

WADE IN THE WATER

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP: *The Abana & Pharpar*

March 18, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.
St. Matthew Lutheran Church
4101 Washington Street NE
Columbia Heights, MN 55421

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OPENING HYMN: “Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” – Blue Hymnal #96

Come to Calvary’s holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.

Come in sorrow and contrition, Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled, peace may find.
Your true health it will restore, so that you need thirst no more.

Come with hurts and guilts and meanness, come, however soiled within;
From the most ingrained uncleanness, from pollution by your sin,
Wash your robes and make them white; you shall walk with God in light.

Take the life that lasts forever, trust this soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died, sealed when he was glorified.

INVOCATION AND CONFESSION OF SINS:

- L: In Baptism, God acts through ordinary water combined with His Word to do extraordinary things.
- C: **Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.**
- 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 substance over show. Naaman was unimpressed with the muddy little Jordan River. It was nothing compared to the big and beautiful rivers of his native Syria. Yet out of that nothing, God did something—something extraordinary.
- C: **Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.**

RESPONSE:

“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” – Blue Hymnal #115 (st. 1-3)
When I survey the wondrous cross On which the prince of glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss And pour contempt on all my pride.

Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast Save in the death of Christ, my God;
All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

See, from his head, his hands, his feet Sorrow and love flow mingled down.
Did e’er such love and sorrow meet Or thorns compose so rich a crown?

- L: Let us approach with confidence this One who takes ordinary people like us and does the extraordinary.
- C: **Lord, we have sinned against you and against each other. Sometimes we are far too impressed with ourselves. And sometimes we are not impressed enough. We place far too much importance on appearance and not enough on substance. That 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: God says, "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." This is our Good News. The cross of Jesus is the power of God to save, forgive, and redeem the world. 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: **Christ is the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

- L: The Lord be with you.
- C: **And also with you.**
- L: Let us pray.
- C: **Almighty God, You are a God of substance. You hide your strength in weakness and your wisdom in foolishness. You display your glory in a stable and a cross rather than a palace and crown. Move us to follow your lead. In the name of Jesus, Amen.**

GREETING TIME

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: 2 Kings 5:1-15

Now Naaman was commander of the army of the king of Aram. He was a great man in the sight of his master and highly regarded, because through him the LORD had given victory to Aram. He was a valiant soldier, but he had leprosy. Now bands of raiders from Aram had gone out and had taken captive a young girl from Israel, and she served Naaman's wife. She said to her mistress, "If only my master would see the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." Naaman went to his master and told him what the girl from Israel had said. "By all means, go," the king of Aram replied. "I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So Naaman left, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold and ten sets of clothing. The letter that he took to the king of Israel read: "With this letter I am sending my servant Naaman to you so that you may cure him of his leprosy." As soon as the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his robes and said, "Am I God? Can I kill and bring back to life? Why does this fellow send someone to me to be cured of his leprosy? See how he is trying to pick a quarrel with me!" When Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his robes, he sent him this message: "Why have you torn your robes? Have the man come to me and he will know that there is a prophet in Israel." So Naaman went with his horses and chariots and stopped at the door of Elisha's house. Elisha sent a messenger to say to him, "Go, wash yourself seven times in the Jordan, and your flesh will be restored and you will be cleansed." But Naaman went away angry and said, "I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call on the name of the LORD his God, wave his hand over the spot and cure me of my leprosy. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Couldn't I wash in them and be cleansed?" So he turned and went off in a rage. Naaman's servants went to him and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do some great thing, would you not have done it? How much more, then, when he tells you, 'Wash and be cleansed'!" So he went down and dipped himself in the Jordan seven times, as the man of God had told him, and his flesh was restored and became clean like that of a young boy. Then Naaman and all his attendants went back to the man of God. He stood before him and said, "Now I know that there is no God in all the world except in Israel. So please accept a gift from your servant."

- L: This is the Word of the Lord.
- C: **Lord, have mercy.**

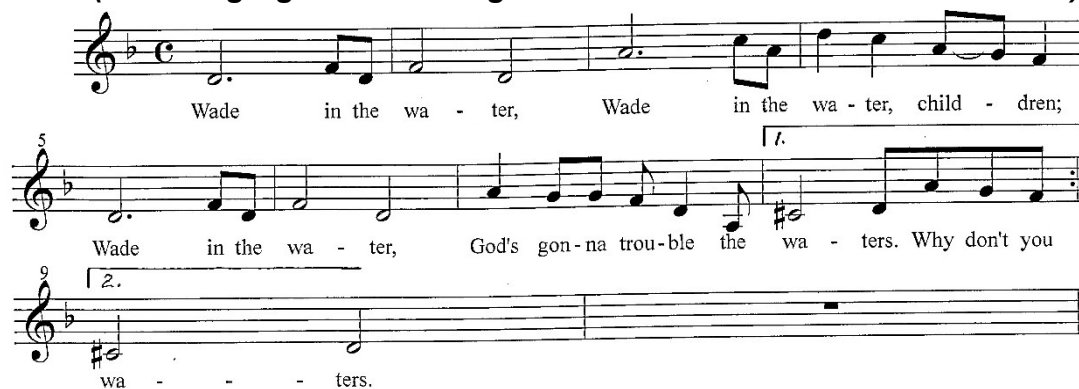
RESPONSE: “When I Survey the Wondrous Cross” – Blue Hymnal #115 (st. 4)
Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a tribute far too small;
Love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all!

MESSAGE: “The Abana and Pharpar – *The Rivers of Show*”

Part 1: Fishing Francis

“Wade in the Water” – traditional

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



*Verse: Elisha told Naaman, “Wash in the mud.”
Naaman thought, “You’re crazy. That river’s a dud.
My Syrian rivers—they’re big and they’re blue.”
Get in the Jordan, Naaman! It will do it for you!
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 SONG: "Beautiful, Scandalous Night"

Go on up to the moun - tain of mer - cy, To the
Christ to the ho - ly mount - ain Sin - ner,
hill - side you will be de - liv - ered, At the

crim - son per - pet - u - al tide, Kneel down on the shore be
sor - ry and wrecked by the fall, Cleanse your heart and your soul in the
foot of the cross just - i - fied, And your spir - it res - tored, by the

thirs - ty no more, go un - der and be pur - i - fied. Fol - low
foun - tain that flows, for you and for me and for
ri - ver that pours, from our bless - ed Sa - viour's

all. At the won - der - ful tra - gic mys - ter - i - ous tree, On that beau - ti - ful, scan - dal - ous
side.

night you and me were a - toned by His blood and for - e - ver washed white on that

beau - ti - ful, scan - dal - ous night. On the night. On that beau - ti - ful, scan - dal - ous

night.

("Beautiful, Scandalous Night" by Daughtery/Hindalong, copyright 1992 Never Say Never Songs, CCLI Lic. #921494.)

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WORSHIP ASSISTANTS:

Lay Minister: Lisa Neaderhiser

Ushers: Lisa Neaderhiser

Acolyte: Patti Kretschman

Power Point: Josh Neaderhiser

Passion Reading: Doug Krant