

# Wednesday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025

## COMBINED LENTEN SERVICE – 7:00 PM



March 12 <sup>th</sup>	Port Edwards UMC	7:00 PM
March 19 <sup>th</sup>	Nekoosa UCC	7:00 PM
<b>March 26<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Port Edwards UMC</b>	<b>7:00 PM</b>
April 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Nekoosa UCC	7:00 PM
April 9 <sup>th</sup>	Port Edwards UMC	7:00 PM
April 17 <sup>th</sup>	Maundy Thursday – Nekoosa UCC – 7:00 PM	
April 18 <sup>th</sup>	Good Friday – services held separately	



*Musician: Sue Mitchell      Media Technician: Colby Grunden*  
*Greeter: Sharon Studinski      Usher: Becky Taylor      Liturgist:*

*Tonight's service is led by Pastor Caleb McGregor.*

*Pastor Wanda lives at a distance and cannot attend all weekday services. She sends her regards.*

### OFFERING TONIGHT

*(place any donations in the wooden box as you leave the service tonight)*

Split between Nekoosa & Port Edwards Schools' respective benevolence funds.

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### WORDS OF WELCOME

#### \*CALL TO WORSHIP:

L: Think gently of the erring one; and let us not forget:

**P: however greatly stained by sin, they're still our sibling yet.**

L: Heir of the same inheritance, Child of the selfsame God,

**P: they have but stumbled in the path, the same that we have trod.**

L: Forget not, that you have often sinned, and sinful still may be;

**ALL: deal gently with the erring heart, as God has dealt with me!**

**May it be so tonight! AMEN!**

*[“Deal Gently,” by Mrs. T.J. Carney (1805-1876)]*

**OPENING PRAYER:**

**ALL: Hospitable God, You invite us to a banquet where the last may be first, and the humble and mighty trade places.**

**Let us share with others Your abundance with no fear of scarcity;  
let us greet strangers as angels You have sent to us!**

**In place of our fight for status and recognition,  
help us to honor others above ourselves  
and seek to sit in the seats of servant-discipleship  
rather than pride and prestige.**

**Fill us with the courage to welcome and love those who cannot repay us,  
as You have so generously loved us.**

**Send Your Spirit now to be among us,  
that we may find our place at Your Table  
even as we welcome others to join us with Your radical hospitality.**

**Bless our time together tonight,  
the service and the fellowship that follows,  
and through it all, fill us with Your Holy Spirit,  
that we may grow in faith, love, and understanding.**

**In Jesus' name, we pray: AMEN!**

**\*OPENING HYMNS:**      *I Come With Joy, A Child of God*      lyrics below

 **Vs. 1: I come with joy, a child of God, forgiven, loved, and free,  
the life of Jesus to recall, *in love laid down for me.* (2x)**

**Vs. 2: I come with Christians far and near / to find, as all are fed,  
the New Community of Love / *in Christ's communion bread.* (2x)**

**Vs. 3: As Christ breaks bread, and bids us share, each proud division ends.  
The love that made us, makes us one, *and strangers now are friends.* (2x)**

**Vs. 4: The Spirit of the Risen Christ, unseen, but ever near,  
is in such friendship better known, *alive among us here.* (2x)**

**Vs. 5: Together met, together bound / by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world / *the love that makes us one.* (2x) **

*[Words: Brian A. Wren, © 1968 / Music: The Southern Harmony, 1835]*

**SCRIPTURE READINGS:**

*Luke 14:7-14*

*L: God is still speaking!*

**ALL: Today, we shall listen! Amen!**

♪ I love You, Lord – for Your mercy never fails me!  
All my days, I’ve been held in Your hands!

From the moment that I wake up, until I lay my head:  
oh, I will sing – of the goodness of God!

All my life You have been faithful! All my life You have been so, so good!  
With ev’ry breath that I am able, oh, I will sing –of the goodness of God! ♪

*“Are you making space for others at the Table?”*

**‘MEETING JESUS AT THE TABLE’    ADDING MORE LEAVES    Pastor Caleb**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

**ALL:** Merciful God, we confess that we have fallen short of Your expectations:  
for the times we fail to offer hospitality  
to those in our world who suffer injustice, oppression, and poverty;  
for the times we lack courage  
to address the root causes of inequality, cruelty, and scarcity;  
for the times we give in to despair and resignation  
when confronted with the problems of our nation and world;  
for the times we are afraid of the stranger and refuse them,  
because we think our resources are just too meager;  
for the times we stereotype the stranger as ‘enemy,’ ‘dangerous,’ ‘inferior;’  
for the times we are too busy trying to impress our guests;  
for the times we miss the gift of the stranger,  
slam our door shut for being bothered,  
and for all the times we disregarded Your face in the other.  
Lord, have mercy. Forgive us and restore us!

*[MOMENT OF SILENT REFLECTION & CONFESSION]*

**WORDS OF ASSURANCE:**

*L: Hear the Good News of Jesus Christ:*

When we humble ourselves, we are lifted by the hand of God!

When we extend kindness to those who cannot repay,  
we are participating in the Kin’dom of God!

**ALL:** In His name, we are all a forgiven people! Glory to God! AMEN!

**PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*(each time):*    L: Jesus, our Host & Savior,

**ALL:** hear the prayers of our hearts!

\*CLOSING HYMN:

*All Things Are Ready*

lyrics below

♪ *V. 1: All things are ready, come to the feast! Come, for the table now is ready!  
Ye famishing, ye weary, come, and thou shalt be richly fed.*

*Chorus:*

**Hear the invitation: Come, whosoever will!  
Praise God for full salvation for whosoever will!**

*Vs. 2: All things are ready, come to the feast! Come, for the door is open wide!  
A place of honor is reserved for you at the Master's side! (chorus)*

*3: All things are ready, come to the feast! Come, while God waits to welcome thee;  
delay not while this day is now, tomorrow may never be. (chorus)*

*V. 4: All things are ready, come to the feast! Leave ev'ry care & worldly strife!  
Come, feast upon the love of God, and drink everlasting life. (chorus) ♪*

*[Words: Charles H Gabriel (1895) / Music: William A. Ogden (1895)]*

\*BENEDICTION

## REFRESHMENTS IN THE FELLOWSHIP HALL

TONIGHT'S TABLE QUESTIONS BASED ON "MAKING ROOM AT THE TABLE: LUKE 14"

1. Are the seating arrangements in your house based on status / seniority, practicality, or some other reason? What happens when someone sits in a place that is someone else's usual spot?
2. How often do you let quid pro quo or reciprocity guide your actions & decisions? What do you think Jesus would say about this way of thinking?
3. In what ways may churches still enable quid pro quo amongst its membership? How might it practice Jesus' admonition to invite and welcome those who cannot repay?
4. For some, big banquets stir up their "status anxiety." In what context do you become most anxious about your value and place?

HOLY WEEK:

### Live Last Supper Service

Marshfield Wesley United Methodist Church

(211 S. Maple Avenue, Marshfield, WI)

Mon., April 14<sup>th</sup> – 7-8 PM / Wed., April 16<sup>th</sup> – 7-8 PM

(we'd like to take a group on Mon.)

No admission or tickets needed.

**Maundy Thursday** – 7-8 PM @ Nekoosa UCC

**Good Friday** – held at both churches separately