

PRELUDE: Be Thou My Vision, Leanna Ihlefeld (*Gilbert only*)

GREETING:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Let us pray.

A brief silence is kept before the prayer.

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy
you breathed into dust the breath of life,
creating us to serve you and our neighbors.
Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and
strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence
in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and forever.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG: ELW 327 Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow (vs. 1-3)

1 Through the night of doubt and sorrow,
onward goes the pilgrim band,
singing songs of expectation,
marching to the promised land.
Clear before us through the darkness
gleams and burns the guiding light;
pilgrim clasps the hand of pilgrim

stepping fearless through the night.

2 One the light of God's own presence
on the ransomed people shed,
chasing far the gloom and terror,
bright'ning all the path we tread.
One the object of our journey,

one the faith which never tires,
one the earnest looking forward,
one the hope our God inspires.

3 One the strain that lips of thousands
lift as from the heart of one;
one the conflict, one the peril,

one the march in God begun.
One the gladness of rejoicing
on the far eternal shore,
where the one almighty Father
reigns in love forevermore.

Text: Bernhardt S. Ingemann, 1789-1862; tr. Sabine Baring-Gould, 1834-1924, alt.

GILBERT SPECIAL MUSIC:
Just As I Am,
Chancel Choir

TEMPE SPECIAL MUSIC: (7pm only)
Jesus, Keep Me Near the Cross,
Graceful Harmony

FIRST LESSON: Psalm 51 (responsively)

¹Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love;
in your great compassion blot out my offenses.

**²Wash me through and through from my wickedness,
and cleanse me from my sin.**

³For I know my offenses,
and my sin is ever before me.

**⁴Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil in your sight;
so you are justified when you speak and right in your judgment.**

⁵Indeed, I was born steeped in wickedness,
a sinner from my mother's womb.

**⁶Indeed, you delight in truth deep within me,
and would have me know wisdom deep within.**

⁷Remove my sins with hyssop, and I shall be clean;
wash me, and I shall be purer than snow.

**⁸Let me hear joy and gladness;
that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

⁹Hide your face from my sins,
and blot out all my wickedness.

**¹⁰Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

¹¹Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spirit from me.

**¹²Restore to me the joy of your salvation
and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

¹³Let me teach your ways to offenders,
and sinners shall be restored to you.

¹⁴**Rescue me from bloodshed, O God of my salvation,
and my tongue shall sing of your righteousness.**

¹⁵O Lord, open my lips,
and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

¹⁶**For you take no delight in sacrifice, or I would give it.
You are not pleased with burnt offering.**

¹⁷The sacrifice of God is a troubled spirit;
a troubled and broken heart, O God, you will not despise.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Refrain:

In this time of ache and pain,
we seek your light to guide our way
Christ who calls us to the cross,

only You bring peace through loss,
O Word of life, revealed to us.

© Text & Music: Joni Van Rossum, 2026

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Beware of practicing your righteousness before others in order to be seen by them, for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites, for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look somber, like the hypocrites, for they mark their faces to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret, and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal,²⁰ but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal.²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON:

"The Pause Button"
Pastor Andrea Cain
(Tempe 7pm)

"Truth Telling"
Pastor Thaddeus Book
(Tempe 12pm/Gilbert)

SERMON HYMN: ELW 801 Change My Heart, O God

Refrain

Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.

Mold me and make me;
this is what I pray.
Change my heart, O God;
make it ever true.
Change my heart, O God;
may I be like you.

Verse

You are the potter;
I am the clay.

Text: Eddie Espinosa, b. 1953
Text © 1982 Mercy/Vineyard Publishing, admin. Music Services

INVITATION TO LENT:

Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament.

CONFESSON OF SIN:

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Most holy and merciful God,

we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES:

Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth.
May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us
that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life;
through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

*You are invited to come forward to receive the ashes.
Each person is marked on the forehead with a cross of ashes:
Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.*

Special Music during imposition of ashes

Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
that we may show forth your glory in the world.

By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,
strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal
life.

Amen.

Musical Interlude

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

The peace of the Lord be with you all.

And also with you.

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and
all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Renew your church, O God. When we have drifted from our call to proclaim repentance and to guide your people toward justice, lead us back to you. Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

Renew our civic life, O God. Teach those in authority to advocate for the liberation of all who are oppressed and grant them courage to make difficult decisions. Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

Renew our lives, O God. Spare your people from diseases of the body, mind, or spirit and send healing and wholeness to those bound by illness or grief (especially)...
Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

Renew this congregation, O God. During these forty days of Lent, confirm our sense of mission and expand our imagination for ministry. Deepen our faith, increase our love, and draw us into your unfolding work of healing and restoration. Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

As we mark ashes on our foreheads, we give you praise, O God, for all the saints who died and yet are alive with you. Receive us with them into your eternal embrace.
Merciful God,
hear our prayer.

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

Amen.

OFFERING:

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

When we share what we have out of love, our hearts grow closer to God, and we shine with Christ's glory. Let us offer our gifts to God today.

The Hunger Jar is an offering above and beyond regular offering designated for the ELCA World Hunger 40-40-40 Challenge.

You are invited to share your gifts in worship while others give electronically at www.desertcross.org with the giving button, text giving, or by QR code. We give thanks for all the ways you support God's mission of outreach through Desert Cross that changes lives for the sake of the gospel.

OFFERING VIDEO: 40-40-40 Lenten Challenge

OFFERING SONG: Abide

Verse 1

For my waking breath
For my daily bread
I depend on You
I depend on You
For the sun to rise
For my sleep at night
I depend on You
I depend on You

I depend on You
For the victories
Still in front of me
I depend on You
I depend on You

Chorus 2

You're the way the truth and the life
You're the well that never runs dry
I'm the branch and You are the vine
Draw me close and teach me to abide
Be my strength my song in the night
Be my all my treasure my prize
I am Yours forever You're mine
Draw me close and teach me to abide

Chorus 1

You're the way the truth and the life
You're the well that never runs dry
I'm the branch and You are the vine
Draw me close and teach me to abide

Verse 2

Where the Spirit leads
As I'm following
I depend on You

Aaron Keyes, Aaron Williams, Jake Fauber
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OFFERING PRAYER:

Let us pray.

Merciful God,
Accompany our journey through these forty days.
Bless these gifts we give and receive.
Use them to free us from all that binds us
And to provide healing and wholeness in a broken world.

Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:

GREAT THANKSGIVING:

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PREFACE:

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

ELW p.207 - HOLY, HOLY, HOLY (Setting 10):

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho-san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE:

You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God.
You are most holy,
and great is the majesty of your glory.

You so loved the world that you gave your only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him may not perish
but have eternal life.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks and gave it for all to drink saying, this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER:

**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.**

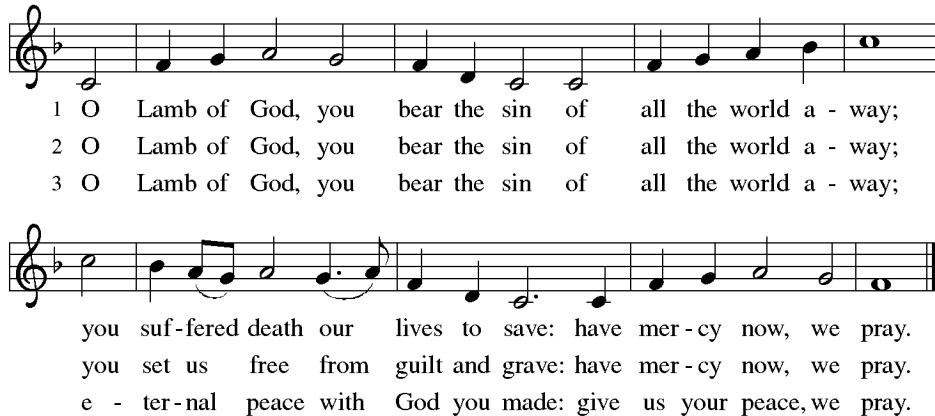
INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

These are the gifts of God for the people of God.
All are welcome!

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

Come forward to receive the bread and a cup of wine/juice. Alert an usher for communion in your seat. Children may commune or receive a blessing. All are welcome.

COMMUNION SONGS: ELW p.208 - Lamb of God (Setting 10):



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer - cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer - cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

Remembrance (Communion Song)

Verse 1

Oh how could it be
That my God would welcome me
Into this mystery
Say take this bread take this wine
Now the simple made divine
For any to receive

Verse 2

See His body His blood
Know that He has overcome
Ev'ry trial we will face
And none too lost to be saved
None too broken or ashamed
All are welcome in this place

Pre-Chorus

By Your mercy we come to Your table
By Your grace You are making us faithful

Bridge

Dying You destroyed our death
Rising You restored our life
Lord Jesus come in glory
Lord Jesus come in glory
Lord Jesus come in glory
Lord Jesus come in glory

Chorus

Lord we remember You
And remembrance leads us to worship
And as we worship You
Our worship leads to communion
We respond to Your invitation
(We respond to Your invitation)
We remember You

Matt Maher, Matt Redman

CCLI Song #5484616

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Lamb of God

Chorus

O Lamb of God sweet Lamb of God
I love the holy Lamb of God
O wash me in His precious blood
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God

Verse 1

Your only Son no sin to hide
But You have sent Him from Your side
To walk upon this guilty sod
And to become the Lamb of God

Verse 2

Your gift of love they crucified

They laughed and scorned Him as He died
The humble King they named a fraud
And sacrificed the Lamb of God

Verse 3

I was so lost I should have died
But You have brought me to Your side
To be led by Your staff and rod
And to be called the Lamb of God

Twila Paris
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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER:

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Let us pray.

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Free our minds, hearts, and spirits, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION:

Almighty God, Father, ⁺ Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW 325 I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

1 I want Jesus to walk with me;
I want Jesus to walk with me;
all along my pilgrim journey,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

2 In my trials, Lord, walk with me;
in my trials, Lord, walk with me;
when my heart is almost breaking,

Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

3 When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me;
when my head is bowed in sorrow,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual

DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE:

Thank you for supporting the Desert Cross mission.

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ONLINE GIVING:



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scan the QR-code with
your phone camera

SECURE TEXT GIVING:

Text "GIVE" to
833-636-1502

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