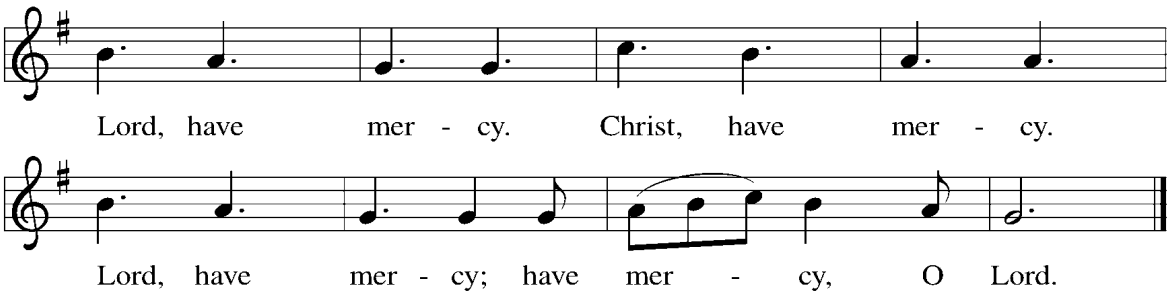


hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
dream God's reign a - new. Here the cross shall stand as
peace and jus - tice meet. Here the love of God, through
live the Word they've known. Here the out - cast and the
words with - in the Word. Built of tears and cries and

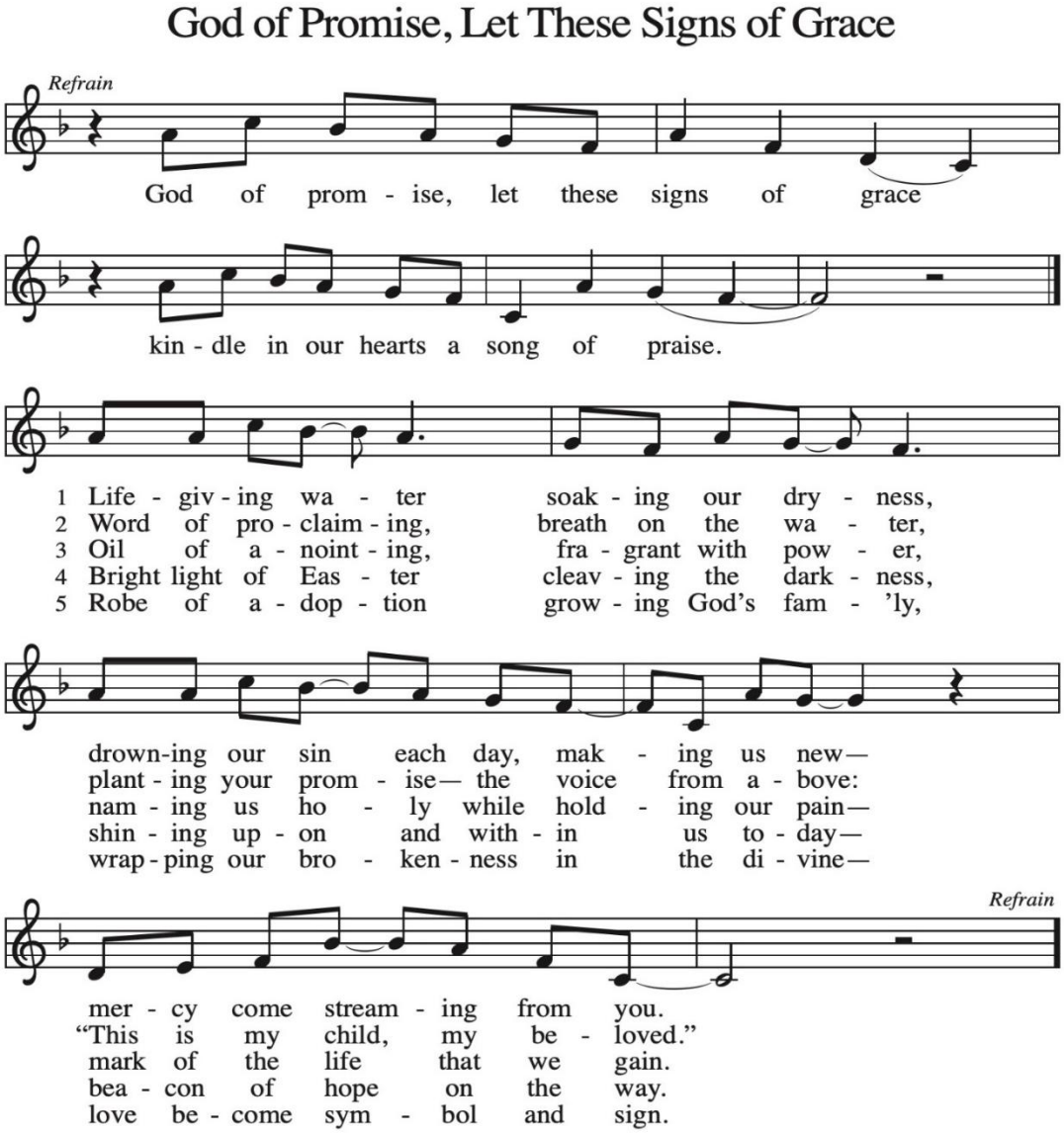


P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
C: And also with you.

^KYRIE



^HYMN OF PRAISE *(Verses 1&2)*



P: The Lord be with you
C: **And also with you.**
P: Let us pray

^PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

FIRST READING **Exodus 17:1-7**

Because the thirsty Israelites quarreled with Moses and put God to the test, Moses cried out in desperation to God. God commanded Moses to strike the rock to provide water for the people. The doubt-filled question—"Is the Lord among us or not?," received a very positive answer.

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 Psalm 95

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**

Though we often hear that God helps those who help themselves, here Paul tells us that through Jesus' death God helps utterly helpless sinners. Since we who had been enemies are reconciled to God in the cross, we now live in hope for our final salvation.

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

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.
Save us as you promised; we will trust your word,
we will trust your word.

^HOLY GOSPEL
P: The Holy Gospel according to John, the 4th Chapter
C: Glory to you O Lord

Jesus defies convention to engage a Samaritan woman in conversation. Her testimony, in turn, leads many others to faith.

[5] [Jesus] 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

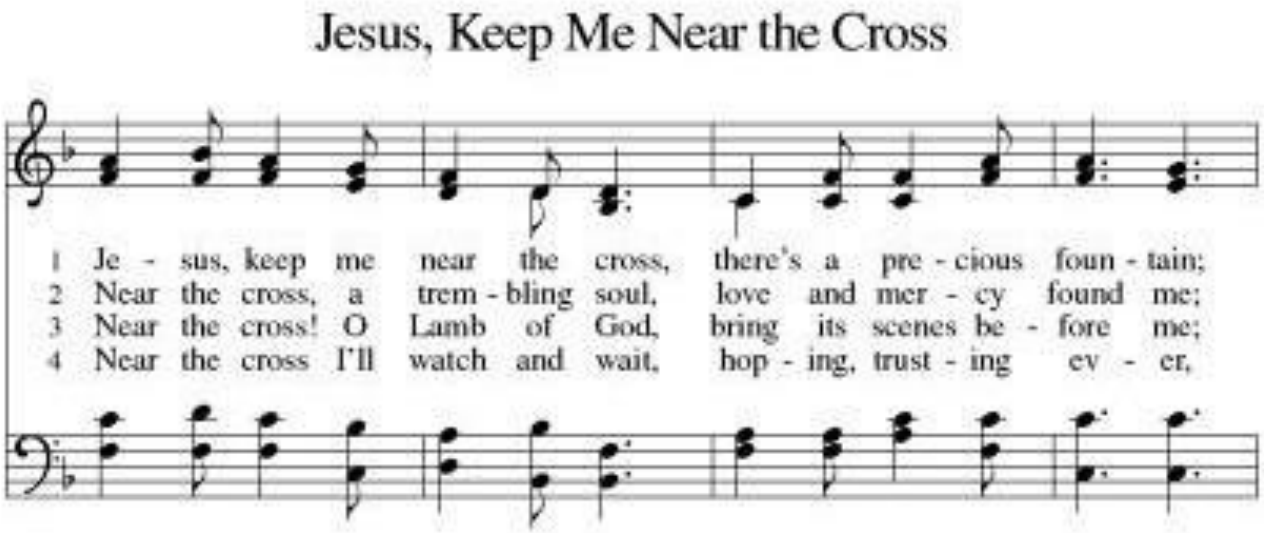
drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water
that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal
life." [15] The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, so that I may
never be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water."
[16] Jesus said 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

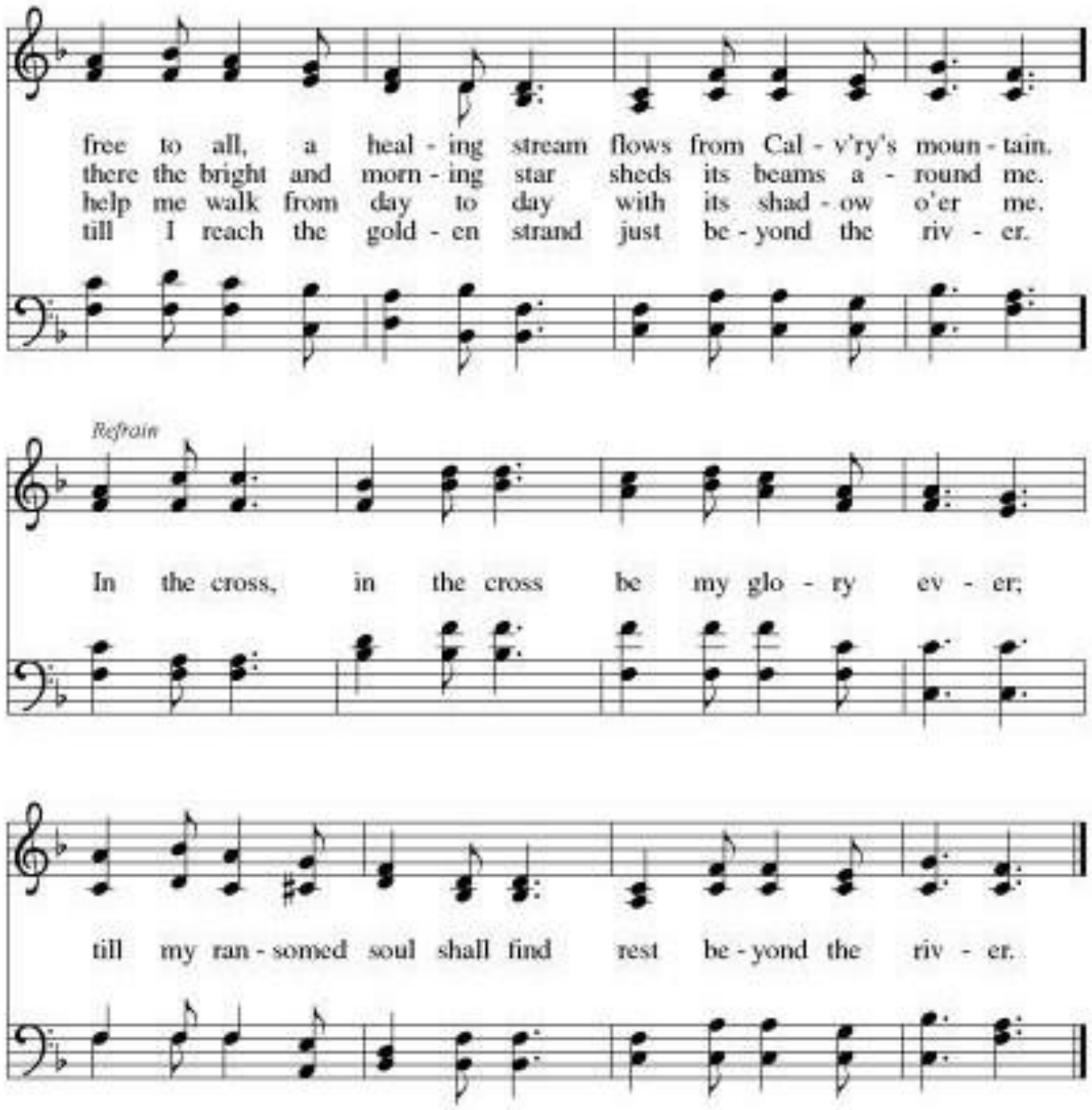
reaper may rejoice together. [37] For here the saying holds true, ‘One sows
and another reaps.’ [38] I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor.
Others have labored, and you have entered into their labor.”
[39] Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the
woman’s testimony, “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.”

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

SERMON Pastor Scott Lee

^HYMN





^APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.*

On the third day he rose again
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again 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

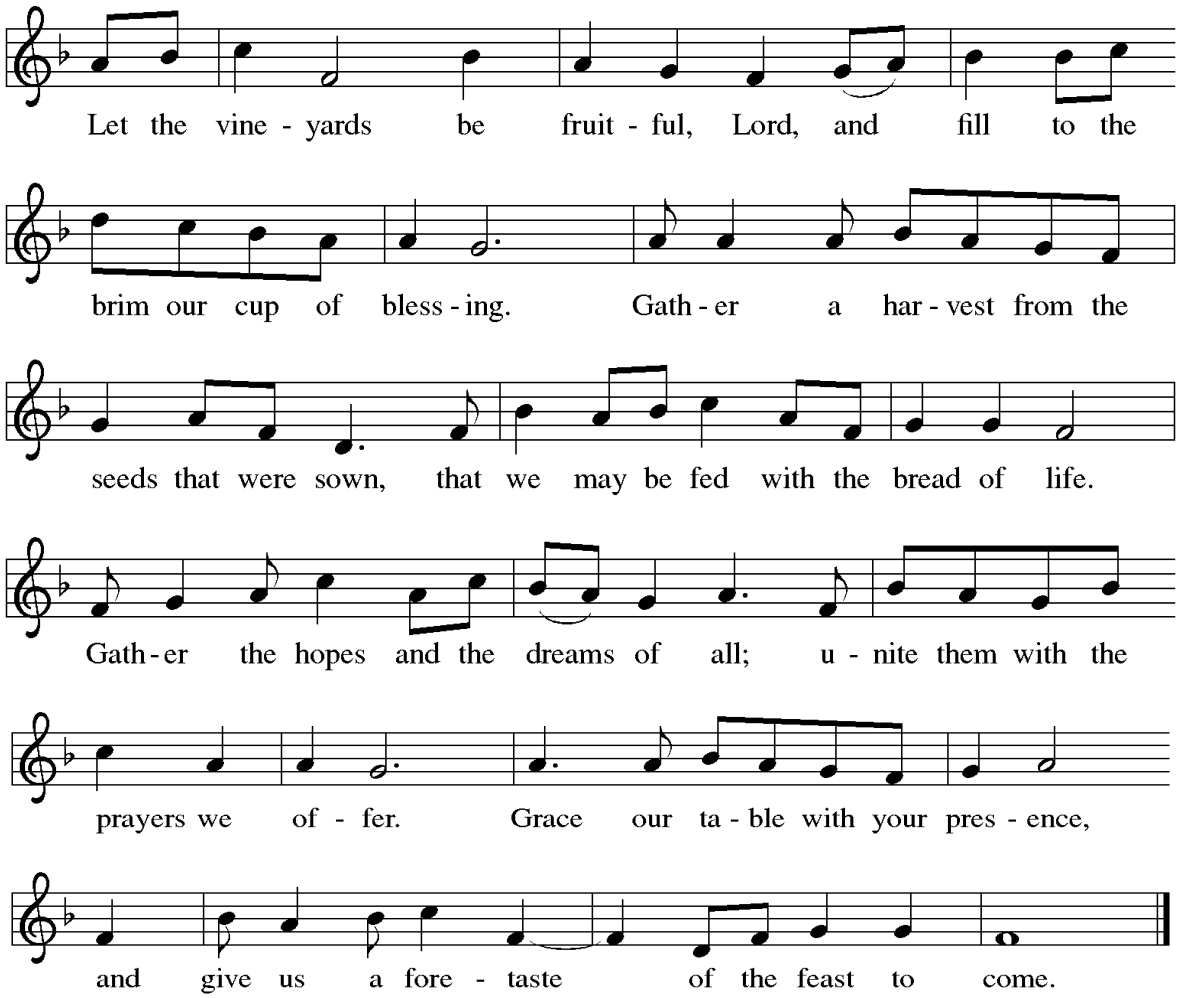
PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *(Kneeling as able.)*
Response: Hear us O God**, Your mercy is great.**

^PEACE
P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C: And also with you.
P: Let us share a sign of peace with one another, as you feel comfortable.

OFFERING

We join other Christians in joyfully responding to God's goodness, through your personal giving. The ushers will pass the offering plates during this time. For those who don't feel comfortable passing the plates, we ask that you place your offering in the plates located at the front of the nave prior to the service, or after the service, in the plate on the table as you exit into the Hospitality area. Many people give electronically and we thank all growing disciples in advance for their supportive giving.

^OFFERTORY HYMN



OFFERING

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.**

+HOLY COMMUNION+

^GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

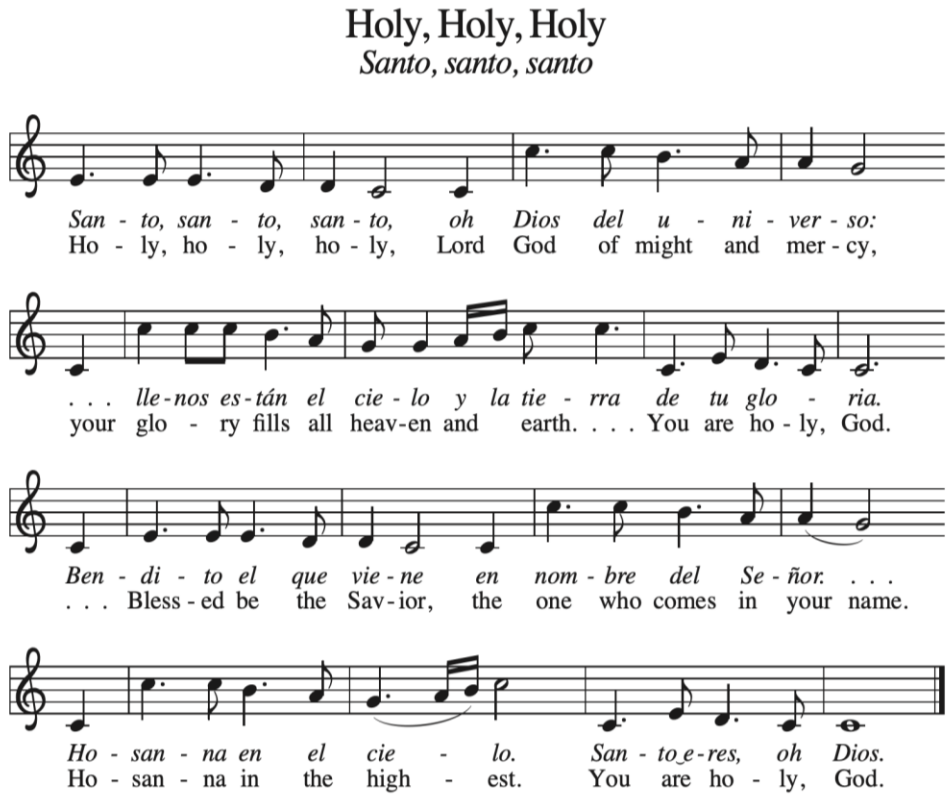
P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them up to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary…….we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

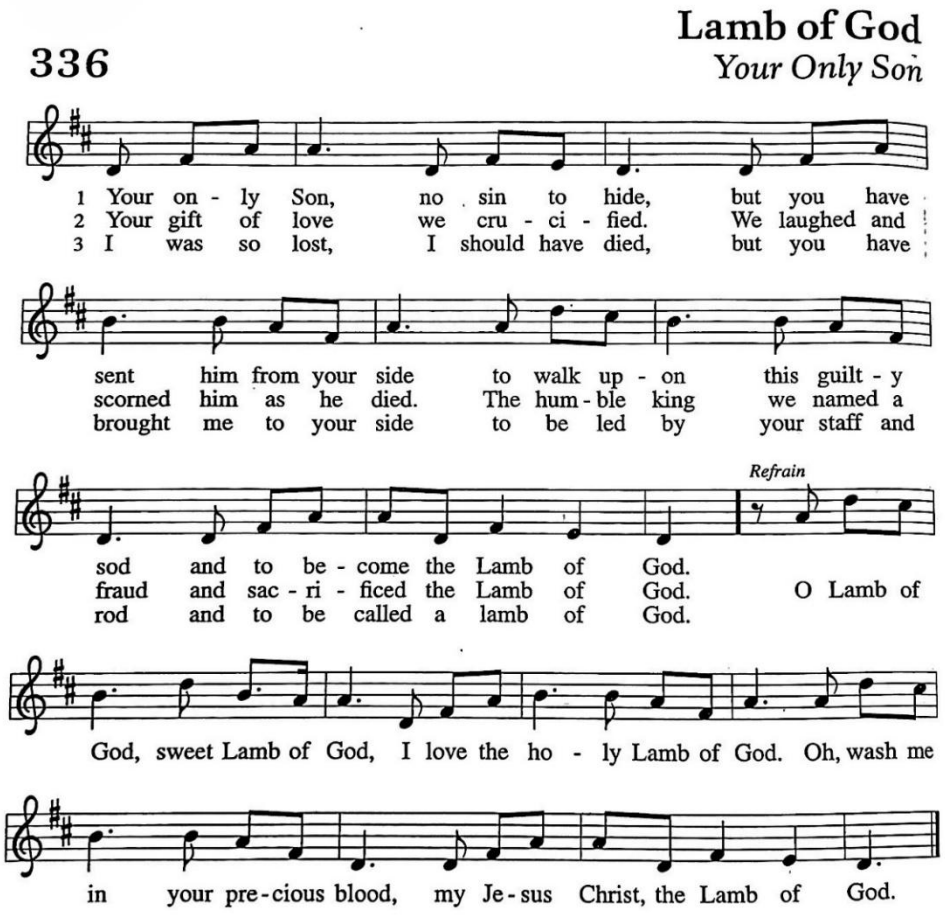


WORDS OF INSTITUTION *In the night he was betrayed……*

^LORD'S PRAYER

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.

(*Verse 1 only)*



DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION *(By Intinction)*

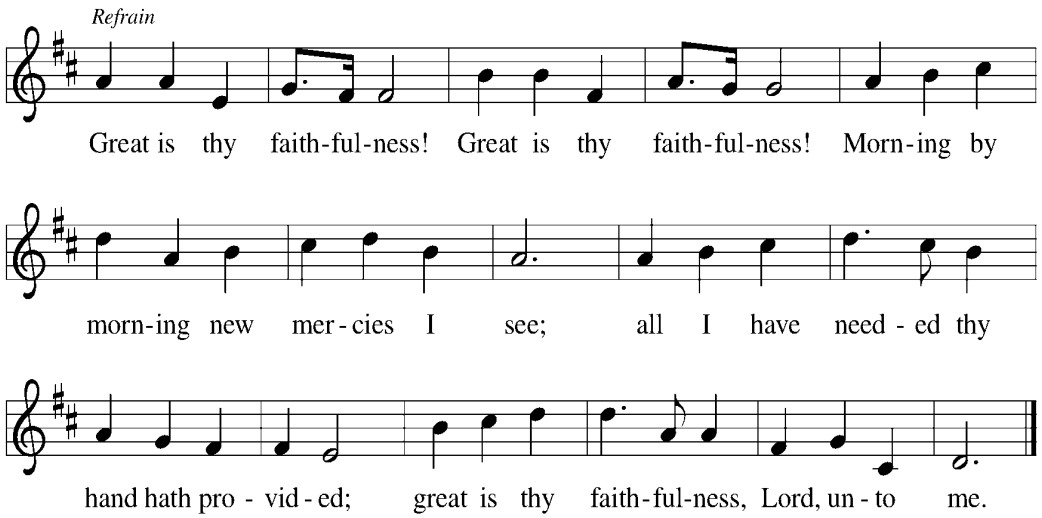
All baptized Christians are welcome to share the bread and wine of ***Holy Communion****. After it is placed in your hand, dip your wafer in the wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (ceramic chalice). Sign a communion card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P: The table is ready, come and eat.
C: Amen

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
C: Amen

Great Is Thy Faithfulness



POST COMMUNION PRAYER

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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

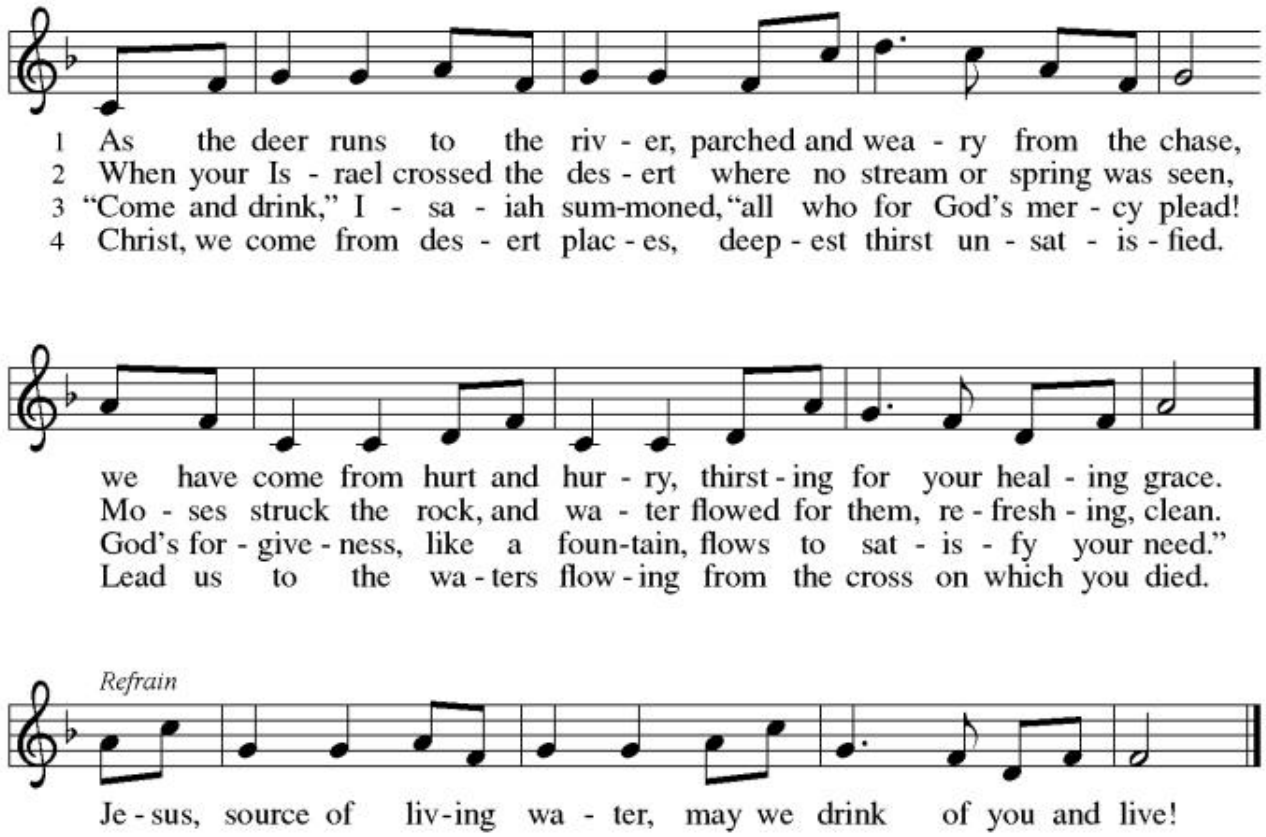
^BENEDICTION/BLESSING

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.

HYMN

As the Deer Runs to the River



^DISMISSAL
Go in peace. Believe the good news.
Thanks be to God.

As a **Reconciling in Christ congregation**, Immanuel Lutheran Church, Norwood, commits to celebrating the love of God with ALL people as we are all made in God's image. We are committed to racial equity in our congregation, community, and country. Whatever your abilities, gender identity, sexual orientation, relationship status, race, culture, faith tradition or economic circumstance; whatever your past or present – you are welcome to share in God's love and our community.

Welcome Visitors! We are very glad you are with us today! It is a privilege to have you share our worship service. Please take a moment to fill out the Visitor Guest Book located at the top of the steps at our Chester Pike entrance. We would appreciate having a record of your communion with us today. Please sign a communion card from the pew rack and place it in the offering plate. If you have any questions please ask any of the members, we'll be happy to help. Check out www.immanuelnorwood.org or our Facebook page. **Thanks for being with us!**

Supporting IMMANUEL's Mission with Our Generosity. We have three easy and virtual ways for people to donate to IMMANUEL. You will see on our Website and on our Facebook page "links" which you can click and make a secure donation. And here is a ***QR code*** which you can scan with your smart phone. Thank You for your continued generous support!

February Income - $ 8,443
February Expenses - $10,790

ACTIVITIES FOR THE WEEK

Weekly Activities do not reflect building use by outside groups.

SUNDAY	Education Hour	10:00 AM
	Worship	11:00 AM
	Council Meeting	12:00 PM
WEDNESDAY	Bible Study in Person @ St. Matts	9:00AM
	Lenten Service @ St. Matt's Woodlyn	6:00 PM
THURSDAY	Zoom Bible Study	7:00 PM

	Lector	**Worship Assistant**	**Greeters**	**Acolytes**
Mar 8		J. Kintsche	J. Morrison	M. Stewart
Mar 15	D. McClellan	J. Kintsche	K. McClellan	E. Enriquez
Mar 22		J. Kintsche	J. Crane	

Irish Sweet Treats Order Time!!!

Order forms are available on the hospitality table, and are due by **TODAY!** The orders will be delivered by March 15th.

Acme/ShopRite Gift Cards! They are used like cash at any of the area stores. There is no extra charge for the certificates. **Our church receives 5% of the coupons. Help us help our church!** See Mary Lyn Horne-Onimus for details.

Heating Oil Season is Here!

Easter Flowers! Tulips and hyacinths are available to order until **March 22nd;** $8 each, please see Jean Crane.

Choir News! NO PRACTICE 3/8.

Our mascot for our Heating Oil campaign, **Scout** is asking that our members do their best to **c**ontribute monthly a little extra using **the OIL envelopes you'll find at the BRIGHT YELLOW Heating Oil campaign poster** board located in the Hospitality area.

Lenten Meal & Services

Lenten Vesper/Dinner Service will take place **WEDNESDAYS** at the locations listed below. A light dinner will be shared as part of the worship service.

DATE	LOCATION	ADDRESS
3/11/2026	St. Matthew Woodlyn	156 Fairview Rd, Woodlyn, PA 19094
3/18/2026	St. Timothy Aston	535 Lamp Post Ln, Aston Township, PA 19014
3/25/2026	Holy Spirit Secane	2545 Franklin Avenue Secane, Pa 19018

In the event of **Severe Weather** please call the church office at 610.586.5860 for a recorded announcement on the status of Sunday morning services. Closing announcement will be made no later than 6:30 AM to ensure ample time to plan your morning.

Easter Candy is on **Tuesdays at 6:00PM**. No experience ? No problem! We will train you!

Orders are being taken now and must be in by **TODAY!!!.** Ordered candy will be delivered by **March 29th.**

Easter Breakfast Sign Ups NOW AVAILABLE! Let us know that you plan to come and what you plan to contribute to the meal. Thank you for your generosity and time in contributing so that all may enjoy it!