



Welcome to Worship

Sunday, March 23, 2025

9:00 and 11:10 in the Sanctuary

Gathering in God's Name

Prelude

Jerusalem

arr. Jason W. Krug

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

Silent Meditation

Jesus tells a parable of a Pharisee celebrating his own goodness, crowning his self-congratulatory prayer by thanking God that he isn't like other people. Meanwhile, a nearby tax collector beats his chest, begging God to show him mercy. This parable is at the core of "the Jesus Prayer," frequently prayed as "Lord, Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on me, a sinner" - a repetition of twelve words that acknowledge who Jesus is, who we are, and what we desperately need.



Call to Worship (9:00)

from Psalm 63

O God, you are my God, I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;

My flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

Your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

I will bless you as long as I live;

I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

Choral Call to Worship (11:10)

Jesus, Name Above All Names

Unknown

Praise and Adoration

*Opening Hymn #400

(*Please stand, if you are able)

I Rejoiced When I Heard Them Say

ENGLAND

Confession and Pardon

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, we confess that we have been quick to judge others and slow to make changes in our own lives. We confess that we have focused on others' shortcomings instead reforming our own. Turn us, O Lord, from these ways that lead to perishing. Lead us, O Lord, in your ways that lead to abundant life.

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

In Lent, our congregation "buries the alleluias," a tradition that dates back to the Middle Ages. This absence is meant to heighten Easter's joy, when alleluias return in full force.

*Welcome

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

Anthem (11:10)

Shout with Joy!
How Can I Keep from Singing?

Mark Patterson
Arr. Ginger Littleton

Time for Young Disciples

*Hymn #216

Beneath the Cross of Jesus

ST. CHRISTOPHER

Announcements

Fellowship of Prayer

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.

The Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 55: 1-9

page 598 of the pew Bible

Anthem

O Love That Will Not Let Me Go

Peace; arr. Mary Kay Parrish

Proclamation of God's Word

Scripture Lesson

Luke 13: 1-9

page 848 of the pew Bible

Sermon

"Don't Blame the Victims"

Dr. Zieman

Our Response to God's Word

*Affirmation of Faith

from A Brief Statement of Faith (1991)

In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, Come, Lord Jesus!

*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 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

Make a Joyful Noise

Kevin McChesney

*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 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

Gracious God, you give to us out of your abundance. For the material gifts and the spiritual gifts you give us, we thank you. We dedicate these gifts of time and talents and tithes to you and ask that you continue to lead us as we use these gifts to join your work in this community and around the world. Amen.

*Hymn of Dedication #215

What Wondrous Love Is This

WONDROUS LOVE

*Charge and Benediction

Postlude

Praeludium in C

J.S. Bach

SERVING IN MINISTRY TODAY

Music

9:00 Carillon Choir, Larry Frederickson, director; Mark Kanitz, organ

Carillon Choir:

Myrna Vasta, Jane Hawkins, Ginger Peterson-Britt, Jayne Frederickson, Sue Freyer,
Marietta Morhardt, Charlotte Hubbard, Kathy Jerry, Mary Lynn Bennett, Ann Pearson,
Linda Matson, Cindy Garner, Kristin Jacobi, Shanna Mathia, Anne Laws, Stephen Niles,
Roger Utman, Zach Metzger, Don Metzger

11:10 Carillon Choir, Larry Frederickson, director
Children's Choir, Jayne Frederickson, director; Mark Kanitz, organ

Children's Choir:

Barrett Ballou, Hallie Ballou, Kaitlynn Evers, Nikolai Garry, Addison Hansen Holdren,
Emma Kalkwarf, Maya Maxwell, Amelia Vint, Gus Vint

Childcare Ministry Kari Bernet, Chelsea Spielman, Tami Lancaster

Ushers 9:00 Darold Bauer, Captain; Mimi Bauer, Mike Shannon Sherryl Shannon, Doug Rathman
11:10 Dennis Boesen, Captain; Amy Boesen, Elta Empekey, Zach Metzger

Greeters 9:00 North Door: Doug Larson Welcome Center Door: Barb Haar-Rightmyer
11:10 North Door: Susan Price Welcome Center Door: Pam and John Swenson

Information Center 9:00 Linda Miller 11:10: Judy Arms

Coffee Host 10:00 Cindy Rieke

STAFF

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Announcements

For the week of March 23, 2025

The Week at a Glance

Sunday, March 23

9:00 Worship
10:00 Coffee, Kids and Youth SS Classes
10:00 Lenten Study
11:10 Worship
4:45 JHF and SHF Games
5:00 Lenten Study

Monday, March 24

9 & 11 Music and Movement
10:00 Tai Chi
1:30 Lenten Study
5:30 Confirmation Class/Session Dinner

Tuesday, March 25 No Tuesday Bible Studies

9:30 Staff Meeting
1:30 Active Minds

Wednesday, March 26

5:15 PCOC Book Group
5:30 Chamber Singers
6:30 Alleluia Singers

Thursday, March 27

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

Saturday, March 29

8:00 a.m. -12:30 pm SHF Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Sunday, March 30

9:00 Worship
10:00 Coffee, Kids and Youth SS Classes
10:00 Lenten Study
11:10 Worship
2-6:30 JHF Tree Rush
4:45 No SHF
5:00 Lenten Study

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 Alta Greer Empekey in loving memory of a remarkable woman - her mother, Mabel Greer. Flowers are also given in honor of Nancy Long's birthday, which she is celebrating today!

Gene Pugh fell and was in the hospital this week.

PCOC member Howard "Howie" Anderson passed away last Saturday, March 15. The family has scheduled a Celebration of Life on Saturday, March 29, from 1:00 to 4:00PM at Champions Run, 13800 Eagle Run Drive.

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.

No Tuesday Bible Studies this Week. We will resume on Tuesday, April 1. No foolin'!

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 your 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 candy. Thanks!

Communion Class for Children. Parents and children in the 3rd 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:



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.

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, 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. 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. During our first three months we have been reading the first five books of the Old Testament. In Christian circles, these books are often called the Pentateuch, a term that simply derives from the Greek words for "five" and "books." Both the Jewish and Christian traditions have ascribed these five books to Moses. Now as we read Deuteronomy, it is Moses who assembles the people to review the commandments as they are about to enter the Promised Land. The daily readings are published each month in the Cross Currents and weekly in the church email. - Rock

