

**March 30, 2025
4th Sunday in Lent
Worship Sunday**



Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Steve Grittman

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen & Worship Team

*Please read along with all **Bold** text
All are invited to stand when there is an **

Larger Print: Please see an usher if you would like larger print hymns and/ or bulletin.

Children's Bulletins: Please see an usher if you are interested in a children's bulletin.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*This morning the redbirds' eggs
have hatched and already the chicks
are chirping for food. They don't
know where it's coming from, they
just keep shouting, "More! More!"
As to anything else, they haven't
had a single thought. Their eyes
haven't yet opened, they know nothing
about the sky that's waiting. Or
the thousands, the millions of trees.
They don't even know they have wings.*

*And just like that, like a simple
neighborhood event, a miracle is
taking place.*

This Morning, by Mary Oliver

GATHERING

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven
and whose sin is put away!

You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;
you surround me with shouts of deliverance.

Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in God;
shout for joy, all who are true of heart.

Let us worship the Holy One, our God!

from Psalm 32

***OPENING SONGS**

Shout to the Lord

Verse

My Jesus my Saviour
Lord there is none like You
All of my days I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love
My comfort my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath all that I am
Never cease to worship You

Chorus

Shout to the Lord
All the earth let us sing
Power and majesty
Praise to the King
Mountains bow down
And the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name
I sing for joy
At the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You
Forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise
I have in You

Change My Heart O God

Chorus

Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like You

Verse

You are the potter
I am the clay
Mold me and make me
This is what I pray

Chorus

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

The Psalms of David say to us, "I said, "I will confess my transgressions to God." Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin." Trusting God's abundant mercy, let us confess our faults to God.

Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy, forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name, Amen.

***KYRIE**

#551 Lord, Have Mercy

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord have mercy upon us.

As water is poured into the font remember your baptism and that in these waters you are named as one of God's beloved and joined to Christ forever.

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

Happy are they to whom God imputes not guilt! Receive this good news, in Jesus Christ we are forgiven and set free!

Thanks be to God!

*RESPONSE

#570 Dying You Destroyed Our Death

Dying you destroyed our death; rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.

*SHARING THE PEACE

Since we have been made righteous through Christ's faithfulness, we have peace with God. Let us also share peace with one another. The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

And also with you.

*The people may exchange with their neighbors, by words or gesture,
signs of peace and reconciliation.*

WORD

PRAYER FOR UNDERSTANDING

Guide us, O God, by your Word and Spirit, that in your light we may reflect light, in your truth find freedom, and in your will discover your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Joshua 5:9-12 (NRSV)

9The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day.

10While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. 11On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. 12The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (NRSV)

16From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. 17So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! 18All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; 19that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. 20So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. 21For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL READING

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (NRSV)

1Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to him. 2And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."
 3So he told them this parable:
 11b"There was a man who had two sons. 12The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. 13A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. 14When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. 15So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. 16He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. 17But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! 18I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; 19I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."' 20So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. 21Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' 22But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe-the best one-and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. 23And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; 24for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.
 25"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. 26He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. 27He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' 28Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. 29But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. 30But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' 31Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. 32But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Entz

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

Oh How He Loves You and Me (with Jesus, Lover of My Soul)*arr. Purifoy*

*"Let us present ourselves to God as those who have been delivered from death to life."
 To contribute to our mission and ministry online, please scan the QR code.*



***PRAISE REFRAIN**

#710 *We Lift Our Voices*

We lift our voices, we lift our hands; we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering. Lord, use our voices; Lord, use our hands; Lord, use our lives; they are yours: we are an offering. All that we have, all that we are, all that we hope to be, we give to you, we give to you. We lift our voices; we lift our hands, we lift our lives up to you: we are an offering; we are an offering.

***OFFERING PRAYER**

***AFFIRMING OUR FAITH**

from the Confession of 1967

The new life takes shape in a community in which people know that God loves and accepts them in spite of what they are. They therefore accept themselves and love others, knowing that no one has any ground on which to stand, except God's grace.

The new life does not release people from conflict with unbelief, pride, lust, and fear. They still have to struggle with disheartening difficulties and problems. Nevertheless, as they mature in love and faithfulness in their life with Christ, they live in freedom and good cheer, bearing witness on good days and evil days, confident that the new life is pleasing to God and helpful to others.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of all kindness, you gave your only Son, because you love the world so much.

We pray for the peace of the world. Move among us by your Spirit, break down barriers of fear, suspicion, and hatred. Heal the human family of its divisions and unite us in the bonds of justice and peace. We pray especially for those nations overwhelmed by war and violence; Palestine and Israel, Ukraine and Russia, Lebanon, Yemen, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

We pray for our country. Enrich our common life; strengthen the forces of truth and goodness; teach us to share prosperity, that those whose lives are impoverished may pass from need and despair to dignity and joy.

We pray for those who suffer. Surround them with your love, support them with your strength, console them with your comfort, and give them hope and courage beyond themselves. Especially we pray for those in need of your healing presence...

We pray for our families, for those whom we love. Protect them at home; support them in times of difficulty and anxiety, that they may grow together in mutual love and understanding, and rest content in one another.

We pray for your Church. Keep us true to the gospel and responsive to the gifts and needs of all. Make known your saving power in Jesus Christ, by witness of our faith, our worship, and our life. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

People: 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

SENDING

*CLOSING SONG

How Can I Keep from Singing

Verse 1

My life flows on in endless song
Above earth's lamentation
I hear the real though far-off hymn
That hails a new creation

Verse 2

Through all the tumult and the strife
I hear that music ringing
It sounds and echoes in my soul
How can I keep from singing

Chorus

Verse 4

The peace of Christ makes fresh my heart
A fountain ever springing
All things are mine since I am His
How can I keep from singing

Chorus

*BLESSING AND SENDING

POSTLUDE

Loving all People, Living our Faith, and Following Jesus

WORSHIP NOTES

The Call to Worship is taken from the Saint Helena Psalter, produced by the Order of Saint Helena.
All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

Shout to the Lord CCLI Song # 1406918 Darlene Zschech © 1993 Wondrous Worship

Change My Heart O God CCLI Song # 1565 Eddie Espinosa © 1982 Heart And Harp Worship

Lord, Have Mercy Trad liturgical text Music: American Folk Melody, arr. Richard Proulx Music: Arr.1986 GIA Publications

Dying You Destroyed Our Death Trad Liturgical text Music Curt Oliver, 1997 1997 Curt Oliver

God of the Sparrow Text: Jaroslav J. Vajda, Music: Carl F. Schalk, Text ©1983 Concordia Publishing House, Music 1983 GIA Publications, Inc.

Oh How He Loves You and Me(with Jesus, Lover of My Soul) Words and Music by Kurt Kaiser Arranged by John Purifoy 1975 (Renewed) Word Music, LLC This arr. ©2013 Word Music, LLC

We Lift Our Voices Text and Music: Dwight Liles, 1984 Copyright 1984 Word Music, LLC

How Can I Keep from Singing CCLI Song # 605260 Robert Lowry © Words: Public Domain; Music: Public Domain

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Free Community Spaghetti Supper: Our next Free Community Spaghetti Supper will be **April 5th from 4:30pm to 6pm**. There is a sign up sheet outside the office for volunteer opportunities.

Lenten Soup Suppers: Wednesdays March 12th through April 9th. We will be sharing our Soup Suppers with our friends at Spirit of Joy. These suppers will be from 6-7:30pm. The sign up sheet is out in the Narthex. To practice hospitality towards those with dietary restrictions, please fill out the ingredient list and bring with your soup. Please sign up to help set up, clean up, or bring a soup to share. We will be joined by SOJ and they are also signing up to help. This will be a great opportunity to continue getting to know our siblings in Christ. Following the soup suppers, join us in a discussion and reflection. This year's Lenten theme is: A House Divided and a World on Fire. We will be learning lessons from Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

SPOT: Stations of the Cross: As we prepare for Holy Week and the remembrance of Jesus' passion and death you are invited to join us as we pray through the Stations of the Cross. The stations are a meditative prayer that takes us from Jesus' trail to his death and burial. Join us on **April 10th at 7pm**.

Sponsor a Backpack: We are hoping to donate 150 backpacks with supplies to the Buffalo Food Shelf. These will be given to students in the fall. Each backpack is \$10.00. The Backpack Drive will be from **March 9th through April 20th**.





How can we pray for you?

Along with the blue prayer request cards found in the pews you can also submit prayer requests on the BPC website. Scan this QR Code with your smartphone to be taken directly to the prayer

request form. All prayer requests go directly to Pastor Brian.

BPC Prayer List:

- Larry Pattee
- Nancy Grittman
- Dennis Sleetten, friend of Diane
- Sherry Sletten, friend of Diane
- Milla Spike, Kevin's granddaughter
- Lois Lindstrom
- Theresa
- Madree
- Jim, Elaine Thole's brother, following a diagnosis
- Donna, a friend of Lana Kopplin, who has cancer
- Jill, the niece of Al DeBellis, who has terminal illness
- Jonathon, a friend of Barb & Larry Janski
- Shannon, Virginia's former daughter-in-law
- Daniel Elliot
- Erva Hance
- Barb and Tom Stone
- Jan Brown, early morning Women of Faith
- Dennis Dietz, Virginia's friend
- Rochelle Tandrian, Angela's daughter
- Jimm and Jodie Underwood, Lanny & Shirley's son-in-law and daughter
- Brittany Daniels
- John and Charlotte Collins

Upcoming This Week

Today

9:30a Worship
10:30a CCC: Parenting with Grace

Monday

Tuesday

9:00a Crafty Ladies
9:00a Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe
6:30p Faith Formation Committee Meeting

Wednesday

6:00p Lenten Soup Supper
7:30p Adult Choir

Thursday

7:30a People of Faith
10:00a Women of Faith
5:30p Racial Justice Reading Group

Friday

Saturday

4:30p Community Spaghetti Supper

Sunday

9:30a Worship with Communion
10:30a CCC: Pastor Brian
11:30a Worship & Music Committee Meeting

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Mike Agre, Choir Director
Ralph Johansen, Organist
Mike Quady, Clerk of Session
Christy Wood, Administrative Assistant