

Sunday Worship
February 26, 2023
First Sunday in Lent

God Gathers the Church

GATHERING MUSIC and WORDS OF WELCOME

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Gather to remember and share stories of faith;

Rejoice in the goodness of the loving God.

Before our stories began, there was God;

Through all our days, God walks with us.

Worship the one who gives and sustains life;

Sing praises to the one who is our refuge.

There is no place we can go where God is not;

Amid life's terrors, God's promises hold true.

Delight in God, whose protection we enjoy;

Dance with the God, who frees us for new possibilities.

We call out to God, expecting to be heard;

We listen, knowing there is truth to be received.

***OPENING HYMN: #253 "Lead Me to Calvary"**

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

CALL TO CONFESSION AND PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Oh God, we have journeyed to far places and lived as if you were not accompanying us. We have wasted the inheritance you entrusted to us and used other people as if they were things. Then we complain to you as if our dilemmas were your fault rather than our own. O God, we are not worthy to be your children. Forgive us, and grant us just a small place in your love, which we do not deserve. Amen.

GUIDE FOR GRATEFUL LIVING

Philippians 2:1-4

If then there is any encouragement in Christ, any consolation from love, any sharing in the Spirit, any compassion and sympathy, make my joy complete: be of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility regard others as better than yourselves. Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others.

***GLORIA PATRI**

God's Word Is Proclaimed

***PRAYER OF ILLUMINATION**

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 23:39-43 (*New Testament*, pg. 89)

*This is the Word of the Lord, **Thanks be to God.***

***HYMN OF PREPARATION: #285 "Jesus, Remember Me"**

SERMON:

Rev. Kendra VanHouten

Seven Last Words of Christ: "Today You Will Be With Me in Paradise"

The Church Responds to God

THE SHARING OF THE GIFTS OF THE PEOPLE WITH OUR OFFERINGS

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND CONCERN AND 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, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

***SENDING HYMN: #270 "O How He Loves You and Me"**

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE

**Today's liturgy and prayer is from Refreshing Rains of the Living Word and Gathered by Love, both by Lavon Bayler and The Worship Sourcebook.*