

**First Sunday in Lent  
March 9, 2025**

**Gathering  
*God invites us to enter His presence***

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Preparation for Worship** (*Time for Silent Preparation*)



**Call to Worship** (*Responsively*)

*Jim Fox*

Let us worship God, who has done great things.

**We rejoice in our God, who made a way  
through the desert of this world.**

Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy  
to flow in the wasteland.

**We are the people God has formed through Christ;  
we worship him, and we rejoice!**

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

**We praise God for the grace that has saved us.**

**Alleluia! We rejoice!**

—based on Isaiah 43:19-21



**Invocation**

*Jim Fox*



**Opening Song**

*10,000 Reasons*

*Chorus*

*Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul.*

*Worship His holy name.*

*Sing like never before, O my soul,*

*I'll worship Your holy name.*

*Verse 1*

*The sun comes up it's a new day dawning*

*It's time to sing Your song again*

*Whatever may pass and whatever lies before me*

*Let me be singing when the evening comes*

*Chorus*

*Verse 2*

*You're rich in love and You're slow to anger*

*Your name is great and Your heart is kind*

*For all Your goodness I will keep on singing*

*Ten thousand reasons for my heart to find*

*Chorus*

*Verse 3*

*And on that day when my strength is failing  
The end draws near and my time has come  
Still my soul will sing Your praise unending  
Ten thousand years and then forevermore*

*Chorus*

*Ending*

*Lord, I'll worship Your holy name  
Lord I'll worship Your holy name*

### **Confessing**

***God invites us to be honest with Him***

**Call to Confession** (*Responsively*)

*Jim Fox*

Search me, O God, and know my heart;  
**try me and know my thoughts.**  
See if there is any wicked way in me,  
**and lead me in the way everlasting.**

—Psalm 139:23-24, NRSV

**Prayer of Confession** (*Responsively*)

*Jim Fox*

O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace.  
You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy;  
you are generous to all who call upon you.

**Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sins.  
On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions  
and were bruised for our iniquities.

**Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort,  
our life and our resurrection, our peace and reconciliation:

**Save us, Lord.**

O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, hope of all who die for you,  
and joy of all the saints:

**Save us, Lord.**

Jesus, Lamb of God,

**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, bearer of our sins,

**have mercy on us.**

Jesus, redeemer of the world,

**grant us peace. Amen.**

**Time for Silent Confession**

## Assurance of Pardon

Jim Fox

Israel, put your hope in the LORD,  
for with the LORD is unfailing love  
and with him is full redemption.  
He himself will redeem Israel  
from all their sins.

—Psalm 130:7-8, NIV

*Leader: This is the Promise of the Lord*

**All: Thanks be to God!**

## Gloria Patri

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
And to the Holy Ghost:  
As it was in the beginning,  
Is now and ever shall be, world without end.  
A-men, A-men.*

## Passing of the Peace

*Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You*

**All: And also with you**

### Offering

**Thankful of the gifts God has given us, we offer ourselves to Him**

**Invitation** Do good and share what you have, for such sacrifices  
are pleasing to God.  
—from Hebrews 13:16, NRSV

### Offering

**Offertory** *It is Well*  
*The Steinginga Family; Robert, John, Lila*

## Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
*Praise Him, all creatures here below;*  
*Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;*  
*Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. A-men.*

## Prayer of Dedication

Mighty God and Father, you overwhelm us with your great mercy.  
At the time of our greatest need you surprised us with your wondrous  
love. Jesus offered his life for us to remove our dreadful curse.  
As you draw us into this renewing relationship of love, may we respond  
with gratitude as we offer the substance of our souls to continue the  
ministry of Christ. For his name and glory we pray and present our  
gifts. **Amen!**

**Proclaiming**  
***God speaks to us through His Word***

**Scripture Reading**

*John 6:29-52*

<sup>29</sup> Jesus replied, “This is the work of God—that you believe in the one he has sent.”

<sup>30</sup> “What sign, then, are you going to do so that we may see and believe you?” they asked. “What are you going to perform? <sup>31</sup> Our ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, just as it is written: **He gave them bread from heaven to eat.**

<sup>32</sup> Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, Moses didn’t give you the bread from heaven, but my Father gives you the true bread from heaven. <sup>33</sup> For the bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.”

<sup>34</sup> Then they said, “Sir, give us this bread always.”

<sup>35</sup> “I am the bread of life,” Jesus told them. “No one who comes to me will ever be hungry, and no one who believes in me will ever be thirsty again. <sup>36</sup> But as I told you, you’ve seen me, and yet you do not believe. <sup>37</sup> Everyone the Father gives me will come to me, and the one who comes to me I will never cast out. <sup>38</sup> For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. <sup>39</sup> This is the will of him who sent me: that I should lose none of those he has given me but should raise them up on the last day. <sup>40</sup> For this is the will of my Father: that everyone who sees the Son and believes in him will have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

<sup>41</sup> Therefore the Jews started grumbling about him because he said, “I am the bread that came down from heaven.” <sup>42</sup> They were saying, “Isn’t this Jesus the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, ‘I have come down from heaven’?”

<sup>43</sup> Jesus answered them, “Stop grumbling among yourselves. <sup>44</sup> No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draws him, and I will raise him up on the last day. <sup>45</sup> It is written in the Prophets: **And they will all be taught by God.** Everyone who has listened to and learned from the Father comes to me— <sup>46</sup> not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God. He has seen the Father.

<sup>47</sup> “Truly I tell you, anyone who believes has eternal life. <sup>48</sup> I am the bread of life. <sup>49</sup> Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. <sup>50</sup> This is the bread that comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die. <sup>51</sup> I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread he will live forever. The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.”

<sup>52</sup> At that, the Jews argued among themselves, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?”

**Sermon**

*The Bread of Life*  
*Rev. Tim Latham*

Responding  
*We respond to God's Word*

! **Profession of Faith** *(In Unison)*

**During his whole life on earth,  
but especially at the end,  
Christ sustained  
in body and soul  
the wrath of God against the sin of the whole human race.  
This he did in order that,  
by his suffering as the only atoning sacrifice,  
he might deliver us, body and soul,  
from eternal condemnation,  
and gain for us God's grace,  
righteousness, and eternal life.**

**Prayers of the People**

Let us bring the needs of the church,  
the world, and all in need, to God's loving care.  
Please respond to the words, "Lord, in your mercy,"  
by saying "hear our prayer."  
God of heaven and earth,  
through Jesus Christ you promise to hear us  
when we pray to you in his name.  
Confident in your love and mercy  
we offer our prayer.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**  
Empower the church throughout the world in its life and witness.  
Break down the barriers that divide  
so that, united in your truth and love,  
the church may confess your name,  
share one baptism,  
sit together at one table,  
and serve you in one common ministry.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**  
Guide the rulers of the nations.  
Move them to set aside their fear, greed, and vain ambition  
and to bow to your sovereign rule.  
Inspire them to strive for peace and justice,  
that all your children may dwell secure,  
free of war and injustice.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**  
Hear the cries of the world's hungry and suffering.  
Give us, who consume most of the earth's resources,  
the will to reorder our lives,  
that all may have their rightful share of food,  
medical care, and shelter,  
and so have the necessities of a life of dignity.  
Lord, in your mercy,  
**hear our prayer.**

Restore among us a love of the earth you created for our home.  
Help us put an end to ravishing its land, air, and waters,  
and give us respect for all your creatures,  
that, living in harmony with everything you have made,  
your whole creation may resound in an anthem of praise  
to your glorious name.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Renew our nation in the ways of justice and peace.  
Guide those who make and administer our laws  
to build a society based on trust and respect.  
Erase prejudices that oppress;  
free us from crime and violence;  
guard our youth from the perils of drugs and materialism.  
Give all citizens a new vision of a life of harmony.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Strengthen this congregation in its work and worship.  
Fill our hearts with your self-giving love,  
that our voices may speak your praise  
and our lives may conform to the image of your Son.  
Nourish us with your Word and sacraments,  
that we may faithfully minister in your name  
and witness to your love and grace for all the world.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Look with compassion on all who suffer.  
Support with your love  
those with incurable and stigmatized diseases,  
those unjustly imprisoned,  
those denied dignity,  
those who live without hope,  
those who are homeless or abandoned.  
As you have moved toward us in love,  
so lead us to be present with them in their suffering  
in the name of Jesus Christ.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

Sustain those among us who need your healing touch.  
Make the sick whole [*especially name(s)*].  
Give hope to the dying [*especially name(s)*].  
Comfort those who mourn [*especially name(s)*].  
Uphold all who suffer in body or mind,  
not only those we know and love  
but also those known only to you,  
that they may know the peace and joy of your supporting care.

Lord, in your mercy,

**hear our prayer.**

O God,  
in your loving purpose  
answer our prayers and fulfill our hopes.  
In all things for which we pray,  
give us the will to seek to bring them about,  
for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

**Commissioning**

*God sends us out into the world as His witnesses*

 **Commission Hymn 51**

*Great Jehovah*

 **Benediction & Blessing**

 **Postlude**