

# MESSIAH LUTHERAN

*Seaside*

SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

**Sunday, March 1, 2026**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**



MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH  
1 West Ridge Road, Savannah, GA 31411  
(912) 598-1188  
[www.messiahsi.org](http://www.messiahsi.org)

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WELCOME TO THIS  
WORSHIP CELEBRATION of the living  
Christ's presence in  
our midst. Christ  
comes to us with new  
life and strength for  
Christian living in  
daily life through the  
hearing of the Word,  
preaching, prayer,  
song, and community.

*As the Confession and  
Forgiveness begins, all  
may make the sign of  
the cross, the sign that  
is marked at baptism.*

*Congregational re-  
sponses are in bold*

*\* Asterisks through-  
out the order of  
worship indicate  
the people stand-  
ing, in body and/or  
in spirit.*

# GATHERING

## CHIMING OF THE HOUR

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Joy Olson, Reader*

## PRELUDE "Wondrous Love"

arr. Johnston

*Shirley Newhart, organ*

## \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

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

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

**People: Amen.**

Leader: Let us confess our sin before God, who removes  
our guilt and blots out all offenses.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

Leader: Gracious God,

**People: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: For seeking worldly delights that deceive us and  
dishonor you: Gracious God,

**People: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: For desiring self-reliance instead of hungering for  
your word: Gracious God,

**People: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: For failing to recognize your coming reign, and for  
hindering the work of the Spirit: Gracious God,

**People: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: For drawing from the well of self-serving ambition, and for  
disdaining the living water Christ offers: Gracious God,

**People: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: For disregarding voices from the margin, and for distrusting  
signs of your healing and hope in the world: Gracious God,

**People: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: For dwelling in tombs of self-pity and discontent, and for  
disregarding Christ's call to come forth to life: Gracious God,

**People: have mercy on us according to your steadfast love.**

Leader: 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.

**People: Amen**

## \*GATHERING SONG "What Wondrous Love is This"

Hymn 666



1 What won-drous love is this, O my soul, O my soul! What  
2 When I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when  
3 To God and to the Lamb I will sing, I will sing; to  
4 And when from death I'm free, I'll sing on, I'll sing on; and



won - drous love is this, O my soul! What won-drous love is this  
I was sink - ing down, sink - ing down, when I was sink - ing down  
God and to the Lamb I will sing; to God and to the Lamb,  
when from death I'm free, I'll sing on; and when from death I'm free,



that caused the Lord of bliss to bear the dread-ful curse for my  
be - neath God's righ-teous frown, Christ laid a - side his crown for my  
who is the great I AM, while mil - lions join the theme, I will  
I'll sing God's love for me, and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing



soul, for my soul, to bear the dread-ful curse for my soul?  
soul, for my soul, Christ laid a - side his crown for my soul.  
sing, I will sing, while mil - lions join the theme, I will sing.  
on, I'll sing on; and through e - ter - ni - ty I'll sing on.

Text: North American folk hymn, 19th cent., alt.

Music: WONDROUS LOVE, W. Walker, *Southern Harmony*, 1835

## \*GREETING

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

People: **And also with you.**

## \*KYRIE

Please sing the verses in Greek. [KEE-ree-ay eh-LAY-ee-son (Lord have mercy)  
and KREE-stay eh-LAY-ee-son (Christ have mercy).



1, 3 Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
2 Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.  
1, 3 Lord, . . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
2 Christ, . . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.



Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son. Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son.  
Chris - te e - le - i - son. Chris - te e - le - i - son.  
Lord, . . . . have mer - cy. Lord, . . . . have mer - cy.  
Christ, . . . . have mer - cy. Christ, . . . . have mer - cy.

Music: Dinah Reindorf, b. c. 1927  
Music © 1987 Dinah Reindorf, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Leader:** O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## ANTHEM "Cast Thy Burden Upon the Lord"

Harlan

### VOX CORDIUM

*Cast thy burden upon the Lord, cast thy burden upon the Lord.*

*He will not fail you. He'll walk beside you.*

*He'll even carry you and sustain you.*

*Cast thy burden upon the Lord.*

*VOX CORDIUM is a special emphasis choir for Lent and Easter. VOX means voice in Latin and CORDIUM means heart. The music presented at worship this Lenten season will be choral songs from the heart.*

*The text for this anthem is Psalm 55:22.*

# WORD

Joy Olson, Reader

## FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a

Old Testament 9

*God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.*

<sup>1</sup> The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. <sup>2</sup> I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. <sup>3</sup> I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

<sup>4a</sup> So Abram went, as the Lord had told him, and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## PSALMODY: Psalm 121

*I lift up my eyes to the hills; my help comes from the LORD. (Ps. 121:1, 2)*

Leader: <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills;  
from where is my help to come?

People: <sup>2</sup> **My help comes from the LORD,  
the maker of heaven and earth.**

Leader: <sup>3</sup> The LORD will not let your foot be moved  
nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

People: <sup>4</sup> **Behold, the keeper of Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep;**

Leader: <sup>5</sup> the LORD watches over you;  
the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

People: <sup>6</sup> **the sun will not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.**

Leader: <sup>7</sup> The LORD will preserve you <sup>1</sup> from all evil  
and will keep your life.

People: <sup>8</sup> **The LORD will watch over your going out and your  
coming in, from this time forth forevermore.**

## **SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

*New Testament 135*

*In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.*

<sup>1</sup> What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? <sup>2</sup> For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. <sup>3</sup> For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>4</sup> Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. <sup>5</sup> But to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

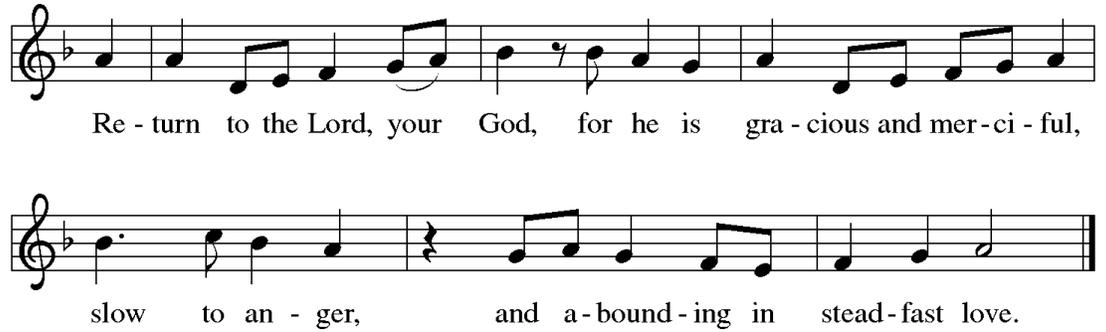
<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> For if it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath, but where there is no law, neither is there transgression.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason the promise depends on faith, in order that it may rest on grace, so that it may be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (who is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations"), in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and mer - ci - ful,  
slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

## \*GOSPEL: Mark 8:31-38

*New Testament 38*

*Jesus predicts his suffering and calls disciples to take up the cross, witnessing through faithful obedience even amid difficulty*

The Holy Gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”

<sup>34</sup> He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. <sup>35</sup> For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. <sup>36</sup> For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? <sup>37</sup> Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? <sup>38</sup> Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

# SERMON "Renewal of Witness"

Rev. Jason Talsness

## \*HYMN OF THE DAY "Lift High the Cross"

Hymn 660



Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro - claim till



all the world a - dore his sa - cred name.



1 Come, Chris - tians, fol - low where our cap - tain trod,  
2 All new - born ser - vants of the Cru - ci - fied  
3 O Lord, once lift - ed on the glo - rious tree,  
4 So shall our song of tri - umph ev - er be:



our king vic - to - rious, Christ, the Son of God.  
bear on their brows the seal of him who died.  
as thou hast prom - ised, draw us all to thee.  
praise to the Cru - ci - fied for vic - to - ry!

*Refrain*

Text: George W. Kitchin, 1827-1912; rev. Michael R. Newbolt, 1874-1956

Music: CRUCIFER, Sydney H. Nicholson, 1875-1947

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*Altar Flowers are given this week by Argerie Martin "in memory of Bill Martin," by Diane Munroe "in loving memory of Jack Munroe," and Kay Yablecki "in memory of my mother on her birthday."*

*March's Eternal Candle is given by Kay Yablecki "in celebration of Spring and new life in God's creation."*

## **APOSTLES' CREED**

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**

*(In between the petitions of the prayers, the following response is offered.)*

Leader: Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

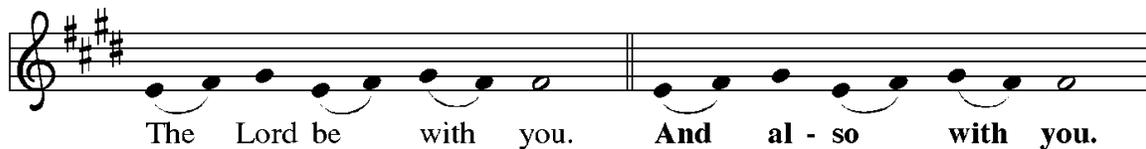
*(Final petition and response.)*

Leader: Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength  
and salvation.

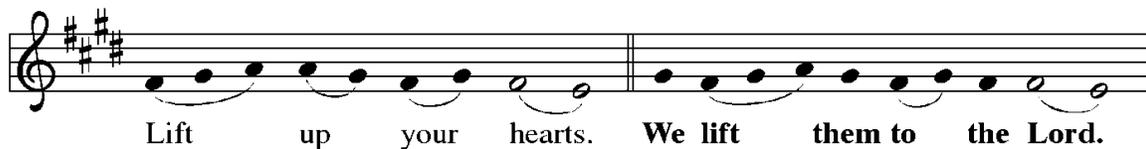
People: **Amen.**

# MEAL

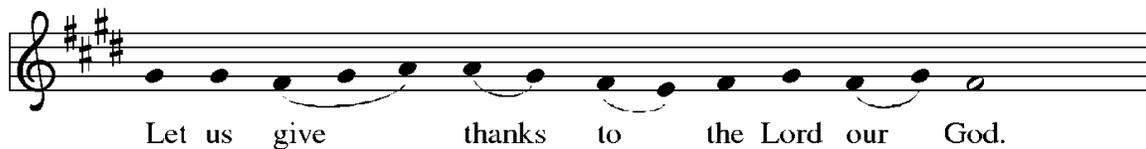
## \*DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. 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.

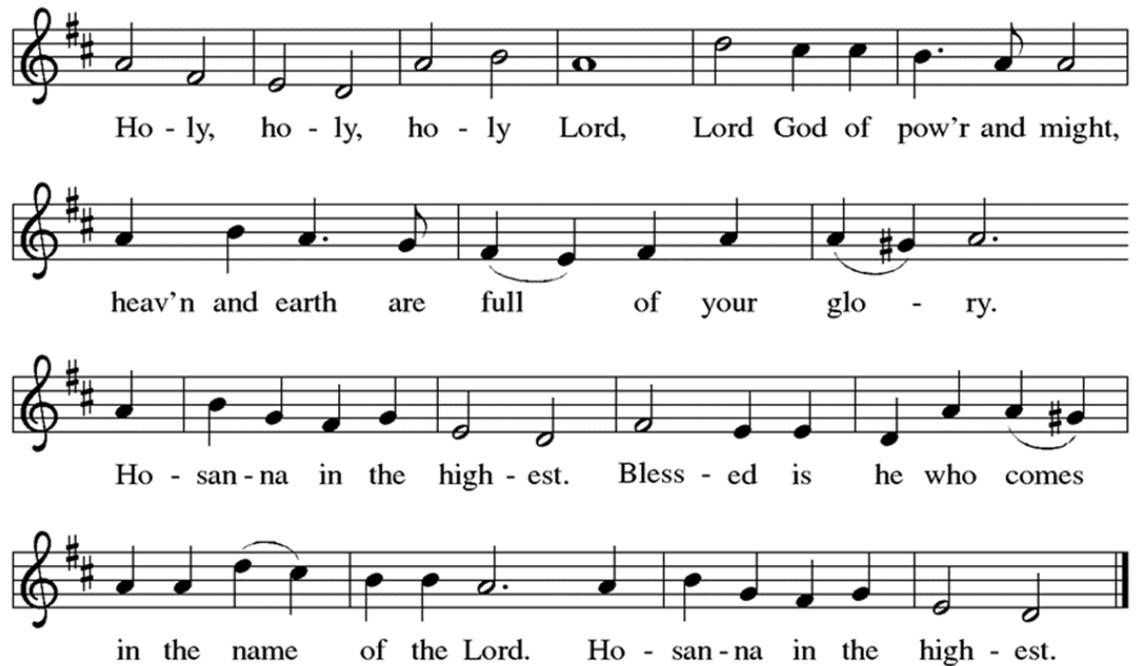
## \*PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, ...

We praise your name and join their unending hymn:



## **\*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY**



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,  
heav'n 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.

## **\*THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

### **\*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.

### **\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!  
Come to the table; taste and see.

## COMMUNION SONG "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, grant us peace.

## COMMUNION

### \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Leader: Radiant God,

People: we have seen your glory in the face of Jesus Christ.

In the sacrament of his body and blood

you have drawn us to your heart.

Send us from this table with delight,

that our lives may reflect the beauty of your love,

and bear witness to all we have seen and heard,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

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# SENDING

## \*PASTORAL BENEDICTION

**Leader:** May the triune God, who has put a new song in your mouth and tuned your heart for praise  $\dagger$ , bless you now and forever.

**People:** Amen.

## \*SENDING SONG “Blessed Assurance”

Hymn 638



- 1 Bless-ed as-sur-ance, Je-sus is mine! Oh, what a fore-taste of glo-ry di-vine!
- 2 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, per-fect de-light, vi-sions of rap-ture now burst on my sight;
- 3 Per-fect sub-mis-sion, all is at rest; I in my Sav-ior am hap-py and blest,



Heir of sal-va-tion, pur-chase of God, born of his Spir-it, washed in his blood. an-gels de-scend-ing bring from a-bove ech-oes of mer-cy, whis-pers of love. watch-ing and wait-ing, look-ing a-bove, filled with his good-ness, lost in his love.

Refrain



This is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long:



this is my sto-ry, this is my song, prais-ing my Sav-ior all the day long.

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820–1915  
Music: ASSURANCE, Phoebe P. Knapp, 1830–1908

## \*DISMISSAL

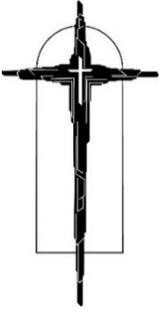
Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

## \*POSTLUDE “Lift High the Cross”

arr. Leavitt

Shirley Newhart, organ



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 1	9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Fellowship 10:20 am Adult Discipleship Class 10:20 am Confirmation Class
Monday, March 2	10:00 am Women's Bible Study 5:00 pm RMH Dinner
Tuesday, March 3	
Wednesday, March 4	8:30 am Men's Breakfast & Bible Study 10:00 am PLARning Group 5:30 pm Midweek Lenten Supper 6:15 pm Midweek Lenten Worship 7:00 pm VOX CORDIUM
Thursday, March 5	3:30 pm Bell Choir Rehearsal
Friday, March 6	<i>1:00 pm Needlepoint Society</i> 3:30 pm Understanding Your Grief
Saturday, March 7	

*Italics indicate outside group*

### ONLINE GIVING

Please consider making a one-time or recurring gift to Messiah using the secure online portal at the website ([messiahsi.org](http://messiahsi.org)) and clicking on the Give tab. Another option to reach the portal is to scan this QR code using your smartphone's QR reader.



If you would like to give the old-fashioned way, the offering plate is on the table as you exit the Sanctuary.



# THIS WEEK AT MESSIAH

Ministers	The People of Messiah
Pastor	Jason Talsness
Pastor, Congregational Care	Karen Scheib
Director, Faith Formation	Ken Ritz
Pastor Emeritus	James Peper
Presiding Bishop ELCA	Yehiel Curry
Bishop, SE Synod ELCA	Kevin Strickland
Director of Music & Organist	Shirley Newhart
Choral Director	Rodney Powers
Altar Guild	Lynnetta Hartson and Janet Reardon
Reader	Joy Olson
Evangelism Greeters	Julie Anderson and Gayla Webb
Ushers	Trish & Rick Tallon
Acolytes	Confirmation Class
Communion Assistants	Bonnie LaPread, Lynn McLauchlan, and Greg Stinson
Audio Visual	Steve Allen and Ken McLauchlan
Coffee Hour	Jennifer Nguyen (Host & Treats)

## MILESTONES THIS WEEK

*Birthdays: Diane Munroe 03/01, Glen Peschken 03/05*

*Anniversaries: None*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## **LENTEN SUPPER & WORSHIP**

During the season of Lent, there will be the traditional supper and worship. Dinner will be served at 5:30 pm, and the worship service will follow at 6:15 pm. These gatherings will take place through March 25.

Throughout Lent, Messiah will be using the devotional *Lent for Everyone: Matthew, Year A* by N. T. Wright. Trade paperback copies are available from various sources, and a Kindle edition is listed on Amazon. Everyone is encouraged to purchase a copy and participate in the daily devotional readings beginning on Ash Wednesday, as we journey together through this holy season.

The Parish Life Ministry is also seeking volunteers to set up for supper and clean up after the meal each week. If you can volunteer, please sign up on the Narthex Kiosk.

## **SAVE THE DATE**

**Saturday, March 14**

The Landlovers' Flea Market is fast approaching! Messiah will be recruiting bakers, grillers, servers, and sellers. More information and sign-up sheets to come; but, for now, clear your calendars for fun-filled fellowship to raise money for a local charity while we feed sellers and shoppers.

# SERMON PREVIEW

This week, our Lenten Sermon series on renewal focuses on "Renewal of Witness." Our style of Christianity has a reputation for being shy. We avoid "in-your-face" expressions of faith. That does not serve us well. The New Testament speaks of "witness," which is taken from courtroom language. Often misunderstood, witness is not primarily about arguing, proving, or persuading but about living in a way that makes the reality of God visible. In our gospel reading from Mark 8, Jesus predicts his suffering and calls disciples to take up the cross, witnessing through faithful obedience even amid difficulty. Jesus points us to the idea that sometimes our best witness is not our successes but how we endure our hardships.

Questions for Reflection: Jesus speaks plainly about suffering, rejection, death, and resurrection. What part of this path do you resist or avoid in your own life of faith? Jesus says that following him means denying oneself and taking up the cross. What might that look like concretely in your daily relationships, work, or family life? If witness is less about persuasion and more about visible faithfulness, what kind of witness might your daily life be offering now? Where might Christ be calling you to bear witness not through words but through patience, mercy, courage, forgiveness, or costly love?

# FROM THE DIRECTOR OF FAITH FORMATION

## 2026 Spiritual Growth Activity

We are inviting our whole church family to participate in a **12-month spiritual growth journey**. Each month we will focus on one simple, but meaningful activity designed to help you draw closer to Christ.

### **March—Serve Others Intentionally**

Prayerfully identify people who could use practical help or personal attention, such as a neighbor, coworker, or church member. Offer to help in a tangible way—bringing a meal, running errands, doing yard work, or simply spending time listening. Do this once each week during the month of March.

*Serving others reflects Christ's love and reminds us that spiritual growth is lived out through loving action.*

### **Extended Community Service (3-4 hours)**

For those who want an additional challenge, do a meaningful act of service outside the church:

- volunteer at a shelter,
- visit nursing home residents,
- assist with a local nonprofit,
- or help a family in need.

*End by praying for those you served.*

# CHURCH COUNCIL 2026

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<sup>1</sup> Greg Stinson is serving the second year of a three-year term that ends in 2027.

<sup>2</sup> George Lawrence is serving the first year of a three-year term that ends in 2028.