

# First Sunday in Lent

March 9, 2014 ♦ 11:00 a.m. Worship

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## Welcome

### \*Passing of the Peace

**Chiming of the Hour** *(please be seated)*

### Prelude

### \*Call to Worship

Leader: Lent calls us to journey along the edge, to anticipate that final trip to Jerusalem.

**People: Lent calls us to the cutting edge, when life comes forth; the cutting of a new covenant.**

Leader: Lent calls us not only to give up something, but also to take upon ourselves as a community the intention of true participation in the mystery of God-with-us.

**People: Lent calls us to confession, accountability and preparation.**

Leader: Lent calls us to concentrate upon our baptismal vocation to be a sign of the New Earth.

**People: Lent calls us to face the darkness without holding a flashlight.**

**\*Opening Hymn #269**      *Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days*

### \*Centering Prayer

Holy God, we embark on this Lenten journey grateful for your presence along the way. Walk alongside us to call us to repentance, to woo us from our idols, to open our eyes to our neighbor in need, to guide us in the way of sacrifice. Meet us in our fears and joys alike and sustain us in our weakness. Pour out your Spirit upon us, that these 40 days might become for us a journey that renews our hope, strengthens our faith and prepares us for the agony of the cross as well as the new life of resurrection. Amen.

### Children's Message

**Ministry of the Word**      Psalm 32 (NLT)

**\*Hymn of Preparation** (insert)      *You Are My Hiding Place*

**Sermon**      "Breaking Bad"      Rev. Bates  
Text: Matthew 16:24-26 (NLT)

### Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior, we confess that what we say we believe and the beliefs our lives profess frequently aren't the same. We say that you are good, yet we're quick to blame you when discomfort, turmoil or distress arises. We say that you love us, but we act as if your will for our lives cannot be trusted. We proclaim that we are forgiven, yet we continue to carry the burdensome baggage of our past. We profess that you are a faithful God, yet we're riddled with anxiety, fear and impatience. Forgive us, Lord. Give us the courage to look honestly at the disparity between what we say we believe and the truth that our actions and attitudes tell. We pray for the grace to close the gap between the two.

*(continue to pray in silence)*

### Prayers of the People

**The Lord's Prayer #895**

*Choral Amen*

**Offering & Offertory**      *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*

**\*Doxology #95**

**Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**O God, who hast so greatly loved us and mercifully redeemed us, give us grace, that in everything we may yield ourselves, our wills, and our works, a continual thank offering unto thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Closing Hymn #415**      *Take Up Thy Cross*

**\*Affirmation of Faith** (insert)

**\*Benediction**

**\*Postlude**      Improvisation on "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me"

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*\*For those who are able, please stand*