

**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  
8:00 AM Traditional Worship**

**Pastor:** Paula Geister-Jones    **Lay Ministry Administrator:** Jenny Hoffman  
**Organist/Pianist:** Linda Kunz  
**Lector:** Brenda Zarth  
**Acolytes:** Charlie Brabender & Addy Borchert  
**Ushers:** Jim Lund, Dan Matson & Myron Sime  
**Technical Support:** Thomas Lehr, Roger Slack

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.

**CALL TO WORSHIP “Bless Now, O God the Journey” set by Miller**

**CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

*All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

**P:** Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin,  
whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen**

**P:** Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God’s abiding love.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

**P:** Compassionate One,

**C:** 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.**

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

*Stand*

**HYMN: ELW #774 "What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine"**

**Vs. 1** What a fellowship, what a joy divine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
what a blessedness, what a peace is mine,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

**Refrain:** Leaning, leaning,  
safe and secure from all alarms;  
leaning, leaning,  
leaning on the everlasting arms.

**Vs.2** Oh, how sweet to walk in this pilgrim way,  
leaning on the everlasting arms;  
oh, how bright the path grows from day to day,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

**Vs. 3** What have I to dread, what have I to fear,  
leaning on the everlasting arms?  
I have blessed peace with my Lord so near,  
leaning on the everlasting arms. *Refrain*

## **GREETING**

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

**C:** **And also with you.**

## **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.**

## **HYMN OF PRAISE: "How Great Thou Art" ELW #856**

**O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder  
consider all the works thy hand hath made,  
I see the stars, I hear the mighty thunder,  
thy pow'r throughout the universe displayed;  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
how great thou art! How great thou art!  
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee,  
how great thou art! How great thou art!**

## **SALUTATION**

**P:** The Lord be with you.

**C:** **And also with you.**

## **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

**P:** Let us pray.

**C:** **O Lord God, 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.**

*Sit*

**FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11**

<sup>1-5</sup> Once you enter the land that God, your God, is giving you as an inheritance and take it over and settle down, you are to take some of all the firstfruits of what you grow in the land that God, your God, is giving you, put them in a basket and go to the place God, your God, sets apart for you to worship him. At that time, go to the priest who is there and say, "I announce to God, your God, today that I have entered the land that God promised our ancestors that he'd give to us." The priest will take the basket from you and place it on the Altar of God, your God. And there in the Presence of God, your God, you will recite:

<sup>5-10</sup> A wandering Aramean was my father, he went down to Egypt and sojourned there, he and just a handful of his brothers at first, but soon they became a great nation, mighty and many. The Egyptians abused and battered us, in a cruel and savage slavery. We cried out to God, the God-of-Our-Fathers: He listened to our voice, he saw our destitution, our trouble, our cruel plight. And God took us out of Egypt with his strong hand and long arm, terrible and great, with signs and miracle-wonders. And he brought us to this place, gave us this land flowing with milk and honey. So here I am. I've brought the firstfruits of what I've grown on this ground you gave me, O God.

<sup>10-11</sup> Then place it in the Presence of God, your God. Bow low in the Presence of God, your God. And rejoice! Celebrate all the good things that God, your God, has given you and your family; you and the Levite and the foreigner who lives with you.

**P:** The Word of the Lord.

**C:** Thanks be to God.

*Stand*

**GOSPEL CANTICLE: "O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days" ELW #319**

**vs.1 O Lord, throughout these forty days  
you prayed and kept the fast;  
inspire repentance for our sin,  
and free us from our past.**

**vs.2 You strove with Satan, and you won;  
your faithfulness endured;  
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust  
in God's eternal word.**

*The Gospel is announced...*

**P:** The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 4<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**C:** **Glory to you, O Lord.**

**GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13**

<sup>1-2</sup> 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.

<sup>3</sup>The Devil, playing on his hunger, gave the first test: “Since you’re God’s Son, command this stone to turn into a loaf of bread.”<sup>4</sup> Jesus answered by quoting Deuteronomy: “It takes more than bread to really live.”

<sup>5-7</sup> 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, “They’re yours in all their splendor to serve your pleasure. I’m in charge of them all and can turn them over to whomever I wish. Worship me and they’re yours, the whole works.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus refused, again backing his refusal with Deuteronomy: “Worship the Lord your God and only the Lord your God. Serve him with absolute single-heartedness.”

<sup>9-11</sup> For the third test the Devil took him to Jerusalem and put him on top of the Temple. He said, “If you are God’s Son, jump. It’s written, isn’t it, that ‘he has placed you in the care of angels to protect you; they will catch you; you won’t so much as stub your toe on a stone’?<sup>12</sup> “Yes,” said Jesus, “and it’s also written, ‘Don’t you dare tempt the Lord your God.’”<sup>13</sup> That completed the testing. The Devil retreated temporarily, lying in wait for another opportunity.

**P:** The gospel of the Lord.

**C:** **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Sit*

**SERMON**

*Stand*

**HYMN: “I want Jesus to Walk with Me” ELW #325**

**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**

**Vs2 . 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**

### **APOSTLE'S CREED**

**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 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**

**P:** Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need.

*A Brief Silence*

**P:** Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and instead preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, and tribal leaders, legislators, judges and juries, presidents, and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams, and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable, or lonely, that all find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

**P:** 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE SHARING OF THE PEACE**

**P:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*Sit*

**OFFERTORY “As the Sun with Longer Journey” Schalk/Culli**

## **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

**P:** Gracious Provider, 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.

**C: Amen.**

## **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.**

**C: Amen.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

*Stand*

### **BLESSING**

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

**C: Amen.**

### **DISMISSAL**

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

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **SENDING HYMN: "Shake" Clara Harrington dancer**

**by David Arthur Garcia / Bart Millard / Solomon Jerome Olds / Benjamin Glover**

**I just can't believe Where my life was at  
All that I know is my heart was broken  
And I don't ever wanna 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  
Blame it on the transformation  
Changed down to the core  
His love is real And I can't sit still  
'Cause my name's not shamed  
no more, more, more  
Great God Almighty gonna change this  
Great God Almighty, He do change me**



***Refrain:* You gotta shake, shake, shake  
Like you're changed, changed, changed  
Brand new looks so good on you  
So shake like you've been changed  
C'mon and shake (shake) Shake like you're changed  
Shake (shake)Shake like you're changed  
Maybe He came to you When everything seemed fine  
Or maybe your world was upside down  
And hit you right between your eye-eye-eyes**

**POSTLUDE: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me" set by Lasky**