

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service for Second Sunday in Lent
March 23, 2025

Pre-Service Music: *Grace Greater than Our Sin* – D.B. Towner

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *Forty Days and Forty Nights* – Tracey Craig McKibben

Introit 388: *Come All You People* Chancel Choir

Responsive Call to Worship and Prayer of the Day
(Psalm 27)

The Lord is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

**The Lord is the stronghold of our life;
of whom shall we be afraid?**

We seek your face, O Lord. Do not hide your face from us!

Do not forsake us, O God of our salvation!

Make us strong, and let our hearts take courage.

We wait for the Lord. Let us worship God!

Prayer of the Day

Holy God, though we continue to stumble, you have made us citizens of heaven. Through Christ you have claimed us and transformed us by your glory. How wonderful you are, O God! By the power of your Spirit, empower us to steadfast faithfulness as your beloved children. Amen.

Opening Hymn #12: *Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise*
(stand)

Call to Confession

From generation to generation, God has extended mercy and love. Trusting in God's faithfulness, let us make our confession.

Prayer of Confession

Loving God, you have formed a covenant with us, committing yourself to us and inviting us to walk with you. Yet we have resisted, seeking other companions, going in different ways, thinking that we know best. Now we find ourselves far from life, further still from you. Have mercy on our waywardness. Help us find our way back. Give us faith so that we can hold the hand you have extended to us in Jesus Christ. Even in the wilderness, God's mercy is sure.

Declaration of Forgiveness

From generation to generation, God's love overcomes human sinfulness. God is committed to fresh starts and new creations. This is good news!

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Lord, Have Mercy #579: v. 1, 2, 3 (please stand)

Anthem: *Shall We Gather at the River* arr. Fred Bock

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world, and all those in need. Holy God, you long to gather your church under your wings. Bless the churches of Jerusalem, and all persecuted churches, that your people may take heart and stand firm as they witness and minister in your name.

God in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life. We join together in the prayer that Jesus taught his followers to pray:

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

Hymn #203: *Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love* (seated)

Prayer for Illumination:

Almighty God, in you are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Open our eyes that we may see the wonders of your Word; and give us grace that we may clearly understand and freely choose the way of your wisdom; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 15: 1 – 12, 17 – 18

Epistle Lesson: Philippians 3:17 – 4:1

Gospel Lesson: Luke 10:25 – 37

Gospel Lesson: Matthew 22:34-40

Heaven and earth will pass away, but the word of the Lord is forever.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon: “Who is My Neighbor” Susan Murray

Affirmation

Lord, you have said that to truly love you then I must also love my neighbor, which can be difficult when we disagree or lifestyles clash. Yet in overcoming those difficulties it is possible to see the miracle that you love someone like me. Teach us to love, Lord, as you have loved us that this world might be a better neighborhood in which to live and share.

Dedication of Tithes and Offerings: (please be seated)

Offering #766: *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound* vs. 4

Prayer of Dedication: John Birch-www.faithandworship.com

For the blessings of this and all our days, we thank you, gracious God. Accept, we pray, not just this money but also our lives freely offered in gratitude for all you have done for us. Use them both, in this place and wherever you might take us. Amen.

Sending Hymn #766: *The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound*
(stand) verses: 1, 2, 3 and 5

Charge and Benediction: John Birch-www.faithandworship.com
(remain standing)

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord**

Postlude: *Praise Him! Praise Him!* – Mark Hayes

*Scriptures are read from the NRSV translation. Music presented by Chancel Choir and Lorie Francis.
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