

# THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

First Sunday in Lent  
March 9, 2025

## ASSEMBLE IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering Music – *Fugue in g minor* Robert Schumann

Prayer of Preparation (*you may prepare for worship by praying silently*)

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Chiming of the Hour

Greeting and Announcements Ellie Forsyth

Call to Worship (responsive)

In the wilderness of life, we have hope:

**We live by the Word of the Lord.**

In the face of temptation, we proclaim:

**We worship the Lord our God alone.**

Let us worship God

\* Hymn of Praise 166 – *Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days*

\* Call to Confession

Are you thirsty for grace? Are you hungry for mercy? God is calling; come to the waters. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin. (Isaiah 55:1)

\* Prayer of Confession (unison)

**Merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you. We desire earthly kingdoms and dismiss your heavenly realm. We seek to provide for ourselves and spurn the bread of life you offer. Forgive us, God of grace. Teach us to rely on your saving word, to trust in your sustaining care, and to worship and serve you alone; through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

(time for silent confession)

\* Declaration of Forgiveness (responsive)

Listen, so that you may live: The steadfast love of the Lord never fails. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven! **Thanks be to God.** (Isaiah 55:3)

\* The Congregation's Response: *Gloria Patri* Hymn 581

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, World without end. Amen, amen.**

## PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Time with Children

Althea Jerome

Prayer for Illumination

God of all truth, put a new and right spirit within us — your Holy Spirit — so that, as we listen for your Word in the Scripture and the sermon, we may hear your voice and respond with courage. Amen.

First Reading – Deuteronomy 26:1-11

pew Bible pg. 158

The Word of the LORD.

**Thanks be to God!**

Anthem – *Lenten Meditation*

Jay Althouse

Jesus Christ, my Savior lived for me, and died,  
source of my salvation, yet was crucified.

Peace that knows no measure: This by faith I see.

Love that knows no ending; Jesus died for me.

Lord, O Lord, we renew our commitment these forty nights and days.

And Lord, O Lord, by your grace help us change our sinful ways.

Hear me now. Lord Jesus: I will never stray. I will never wander.

Hear me, as I pray: Free me now from darkness. Cleanse me now from sin.

Pardon my transgressions. Make me pure within.

Lord, O Lord we renew our commitment these forty nights and days.

And Lord, O Lord by your grace help us change our sinful ways. Amen.

Second Reading – Luke 4:1-13

pew Bible pg. 835

The Word of the LORD.

**Thanks be to God!**

Sermon – *Led by the Spirit in the Wilderness*

Rev. Dr. Christopher Crotwell

## GIVE THANKS TO GOD

\* Hymn of Thanksgiving 783 – *When We Are Tested*

\* Affirmation of Faith: Taken from the *Book of Common Worship* 1992 (unison)

**This is the good news which we have received, in which we stand, and by which we are saved, if we hold it fast: that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day, and that he appeared first to the women, then to Peter, and to the Twelve, and then to many faithful witnesses.**

**We believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. Jesus Christ is the first and the last, the beginning and the end; he is our Lord and our God. Amen.**

Prayers of the People (responsive)

Let us have the same mind that was in Christ Jesus as we pray for the world he came to save, saying: Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the church . . . Help us to confess with our lips, believe in our hearts, and show in our lives that Christ Jesus is our risen Lord. Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world . . . Let the milk and honey of your promised land flow in every nation of the earth, so that all may enjoy the fruit of salvation. Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for this community . . . Let us be angels of your mercy, surrounding all who are in danger and lifting up those who are falling. Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

We pray for loved ones . . . Deliver and protect them, be with them in their trouble, and satisfy them with long life. Have mercy, O God; **hear our prayer.**

As we pour out our hearts in prayer, O God, lead us to pour out our lives in service to you— ever seeking your will, ever following your way; all in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

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 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.**

Invitation to Offering

All that we seek to accomplish, all that we strive to achieve, all that we claim to possess—all of this amounts to nothing without the grace of Christ. With gratitude, let us offer our lives to the Lord. (Philippians 3:7-8)

Offertory – *Jesus, I Will Ponder Now*

J. S. Bach

\* The Doxology – Hymn 606

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him,  
all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host;  
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

\* Prayer of Dedication (unison)

**Holy God, you create us and redeem us; you call us by name and we are precious in your sight. This good news overwhelms us with joy. With gratitude, we give you all that we have and all that we are. May these gifts be expressions of your great delight for your people in all the places of the earth. Amen.**

**GO IN GOD'S NAME**

\* Hymn of Consecration 712 – *As Those of Old Their Firstfruits Brought*

\* Blessing and Charge (responsive)

May the Spirit of the triune God strengthen and sustain you, all throughout these forty days and into the life that is to come. **Amen.** (Luke 4:1-2)

Go in peace, proclaiming the message of reconciliation God has entrusted to us.

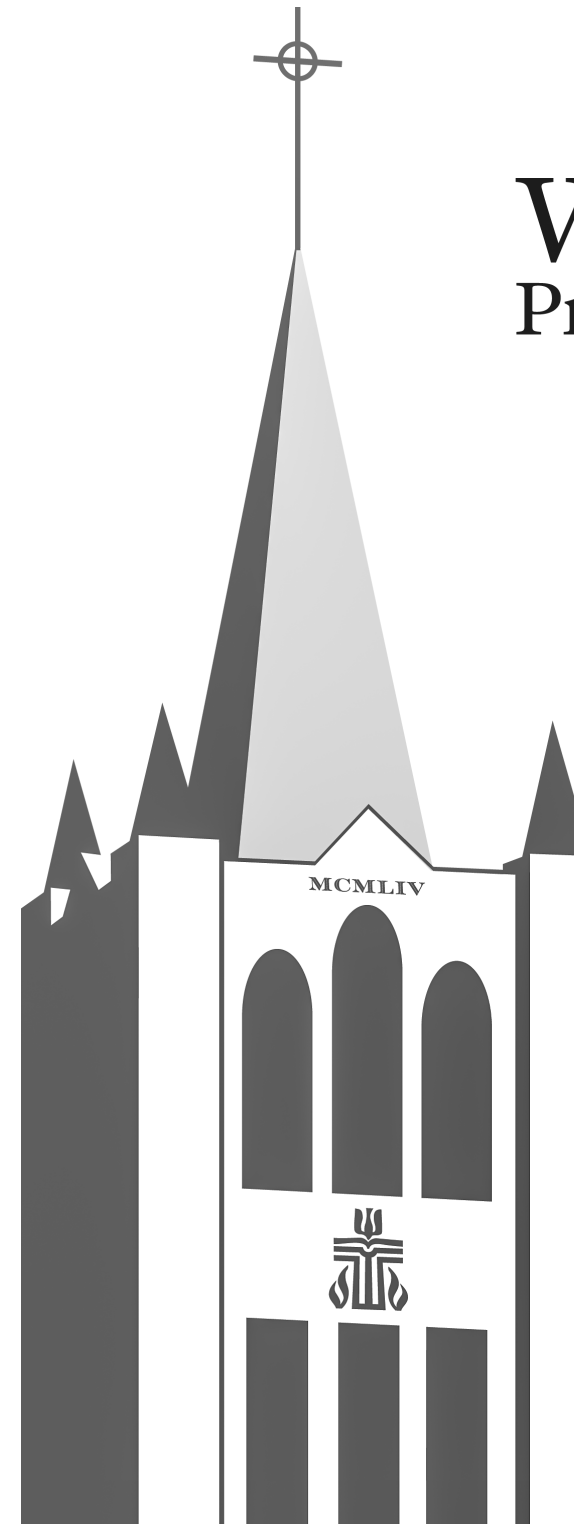
**Amen.** (2 Corinthians 5:19)

\* Postlude – *The Glory of These Forty Days*

Timothy Albrecht



\* Please stand at the \* as you are able. Unison readings are **printed in bold.**  
Today's liturgy is from *Call to Worship Lectionary Aids for 2015-2016, Year C.*



# Westminster Presbyterian Church

*“So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new  
creation—everything old has passed away;  
see, everything has become new!”*

II Corinthians 5:17

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## PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND STRENGTH

(\* new added prayers)

*Terri Banks, friend of Pam Love – at home with 24-hour care*

*Linda Basden, neighbor of Janeil Harris – Alzheimer's*

*Dave Beveridge, friend of Alice Crotwell – stomach cancer*

*Jan Bozeman – constant pain*

*Glenda Brown – prayers for health*

*Laura Pearce Cureton, Nancy Johnson's goddaughter – nerve block therapy continues*

*Kim Davis, Dan Davis's sister-in-law – battling cancer*

*Vida Davis, sister of Ruthie Davis – dementia*

*Jessica Dubing, daughter of a friend of Ruthie Davis – paralyzed from motorcycle accident*

*Cathy Dudley – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)*

*Bill and Louise Edwards, friends of Charles Brown – strength and endurance*

*Hudson Elliott, grandson of friends of the Reidenbachs—NICU at UMMC with undiagnosed health concerns*

*Teresa Ginn, Michael Ginn's aunt – dementia*

*\*Jessica Gleckler, niece of Sharon Poti – paralysis after neck surgery*

*Brigitte Glowiak, Carolyn McLarnan's family – breast cancer*

*Arlandra Harvey, former choir member – waiting for a kidney transplant*

*Peggy Henry, Karen Reidenbach's sister—in rehab for addiction*

*Charlotte Hill*

*Ann Johnson*

*Geraldine Jones*

*Collier Knutson, grandson of a friend of Gwen Combs – waiting on heart transplant*

*Roger Kuyrkendall, Carrie Creel's father – Alzheimer's*

*B.J. Lambert – at home recovering from broken hip*

*Margaret Lochhead's coach's niece – diagnosed with malignant brain tumor*

*\*Deloris McLaurin, Glenn Nobles first cousin – dementia*

*\*Laura Mills, Ann Johnson's friend – cancer scans were all clear*

*Betty Mitchell – recovery from knee surgery*

*Glenn Nobles – endurance and strength*

*Carolyn Mitchell Pintard, Bill & Betty Mitchell's daughter – grave health issues*

*Shannon Love Roberson, daughter of Pam Love – health issues*

*Stephanie Cummings Shaver, daughter of Kathryn and Robert Cummings – stem cell transplant*

*Gibson Smith, friend of Charles Brown – cancer*

*Laura Todd, Grayson Rayborn's cousin – multiple health issues*

*Louise Traxler, Karen Reidenbach's mom – Bedford Care (Medical Blvd)*

*Elizabeth Robinson, Betty & Bill Mitchell's daughter – chemo and radiation treatment*

*Isobel Treen, Carolyn McLarnan's cousin – heart issues*



## Greeting and Announcements

**Welcome to Westminster!** We're very glad to see you in worship. We hope you will sense Christ's presence. If you are looking for a place to grow and serve, we'd love to tell you more about us. Please silence cell phones during the worship hour.

**The March/April Today** devotionals are on the narthex cabinet.

**Devotionals for the Season of Lent** are available on the narthex table.

**The Deacons** meet today at 11:35 a.m., and **the Session** will meet on March 16 at 11:35 a.m.

**The Youth and Children** will meet today after worship to go to lunch and then to a movie.

**Circle Meetings:**

**Circle 1**—Tuesday at 9:30 a.m.

**Circle 2**—Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

**Circle 3**—Sunday, March 16, at 5:00 p.m.

**PW Spring Gathering** is Tuesday, March 18, at Old Town Presbyterian Church in Bay St. Louis. See Martha Ann Hogrefe to register. The registration deadline is March 10.

### UPCOMING MEETINGS

Brown Bag Bible Study—Tues. at 11:00 a.m.

Choir—Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.

Men of the Church—Thurs. at 7:00 a.m. at Loblolly Bakery

**There will be no Wednesday night supper or activity this week. Only choir will meet at 6:30 p.m.**



**New Beginnings** will meet on Monday, March 17, at noon. Please let Tommy or Martha know if you plan to attend.

**Breadbasket Week is March 10-14. Volunteers are needed.** Please call Martha (601) 584-7574 to volunteer Tuesday or Thursday.

To donate to WPC online, scan the QR code and follow the instructions.

