

WADE IN THE WATER

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP: *The Tigris*

March 11, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
4101 Washington Street NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

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OPENING HYMN: “My Song is Love Unknown” (vs. 1-4)

My song is love unknown, My Savior’s love to me,
Love to the love-less shown That they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I That for my sake
My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?

He came from his blest throne Salvation to bestow;
But men made strange, and none The longed-for Christ would know.
But, oh, my friend, My friend indeed,
Who at my need His life did spend!

Sometimes they strew his way And his sweet praises sing;
Resounding all the day Hosannas to their King.
Then “Crucify!” Is all their breath,
And for his death They thirst and cry.

Why, what hath my Lord done? What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run, He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! Yet they at these
Themselves displease And ‘gainst him rise.

INVOCATION AND CONFESSION OF SINS:

L: When talking to the people of Israel wandering in the wilderness, Moses said, “In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.” In Baptism, God acts through the power of the death and resurrection of Jesus to bring us under His strength and His love.

C: **In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.**

L: Our worship begins the way our life in Christ begins in baptism: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

L: Lent is a time of great strength and great love. When Daniel found himself on the banks of the Tigris with no strength and no breath, God sent a messenger to remind him that He was greatly loved and was given a great strength. Lent reminds us that we are greatly loved and saved by One whose very name is strong.

RESPONSE: “My Song is Love Unknown” (vs. 5-7)

They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made away;
A murderer they save, The prince of life they slay.

**Yet cheerful he To suff'ring goes
That he his foes From thence might free.**

**In life no house, no home My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home
But mine the tomb Where in he lay.**

**Here might I stay and sing, No story so divine!
Never was love, dear King, Never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, In whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!**

("My Song Is Love Unknown", tune and setting by permission of the Successor to Dr. John Ireland, Lutheran Service Book Lic. #100014518.)

- L:** Let us approach with confidence this One who in mercy gives His love and His strength.
- C:** **Lord, we have sinned against you and against each other. Strength and love have given way to weakness and fear. Our sin is destructive and deadly. We need you to repair what we have broken, to restore what we have destroyed, to bring back what we have banished, to heal what we have poisoned.** *(Time of silence for personal confession)*
- P:** This is our Good News: We are greatly loved by a strong God. He loves us more than we love ourselves and has done for us what we cannot do for ourselves. Christ has taken our sin upon Himself and given us His righteousness. As a called and ordained servant of the Word, it is my joy and privilege to follow Christ's command and forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.
- C:** **In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

L: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

L: Let us pray.

C: **Almighty God, You love us with a great love. You accompany us with a great strength. Lead us, Lord, to rest in your great love and rely on your great strength. In the strong name of Jesus, Amen.**

GREETING TIME

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Daniel 10:2-19

In those days I, Daniel, was mourning for three weeks. I ate no delicacies, no meat or wine entered my mouth, nor did I anoint myself at all, for the full three weeks. On the twenty-fourth day of the first month, as I was standing on the bank of the great river (that is, the Tigris) I lifted up my eyes and looked, and behold, a man clothed in linen, with a belt of fine gold from Uphaz around his waist. His body was like beryl, his face like the appearance of lightning, his eyes like flaming torches, his arms and legs like the gleam of burnished bronze, and the sound of his words like the sound of a multitude. And I, Daniel, alone saw the vision, for the men who were with me did not see the vision, but a great trembling fell upon them, and they fled to hide themselves. So I was left alone and saw this great vision, and no strength was left in me. My radiant appearance was fearfully changed, and I retained no strength. Then I heard the sound of his words, and as I heard the sound of his words, I fell on my face in deep sleep with my face to the ground. And behold, a hand touched me and set me trembling on my hands and knees. And he said to me, "O Daniel, man greatly loved, understand the words that I speak to you, and stand upright, for now I have been sent to you." And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood up trembling. Then he said to me, "Fear not, Daniel, for from the first day that you set your heart to understand and humbled yourself before your God, your words have been heard, and I have come because of your words. The prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me twenty-one days, but Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me, for I was left there with the kings of Persia, and came to make you understand what is to happen to your people in the latter days.

For the vision is for days yet to come.” When he had spoken to me according to these words, I turned my face toward the ground and was mute. And behold, one in the likeness of the children of man touched my lips. Then I opened my mouth and spoke. I said to him who stood before me, “O my lord, by reason of the vision pains have come upon me, and I retain no strength. How can my lord’s servant talk with my lord? For now no strength remains in me, and no breath is left in me.” Again one having the appearance of a man touched me and strengthened me. And he said, “O man greatly loved, fear not, peace be with you; be strong and of good courage.” And as he spoke to me, I was strengthened and said, “Let my lord speak, for you have strengthened me.”

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

EPISTLE LESSON: I John 4:13-21

This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them. This is how love is made complete among us so that we will have confidence on the day of judgment: In this world we are like Jesus. There is no fear in love. But perfect love drives out fear, because fear has to do with punishment. The one who fears is not made perfect in love. We love because he first loved us. Whoever claims to love God yet hates a brother or sister is a liar. For whoever does not love their brother and sister, whom they have seen, cannot love God, whom they have not seen. And he has given us this command: Anyone who loves God must also love their brother and sister.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

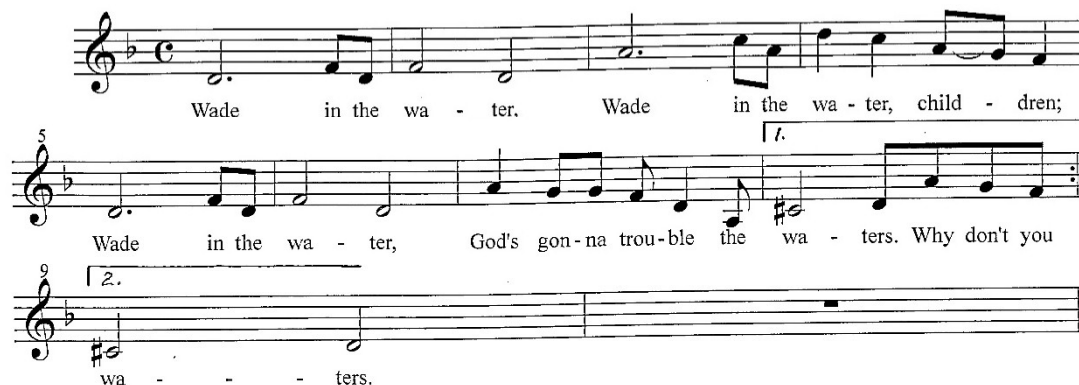
C: Lord, have mercy.

MESSAGE: “The Tigris – *The River of Great Love and Great Strength*”

Part 1: Fishing Francis

“Wade in the Water” – traditional

(The congregation will sing the refrain before and after the verse)



*Verse: Daniel was empty, plumb out of steam
 God showed up at the Tigris and gave him a dream.
 Great strength God gave him; great love was shown.
 Now leave the Tigris River; get this show on the road.
 Why don't you....*

Part 2: Pastor Bill Hugo

CONFESSION OF FAITH: Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and

sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

GATHERING OF THE OFFERINGS

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH:

(Prayer response – P: Lord, in your mercy, C: Hear our prayer.)

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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.

READING FROM THE PASSION OF OUR LORD

(Time of silence)

BENEDICTION

CLOSING HYMN:

“Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadow” – Blue Hymnal #485

**Now rest beneath night’s shadow the woodland, field, and meadow;
The world in slumber lies. but you, my heart, awaking
And prayer and music making, let praise to your creator rise.**

**The radiant sun has vanished, its golden rays are banished
From dark’ning skies of night; but Christ, the sun of gladness,
Dispelling all our sadness, shines down on us in warmest light.**

**Now all the heav’nly splendor breaks forth in starlight tender
From myriad worlds unknown; And we, this marvel seeing,
Forget our selfish being for joy of beauty not our own.**

**Lord Jesus, who dost love me, O spread Your wings above me
And shield me from all harm. Though evil would assail me,
Thy mercy will not fail me: I rest in Thy protecting arms.**

**Our loved ones, rest securely, for God this night will surely
From peril guard your heads. sweet slumbers may He grant you
And bid His host attend you and through the night watch o’er your beds.**

(“Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadow”, setting copyright 1982 Concordia Publishing House, Lutheran Service Book Lic. #100014518.)

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Minister: Faustina Allen

Ushers: Bruce Blase

Power Point: Sean Allen

Passion Reading: Doug Krant