

**Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2024**

“Guided to the Cross – Guided to Trust”

Theme Verse: *The Saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. 1 Timothy 1:15*

Prelude – Jill Rimington

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

P: We walk in trust and by God’s love share the peace of the Lord.
The peace of the Lord be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Invocation and Call to Worship

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

L: We place our trust in many things and in many people, yet often that trust is misplaced. Things do not work out as we planned, and people may fail us.

C: Where do we place our trust?

L: “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.” (Proverbs 3:5-6)

C: How do we know that the Lord can be trusted?

L: “He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things?” (Romans 8:32) God sent his own Son to suffer and die on the cross for the sake of our salvation. In him, we place our trust, and he will never fail us.

C: Lord, set the cross before us to guide us in trusting you.

Opening Hymn – “O Christ, Our Hope” ELW #604

<https://youtu.be/EX7kkMm9tuk>

by Concordia

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sins to God, and ask his forgiveness.

A time of silence for reflection.

Almighty God, you have called us to trust in you and to acknowledge you in all our ways.

C: Yet we often fail to trust you as we should. We would rather acknowledge our own desires instead of your will. We do not love others as we should. We follow the temptations of the world around us instead of walking in your ways. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins.

P: St Paul wrote: *Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us.*

By God's gift of grace and love, your sins are forgiven.

C: Thanks be to God.

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen.

Lenten Response – “Just a Closer Walk with Thee” ELW #697

<https://youtu.be/8fsqtyqQavY>

by Sanctuary Choir

Prayer of the Day

L: We trust in you for our eternal salvation through faith in Jesus our Savior.

C: Help us by your Spirit to trust you daily in all things and to turn to you with prayer and praise in all of the circumstances of our lives.

L: You have sent your Son to be our Savior, and you will never fail us.

C: Set his cross always before us to guide us in trusting you. Hear our prayer, and accept our praise in Jesus' name. Amen.

Preparing for the Word

L: God shatters the doors of prisons, and cuts in two the bars of iron.

C: We give thanks to the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.

L: God sent forth God's Word to heal us, and deliver us from destruction.

C: Let us offer thanksgiving sacrifice, and tell of God's deeds.

The Word

Old Testament Reading – Proverbs 3:5-6

Do not lean on your own understanding.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 107:1-3,17-22

You deliver your people from their distress.

O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!

² Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom he has redeemed from trouble

³ and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

¹⁷ Some were sick through their sinful ways, and because of their iniquities suffered affliction;

¹⁸ they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death

¹⁹ Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble, and he delivered them from their distress;

²⁰ he sent forth his word, and healed them, and delivered them from destruction.

²¹ Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to the sons of men!

²² And let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving, and tell of his deeds in songs of joy!

Epistle reading – 1 Timothy 1:15-17

We trust in the sacrifice that Jesus, God's only Son made for us upon the cross.

The saying is trustworthy and deserving of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am the foremost. But I received mercy for this reason, that in me, as the foremost, Jesus Christ might display his perfect patience as an example to those who were to believe in him for eternal life. To the King of the ages, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – John 19:29-30

<https://youtu.be/CSTXWs0Sj-g?si=B25xxuMT7xRZX12C>

The Holy Gospel according John. **Glory to you O Lord.**

It is finished.

A jar full of sour wine stood there, so they put a sponge full of the sour wine on a hyssop branch and held it to his mouth. When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children of God Time

<https://youtu.be/nzoH-ZHjE5w?si=z4ZFDtZZMV2lpr-u>

Message – “If”

https://youtu.be/2UvzQKOiMYM?si=OLzLxd_HCV9g5U8r

Hymn of the day - “If You But Trust in God to Guide You” ELW #769

<https://youtu.be/9llzx0-Sdrk>

by First-Plymouth Church

Apostles’ Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead, on the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the
Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness
of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessory Prayers

P: Lord God, in a world where it is hard to know in whom or in what we can trust, we place our trust in you. You always keep your promises. Down through the centuries, the prophets announced your promise to send your Anointed One, the Messiah. When the time was right, that promise was fulfilled in Jesus. Our God and Savior, during this Lenten season,

C: Set the cross of Jesus before us to guide us in the way of trust.

L: Lord God, as Jesus drew near to the hour of his death, he trusted in you, his heavenly Father, to guide his steps to the cross as the Scripture had foretold. We place our trust in Jesus alone for our salvation. Bless and guide us as we take up our crosses and follow our Savior. Our God and Savior, during this Lenten season,

C: Set the cross of Jesus before us to guide us in the way of trust.

L: Lord God, help those who are struggling with illness, pain or grief, those we name now [mention known names of those who are hurt, injured or grieving] and those we name in our hearts. Comfort them with the promises of your Word and lead us to opportunities to serve them in Jesus' name. Our God and Savior, during this Lenten season,

C: Set the cross of Jesus before us to guide us in the way of trust.

L: Lord God, help us by your Spirit to depend on you each day, in all of the circumstances of our lives. Teach us not to rely on our own understanding, but to trust you in all things. We know that you will guide us. Our God and Savior, during this Lenten season,

C: Set the cross of Jesus before us to guide us in the way of trust.

P: Lord God, as we rely on you for help now in this earthly life, we know that we can trust in you for our eternal salvation through faith in Jesus. Our Lord has promised, "Surely I am coming soon" (Revelation 22:20). We look forward to the fulfillment of that promise and to life in your presence forever. Our God and Savior, during this Lenten season,

**C: Set the cross of Jesus before us to guide us in the way of trust
Amen.**

Offering/Offertory Music – “Lord of All Hopefulness” ELW #765 vss.
1&4

Offertory Prayer

L: How much do you love your world, O God?

C: “For God so loved the world that he gave...”

L: How much did you give, O God?

C: “...that he gave his only Son.”

L: May our giving

C: be a reflection of your own.

L: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: 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

P: Holy God,

We long for your Spirit.

Come among us.

Bless this meal.

May your Word take flesh in us.

Awaken your people.

Fill us with your light.

Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Consecration

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Distribution

Communion Music – Jill Rimington

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

L: You are heaven sent, O Christ –

C: heaven sent to save the world.

L: Strengthen us, through this meal, to continue your work –

C: to lighten this dark world.

L: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction from Numbers 6 – Pastor

Sending Hymn – “Oh, That the Lord Would Guide My Ways” ELW
#772

<https://youtu.be/F94gZlHy4Jw>

by Koine

Dismissal

L: Trusting in God we walk to serve.

C: **Thanks be to God who gives us the strength.**

Postlude – Jill Rimington

