

## LENT

Lent is a period of 40 days leading up to Easter Sunday. The word Lent comes from the Old English word meaning, “the lengthening of days,” or, put another way: Spring! It is a time of self-examination, fasting, prayer, meditation on God’s word, and turning back toward God. Because it is a time of repentance, churches around the world have traditionally observed Lent by removing decorations from the altar, including flowers, and changing the colors in the sanctuary to purple. Purple is the color of royalty and symbolizes the royalty of Christ as King above all kings.

## GIVE IT UP FOR LENT

So why “give something up” for Lent? It’s simple really: to increase our dependence on Christ. The point of our sacrifice is not to get a good grade from God, but to grow in our capacity to love God and love our neighbor, which we do through spiritual discipline

# Order of Service

March 15th 2020 ~ 3rd Sunday of Lent

## Prelude

*Banner of the Cross*

## Welcome, Announcements, and Peace

## Call to Worship

Come, let us sing to God;

*Let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation.*

Let us come into the Divine presence with thanksgiving;

*Let us make a joyful noise to God with songs of praise!*

It is good to give you thanks, O Lord;

*To sing praises to your name, O Most High;*

to declare your steadfast love in the morning,

*and your faithfulness by night,*

to the music of the lute and harp,

*to the melody of the lyre.*

For you, O God, have made us glad by your work;

*At the works of your hands we sing for joy. Amen.*

## Hymn of Praise

*WS #50, Come, Now Is The Time To Worship*

## Opening Prayer

*Come, all who thirst—come to the water!*

*You who long for the water of life—come and drink!*

*Dip your soul in the river of God’s goodness;*

*quench your thirst at God’s well of grace.*

*For God is here among us,*

*offering living water to all who would drink!*

*Let’s worship God together! Amen.*

## Special Music

*Vocalise from 14 Romances Op. 34*  
Sergei Rachmaninoff

## Scripture Reading

Psalm 95 (NIV)

The Word of the Lord.

*Thanks be to God.*

**Sermon**

*In the Wilderness*  
Senior Pastor Robert de Wetter

**Offertory**

*Méditation from Thais*  
Jules Massenet

**Doxology**

*WS #144, Kyrie Eleison Have Mercy*

**Blessing of the Bread & Wine****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. 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.*

**Communion**

*#460, Let Us Break Bread Together*

**Closing Prayer**

*From Forward Day by Day*

O God:

Give me strength to live another day;

Let me not turn coward before its difficulties or prove recreant to its duties;

Let me not lose faith in other people;

Keep me sweet and sound of heart, in spite of ingratitude, treachery, or meanness;

Preserve me from minding little stings or giving them;

Help me to keep my heart clean, and to live so honestly and fearlessly that no outward failure can dishearten me or take away the joy of conscious integrity;

Open wide the eyes of my soul that I may see good in all things;

Grant me this day some new vision of thy truth;

Inspire me with the spirit of joy and gladness;

and make me the cup of strength to suffering souls;

in the name of the strong Deliverer, our only Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

**Closing Hymn**

*WS #104, How Can I Keep From Singing*

**Blessing****Postlude**

*Our love in action now begins...*

**COMMUNION**

During Lent we replace the Doxology, a song of praise commonly sung by the congregation prior to communion, with a song of repentance. "Kyrie, eleison" is Greek for "Lord, have mercy," which is a phrase found often in scripture. It is both a petition and a prayer of thanksgiving; an acknowledgment of what God has done, what God is doing, and what God will continue to do. It is a song of confidence in God's love for us, regardless of what we may have done.

**RECEIVING COMMUNION**

In an effort to help reduce the spread of COVID-19 (coronavirus), and to protect the most vulnerable among us, we will not be serving the bread and wine during communion until further notice. Thank you for your understanding and prayers.