



# Welcome to Worship

Sunday, March 16, 2025

9:00 and 11:10 in the Sanctuary

## Gathering in God's Name

**Prelude**

An Wasserflüssen Babylon, BWV 653

J.S. Bach

*As the prelude begins, you are invited to begin your personal preparation for worship.*

**Silent Meditation**

"God never tires of forgiving; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."

Pope Francis



SECOND SUNDAY  
*in Lent*

**Call to Worship**

Our community of faith encourages us to follow Christ.

from Philippians 3

**Let us imitate each other and follow their example of faith.**

Our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

**All things are subject to his will. He is transforming us as we stand firm in our faith.**

**Let us worship God!**

## Praise and Adoration

**\*Opening Hymn #829**

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

OLIVET

## Confession and Pardon

**Call to Confession**

**Prayer of Confession**

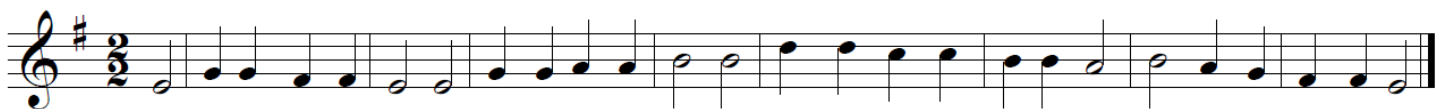
God, we come in prayer today with guilty hearts knowing that we have failed to live as disciples of Christ. Even though Jesus has revealed the depth of your love, we have allowed ourselves to forget the significance of his sacrifice. Instead, we allow negative energy to occupy our minds and actions, and we forget about your call to love one another. Forgive us. Help us take up the cross by living in harmony with one another and doing your will. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us.

**Silent Prayers of Confession and Petition**

**Confessional Response (#417)**

Lord Jesus, Think on Me

SOUTHWELL



Lord Je-sus, think on me, and purge a-way my sin. From earth-born pas-sions set me free, and make me pure with-in.

## Assurance of Pardon

**\*Welcome**                      *During the welcome, children are invited to come forward for their time with Dr. Zieman.*

## Time for Young Disciples

## Announcements

**Moment for Mission**                      Kathy Moore (9:00) and Patty Ritchie (11:10), for Agape for All

**\*Hymn #213**                      In the Cross of Christ I Glory                      RATHBUN

## Fellowship of Prayer

**A Lesson from the Psalms**                      Psalm 27                      page 437 of the pew Bible

## Joys and Concerns

## Prayers of the People

### The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

## Anthem

Panis Angelicus (9:00)                      César Franck; arr. Liebergen

*May the Bread of Angels become bread for mankind;  
The Bread of Heaven puts all foreshadowings to an end; Oh, thing miraculous!  
The body of the Lord will nourish the poor, the servile, and the humble.*

Away, Vain World (11:10)                      Bob Chilcott  
From *St. John Passion*

## Proclamation of God's Word

**Scripture Lesson**                      Luke 13: 31-35                      page 849 of the pew Bible

**Sermon**                      "Fierce, Courageous Love"                      Dr. Zieman

# Our Response to God's Word

## \*Affirmation of Faith

Hebrews 12:1-3

Since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such hostility against himself from sinners, so that you may not grow weary or lose heart.

## \*Sanctus (#569)

Holy, Holy, Holy

SANCTUS (Oliver)

Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of power and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry, Ho - san-na in the highest.

Blest is the One who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 6/8 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

## Presentation of Tithes and Offerings

### Offertory

Swing Low, Sweet Chariot (9:00)

arr. Harry T. Burleigh

The Road Home (11:10)

Stephen Paulus

## \*Doxology (#608)

Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow

PRAISE GOD (Hopson)

Praise God, from whom all bless-ings flow; praise Christ, all peo-ple here be - low;

praise Ho - ly Spir - it ev - er - more; praise Tri-une God, whome we a - dore.

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major and 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics, and the second staff contains the melody for the second line. The lyrics are written below the notes.

## \*Prayer of Dedication

God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. As we make our offerings to you this week, may our gifts provide for others and be used to further Christ's ministry and mission across our city and across the world. Amen.

## \*Hymn of Dedication #766

The Church of Christ Cannot Be Bound

MCKEE

## \*Charge and Benediction

### Postlude

Holy, Holy, Holy

Jeffrey Blersch

Our guest organist, Ryan Ediger, is a student at Concordia University in Seward, NE. He studies organ with Dr. Jeffrey Blersch.

### SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

<b>Music</b>	9:00	Jayne Frederickson, soprano; Ryan Ediger, guest organist	
	11:10	Chamber Singers; Ryan Ediger, guest organist	
<b>Childcare Ministry</b>		Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster	
<b>Ushers</b>	9:00	Tim Graumann, Captain; Brenda Graumann, Kathy Moore, Jeff Boyum	
	11:10	Josh Murray, Captain; Joe Weaver, Julie Buehler, Kathy Gross	
<b>Greeters</b>	9:00	North Door: Doug Larson	Welcome Center Door: Barbara Haar Rightmyer
	11:10	North Door: Carol Crawford	Welcome Center Door: Nancy Anderson
<b>Information Center</b>	9:00	Kathy Nickel	11:10 Susan Price
<b>Coffee Host</b>	10:00	Beth Maxwell	

### STAFF

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# Announcements

For the week of March 16, 2025

## The Week at a Glance

### Sunday, March 16

9:00 Worship  
10:00 Coffee, Kids & Youth SS Classes  
10:00 Lenten Study  
11:10 Worship  
4:45 JHF/SHF /Fellowship  
5:00 Lenten Study

### Monday, March 17

9 & 11 Music and Movement  
10:00 Tai Chi  
1:30 Lenten Study  
6:00 Cross Care  
6:30 Deacons

### Tuesday, March 18

7:00 Men's Bible Study  
9:30 Staff Meeting  
1:00 Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study  
1:30 Active Minds  
5:30 Finance  
6:00 Vesper Board Meeting

### Wednesday, March 19

5:15 Children Choir  
5:15 PCOC Book Group  
5:50 Chamber Singers  
6:00 Cornerstone Dinner  
6:30 Adult and Children's Bible Study and Confirmation Class  
6:50 Alleluia Singers

### Thursday, March 20

9 & 11 Music and Movement  
10:00 Tai Chi  
6:00 Carillion Choir  
7:00 Lenten Study

### Friday, March 21

Cross Currents Deadline

### Sunday, March 23

9:00 Worship  
10:00 Coffee, Kids and Youth SS Classes  
11:10 Worship  
4:45 No SHF/JHF Fellowship

Worship Services at 9:00 & 11:10 a.m.

Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship at 10 a.m.

Office Hours: 9:00 to 4:30 Monday-Friday

## Joys and Concerns.

The flowers in the chancel this morning are given by Kathy and Paul Nickel and also by Sandy Simpson and Dwight Peterson in honor of their 20<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary.

The rosebud in the chancel this morning is in celebration of the birth of John Phillip Gibson, who was born on March 5. John's new parents are Justin and Kate Gibson.

## Lenten Studies Continue.

The Lenten Study began last Sunday and the groups are meeting in various classrooms. If you have not yet picked up your books/packets, you can find them on the table by Fellowship Hall. Room assignments are listed on the wall. If you have any questions, please contact Heather.

## Creating a Masterpiece

You are invited to Omaha Street School's Fundraising Gala, "Creating a Masterpiece" on April 15. Our goal this year is to fill three tables! Sign-up today on the church website or at the Information Desk! Reserve your spot by April 4.

## Children's Worship Kits

Parents, be sure to pick up worship kits for your children on the way into worship on Sunday mornings. The kits are located on a cart in the Narthex. There are two types of kits: one for ages 3 – 6 and one for ages 7+. These kits contain paper, crayons, pencils, and children's bulletins that help children follow along during the service. After worship, return the bags to the cart so they can be restocked and ready for next Sunday.

**49ers on Tuesday, April 1.** Our program for Tuesday, will be Josh Planos, Vice President of Marketing and Public Relations at Better Business Bureau of the Midwest Plains. He will speak about "Scam Prevention," covering key strategies to protect yourself from scams, what to be on the lookout for, in today's increasingly digital world, and how to safeguard your finances and personal information. The lunch location is Wheatfields,

One Pacific Place, at 11:30 a.m. Everyone is welcome, whether or not you are 49, younger or older, come join us! We will order from a special menu. For reservations or questions, please contact Mary Ott or Judy Sundberg. We also have a sign-up sheet at the Information Center.

**Active Minds in March.** We will be playing Pinochle for all of March. We can teach you to play any time that you can join us. Every Tuesday, 1:30-4:00pm, in the lower-level Great Room. Drop-ins are always welcome, or stop after Tuesday afternoon Bible Study. Questions? Contact Earlene Uhrig.

### **Communion Class for Children**

Parents and children in the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade are invited to participate in our Communion Class to learn about the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. The class will take place on Wednesday, April 9, from 6 – 7:30 p.m. Any older children who were unable to attend this class before may also join us. Dinner is included and childcare is available. Registration is required before April 1. Click to register:



**Easter Flower Sign Up.** The Easter Flower sign-up is available online or forms are available at the Information Desk. You can also call the church office. The deadline is March 31 and payment must accompany the order.

**Easter Egg Hunt Candy Donations.** We are accepting donations of individually wrapped candy for our annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 19. Look for the plastic tote by the Information Desk to drop off your donations. Thank you!

**Omaha Street School March Matching Donations.** The *March Madness Match* is happening at Omaha Street School and you have an opportunity to participate in a big way to help change lives! Every dollar donated, up to \$60,000, will be matched by a group of Omaha Street School contributors. That means Omaha Street School could raise \$120,000! If you would like to be a part of this fundraising event you can donate online at [omahastreetschool.com](http://omahastreetschool.com), mail your contribution to 3223 N 45th St., Building H, Omaha, NE, 68104 or Venmo to @streetsschool.

### **“Ryan & Ryan” is Coming to Vesper Concerts**

Mark your calendars for Thursday, April 3, at 7:00 p.m. for Ryan & Ryan, a dynamic father/son piano duo. Their concert is called “Kickin’ the Clouds Away” and provides a delightful mix of classical crossover, jazz, ragtime, gospel, and blues. Find more information at [vesperconcerts.org](http://vesperconcerts.org). As always, this concert is free for all to attend.



**Attend the Movie “Divisible” on Tuesday, April 8.** Church of the Cross and the Presbytery of Missouri Valley are cosponsoring the documentary film, “Divisible,” which will be shown at the Omaha Conservatory of Music on Tuesday, April 8 from 6:30 – 8:30. Made in Omaha, about Omaha, this documentary explains the history, mechanics, and ramifications of redlining in our city. *Redlining* is a process that began in the last century to segregate neighborhoods by race. In addition to defining where people could live, it also allowed discriminatory lending for home-buying and neighborhood business development. The result is disparity in generational wealth, education, health care, and access to good nutrition in different sectors of our city. Tickets to see the film are free, but you must register in advance. You may find the link on our church website. The event also features three speakers from the Omaha community who will host a 30-minute panel discussion.

**Summer Fun for Children and Youth.** We don't want you to miss out on our summer activities at Church of the Cross. Put these dates on your calendar now: Senior High Mission Trip is June 1 – 7, Junior High Mission Trip is June 27 – 29, Vacation Bible School is July 15 - 17, 9 a.m. to Noon, Senior High Youth Triennium is July 28 – 31, and Art & Music Camp is August 5 – 8.

**2025 Bible Reading Adventure.** In the January Cross Currents, Rock published a daily guide to begin reading the Bible in a year. It is not too late to begin. Together, we begin in Genesis and Matthew, the Old and New Testaments and from there the adventure begins. We may gather periodically throughout the year for support. Join the adventure of a lifetime. Join us as we continue the readings each week in the New Year.