

A Mighty Fortress Lutheran Church

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025



These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

To the parents of young children:

God put the wiggle in children, don't feel like you have to suppress it in God's house - all are welcome! If you need to bring your child out of the service, the nursery is open for you with a TV in it streaming worship.

**Indicates you may rise or stand*

Prelude

As the Winter Days Grow Longer

ACS #924

Welcome

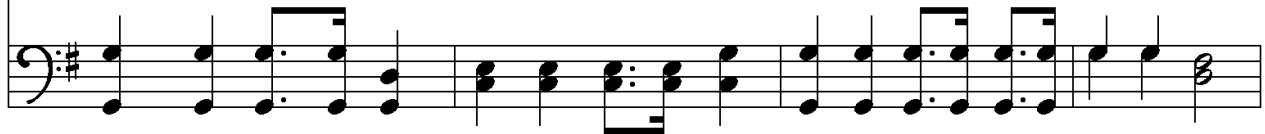
*Gathering Hymn

What a Fellowship, What A Joy Divine

ELW #774



1 What a fel - low-ship, what a joy di - vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
2 Oh, how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms;
3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms?



what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.
I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.



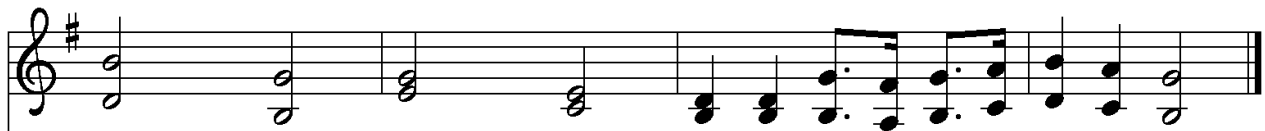
Refrain



Lean - ing, lean - ing, safe and se-cure from all a - larms;



Lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,



lean - ing, lean - ing, lean-ing on the ev - er - last-ing arms.



lean - ing on Je - sus, lean - ing on Je - sus,

*Greeting

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

All: And also with you.

*Confession and Forgiveness

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

All: Amen.

Pastor: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love. (*Silence is kept for reflection*).

Compassionate One,

All: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world. We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown to us. We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people. We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again. We squander the abundant gifts of the earth. Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.

Amen.

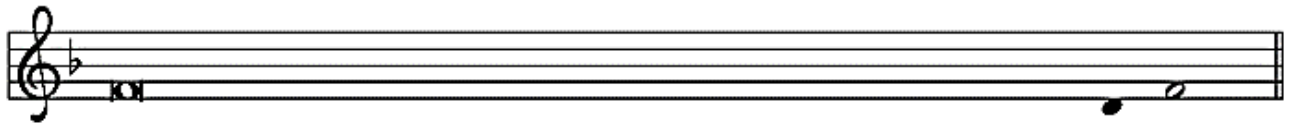
Pastor: Beloved in Christ, God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home. In ☩ Christ your sins are forgiven. You have a place in God's house forever.

All: Amen.

*Kyrie



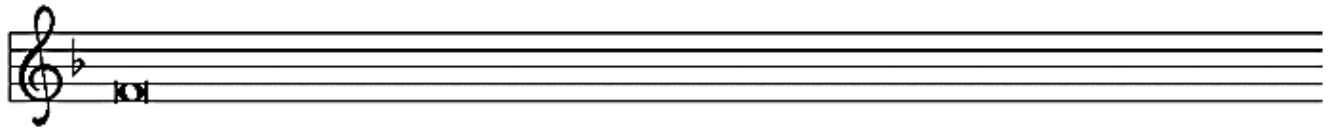
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



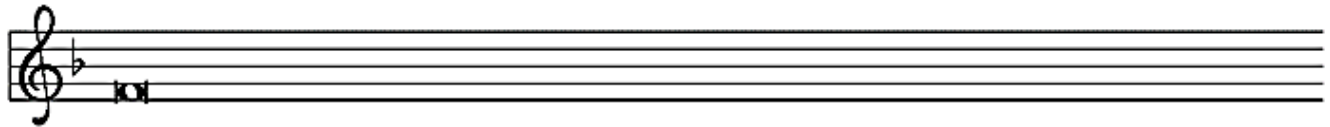
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



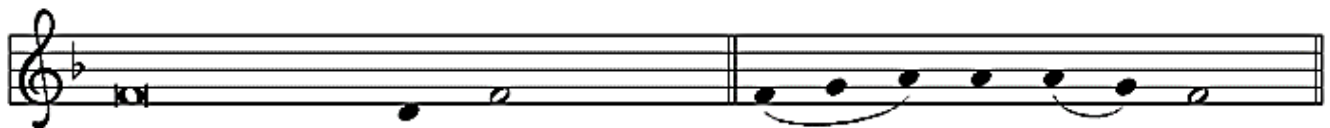
and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



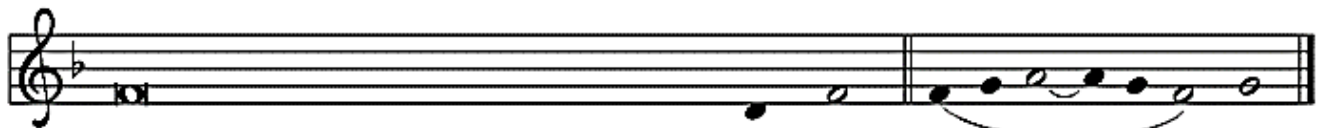
Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. A - men.

*Prayer of the Day

Leader: Let us pray. O Lord God,

All: you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Message

Hymn

Lord, I Want to Be a Christian

TFF #234

First Reading – Deuteronomy 26:1-11

¹ When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ² you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³ You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.” ⁴ When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, ⁵ you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶ When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷ we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸ The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹ and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰ So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God. ¹¹ Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Leader: The word of the Lord.

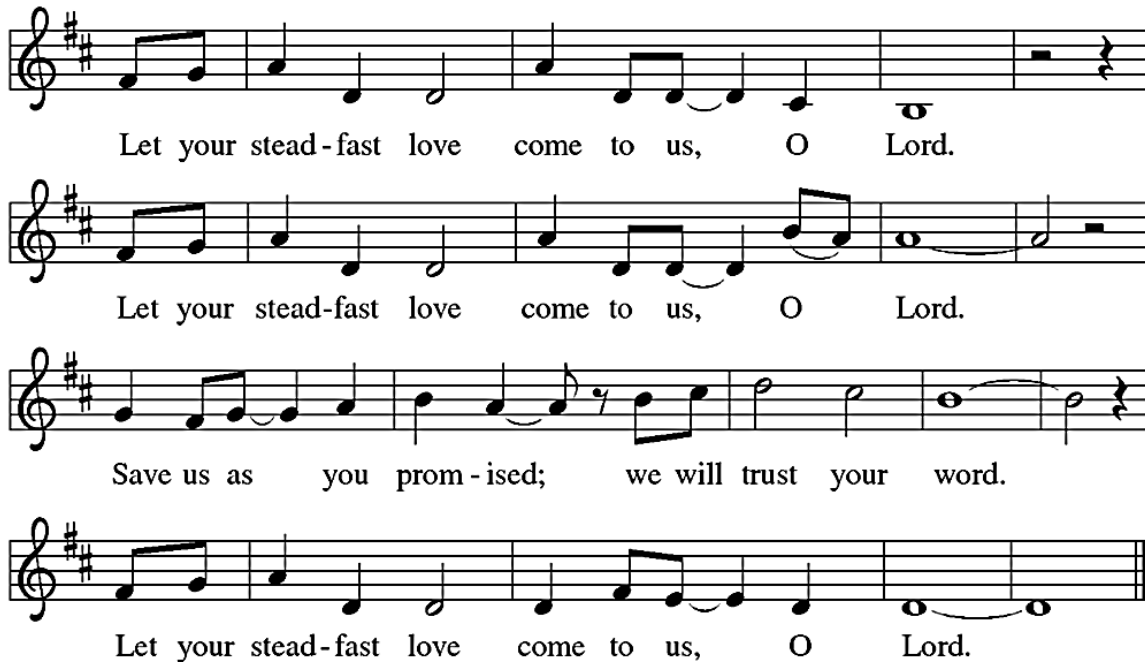
All: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading – Romans 120:8b-13

^{8b} “The word is near you,
on your lips and in your heart”
(that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹ because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹ The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹² For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³ For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Leader: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.



Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you prom-ised; we will trust your word.

Let your stead-fast love come to us, O Lord.

*Gospel Lesson - Luke 4: 1-13

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4th chapter,

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

¹ Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ² where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³ The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." ⁴ Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

⁵ Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶ And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷ If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." ⁸ Jesus answered him, "It is written,

'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

⁹ Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰ for it is written,

'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' ¹¹ and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" ¹² Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" ¹³ When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

Pastor: The gospel of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

*Hymn of the Day*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

ELW #611



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
 the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
 look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
 I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
 I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest-ing-place, and he has made me glad.
 my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
 and in that light of life I'll walk till trav-'ling days are done.

*Apostles' Creed

Leader: Gathered into one body, we profess our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: 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 power of 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

Leader: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. *(brief silence)*

Leader: Gracious God, *(After each prayer petition...)* God, in your mercy,

All: Receive our prayer.

Leader: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

All: Amen.

*Sharing of the Peace

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: And also with you.

Leader: Let us share Christ's peace with one another.

Gathering of Offerings

Thank you for giving today! Whether you put offering in the plate this morning, have already given online, or give your time to the church, we are incredibly grateful. Your generosity helps us continue God's mission in the world!

Offertory

Open Our Eyes, Lord

TFF #98

*Offertory Response

Take, Oh Take Me as I Am

ELW #814



Take, oh, take me as I am; sum-mon out what I shall be;



set your seal up - on my heart and live in me.

*Offering Prayer

Leader: Let us pray. Gracious provider,

All: you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ. Amen

*The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

*The Words of Institution

Pastor: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: "This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

*The Lord's Prayer

Pastor: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we pray the prayer that Jesus taught us.

All: 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

Pastor: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

All: Amen

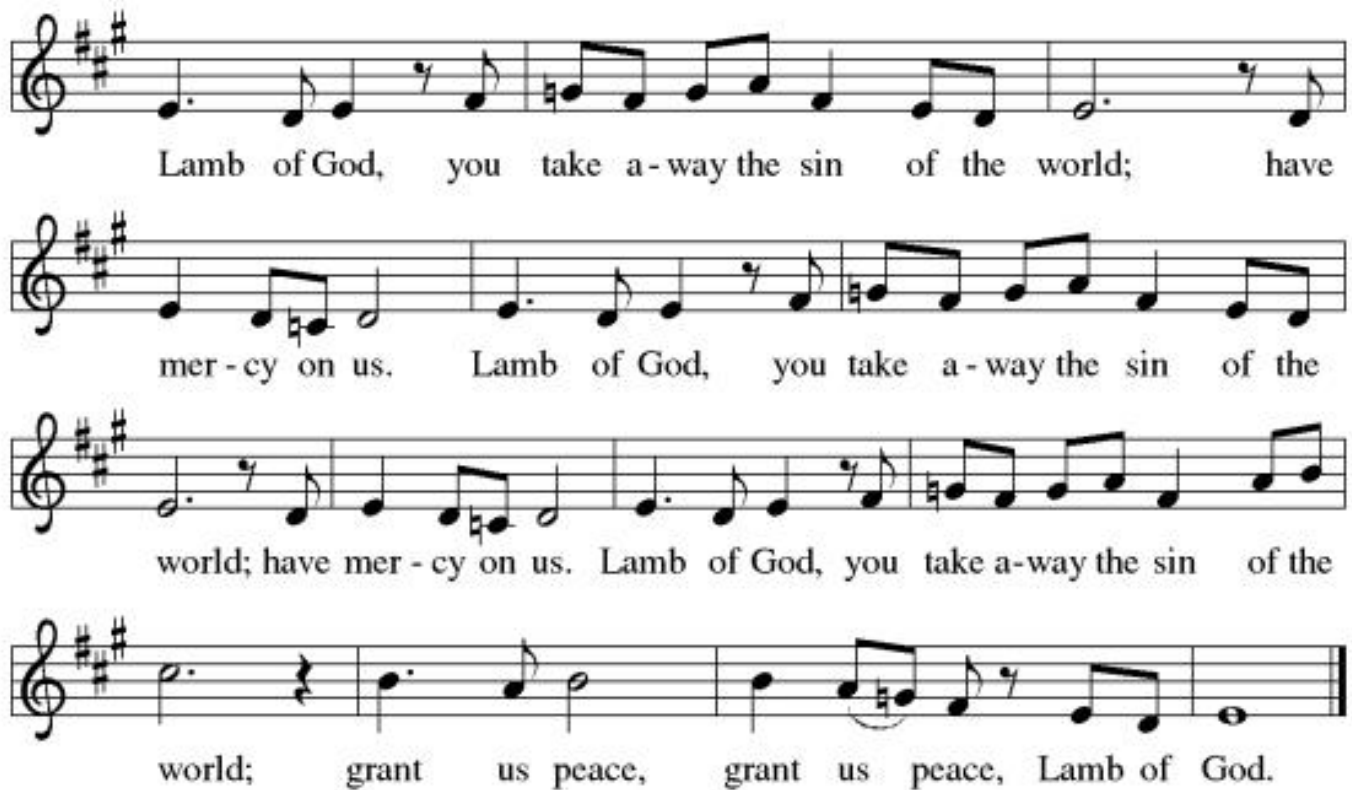
Distribution of Holy Communion

All are welcome at the Lord's Table, so please join us. You are invited forward to kneel or stand at the altar rail to receive communion of bread and wine.

Please let a worship leader know if you would prefer a gluten-free wafer or grape juice. If you prefer to commune using the individually packaged elements, there are some on the altar rail.

For those worshipping virtually, now is the time to receive your previously blessed elements.

Lamb of God ELW (Setting 8)



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, Lamb of God.

Communion Music

Let Us Break Bread Together

ELW #471

*Prayer After Communion

Leader: Let us pray. Generous Host,

All: you have shared your feast with us and made us new.

**Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities,
that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom,
in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Amen.

*Blessing

Pastor: God our tender parent,

God the crucified one,

God the reconciling Spirit,

✠ bless you now and forever.

Amen.

1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.

the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,

The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.

then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

*Sending

Leader: Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

All: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

AMF Council will meet in the conference room immediately following worship.

Youth Group will meet in the Fellowship Building after service.



AMF "Let's Mingle"

You are invited to join us Sunday March 30th at 9:15-9:45 for morning fellowship in the Book room and Lyerly classroom.

Snacks and Drinks will be available for all.

Bring a friend and let's have some conversation and fellowship.

REVELATION LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

This year, AMF members and livestream followers will have the opportunity to participate in weekly Lenten ZOOM Bible studies on the Book of Revelations from Bishop Tim Smith. These weekly studies will be the five Thursdays beginning March 13 and concluding on April 10-from 7 to 8 p.m. You must register online once prior to the first session. The link to register: is <https://form.jotform.com/240076536877062> (Copy and paste into your browser) If you have any questions regarding registration, email Lexi at lbarnhill@nclutheran.org. Once registered you will receive notification.

*You may send prayer requests or changes for the prayer list to
admin@amflc.org.*

Prayer List

Members: David Bass, Lynda Booth, Jr. Bryant and family, Charles Burton, Penny Damron, Chris Dukes, Pastor Mary Lautensleger, Barbara McGee, Linda Meyer, Pastor John and Nancy Merck, Harry Sheldon, and Carol Stroup.

Loved Ones: Students and staff at Paw Creek Elementary School, Russell and Tammy Bridges, Jonathan Davis (family of Mia Strong), friends of Grant and Esther Fulghum, Carol Howell (friend of the church), Josiah (Great-nephew of Jan Huskey) Anthony Long and his sister's family (friends of the church), Tim Smith (NC Synod Bishop), Isabel and Elmer Sundlie, and Ronnie Thomas (Father-in-law to Alyssa McGee Thomas).

Worship Leadership

Pastor - Clarence Pettit

Worship Assistant -Cheryl Miller

Organist/Music Director - Penny Damron

Pianist- Patti Skinner

Guitarist -Timothy Gentsch

Acolyte- Wren Crucifer- Bryson

Ushers- Dwayne and Amanda Graham

Soundboard Operator- Joe Brigman

Livestream Operator- Chris Dukes

**Scan the QR code
to give online**

