

St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
First Sunday in Lent – February 18, 2024

Responsive Call to Worship – PWS&D Lenten Liturgy

On this first Sunday of Lent, we find Jesus in the wilderness, facing temptation. And forty days in the wilderness is a long time.

We too experience wilderness times of temptation, challenge and change.

Yet even in the wilderness and among the wild beasts, the angels cared for Jesus.

As we make our way in the wilderness, we hear the good news that we are not alone – that the reign of God has come near in Christ.

Hymn 200 Lord Jesus, who through forty days

**1. Lord Jesus, who through forty days
for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins,
and at your side to stay.**

**2. As you with Satan did contend,
and did the vict'ry win,
oh give us strength to persevere,
in you to conquer sin.**

**3. As thirst and hunger once you bore,
so teach us, gracious Lord,
to die to self, and daily live
by your most holy word.**

**4. And through these days of penitence,
and through the Passiontide,
now, evermore, in life and death,
Lord Christ, with us abide.**

**5. Abide with us, that so, this life
of suffering over past,
an Easter of unending joy
we may attain at last.**

Prayer of Praise *(minister)*

Hymn 197 **Forty days and forty nights**

- 1. Forty days and forty nights
thou wast fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.**
- 2. Should not we thy sorrow share
and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with thee to suffer pain?**
- 3. Then if Satan on us press,
Jesus, Saviour, hear our call!
Victor in the wilderness,
grant we may not faint nor fall!**
- 4. So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine,
such as ministered to thee.**
- 5. Keep, oh keep us, Saviour dear,
ever constant by thy side;
that with thee we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.**

Prayer of Confession (congregation)

Merciful God, we enter the season of Lent keenly aware of how we have failed ourselves, others, and you. We have done things we should not have and left undone what was needed. Forgive us our sins of omission and commission.

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (Debts/Debtors)

**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, the power, and the glory. For ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn 205 **O love, how deep, how broad, how high**

**1. O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
how passing thought and fantasy,
that God, the Son of God, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.**

**2. For us baptized, for us he bore
his holy fast and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharp he knew,
for us the tempter overthrew.**

**3. For us he prayed; for us he taught;
for us his daily works he wrought:
by words and signs and actions, thus
still seeking not himself, but us.**

**4. For us to wicked hands betrayed,
scourged, mocked, in purple robe arrayed,
he bore the shameful cross and death,
for us gave up his dying breath.**

**5. For us he rose from death again;
for us he went on high to reign;
for us he sent his Spirit here
to guide, to strengthen and to cheer.**

**6. All glory to our Lord and God
for love so deep, so high, so broad,
the Trinity whom we adore
forever and forevermore.**

Responsive Reading **Psalm 25:1-10 p. 475 NT & Psalms**

¹O Lord, I give my life to you.

² **I trust in you, my God!**

**Do not let me be disgraced,
or let my enemies rejoice in my defeat.**

³No one who trusts in you will ever be disgraced,
but disgrace comes to those who try to deceive others.

⁴**Show me the right path, O Lord;
point out the road for me to follow.**

⁵Lead me by your truth and teach me,

for you are the God who saves me.

All day long I put my hope in you.

**⁶Remember, O Lord, your compassion and unfailing love,
which you have shown from long ages past.**

⁷Do not remember the rebellious sins of my youth.

Remember me in the light of your unfailing love,
for you are merciful, O Lord.

**⁸The Lord is good and does what is right;
he shows the proper path to those who go astray.**

⁹He leads the humble in doing right,
teaching them his way.

**¹⁰The Lord leads with unfailing love and faithfulness
all who keep his covenant and obey his demands.**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Genesis 9:8–17 p. 6 pew Bible

1 Peter 3:18–22 p. 406 New Testament & Psalms

Mark 1:9–15 p. 61 New Testament & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon What good is that bow?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Hymn 209 O love that wilt not let me go

**1. O Love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in thee;
I give thee back the life I owe,
that in thine ocean depths its flow
may richer, fuller be.**

**2. O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to thee;
my heart restores its borrowed ray,
that in thy sunshine's blaze, its day
may brighter, fairer be.**

**3. O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to thee;
I trace the rainbow through the rain,
and feel the promise is not vain**

that morn shall tearless be.

4. O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust life's glory dead,
and from the ground there blossoms red,
life that shall endless be.

Offering & Offertory

***Doxology 830 Praise God from whom all blessings flow**

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

Prayer of Dedication (congregation)

God of courage and compassion, we bring our gifts to you in Jesus' name. This year the world badly needs both his courage and compassion. Bless our gifts so that they bring hope to others in these challenging times. Amen.

Hymn 324 Great is thy faithfulness

NOT IN PUBLIC DOMAIN

Choral Blessing

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.
God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude