

# WELCOME TO WORSHIP

*Today Is March 23, 2025*

+ + +

*Third Sunday in Lent*



**ST. MATTHEW'S LUTHERAN CHURCH**

12351 All Saints Place

Woodbridge, Virginia 22192

## GATHERING

WELCOME

PRELUDE

*Jesus, Still Lead On*

Paul Manz

*The assembly stands.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **C: Amen.**

P: God of all mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **C: Amen.**

*kneel or sit*

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most merciful God.

**C: Have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

GATHERING HYMN

*Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters*

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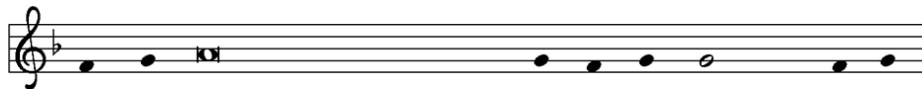
APOSTOLIC GREETING

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

# KYRIE —



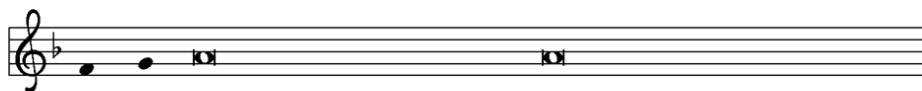
P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord. C: **Lord, have mer - cy.**



For the peace from above, and for our sal - va - tion, let us



pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



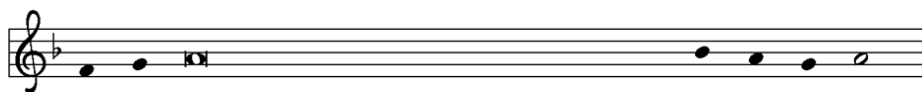
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



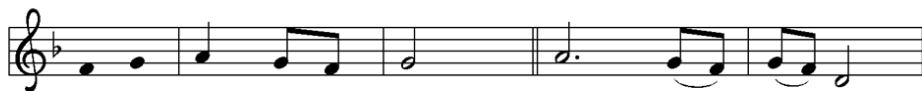
and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



**Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**



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



**A - men.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray. Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## WORD

### FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-9

L: A reading from Isaiah.

Ho, everyone who thirsts,  
    come to the waters;  
and you that have no money,  
    come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk  
    without money and without price.

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
    and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,  
    and delight yourselves in rich food.

Incline your ear, and come to me;  
    listen, so that you may live.

I will make with you an everlasting covenant,  
    my steadfast, sure love for David.

See, I made him a witness to the peoples,  
    a leader and commander for the peoples.

See, you shall call nations that you do not know,  
    and nations that do not know you shall run to you,  
because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel,  
    for he has glorified you.

Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near;  
let the wicked forsake their way,  
and the unrighteous their thoughts;  
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,  
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.  
For my thoughts are not your thoughts,  
nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord.  
For as the heavens are higher than the earth,  
so are my ways higher than your ways  
and my thoughts than your thoughts.  
L: The word of the Lord.  
**C: Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 63:1-8

L: We pray the psalm responsively.  
O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints  
for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.  
**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,  
that I might behold your power and your glory.**  
For your steadfast love is better than life itself;  
my lips shall give you praise.  
**So will I bless you as long as I live  
and lift up my hands in your name.**  
My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,  
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,  
**when I remember you upon my bed,  
and meditate on you in the night watches.**  
For you have been my helper,  
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.  
**My whole being clings to you;  
your right hand holds me fast. Amen.**

L: A reading from First Corinthians.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

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

*The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.*

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Let your stead - fast love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you prom - ised; we will trust your word.

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

*The assembly is seated.*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON

Pastor Stephen Bohannon

*The assembly stands.*

HYMN OF THE DAY

*Jesus, Still Lead On*

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## APOSTLES' CREED

P: With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

**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 INTERCESSION

*The pastor invites the assembly into prayer.*

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

*(A brief silence is kept; each petition ends with the response.)*

L: 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.**

## PEACE

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*You are invited to greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say,  
"Peace be with you," or similar words.*

*The assembly is seated.*

## OFFERING

*Come to the Water  
Choir*

Foley



*The assembly stands.*

OFFERTORY

*Create in Me a Clean Heart*

*ELW 186*

Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right  
spir-it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take  
not your Ho-ly Spir-it from me. Re-store to me the joy of  
your sal-va-tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir-it.

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a treble clef staff. The lyrics are placed below the notes, with hyphens indicating syllables that span across multiple notes. The music begins with a quarter rest, followed by a series of eighth and quarter notes. The piece concludes with a double bar line.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

P: 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.**

## MEAL

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Musical notation for 'The Great Thanksgiving' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (F major). The lyrics are: P: The Lord be with you. C: And al - so with you. Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is right to give our thanks and praise.

P: The Lord be with you. C: And al - so with you.

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

## PROPER PREFACE

*Pastor begins, "It is indeed right, our duty and our joy..." Here the pastor continues with the preface for the day, "...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:"*

## HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

Musical notation for 'Holy, Holy, Holy' in G major, 4/4 time. The melody is written on a single staff with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (F major). The lyrics are: Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might, heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,

heav - en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the

high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -

san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

# EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

## 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 COMMUNION

**P:** All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.  
The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.

**C: Amen.**

*The assembly is seated.*

## LAMB OF GOD



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a - way the sin of the world; grant us peace.

*All who believe Jesus is present in this sacrament are invited to receive the bread and wine. Communion will be distributed at the altar rail; when invited by an usher, please come forward and kneel at the altar to receive the bread and wine. Gluten-free wafers and grape juice are available. Know that if you only take the bread that you have fully communed. Whether you are receiving communion at in-person worship or if you are receiving communion at home, we extend to you:  
The body of Christ given for you; the blood of Christ shed for you.*

#### COMMUNION HYMNS

***As the Deer Runs to the River*** page 16  
***Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord*** page 17

*The assembly stands.*

#### POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

**C: Amen.**

#### POST COMMUNION PRAYER

P: 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.**

## SENDING

### BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine upon you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

### SENDING HYMN

***Eternal Father, Strong to Save***

page 18

### DISMISSAL

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

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### POSTLUDE

*Eternal Father, Strong to Save*

Gilbert Martin

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*Wash, O God, Our Sons and Daughters, ELW 445*



- 1 Wash, O God, our sons and daughters, where your cleansing waters flow.
- 2 We who bring them long for nurture; by your milk may we be fed.
- 3 Oh, how deep your holy wisdom! Unimaged, all your ways!



Number them among your people; bless as Christ blessed long ago.  
Let us join your feast, partaking cup of blessing, living bread.  
To your name be glory, honor! With our lives we worship, praise!



Weave them garments bright and sparkling; compass them with love and light.  
God, renew us, guide our footsteps; free from sin and all its snares,  
We your people stand before you, water-washed and Spirit-born.



Fill, anoint them; send your Spirit, holy dove and heart's delight.  
one with Christ in living, dying, by your Spirit, children, heirs.  
By your grace, our lives we offer. Re-create us; God, transform!

*Return to page 2*

## Jesus, Still Lead On ELW 624

1 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, al-though the  
 2 If the way be drear, if the foe be near, let no faith - less  
 3 When we seek re - lief from a long-felt grief, when temp-ta - tions  
 4 Je - sus, still lead on, till our rest be won; heav'n-ly lead - er,

way be cheer - less, we will fol - low, calm and fear - less;  
 fears o'er - take us, let not faith and hope for - sake us;  
 come al - lur - ing make us pa - tient and en - dur - ing;  
 still di - rect us, still sup - port, con - sole, pro - tect us,

guide us by your hand to the prom - ised land.  
 safe - ly past the foe to our home we go.  
 show us that bright shore where we weep no more.  
 till we safe - ly stand in the prom - ised land.

*Return to page 7*

*As the Deer Runs to the River, ELW 331*



1 As the deer runs to the riv - er, parched and wea - ry from the chase,  
2 When your Is - rael crossed the des - ert where no stream or spring was seen,  
3 "Come and drink," I - sa - iah sum-moned, "all who for God's mer - cy plead!  
4 Christ, we come from des - ert plac - es, deep - est thirst un - sat - is - fied.



we have come from hurt and hur - ry, thirst - ing for your heal - ing grace.  
Mo - ses struck the rock, and wa - ter flowed for them, re - fresh - ing, clean.  
God's for - give - ness, like a foun-tain, flows to sat - is - fy your need."  
Lead us to the wa - ters flow - ing from the cross on which you died.



Je - sus, source of liv - ing wa - ter, may we drink of you and live!



## *Draw Near and Take the Body of the Lord, LBW 226*

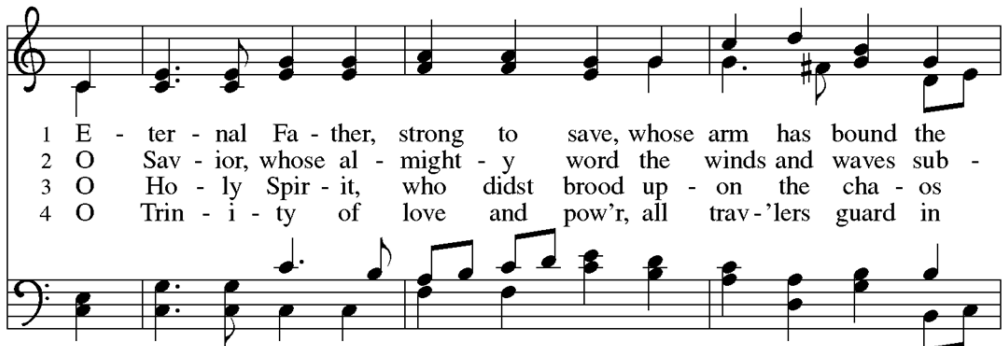
1 Draw near and take the bod - y of the Lord  
2 Saved by that bod - y, hal - lowed by that blood,  
3 Sal - va - tion's giv - er, Christ, the on - ly Son,  
4 Of - fered was he for great - est and for least,

and drink the ho - ly blood for you out - poured.  
where - by re - freshed, we ren - der thanks to God.  
by his dear cross and blood the vic - t'ry won.  
him - self the vic - tim and him - self the priest.

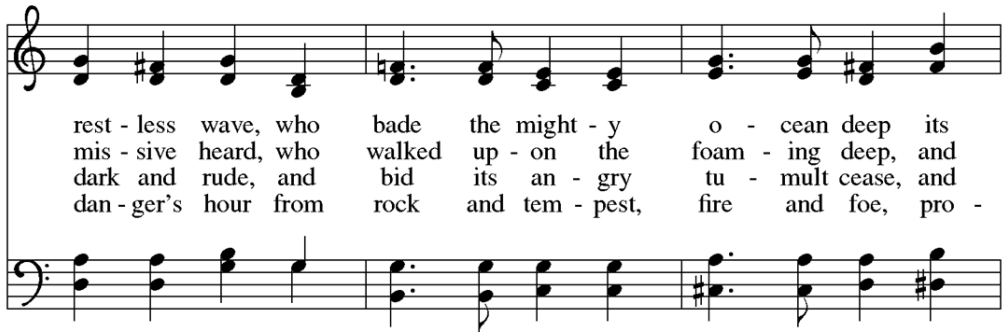
- 5 Come forward then with faithful hearts sincere,  
and take the pledges of salvation here.
- 6 He who his saints in this world rules and shields,  
to all believers life eternal yields,
- 7 With heav'nly bread makes those who hunger whole,  
gives living waters to the thirsty soul.
- 8 The judge eternal, unto whom shall bow  
all nations at the last, is with us now.

*return to page 12*

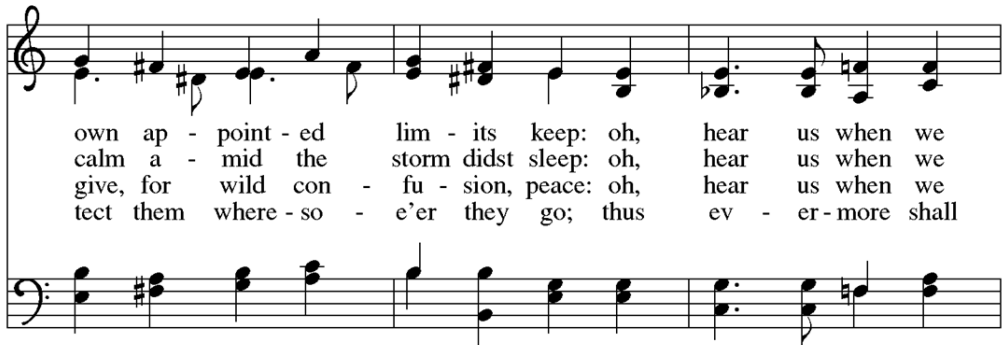
*Eternal Father, Strong to Save, ELW 756*



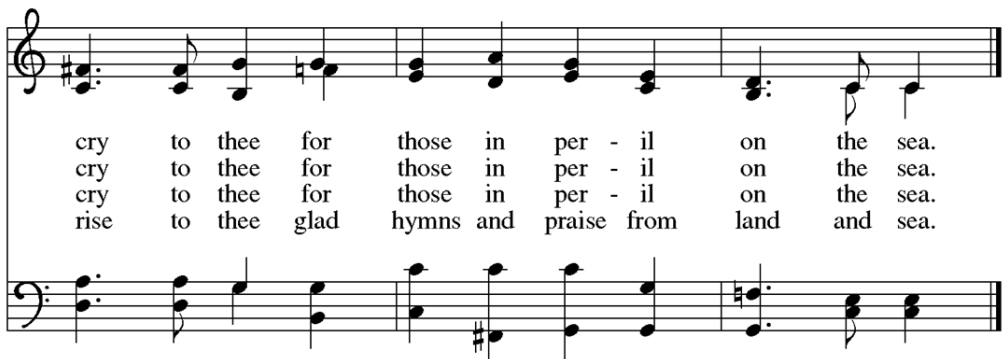
1 E - ter - nal Fa - ther, strong to save, whose arm has bound the  
2 O Sav - ior, whose al - might - y word the winds and waves sub -  
3 O Ho - ly Spir - it, who didst brood up - on the cha - os  
4 O Trin - i - ty of love and pow'r, all trav - 'lers guard in



rest - less wave, who bade the might - y o - cean deep its  
mis - sive heard, who walked up - on the foam - ing deep, and  
dark and rude, and bid its an - gry tu - mult cease, and  
dan - ger's hour from rock and tem - pest, fire and foe, pro -



own ap - point - ed lim - its keep: oh, hear us when we  
calm a - mid the storm didst sleep: oh, hear us when we  
give, for wild con - fu - sion, peace: oh, hear us when we  
tect them where - so - e'er they go; thus ev - er - more shall



cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
cry to thee for those in per - il on the sea.  
rise to thee glad hymns and praise from land and sea.

## Ministers: ALL the People of St. Matthew's

Pastor: Stephen Bohannon sbohannon@stmatthewsva.org  
Director of Music: Kathy Lundgren klundgren@stmatthewsva.org  
Organist: Melvin Goodwyn organist@stmatthewsva.org  
Administrative Assistant: Patti Hinson stmatthews@stmatthewsva.org  
Congregation Council President: Dave Strand councilpresident@stmatthewsva.org  
Lector: Ron Trostel  
Tech Volunteers: Dave Strand, Chris Moessner, Steve Payne  
Ushers: Dave Carr, Mark Victorson

**For more announcements and upcoming events,  
please visit [www.stmatthewsva.org](http://www.stmatthewsva.org)**

- **Wednesdays Through April 9** – Join us each Wednesday through Lent for a Midweek Service of Evening Prayer at 7:00PM. We'll have a soup supper before the service at 6:00PM that everyone is welcome to attend—please use the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius to sign up if you'd like to bring soup or bread to share.
- **March 27** – The next Fellowship Lunch will be at D'Rocco's Restaurant in Occoquan on Thursday, March 27, at 12:00. Let us know you're coming by signing up on the St. Matthew's SignUp Genius.

### **Holy Week and Easter Services:**

- April 17 – Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00PM
- April 18 – Good Friday Service at 7:00PM
- April 20 – Sunrise Easter Service at 6:30AM  
Easter Worship Service at 9:00AM and 11:00AM  
Easter Egg Hunt 10:30AM-11:00AM

## **Introduction to the day:**

*The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!*

The Eternal Candle for the month of March is sponsored by Kristin Humphreys,  
*In loving memory of Thomas and Virginia Altman,  
by daughter Kristin, son-in-law Robert, and granddaughters Amanda and Tyler Humphreys...*

The altar flowers for today are given by Anita Himes,  
*In honor of family birthdays...*



*Give online to St. Matthew's—your offerings support the mission of the church  
and allow us to respond to the needs of our congregation and community  
locally, nationally, and internationally.*