**St. Peter’s Lutheran Church**

**Canyon, MN**

**March 6, 2024**

***“A Season of Hope”***

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Opening Dialogue**

P: Lent calls us to journey, this and every day, following Jesus wherever he leads us.

**C: Lent calls us to journey: to the place where God covenants with us, to receive the new names we are given.**

P: Lent calls us to worship together, to tell future generations the good news.

**C: Lent calls us to practice justice, to bring God's hope to all people.**

P: Lent calls us to faithful living, to trust the One who gives us life.

**C: Lent calls each of us to take up our cross, to trust the One who bears it with us.**

P: Lent calls us to journey with God.

**C: Let us worship God, who walks with us, this and every day.**

**Opening Hymn *“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”*** Hymn #623

Vs. 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;  
 let the water and the blood from thy riven side which flowed,  
 be of sin the double cure; cleanse me from guilt and pow'r.

Vs. 2 Not the labors of my hands can fulfill thy law’s demands;  
 could my zeal no respite know, could my tears forever flow,  
 all for sin could not atone; thou must save, and thou alone.

Vs. 3 Nothing in my hand I bring; simply to thy cross I cling.  
 Naked, come to thee for dress; helpless, look to thee for grace;  
 foul, I to the fountain fly; wash me, Savior, or I die.

Vs. 4 While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,  
 when I soar to worlds unknown, see thee on thy judgment throne,  
 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.

**Greeting**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Litany**

P: Lord, you set your face towards Jerusalem and walked alongside those who suffer. Be our vision that we too may walk the way of the cross and extend a hand to those we meet.

**C: Lord, give us the gladness of your help and support us with a willing spirit.**

P: Lord, you stopped to heal the sick, cure the lame and give sight to the blind. Be our vision that we too may give time to others and respond to their needs.

**C: Lord, give us the gladness of your help and support us with a willing spirit.**

P: Lord, you said, "The first shall be last and the last first. Be our vision that we too may work towards your kingdom when the exalted will be brought low and the lowly exalted.

**C: Lord, give us the gladness of your help and support us with a willing spirit.**

P: Lord, you ate with tax collectors and sinners and heard their stories. Be our vision that we too may listen to the despised and rejected and value their lives.

**C: Lord, give us the gladness of your help  
And support us with a willing spirit.**

P: Lord, you took time to pray and time to be silent. Be our vision that through our prayers, fasting and almsgiving we too may draw closer to you and find your way.

**C: Lord, give us the gladness of your help and support us with a willing spirit.**

P: Lord, you entered Jerusalem with peace in your heart. Be our vision that we too may desire peace where others desire war, and may work for justice where injustice reigns.

**C: Lord, give us the gladness of your help and support us with a willing spirit for you are our hope and our salvation.**

**Prayer**

P: Lord God, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

**Lesson: Psalm 42**

1As a deer longs for flowing streams, so my soul longs for you, O God.

2My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When shall I come and behold the face of God?

3My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me continually, “Where is your God?”

4These things I remember, as I pour out my soul: how I went with the throng, and led them in procession to the house of God, with glad shouts and songs of thanksgiving, a multitude keeping festival.

5Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help

6and my God. My soul is cast down within me; therefore I remember you from the land of Jordan and of Hermon, from Mount Mizar.

7Deep calls to deep at the thunder of your cataracts; all your waves and your billows have gone over me.

8By day the Lord commands his steadfast love, and at night his song is with me, a prayer to the God of my life.

9I say to God, my rock, “Why have you forgotten me? Why must I walk about mournfully because the enemy oppresses me?”

10As with a deadly wound in my body, my adversaries taunt me, while they say to me continually, “Where is your God?”

11Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you disquieted within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my help and my God.

**Lesson: Philippians 1:12-26**

12I want you to know, beloved that what has happened to me has actually helped to spread the gospel, 13so that it has become known throughout the whole imperial guard and to everyone else that my imprisonment is for Christ; 14and most of the brothers and sisters, having been made confident in the Lord by my imprisonment, dare to speak the word with greater boldness and without fear. 15Some proclaim Christ from envy and rivalry, but others from goodwill. 16These proclaim Christ out of love, knowing that I have been put here for the defense of the gospel; 17the others proclaim Christ out of selfish ambition, not sincerely but intending to increase my suffering in my imprisonment. 18What does it matter? Just this, that Christ is proclaimed in every way, whether out of false motives or true; and in that I rejoice. Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, 19for I know that through your prayers and the help of the Spirit of Jesus Christ this will turn out for my deliverance. 20It is my eager expectation and hope that I will not be put to shame in any way, but that by my speaking with all boldness, Christ will be exalted now as always in my body, whether by life or by death.

21For to me, living is Christ and dying is gain. 22If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which I prefer. 23I am hard pressed between the two: my desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better; 24but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for you. 25Since I am convinced of this, I know that I will remain and continue with all of you for your progress and joy in faith, 26so that I may share abundantly in your boasting in Christ Jesus when I come to you again.

**Message *“Hope in Uncertainty”***

**Hymn of the Day *“When I Survey the Wondrous Cross”*** Hymn #803

Vs. 1 When I survey the wondrous cross on which the

prince of glory died, my richest gain I

count but loss and pour contempt on all my pride.

Vs. 2 Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast save in the

death of Christ, my God; all the vain things that

charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood.

Vs. 3 See, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and

love flow mingled down. Did e’er such love and

sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown?

Vs. 4 Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a

present far too small; love so amazing,

so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all.

*(The offering is taken at this time.)*

**Offering Prayer**

P:Lord God, we give these offerings in gratitude, rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us. We give these offerings in faith, trusting that you will provide for our needs. We give these offerings in hope, knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world. And with these offerings, we give ourselves; may we live with generous hearts, with openhands. Amen

**Prayers**

P: God of the blessed we praise you, for mercy shown, grace given, living water, Spirit’s power. We ask you for daily strength, hope for tomorrow, your word to guide, strong feet to follow.

P: God of the oppressed we bring to you the broken ones, forgotten ones, exploited and abused ones. Bring freedom and release, love and compassion to damaged hearts and souls. God of compassion,   
**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: God of the distressed, we bring to you the grieving ones, hurting ones, suffering and wounded ones. Bring wholeness and healing comfort and relief, to broken bodies and minds. God of compassion,  
**C: Hear our prayer**

P: God of the dispossessed we bring to you the lonely ones, the homeless ones, thirsty, tired and penniless ones. Bring hope and sustenance physical and spiritual food, to hungry bodies and souls God of compassion,   
**C: Hear our prayer**

P: The Lord is good to all; he has compassion on all he has made. May the peace, love and compassion of the Lord be with you now and always.  
**C: Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

**Blessing**

P: Let us bless the Lord.

***C: Thanks be to God.***

P: Almighty and merciful God, the Father, the + Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

***C: Amen***

**Sending Hymn *“Now the Day is Over”*** Hymn #570

Vs. 1 Now the day is over; night is drawing nigh;  
 shadows of the evening steal across the sky.

Vs. 2 Jesus, give the weary calm and sweet repose;  
 with your tend'rest blessing may our eyelids close.

Vs. 3 Comfort ev'ry suff'rer watching late in pain;  
 those who plan some evil, from their sin restrain.

Vs. 4 Through the long night-watches may your angels spread  
 their bright wings above me, watching round my bed.

Vs. 5 When the morning wakens, then may I arise  
 pure and fresh and sinless in your holy eyes.

Vs. 6 Glory to the Father, glory to the Son,  
 and to you, blest Spirit, while the ages run.

**Dismissal**

P: Go now in peace.

***C: Thanks be to God.***

**Postlude**