



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

www.stmaryslutheran.org

Wednesday, February 25, 2026
6:00pm



CALL TO WORSHIP

The good news of the gospel is:

**manna in the desert,
water turned into wine,
love after loss,
forgiveness after pain.**

The good news of the gospel is:

**release for the captive,
hope for the hopeless,
mourning turned to dancing,
and strangers turned to friends.**

So come on in.

There's no time to waste!

This surprising good news is here for you.

Let us worship this good-news God.

OPENING HYMN #325 "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Loving God,

**somewhere along the way we picked up the message that in order to be faithful,
we have to be serious.**

We have to pray on our knees without ceasing.

We have to be somber in worship and quiet in our studies.

We have to check our wiggles and our questions at the door.

But then you say the kingdom of God is like a mustard seed—unruly and untamed.

You turn water into wine—surprising and extravagant.

And all of a sudden, we wonder:

Can we be like that mustard seed?

Can we be faithful and unruly?

Can we be playful and curious?

Can we be messy and still be yours?

We know the answer already.

The Spirit whispers: of course, of course, of course.

Forgive our doubt.

Pull us closer into your embrace.

With faith like a mustard seed, we pray. Amen.

WORDS OF FORGIVENESS

God's grace is wild and unruly.

God's mercy is abundant and surprising.

God's love is expansive and unending.

So if you ask, "Holy One, am I forgiven?"

the answer is and always will be:

of course, of course, of course.

This is the good news of the gospel.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING: John 2:1-11

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to me and to you? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the person in charge of the banquet." So they took it. When the person in charge tasted the water that had become wine and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), that person called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee and revealed his glory, and his disciples believed in him.

POEM / REFLECTION

"Start With a Wedding"

Inspired by the Gospel of John's celebratory beginning.

When it comes time to write my obituary for the local paper, please do not start with my résumé. Do not start with my career or my worldly accomplishments (however small they may be). Do not take up space writing about my alma mater or outlining the entire family tree (we know who we are). Instead, spend your precious little word count on how beautiful it all was. Write about the dinner parties and the fireside chats. Write about the evenings we spent on the front stoop counting fireflies. Write about summers in the mountains and the garden that we grew. Write about the seasons we cried out to God, and the prayers that God answered. Write about the nights we danced, and the days we laughed. When it comes time to tell the story of my life, please take a lesson from the Gospel of John, and start with a wedding. Start with a miracle. Start with the fact that all of it held joy.

POEM / REFLECTION

“They’re Out of Wine”

They kicked off their sandals when the dancing began.
Everyone flooded the floor. He was there,
head thrown back, laughing at the stars.
Everyone could see it was joy and hope in the air,
the kind of love that makes it impossible not to dance.
So the whole community spun and twirled, jumped and clapped,
pushing back the pain of the world for a night.
Reveling in the fact that two people could stand to
build something beautiful in this fractured world.

But before too long, a tug on his sleeve.
I wonder if Jesus stopped dancing when he heard the news.
I wonder if he looked out over the crowd of happy people.
I wonder if he could see their joy poking through their fragility.
And I wonder if he knew, in that moment, that joy was holy,
that joy would sustain them, that joy was a form of resurrection,
so he turned water into wine and the dancing did not stop.

HYMN OF THE DAY #512 “Lord, Let my Heart Be Good Soil”

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

Joy-spreading God,[...] we will pray the prayer 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.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

SENDING HYMN *“Singing Promise on the Way”*

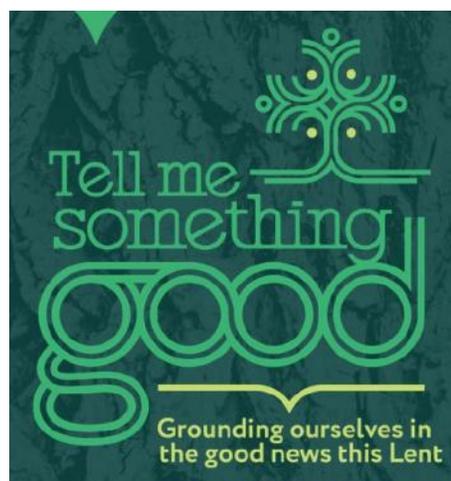
BENEDICTION

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
Jenny Workman, Assisting Minister/Reader
Deb Black, Musician



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