

Sunday, March 16, 2025  
We Gather to Celebrate God's Presence

Welcome  
Family Life and Work  
Family Celebrations  
Lighting of the Christ Candle:  
Acknowledgement of the Land:

Introit: Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary MV 18

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true ;  
With thanksgiving, I'll be a living sanctuary for you.**

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Lenten Reading:

One: Today is the Second Sunday in the Christian season of Lent.

Two: We continue our journey with Jesus towards Jerusalem. We hear His second saying from the Cross.

One: After we hear Christ's words, you are invited to spend a few moments pondering what these words may have to say to you.

Two: From Luke 23:43 – Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in Paradise."

MOMENT OF SILENCE (~10 SECONDS~)

One: As we extinguish this candle, we reflect on the damage we have done to our earthly paradise, and on how we can be more faithful with all the gifts God has given us.

THE CANDLE IS EXTINGUISHED

Two: Loving God, we remember your call to be faithful stewards of everything you have graced us with. Forgive our misuse of what you have given, and strengthen us to be faithful in all we say and do. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

Opening Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

VU 642 vs 1,2,4,5

**1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;  
naught be all else to me save that thou art,  
thou my best thought, by day or by night,  
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.**

- 2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;  
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;  
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,  
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**
- 4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always;  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**
- 5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**

Prayer of Approach:

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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 for ever and ever. Amen**

First Reading: Genesis 15: 1 – 12, 17 - 18

Children's Time:

Gradual Hymn: Bring Many Names

VU 268

- 1 Bring many names, beautiful and good,  
celebrate, in parable and story,  
holiness in glory, living, loving God.  
Hail and hosanna! Bring many names!**

- 2 Strong mother God, working night and day,  
planning all the wonders of creation,  
setting each equation, genius at play:  
Hail and hosanna, strong mother God!**
- 3 Warm father God, hugging every child,  
feeling all the strains of human living,  
caring and forgiving till we're reconciled:  
Hail and hosanna, warm father God!**
- 4 Old, aching God, grey with endless care,  
calmly piercing evil's new disguises,  
glad of good surprises, wiser than despair:  
Hail and hosanna, old, aching God!**
- 5 Young, growing God, eager, on the move,  
saying no to falsehood and unkindness,  
crying out for justice, giving all you have:  
Hail and hosanna, young, growing God!**
- 6 Great, living God, never fully known,  
joyful darkness far beyond our seeing,  
closer yet than breathing, everlasting home:  
Hail and hosanna, great, living God!**

We Listen

Gospel Reading: Luke 13: 31 - 35

Meditation: "A Blessed Lament"

We Respond

Musical Offering: Behold the Shepherd

Offertory: Give Thanks

**Give thanks, with a grateful heart,  
Give thanks, to the Holy One,  
Give thanks because He's given  
Jesus Christ, His Son.  
And now let the weak say, I am strong.  
Let the poor say, I am rich because of what  
The Lord has done for us.**

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication:

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession:

Closing Hymn: Beneath the Cross of Jesus

VU 135

**1 Beneath the cross of Jesus  
I fain would take my stand:  
the shadow of a mighty rock  
within a weary land,  
a home within the wilderness,  
a rest upon the way,  
from the burning of the noontide heat  
and the burden of the day.**

**2 Upon the cross of Jesus  
my eyes at times can see  
the very dying form of one  
who suffered there for me;  
and from my smitten heart, with tears,  
two wonders I confess,  
the wonder of his glorious love,  
and my unworthiness.**

**3 I take, O cross, your shadow  
for my abiding place;  
I ask no other sunshine than  
the sunshine of his face,  
content to let the world go by,  
to know no gain nor loss,  
my sinful self my only shame,  
my glory all, the cross.**

Benedictions and Commissioning

Choral Benediction: [Go Now in Peace](#)

by Besing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.  
God will go with you each hour of every day.  
Go now in faith, steadfast, strong and true.  
Know He will guide you in all you do.  
Go now in love, and show you believe.  
Reach out to others so all the world can see.  
God will be there watching from above.  
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**