

March 9, 2025
1st Sunday in Lent



Leading Worship Today:

Pastor: Brian Entz

Lay Leader: Larry Janski

Accompanist: Ralph Johansen

*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

Jesus, The Very Thought Of Thee

P. Stearns

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

SILENT PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

The one sufficient revelation of God is Jesus Christ, the Word of God incarnate, to whom the Holy Spirit bears unique and authoritative witness through the Holy Scriptures, which are received and obeyed as the word of God written.

The Bible is to be interpreted in the light of its witness to God's work of reconciliation in Christ. - The Confession of 1967

GATHERING

CHORAL INTROIT

This is the Day

Garrett

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

from Psalm 91

They who dwell in the shelter of the Most High

abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

They shall say to God, "you are my refuge and my stronghold,

my God in whom I put my trust."

In faith let us sing the praises of our God!

***OPENING HYMN**

#165 The Glory of These Forty Days

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God has appeared in our midst in the person of Jesus, bringing salvation to all and teaching us to renounce what is evil in this world. Trusting in the mercy of God, let us confess our sin.

Gracious God, our sins are too heavy to carry, too real to hide, and too deep to undo. Forgive what our lips tremble to name, what our hearts can no longer bear, and what has become for us a consuming fire of judgment.

Set us free from a past we cannot change; open to us a future in which we can be changed; and grant us grace to grow more and more in your likeness and image; through Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 PARDON**

God has poured out the Holy Spirit upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might have the hope of eternal life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

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.

***PASSING OF 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 ILLUMINATION

Teach us, O God, to know and understand the scriptures as Jesus knew and understood them, that they may help us to grow more faithful to you. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Deuteronomy 26:1-11 (NRSV)

1When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, 2you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. 3You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." 4When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, 5you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. 6When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, 7we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. 8The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; 9and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. 10So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. 11Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

Holy Wisdom, Holy Word.

Thanks be to God.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

Romans 10:8b-13 (NRSV)

8b"The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart" (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); 9because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. 10For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. 11The scripture says, "No one who believes in him will be put to shame." 12For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. 13For, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved."

The Word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

HYMN

#783 When We Are Tested

GOSPEL READING

Luke 4:1-13 (NRSV)

1Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, 2where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. 3The devil said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread." 4Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone.'"

5Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. 6And the devil said to him, "To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. 7If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours." 8Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'"

9Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, 10for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,' 11and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will

not dash your foot against a stone.'" 12Jesus answered him, "It is said, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" 13When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

MESSAGE

Rev. Brian Entz

OFFERTORY

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Trad Spiritual arr. Larkin

"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.



*DOXOLOGY

#606 Praise God From Whom All Blessings Flow

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise God, all creatures here below; praise God above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*OFFERING PRAYER

*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

from Philippians 2

Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus,
**who, though he was in the form of God,
did not regard equality with God
as something to be exploited,
but emptied himself,
taking the form of a slave,
being born in human likeness.
And being found in human form,
he humbled himself
and became obedient to the point of death—
even death on a cross.
Therefore God also highly exalted him
and gave him the name
that is above every name,
so that at the name of Jesus
every knee should bend,
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,
and every tongue should confess
that Jesus Christ is Lord,
to the glory of God the Father.**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Holy One our God, we praise you this day for your great goodness, for your deep mercy, for your boundless grace, and for your unending love. For all that is good and true, beautiful and loving in our lives we give you thanks, because you are the source from which all these flow.

Hear now our prayers for your Church and your world.

For your Church around the world, in all its diversity and traditions, we pray. Keep all who bear the name of Jesus faithful in all things, hopeful in all situations, and loving towards all people. For this congregation and all the congregations of Buffalo make us aware of the needs and gifts of our community and keep us humble and generous in our mutual pursuit of your Kingdom. **O God, hear our prayer.**

For the whole of your creation, the peoples and creatures of this world, we pray. For people and places devastated by disaster, warfare, violence, and pollution, bring safety, healing, and peace. Especially we pray for those places in the midst of conflict, large scale destruction, and death; for Palestine and Israel, for Ukraine, and for Congo we pray. **O God, hear our prayer.**

For this nation and our shared life together we pray. May our leaders in all levels of government govern with wisdom, humility, justice, and peace. May we remember to listen to one another and see in all people your image and likeness. In all things help us to seek the common good and justice for those most in need around us. **O God, hear our prayer.**

For those in our midst, in our hearts, and around this world in need of your healing and comfort we pray. For those who struggle with issues of health and wellness, whether in body, mind, or spirit bring healing and bring peace, O God. Especially we pray for...**Have mercy, O God.**

For those who have lost family, friends, and neighbors in conflicts and disasters the world over that don't appear on our newsfeeds or in our newspapers. **Have mercy, O God.**

For all who grieve and mourn the death of a loved one, either human or animal, and for those who have experienced the loss of a relationship, family, or community. **Have mercy, O God.**

For those who are in the midst of a spiritual crisis, search, or transition, may they find in you a refuge for their soul and the abundant love made known in Jesus Christ. **O God, hear our prayer.**

For all those people, situations, and intentions that rest in the quiet of our hearts or are known only to you we pray in silence.

Hear, O God, these our prayers and answer them with the love and wisdom only you can offer. Keep us ever faithful in our discipleship to Jesus, until that day when the new heaven and the new earth have come. In his name we join our voices, using whatever words we know, to pray...

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 HYMN

#837 Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

*CHARGE AND BLESSING

*CHORAL BENEDICTION

Go Out in Song!

Larson

POSTLUDE

Festal March

J. E. Roberts

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 Community of Saint Helena.

All other liturgy comes/is adapted from the Book of Common Worship (2018) or is written in house.

This is the Day words attributed to Les Garrett St. 1 © 1967, 1980, Scripture in Song. Admin by Integrity Music.

#165 The Glory of These Forty Days | TEXT: Gregory the Great, 6th cent.; trans. Maurice F. Bell, 1906, alt. | MUSIC: Klug's Geistliche Lieder, 1543; harm. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1725 | Public domain

#783 When We Are Tested | TEXT: Ruth Duck, 1996 | MUSIC: Carlton R. Young, 1996 | Text © 1996 Hope Publishing Company Music © 1996 Abingdon Press (admin. The Copyright Company)

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#837 What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine (Leaning on the Everlasting Arms) | TEXT: Elisha A. Hoffman, 1887 | MUSIC: Anthony J. Showalter, 1887 | Public domain

Go Out in Song! Incorporating "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" Words and Music by Lloyd Larson ©2011 Lorenz Publishing Company, a division of The Lorenz Corporation

ANNOUNCEMENTS

A Congregational Meeting to Elect officers has been called by the Session for **TODAY** following worship.

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**.

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.

Racial Justice Reading Group: We will be starting a new book on **March 13th:** "Dear America, Notes of an Undocumented Citizen" by Jose Antonio Vargas. There are a couple extra copies of this book in the office. Please contact Pastor Brian if you would like to join this group and to get the Zoom link. The group meets on Thursdays at 5:30pm.

SPOT: Learn to bake bread! Deb Anderson and Kathy Quady will have a SPOT offering to demonstrate how to make bread. You will make the dough, knead it, and take it home to raise and bake. We will provide the ingredients and equipment, so PLEASE **sign up by Thursday, March 13th**. We will gather at **10AM on Saturday, March 15th** in the Fellowship Room. See you then!

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
- Windi Willete
- 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

For peace in Ukraine and Russia, Israel/Palestine, Congo, and around the world.

For our neighbor congregations in Buffalo and for the congregations of our presbytery.

Upcoming This Week

Today

Daylight Saving Time

9:30a Worship

10:30a Congregational Meeting

10:30am CCC: Buffalo Community Center

Update

Monday

5:00p Fellowship Committee Meeting

Tuesday

9:00a Crafty Ladies

9:00a Men's Breakfast at Forget Me Not Cafe

5:00p Missions Committee Meeting

6:30p Finance Committee Meeting

Wednesday

10:30a Personnel Committee Meeting

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

10:00a SPOT: Bread Baking

Sunday

8:30a 150th Planning Meeting

9:30a Worship

10:30a CCC: Pastor Brian

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Brian Entz, Pastor

Mike Agre, Choir Director

Ralph Johansen, Organist

Mike Quady, Clerk of Session

Christy Wood, Administrative Assistant

165 The Glory of These Forty Days

1 The glo - ry of these for - ty days we
 2 A - lone and fast - ing Mo - ses saw the
 3 So Dan - iel trained his mys - tic sight, de -
 4 Then grant that we like them be true, con -

cel - e - brate with songs of praise; for Christ, by whom all
 lov - ing God who gave the law; and to E - li - jah,
 liv - ered from the li - ons' might; and John, the Bride-groom's
 sumed in fast and prayer with you; our spir - its strength-en

things were made, him - self has fast - ed and has prayed.
 fast - ing, came the steeds and char - i - ots of flame.
 friend, be - came the her - ald of Mes - si - ah's name.
 with your grace, and give us joy to see your face.


Appropriate for singing at any time during Lent, this stately text connects Jesus' wilderness fast with the solitary testing of other prophetic souls: Moses, Elijah, Daniel, and John the Baptist. This sturdy 16th-century chorale melody formed the basis of Bach's *Cantata 126*.

When We Are Tested

783

Capo 2: (Dm) (Am) (Dm) (Am)

Em Bm Em Bm




1 When we are test - ed and wres - tle a - lone,
 2 When in the des - ert we cry for re - lief,
 3 When we are tempt - ed to bar - ter our souls,
 4 When we have strug - gled and searched through the night,

(Em) (B7) (Em) (Dsus) (D)
 F#m C#7 F#m Esus E




fam - ished for bread when the world of - fers stone,
 plead - ing for paths marked by cer - tain be - lief,
 trad - ing the truth for the power to con - trol,
 sort - ing and sift - ing the wrong from the right,

(G) (D) (Em7) (F)
 A E F#m7 G



nour - ish us, God, by your word and your way,
 lift us to love you be - yond sign and test,
 teach us to wor - ship and praise on - ly you,
 Sav - ior, sur - round us with cir - cles of care,

(Am6) (C) (Dm) (Am) (E)
 Bm6 D Em Bm F#



food that sus - tains us by night and by day.
 trust - ing your pres - ence, our on - ly true rest.
 seek - ing your will in the work that we do.
 an - gels of heal - ing, of hope, and of prayer.

Although the Temptation of Christ is mentioned in all three synoptic gospels (Matthew 4:1–11/Mark 1:12–13/Luke 4:1–13), this hymn is based on the Lukan version. It is notable that each stanza begins “when,” not “if”; temptation is not an optional feature of the spiritual life.

What a Fellowship, What a Joy Divine 837

Leaning on the Everlasting Arms

1 What a fel-low-ship, what a joy di-vine, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 2 O how sweet to walk in this pil-grim way, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 3 What have I to dread, what have I to fear, lean-ing on the ev-er-
 last-ing arms; what a bless-ed-ness, what a peace is mine,
 last-ing arms; O how bright the path grows from day to day,
 last-ing arms? I have bless-ed peace with my Lord so near,

Refrain

lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms. Lean-ing,
 Lean-ing on Je-sus,
 lean-ing,
 lean-ing on Je-sus, safe and se-cure from all a-larms; lean-ing
 ing, lean-ing,
 Je-sus, lean-ing on Je-sus, lean-ing on the ev-er-last-ing arms.

The composer of the tune (and creator of the refrain) asked the author of the stanzas to write a hymn based on the latter part of Deuteronomy 33:27 (as worded in the King James Version): "Underneath are the everlasting arms." Their joint effort has proved very popular.