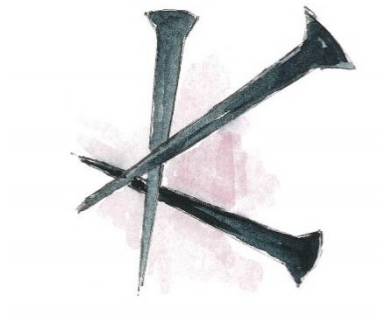


GLORIA DE CRISTO LUTHERAN CHURCH
“A COMMUNITY CHURCH IN THE FOOTHILLS”

CHURCH PHONE 928-342-6002

LENTEN WORSHIP SERVICE
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 25, 2026
6:00 PM



We welcome you to the worship of this community of faith. As we sing, pray and study God's word together may we strengthen each other's faith in the saving power of Jesus Christ. It is difficult to be a Christian by yourself.

*Before the service, speak to God.
During the service, let God speak to you
After the service, speak to your neighbor.*



The older hearing devices have been moved to the Narthex. They are located next to the far right entrance door to the sanctuary.

We now offer the T-Coil hearing device with the new sound system. Individuals will need to contact their provider to find out if their hearing aid is telecoil-equipped. If so, they need to ask how to turn on the T-Coil or if it is automatically linked once the loop is around their neck.

PLEASE NO PERFUME/COLOGNE... Perfume and cologne can trigger life-threatening breathing emergencies in persons with asthma, allergies and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)? Hospitals and schools are becoming 'scent-free' due to this increasing health hazard. **Please be sensitive to this concern when coming to church and refrain from using it.** Thank You.

AS WE GATHER... *The journey through a desolate place causes concern. In the midst of a desert, we wonder if we have enough water and food. In the middle of a drive across the wilderness of the western plains, we repeatedly check the fuel gauge. We know that death awaits the unprepared in the wilds and woolies. Indeed, the wilderness has always been considered a place of death and separation, a place of exile from all that we long for and hold dear, even our life. A journey through the wilderness is dangerous, but what waits for those who arrive at the other side? New life, a resurrection, a promised land where the Lord provides all good things, all life-giving and life-sustaining things; these are the blessings that come to the people of God from the hand of God as He brings us out of the wilderness of sin and into the paradise purchased by His Son. From the wilderness to the promised land – from death to life – a return from exile!*

CALL TO WORSHIP

V Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not Your peace at my tears!

C For I am a sojourner with You, a guest, like all my fathers.

V Thus declares the Lord of hosts: Return to Me, says the Lord of hosts,

C and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.

V Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;

C let him return to the Lord, that He may have compassion on him, and to Our God, for He will abundantly pardon.

V And the ransomed of the Lord shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads.

C they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

C Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

V Hear my prayer, O Lord, and give ear to my cry; hold not your peace at my tears!

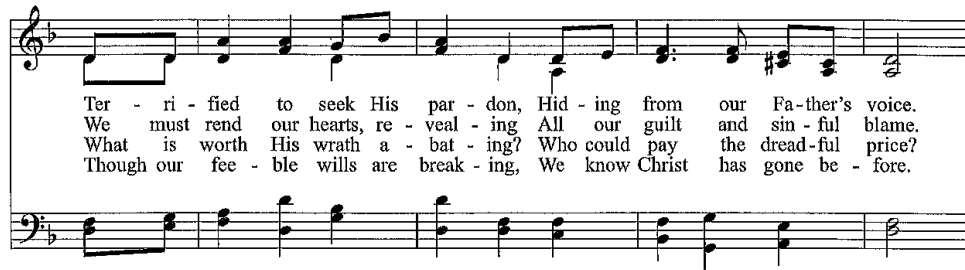
C For I am a sojourner with you, a guest, like all my fathers.

We Are Exiles from the Garden

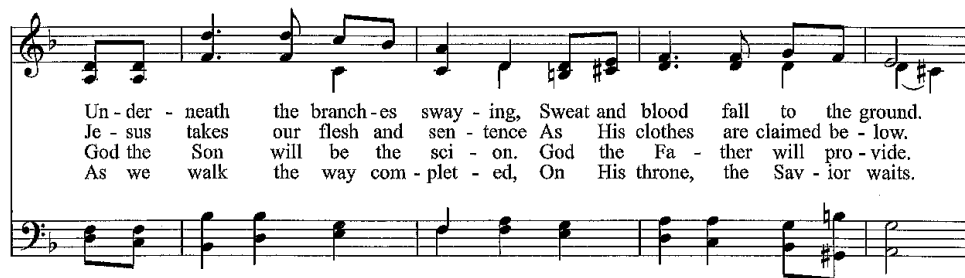
Lisa M. Clark

JOURNEY
Mark Knickelbein

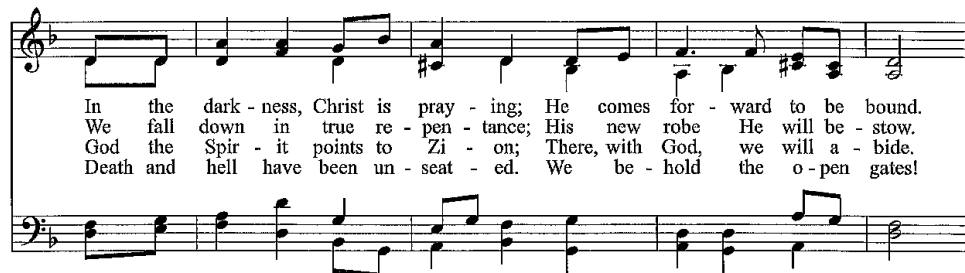

1 We are ex - iles from the gar - den, Ban - ished by our sin - ful choice,
 2 Leaves will fail our vain con - ceal - ing Our true na - ked - ness and shame.
 3 On the mount, the Lord is wait - ing For the prop - er sac - ri - fice.
 4 On this jour - ney we are tak - ing, We fear not what lies in store.



Ter - ri - fied to seek His par - don, Hid - ing from our Fa - ther's voice.
 We must rend our hearts, re - veal - ing All our guilt and sin - ful blame.
 What is worth His wrath a - bat - ing? Who could pay the dread - ful price?
 Though our fee - ble wills are break - ing, We know Christ has gone be - fore.



Un - der - neath the branch - es sway - ing, Sweat and blood fall to the ground.
 Je - sus takes our flesh and sen - tence As His clothes are claimed be - low.
 God the Son will be the sci - on. God the Fa - ther will pro - vide.
 As we walk the way com - plet - ed, On His throne, the Sav - ior waits.



In the dark - ness, Christ is pray - ing; He comes for - ward to be bound.
 We fall down in true re - pen - tance; His new robe He will be - stow.
 God the Spir - it points to Zi - on; There, with God, we will a - bide.
 Death and hell have been un - seat - ed. We be - hold the o - pen gates!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

V We are on a journey from a deserved exile to a gracious promised land. Although we merit nothing, because our heavenly Father promises forgiveness and mercy to all who call on Him for Jesus' sake, let us go to Him, confessing our sin.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and for self-examination

V Heavenly Father, we are fallen creatures, prone to hiding our faults from one another, yet knowing our sins are laid bare before You.

C Forgive us and clothe us with Christ's own righteousness.

V We have erred and strayed from Your way.

C Forgive us and turn our feet toward the paradise You promise.

V We have attempted to placate Your just demands by our own efforts.

C Forgive us for the sake of Your Son's sacrifice in our stead.

V We have often failed to reflect the new life You granted us in our Baptism.

C Forgive us and drown the old Adam within us.

V We have eaten "forbidden fruit" in our disobedient thinking, speaking, and acting.

C Forgive us and grant us the new life won on the tree of the cross.

V We have failed to trust Your care and protection as we journey through this wilderness.

C Forgive us and accompany us on our pilgrim way.

PRAYER OF THE DAY (*together we pray*)

V Eternal and holy God,.

C You reign in our hearts and in all the earth, and creation gives testimony to your glory and power. Yet you are a ruler like none we have experienced and gave all of yourself for the sake of the world. Teach us the kind of sacrificial love that can transform all things, for the sake of Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen

1ST LESSON Joshua 3:1-6, 14-17

Early in the morning Joshua rose and set out from Shittim with all the Israelites, and they came to the Jordan. They camped there before crossing over. ² At the end of three days, the officers went through the camp ³ and commanded the people, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place. Follow it, ⁴ so that you may know the way you should go, for you have not passed this way before. Yet there shall be a space between you and it, a distance of about two thousand cubits; do not come any nearer to it.” ⁵ Then Joshua said to the people, “Sanctify yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders among you.” ⁶ To the priests Joshua said, “Take up the ark of the covenant, and pass on in front of the people.” So they took up the ark of the covenant and went in front of the people.

¹⁴When the people set out from their tents to cross over the Jordan, the priests bearing the ark of the covenant were in front of the people. ¹⁵Now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest. So when those who bore the ark had come to the Jordan and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the edge of the water, ¹⁶the waters flowing from above stood still, rising up in a single heap far off at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, while those flowing toward the sea of the Arabah, the Dead Sea, ^[a] were wholly cut off. Then the people crossed over opposite Jericho. ¹⁷While all Israel were crossing over on dry ground, the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, until the entire nation finished crossing over the Jordan.

2ND LESSON: Matthew 3:13, 16-17; 4:1-2

¹³ Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him.

¹⁶ And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw God's Spirit descending like a dove and alighting on him. ¹⁷ And a voice from the heavens said, "This is my Son, the Beloved,^[a] with whom I am well pleased." ¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished.

TEACHING: *"Death to Resurrection: The Wilderness to the Promised Land"*

Vicar Dr. Shirley Ehler

WORSHIP HYMN:

He the Pearly Gates Will Open 609

In Him we have...forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace. Ephesians 1:7

1. Love di - vine, so great and won - drous, Deep and might - y, pure, sub - lime,
2. Like a dove when hunt - ed, fright - ened, As a wound - ed fawn was I;
3. Love di - vine, so great and won - drous! All my sins He then for - gave;
4. In life's e - ven - tide, at twi - light, At His door I'll knock and wait;

Com - ing from the heart of Je - sus, Just the same through tests of time!
Bro - ken - heart - ed, yet He healed me. He will heed the sin - ner's cry.
I will sing His praise for - ev - er, For His blood, His power to save.
By the pre - cious love of Je - sus, I shall en - ter heav - en's gate.

Chorus
He the pearl - y gates will o - pen, So that I may en - ter in;

For He pur - chased my re - demp - tion And for - gave me all my sin.

THE OFFERING

OFFERING PRAYER

C Through these gifts, we offer ourselves, our time and our possessions that we might keep our eyes and ears fixed on you, Heavenly Father. Use these gifts to your glory. In Jesus name, Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

V We are returning from exile, listening to the inviting Word of God, full of grace and truth. Let us go to Him in confident prayer.

V Gracious God, offering full and free forgiveness,

C we come in spiritual sackcloth and ashes, painfully aware of our sins and failing. Graciously wash us and clothe us with the robe of Christ's own righteousness so that we may live eternally with all Your saints.

V Eden's Lord and ours,

C hear us and all who call out to You in pain and sorrow, sweat or tears. Remind us of Your painful victory over every temptation, and strengthen us to follow where You have led the way.

V Loving Father, calling us to Mount Calvary

C remove from us our fear of Your righteous judgement for our sins; strengthen our faith in the all-availing sacrifice of Your Son in our stead.

V Spirit of life,

C remind us again of our Baptism, in which our old Adam was drowned; strengthen us to live in the freedom of the children of God.

V Lord Jesus, Savior and Guide,

C give us the eyes of faith to see the tree of life awaiting us in heaven and guide us to follow where You have led the way.

V Protecting Father,

C assure us of Your presence on our journey through the desert of this world and bring us at last to the paradise purchased by Your Son.

V O Holy Spirit,

C nourish our faith and restore our souls each time we come to the Table of the Lord and receive His body and blood, a foretaste of the feast to come.

V Holy and merciful Lord over all,

C we feel the burden of our sin; renew in us the firm faith that Your Son has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows, giving His life for ours.

V Everlasting Father,

C our Savior has conquered death. Fill us with rejoicing, confident that we shall therefore gather around the eternal throne of the Lamb, Your Son, who with You and the Holy Spirit are one God, now and forever. Amen

THE 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.

Now the Green Blade Rises

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1 Now the green blade ris - es from the bur - ied grain,
 2 In the grave they laid him, love by ha - tred slain,
 3 Forth he came at Eas - ter like the ris - en grain,
 4 When our hearts are win - try, griev - ing, or in pain,

wheat that in dark earth man - y days has lain;
 think - ing that he would nev - er wake a - gain,
 He that for three days in the grave had lain;
 your touch can call us back to life a - gain,

love lives a - gain, that with the dead has been;
 laid in the earth like grain that sleeps un - seen;
 raised from the dead, my liv - ing Lord is seen;
 fields of our hearts that dead and bare have been;

love is come a - gain like wheat a - ris - ing green.

BENEDICTION

V The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, and + Son, and the Holy Spirit,
bless you and keep you.

C Amen.

DISMISSAL

P Go in peace as you serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

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