

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 15, 2026

GATHERING: *God invites us to enter His presence*

PRELUDE

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us
Prelude in F Major

Bradbury
Bach

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP *(Time for Silent Preparation)*



CALL TO WORSHIP *(Responsively)*

Susan Obenschain

Let us contemplate Jesus the Lord:
Instead of the joy meant for him,
he endured the cross, disregarding its disgrace.

We worship you, Lord.

O Jesus Christ, born in humility
to confound the proud and to raise the humble:

We worship you, Lord.

You lived among us, healing the sick,
proclaiming good news to the poor and freedom to prisoners.

We worship you, Lord.

You came to unbind the chains of every slavery,
O friend of the humble, bread of hungry hearts.

We worship you, Lord.

Jesus, full of patience and goodness,
you showed forgiveness and kindness to the very end.

We worship you, Lord.

Jesus, gentle and humble of heart,
you call to yourself all who are weary and burdened.

We worship you, Lord.

Jesus, you came into the world to serve and to give your life;
you were betrayed for money, dragged before judges,
and nailed to a cross.

We worship you, Lord.



INVOCATION

Susan Obenschain

From Bethlehem to Nazareth,
from Jordan to Jericho,
from Bethany to Jerusalem,
from then to now,
come, Lord Jesus.
To heal the sick,
to mend the brokenhearted,
to comfort the disturbed,
to disturb the comfortable,
to cleanse the temple,
to liberate faith from convention,
come, Lord Jesus.

To carry the cross,
to lead the way,
to shoulder the sin of the world
and take it away,
come, Lord Jesus.
Today,
to this place,
to us, come, Lord Jesus. Amen.



OPENING HYMN 9

Praise the Lord! Ye Heavens, Adore Him

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

CALL TO CONFESSION

Susan Obenschain

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

—Psalm 51:17, NRSV

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Susan Obenschain

God of compassion,
you are slow to anger and full of mercy,
welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts.
Receive in your loving embrace
all who come home to you.
Seat them at your bountiful table of grace,
that, with all your children,
they may feast with delight
on all that satisfies the hungry heart.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. **Amen.**

TIME FOR SILENT CONFESSION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Susan Obenschain

Jesus said:
Come to me, all you that are weary
and are carrying heavy burdens,
and I will give you rest.
Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me;
for I am gentle and humble in heart,
and you will find rest for your souls.
For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

—from Matthew 11:28-30, NRSV

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*

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

INVITATION Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and pay your vows to the Most High.
—Psalm 50:14, NRSV

OFFERING

OFFERTORY *Mighty to Save* *Morgan / Fielding*

 **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**

We bring you these gifts, O God, from what we have first received from you.
Use them, we pray, to enable the ministries of this church to flourish as we together serve our neighbors,
both near and far away, by showing love and doing mercy. **Amen.**

 **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

*Leader: The Peace of the Lord be with You
All: And also with you*

 **PREPARATION HYMN 58** *This is My Father's World*

PROCLAIMING: *God speaks to us through His Word*

PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION

Through God's Word, O Holy Spirit,
bring us closer to our Savior.
And in response, triune God, prompt our hearts
to offer you sincere thanks for our salvation.
In the strong name of Jesus, our Lord. **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READING *Matthew 6:5-15 (ESV)*

5 "And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. 6 But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you. 7 "And when you pray, do not heap

up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. 8 Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. 9 Pray then like this: "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. 10 Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. 11 Give us this day our daily bread, 12 and forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors. 13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 But if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses

SERMON

"Power of Prayer"
Rev. Aaron Chapman

 **HYMN OF RESPONSE 468** *The King of Love My Shepherd Is*

RESPONDING: *We respond to God's Word*

 **PROFESSION OF FAITH (In Unison)**

**I am called a Christian
because by faith I am a member of Christ
and so I share in his anointing.
I am anointed
to confess his name,
to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks,
to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil
in this life,
and afterward to reign with Christ
over all creation
for all eternity.
We call him "our Lord"
because—
not with gold or silver,
but with his precious blood—
he has set us free
from sin and from the tyranny of the devil,
and has bought us,
body and soul,
to be his very own.**

—from Heidelberg Catechism, Q&A's 32, 34

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

God of all seasons,
in your pattern of things
there is a time for keeping and a time for losing,
a time for building up and a time for pulling down.
In this season of Lent
as we journey to the cross,
help us to discern in our lives
what we must lay down and what we must take up,
what we must end and what we must begin.
Give us grace to lead a disciplined life,
in glad faithfulness and with the joy
that comes from a closer walk with Christ. **Amen.**

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

 **COMMISSION HYMN 371** *Have Thine Own Way, Lord*

BENEDICTION & BLESSING

The peace of God,
which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and of God's Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
remain with you always.

—based on Philippians 4:7

POSTLUDE

 *Please stand if you are able.*