

**Stewardship 2025
United in Christ**



**Yesterday,
Today and
Tomorrow**

Psalm 46:7 “The Lord of hosts is with us; the God of Jacob is our stronghold.”

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2025

9:15 AM Worship Express

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman

Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz

Lector: Lucas Peterson

Acolytes: Jackson Kojo & Olivia Hays

Ushers: Peterson Family

Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Today the forty days of Lent begin. 40 days – the same number of days Jesus was in the wilderness fighting off Satan’s temptations. Lent is our time to look at our lives and ask ourselves, “Are we following in the footsteps of Jesus? How have we done when we have been tempted with the same temptations Jesus had to face?”

CALL TO WORSHIP “Shake” Dancer: Claire Harrington

Words to meditate on...

I just can’t believe where my life was at.

All I know is my heart was broken

And I don’t ever want to go back.

Ain’t no explanation how I saw the light.

He found me and set me free

And it brought me back to life...

CONFESSION

P: Blessed be God The Father, + Son and Holy Spirit who forgives all our sins,
whose mercy endures forever.

C: Amen

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin sure of God's love and forgiveness.
Compassionate One,

Right Side: you are slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, but our lives do not always reflect you and your love for the world.

Left Side: *We do not show others the tender compassion you have shown us.*

Right Side: We do not welcome others with the radical hospitality you grant to all people.

Left side: *We oppress others, even though you have set us free again and again.*

Right Side: We squander the abundant gifts of the earth.

Left Side: *Transform our lives and guide us again in the way of the cross.*

All Amen.

FORGIVENESS

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

C: Amen.

Stand

GATHERING SONG: "I'm So Glad Jesus Lifted Me"

vs. 1: I'm so glad Jesus lifted me. (3 times)

Singing glory, hallelujah!

Jesus lifted me.

vs. 2: I'm so glad Jesus lifted me. (3 times)

Singing glory, hallelujah!

Jesus lifted me.

Vs. 3: When I was in trouble,

Jesus lifted me. (3 times)

Singing glory, hallelujah!

Jesus lifted me.

WELCOMING GOD'S PEOPLE

P: God gathers God's People together to encourage them with the WORD and strengthen them with the bread and wine of Holy Communion.

All: Amen!

LITANY

P: The word is near you,

C: on your lips and in your heart.

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

C: and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

C: and what is heard comes through the word of Christ.

SONG OF PRAISE: "O How He Loves You and Me"

O, how He loves you and me,
O, how He loves you and me,
He gave His life,
What more could he give:
O, how He Loves me,
O, how He loves me,
O, how He loves you and me.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

All: Lord Jesus, you spent forty days in the wilderness being tempted by Satan. With the help of God, you were able to resist temptation. You resisted so that in your ministry you might show the world a different way of life. An alternative to the way of the world. We thank you and ask that you might empower us to follow in your footsteps. Amen.

GOSPEL SONG: "For God So Loved the World

For God so loved the world
He gave His only Son
To die on Calv'ry's tree,
From sin to set me free;
Some day He's coming back
What glory that will be!
Wonderful His love to me.

”

Lector: The Good News according to Luke the 4th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOOD NEWS READING: Luke 4:1-13

Lector: Now Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wild. For forty wilderness days and nights he was tested by the Devil. He ate nothing during those days, and when the time was up, he was hungry. The Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test:

Devil (Right Side): Since you're God's Son, command this stone to turn into a loaf of bread.

Lector: Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy

Jesus (Left Side): *It takes more than bread to really live.*

Lector: For the second test he led him up and spread out all the kingdoms of the earth on display at once. Then the Devil said,

Devil (Right Side): They're yours in all their splendor to serve your pleasure. I'm in charge of them and can turn them over to whomever I wish. Worship me and they're yours, the whole works.

Lector: Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy:

Jesus (Left Side): *Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.*

Lector: For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple: He said,

Satan (Right Side): If you are God's Son, jump. It's written, isn't it, that 'he had placed you in care of angels to protect you; they will catch you; you won't so much as stub your toe on a stone.

Jesus (Left Side): *Yes, and it's also written, "Don't you dare tempt the Lord your God.*

Lector: That completed the testing. The Devil retreated temporarily, lying in wait for another opportunity.

Lector: The Good News of the Lord.

All: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sit

CHILDREN'S WORD/THE WORD

Stand

SONG OF THE WORD: "Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

**vs. 1: I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**vs. 2: In my trials, Lord walk with me;
In my trials, Lord walk with me;
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.**

**vs. 3: When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord,
I want Jesus To walk with me.**

Apostles Creed

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus, God's Son?

**All: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 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.**

P: Do you believe in God's Holy Spirit?

**All: 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 the People: “Standin’ in the Need of Prayer:

P: We will sing the refrain to “Standin’ in the Need of Prayer between petitions...

P: Lord, it is so easy to just go with the flow. Give us the strength to resist complacency. Give us the courage to speak out and act whenever self-preservation becomes more important to us than your self-giving love. **Lord, it’s me, standin’ in the need of prayer...**

***Refrain: It’s me, it’s me, O Lord,
Standin’ in the need of prayer. (2 times)***

P: Lord, may those who are lonely or overlooked or vulnerable know they can cry out to you and you do hear their prayers. Help us be your hands and feet and voice and respond to their needs. **Lord, it’s me, standin’ in the need of prayer...**

P: Lord, hear the prayers of our hearts. Help us to bring all our pain and sorrow and confusion to you. **Lord, it’s me, standin’ in the need of prayer...**

GOD’S PEOPLE SHARE THE PEACE

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all!

All: And also with you.

Sit

OFFERING SONG: “Just a Closer Walk with Thee”

***Refrain: Just a closer walk with thee,
grant it Jesus, is my plea;
daily walking close to thee,
let it be, dear Lord, let it be.***

**vs. 1: I am weak but thou art strong:
Jesus, keep me from all wrong;
I’ll be satisfied as long as I walk,
let me walk close to thee. *Refrain***

**vs. 2: Through this world of toil and snares,
If I falter, Lord who cares?
I’ll be satisfied as long as I walk,
Let me walk close to thee. *Refrain...***

THE 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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stand

BENEDICTION

P: God our tender parent, God the crucified one,
God the reconciling Spirit, + bless you now and forever.

All: Amen.

Dismissal

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

All: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE