



St. Mary's Lutheran Church ~ Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
2001 80th Street ~ Kenosha, WI 53143 (262)658-3555

[www.stmaryslutheran.org](http://www.stmaryslutheran.org)

**Wednesday, March 4, 2026  
6:00pm**



## **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Tell me something good!

**God loves you more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good!

**God loves *all* of creation more than you could imagine.**

Tell me something good!

**God's love meets us in this service of worship. We are not alone.**

This is good news indeed!

**Let us worship our compassionate God.**

**OPENING HYMN #539 "Abide, O Dearest Jesus"**

## **CALL TO CONFESSION**

### **PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God,

**did we see you hungry and give you something to eat?**

**Did we see you thirsty and give you something to drink?**

**Did we see you alone and offer you compassion?**

**Or did we cross the street?**

**Did we avert our eyes?**

**Did we come up with every excuse in the book?**

**God, we long to be people who love our neighbors**

**with the same overwhelming love that you have for them.**

**But we must admit, we have a long way to go.**

**Forgive us for the times when we let bias, scarcity, or fear**

**get in the way of love. Wash us clean and give us the courage to try again.**

**With hope for a better tomorrow we pray, amen.**

## **WORDS OF FORGIVENESS**

Faith family,

even when we act with judgment,

even when we are guided by fear,

even when we turn our back on a neighbor in need,

God does not turn God's back on us.

So join me in this good-news declaration:

**We are seen.**

**We are forgiven.**

**We are invited to try again.**

**Thanks be to God for this unending love.**

### **PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

#### **SCRIPTURE READING: Luke 7:36-50**

*One of the Pharisees asked Jesus to eat with him, and when he went into the Pharisee's house he reclined to dine. And a woman in the city who was a sinner, having learned that he was eating in the Pharisee's house, brought an alabaster jar of ointment. She stood behind him at his feet, weeping, and began to bathe his feet with her tears and to dry them with her hair, kissing his feet and anointing them with the ointment. Now when the Pharisee who had invited him saw it, he said to himself, "If this man were a prophet, he would have known who and what kind of woman this is who is touching him, that she is a sinner." Jesus spoke up and said to him, "Simon, I have something to say to you." "Teacher," he replied, "speak." "A certain moneylender had two debtors; one owed five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. When they could not pay, he canceled the debts for both of them. Now which of them will love him more?" Simon answered, "I suppose the one for whom he canceled the greater debt." And Jesus said to him, "You have judged rightly." Then turning toward the woman, he said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? I entered your house; you gave me no water for my feet, but she has bathed my feet with her tears and dried them with her hair. You gave me no kiss, but from the time I came in she has not stopped kissing my feet. You did not anoint my head with oil, but she has anointed my feet with ointment. Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven; hence she has shown great love. But the one to whom little is forgiven loves little." Then he said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." But those who were at the table with him began to say among themselves, "Who is this who even forgives sins?" But he said to the woman, "Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

#### **POEM / REFLECTION "If God Lived Next Door"** to rest your legs?

If God lived next door,

I'd drop off a loaf of bread.

I'd use my mom's best recipe.

I'd wrap it in parchment and ribbon

and place it on the front stoop.

If God lived next door,

I'd leave a note with my phone number.

Call anytime you need anything!

I'm always happy to help!

If God lived next door,

I'd keep sugar on the shelf,

just in case she needed a cup.

I'd put a picnic table in the front yard

and begin taking my coffee there.

Whenever God passed by with their gaggle of  
rescue dogs,

I could say, Want to sit for a moment? Want

to rest your legs?

I'd keep a jar of dog treats and water by the  
mailbox

and change my doormat to one that says:

All are welcome here.

I'd invite God over for dinner.

She'd bring bread and juice.

I'd host a block party,

so that everyone could meet her.

I'd start a community garden

so that the kids could run between rows of

squash and tomatoes

while we adults put our hands in the dirt.

We'd share stories while we weeded,

and eat harvest meals at the end of the season.

If God lived next door,

I'd want to build something beautiful.

Then again, who says she doesn't?

**SCRIPTURE READING: Matthew 25:35-40**

*for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did it to me.’*

**HYMN OF THE DAY #722 “O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate”**

**AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

**I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**It sounds like welcome  
and feels like home.**

**It sounds like laughter  
and feels like mercy.**

**It sounds like love  
and feels like a seat at the table,  
so I believe in the good news of Jesus Christ.**

**I have seen it alive in the world.  
And even when my heart aches,  
even when wars rage,  
even when mercy feels out of reach,**

**I remember the one who  
welcomed the children  
and led with nonviolence.**

**I remember the one who  
cared for the vulnerable  
and inspired those around him.**

**I remember that the good news really is good news,  
for I have seen it alive in the world.**

**Thanks be to God! Amen.**

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

Jesus of Nazareth,[...] we pray together using the words your son taught us to pray, saying

**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.**

*Please stand in body or spirit.*

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**SENDING HYMN** *“Singing Promise on the Way”*

**BENEDICTION**

As you leave this place,

when you meet anger, speak with love.

When you meet fear, speak with hope.

When you meet pain, speak with gentleness.

But no matter what, speak this good news.

For the good news of the gospel is

love and justice for all.

It is joy that surprises,

and nonviolence that transforms.

The good news of the gospel is alive in the world,

so go forth speaking.

For if you won't, then who will?

Thanks be to God

for this good, good news.

**Amen.**

SANCTIFIED ART TELL ME SOMETHING GOOD— WORDS FOR WORSHIP FOR LENT-EASTER. Written by Rev. Sarah (Are) Speed; “Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC “sanctifiedart.org.”

Thank you for participating in worship tonight:

Pastor Jordan Miller-Stubbendick, Pastor

Di Michalski, Assisting Minister/Reader

Deb Black, Musician

**LL Cool J**

by Nicolette Faison

Inspired by Luke 7:36-50

12”x24” Acrylic, marker, paper collage on canvas

**LOOK**

*In the artwork, notice how deconstructed details are entwined together. What parts of the image draw your attention the most?*

