

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2015 ♦ 11:00 a.m. Worship

One Great Hour of Sharing

Welcome

*Passing of the Peace

Prelude

*Call to Worship

Leader: God's love for our world is strong and true and whole.

People: God loves us and we seek to live and share such love.

Leader: As we journey on through these Lenten days, may we feast in God's constant love.

People: God's love overflows upon us and God's Son fills us with life abundant.

Leader: Let us sing of God's love.

People: Let us rejoice in the life of abundance.

*Opening Hymn #121 *There's a Wideness in God's Mercy*

*The Apostles' Creed #881

*Gloria Patri #70

*Centering Prayer

We bask in the healing power of your love, O God. You are always with us. You are with us when we cry out in fear. You are with us when we are discouraged. You are with us when we are alone. You are with us all the time, day and night. For your presence, we are most thankful. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Children's Message

Anthem *Crown of Thorns, Crown of Glory* Schweitzer
Sanctuary Choir

Psalter Reading Psalm 107:1-9, 33-43 Hymnal, Page 830
Response #1

Ministry of the Word John 3:14-21 (NLT)

Leader: "The Word of God for the People of God."

People: "Thanks be to God."

*Hymn of Preparation #357 *Just as I Am, Without One Plea*

Sermon "Either/Or" Rev. Bates
Text: Ephesians 2:1-10 (MSG)

Prayer of Confession

Merciful Savior, we have been a wayward people. We were dead in our sin, and you gave us life. We wandered away from you, becoming exiles, and you rescued us and carried us home. We have been sick, broken and needy, and you healed and restored us. We deserve none of this. We deserve the penalty you bore on our behalf. Yet, your love is so deep, your mercy so wide, your embrace so all-enfolding that you have done for us what we could never do for ourselves. You have made us your own. You have forgiven us and loved us. We receive this gift with gratitude, joy and awe. (continue to pray in silence)

Prayers of the People

The Lord's Prayer (#895)

Offering – Ministry Moment – Camp Overlook Allyson Gillispie

Offertory *Rise Again* Holm
Ken Ritter, tenor

*Doxology #95

*Prayer of Thanksgiving

In response to your great love for us, gracious God, we joyfully and gratefully offer the fruits of our labor and our lives in these gifts. Bless and multiply them, we pray, that the transformative power of your love will be a reality in our neighborhood and community. Amen.

*Closing Hymn #2162 *Grace Alone*

*Benediction

Leader: As we depart from this place,

People: may our eyes be illuminated, may we flee from all darkness and may our lives reflect the light of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

Leader: Go in peace.

*Postlude

**For those who are able, please stand*