

**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
Third Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025
9:15 AM Worship Express**

Pastor: Paula Geister-Jones **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman
Organist/Pianist: Linda Kunz
Lector: Jenny Hoffman
Acolytes: Slayton Hoverson
Ushers: Jenny Hoffman, Mya Sehmer
Technical Support: Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

Jesus is blunt today, "If you want to live, follow me." Jesus knows we get distracted and is more than willing to give us one chance after another, but still he insists, "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you can live."

CALL TO WORSHIP: "I'd Rather Have Jesus"

Words to meditate on...

*I'd rather have Jesus than silver or gold,
I'd rather be His than have riches untold.
I'd rather have Jesus than worldwide fame,
I'd rather be led by His nail-pierced hand.
Than to be king of a vast domain
Or be held in sin's dread sway.
I'd rather have Jesus than anything
This world affords today.*

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: God came into our world through the birth of his Son, Jesus. God sent him to us because God wanted to get close to us. Help us to want what God wants so badly. In Jesus name we pray, 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.

Someday He's coming back

What glory that will be!

Wonderful His love to me.

Lector: The Good News according to Luke the 13th chapter.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

GOOD NEWS READING: Luke 13:1-9

Lector: About that time some people came up and told him about the Galileans Pilate had killed while they were at worship, mixing their blood with the blood of the sacrifices on the altar. Jesus responded,

Jesus (Right Side): Do you think those murdered Galileans were worse sinners than all other Galileans? Not at all. Unless you turn to God, you, too, will die.

Jesus (Left Side): And those eighteen in Jerusalem the other day, the ones crushed and killed when the Tower of Siloam collapsed and fell on them, do you think they were worse citizens than all other Jerusalemites? Not at all.

Jesus (All): Unless you turn to God, you, too, will die.

Lector: Then he told them a story: “A man had an apple tree planted in his front yard. He came to it expecting to find apples, but there weren’t any. He said to his gardener, ‘What’s going on here? For three years now I’ve come to this tree expecting apples and not one apple, I have found. Chop it down! Why waste good ground with it any longer?’ “The gardener said, ‘Let’s give it another year. I’ll dig around it and fertilize, and maybe it will produce next year; if it doesn’t, then chop it down.’”

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:

We will sing the refrain to "Standin' in the Need of Prayer between petitions...

P: Lord, this earth we call home provides enough for everyone's need, yet people go hungry. You are generous with us, teach us to be generous with one another. **Lord, it's me, standin' in the need of prayer...**

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

P: Lord, we pray for leaders of nations who have been called to help their people and make justice a reality for everyone. Fill them with your Spirit and guide them in their decisions. **Lord, it's me, standin' in the need of prayer...**

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

P: Lord, we pray for those in need within our faith community. Pour out you healing and comforting Spirit upon..... May they feel you presence and never doubt your love. **Lord, it's me, standin' in the need of prayer...**

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

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