

**Savior, Servant, Friend
Services for Lent
March 12, 2025**

Listener

I have called you friends, for all that I have heard from my Father I have made known to you. John 15:15

Invocation and Call to Worship

P We gather together as friends knowing that we are heard by the Triune God. We gather together in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

P Answer me when I call, O God of my righteousness!

C You have given me relief when I was in distress.

P Be gracious to me

C And hear my prayer. (Psalm 4:1)

P O Lord, you hear the desire of the afflicted;

C you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear (Psalm 10:17)

P I call upon you, for you will answer me, O God;

C Incline your ear to me; hear my words. (Psalm 17:6)

P Hear, O Lord, when I cry aloud;

C Be gracious to me and answer me! (Psalm 27:7)



1 Come, my soul, with ev - 'ry care, Je - sus loves to an - swer prayer;
 2 Thou art com - ing to a King, Large pe - ti - tions with thee bring;
 3 With my bur - den I be - gin: Lord, re - move this load of sin;
 4 Lord, Thy rest to me im - part, Take pos - ses - sion of my heart;



He Him - self has bid thee pray, There - fore will not turn a - way.
 For His grace and pow'r are such None can ev - er ask too much.
 Let Thy blood, for sin - ners spilt, Set my con - science free from guilt.
 There Thy blood-bought right main - tain And with - out a ri - val reign.

- 5 While I am a pilgrim here,
 Let Thy love my spirit cheer;
 As my guide, my guard, my friend,
 Lead me to my journey's end.
- 6 Show me what is mine to do;
 Ev'ry hour my strength renew.
 Let me live a life of faith;
 Let me die Thy people's death.

Text and tune: Public domain

Confession and Forgiveness

P Lord Jesus, our listening friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

C **Forgive me, Jesus, for all that I have done to harm my neighbors.**

P Lord Jesus, our listening friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

C **Forgive me, Jesus, for all that I have failed to do.**

P Lord Jesus, our listening friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

C **Forgive me, Jesus, for the ways that I have sinned again you in thought, word and deed.**

P Lord Jesus, our listening friend, hear us as we confess our sins.

C Lord, have mercy! Christ, have mercy! Lord, have mercy!

(Please silently reflect on how Jesus listens to—and forgives—the confessions of his people.)

P Listen now for you will hear Good News! Our Savior, Servant, Friend, Jesus, has heard us confess our sins. He has nailed our sins to the cross, and he has thrown them into the tomb. They are forgiven, and they are gone. Hear these words now as though they were spoken not by me, but by Jesus himself: Friends, your sins are forgiven. Amen.

C What a friend we have in Jesus.

Prayer of the Day

P Lord God, heavenly Father, incline your ear to us. Hear us as we come before you in prayer and praise, with thanksgiving and gratitude for your love and mercy. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 29:10-14

For thus says the Lord: When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will visit you, and I will fulfill to you my promise and bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope. Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord, and I will restore your fortunes and gather you from all the nations and all the places where I have driven you, declares the Lord, and I will bring you back to the place from which I sent you into exile.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

1 John 5:13-15

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life. And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him.

L This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

John 3:1-17

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the third chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

P Now there was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews. This man came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God, for no one can do these signs that you do unless God is with him." Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.' The wind blows where it wishes, and you hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit. Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel and yet you do not understand these things? Truly, truly, I say to you, we speak of what we know, and bear witness to what we have seen, but you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except he who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to You, O Christ.**



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
 2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;
 3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,
 4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my
 My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my
 Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's
 Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!
 love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!
 tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.
 trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon:

Reverend Dean Pfeffer

Prayers

P God, you call out to us with peace and promise, hope and healing delivered through our friend, Jesus. God, you call out to us and invite us to respond with faith and trust. By your invitation, O God, we call out to you in prayer.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Listen to our prayers for mercy and forgiveness, and renew a right spirit within us.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Listen to our prayers for peace, deliver this world from injustice, protect the vulnerable and give us good and faithful leaders.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Listen to our prayers for healing and hope for all who are ill or recovering from sickness.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Listen to our prayers for all who mourn the loss of loved ones or are discouraged by loneliness.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Listen to our prayers for wisdom in good and godly living, upright conduct and virtue.

C Lord, hear our prayer.

P Listen to our prayers of thanksgiving for all the gifts that you give to your people.

C Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

C 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; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

Benediction

P The Father invites us to come to him. The Son grants us access through the cross. The Holy Spirit guides us in the way of holiness. And, so, may the triune God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit—be our friend and companion now and for all eternity. Amen.

C What a friend we have in Jesus!

Closing Hymn:

Jesus Calls Us, O'er the Tumult

*Tune: LSB 427
Rathbun 87 87*

Jesus calls us o'er the tumult Of our life's wild, restless sea; Day by day his sweet voice
sounding, Saying, "Christian, follow me."

Jesus calls us from the worship Of the vain world's golden store, From each idol that
would keep us, Saying, "Christian, love me more."

In our joys and in our sorrows, Days of toil and hours of ease, Still he calls, in cares and
pleasures, "Christian, love me more than these."

Jesus calls us—by thy mercies, Savior, may we hear thy call; Give our hearts to thine
obedience, Serve and love thee best of all.

Postlude:

LEADING AND ASSISTING IN WORSHIP TODAY

Pastor..... Reverend Dean Pfeffer

Organist..... Elena Miraztchiyska

Elder Steve Rosane