



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN
Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Lord God, enable me to receive Jesus Christ as he is freely offered in the Gospel.
Constantly remind me to rely on him as my Prophet, Priest, and King.
Let me totally surrender myself to him so I can be ruled, taught, and saved by him.
Enable me to read and hear your Word with diligence and full attention.
Help me to meditate on it, to believe it, and to frame my life according to it.*

—from Matthew Henry, *A Way to Pray*

MARCH 9, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“O Jesus, King Most Wonderful”
arr. Dale Wood

Welcome and greetings

Chad Middlebrooks, pastor of discipleship

*** Call to worship**

Psalm 95:1-7

Leader: Come, let us sing for joy to the LORD; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song.

All: For the LORD is the great God, the great King above all gods. In his hand are the depths of the earth, and the mountain peaks belong to him. The sea is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land.

Leader: Come, let us bow down in worship, let us kneel before the LORD our Maker.

All: For he is our God and we are the people of his pasture, the flock under his care.

*** Hymn of praise 172, vv. 1, 2, 4, 5**

“Let Us Love and Sing and Wonder”

Let us love and sing and wonder, let us praise the Savior’s name!
He has hushed the law’s loud thunder, he has quenched Mount Sinai’s flame:
he has washed us with his blood, he has brought us nigh to God.

Let us love the Lord who bought us, pitied us when enemies,
called us by his grace, and taught us, gave us ears and gave us eyes:
he has washed us with his blood, he presents our souls to God.

Let us wonder; grace and justice join and point to mercy’s store;
when, through grace, in Christ our trust is, justice smiles and asks no more:
he who washed us with his blood has secured our way to God.

Let us praise, and join the chorus of the saints enthroned on high;
here they trusted him before us, now their praises fill the sky:
“Thou hast washed us with thy blood; thou art worthy, Lamb of God!”
text by John Newton, 1774; music from Darmstadt Gesangbuch, 1698, ALL SAINTS OLD

*** Prayer of adoration**

Call to confession

Proverbs 28:13

He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them finds mercy.

Prayer of confession

Leader: Merciful God, our great King now and forever,

**All: We confess our natural inclination toward self-sufficiency.
We often resent your gracious and absolute reign over all things.
We would rather rule our own lives, and we spend much time and effort grasping at control of our circumstances.**

Leader: But you, O Lord, are our faithful Sovereign. Never-changing, ever-present, and mighty to save.

All: Forgive us for seeking the glory that is yours alone, and teach us to wholly rely on your perfect care.

Silent prayers of confession

*** Assurance of God's pardoning grace**

from Romans 8

There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*** Hymn of assurance 693**

“Blessed Assurance”

Blessed assurance, Jesus is mine! O what a foretaste of glory divine!
Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;
this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.

Perfect submission, perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;
angels descending, bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love. *Refrain*

Perfect submission, all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;
watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love. *Refrain*
text by Fanny J. Crosby, 1873; music by Phoebe P. Knapp, 1873, ASSURANCE

Worship in the giving of God's tithe and our offerings

Offertory

“Teach Me, O Lord”

Chancel Choir

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes;
and I shall keep it unto the end.
Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law;
yea, I shall keep it with my whole heart.

Make me to go in the path of thy commandments,
for therein is my desire.
Incline my heart unto thy testimonies,
and not to covetousness.

O turn away mine eyes lest they behold vanity,
and quicken me in thy way.
O stablish thy Word, thy Word in thy servant,
that I may fear thee. Amen.
text from Psalm 119:33-39a; music by Philip W. J. Stopford, 2013

*** Doxology**

**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 and thanksgiving**

*** Scripture reading from Luke 23:1-12**

Jeffery Compton

¹Then the whole company of them arose and brought him before Pilate. ²And they began to accuse him, saying, “We found this man misleading our nation and forbidding us to give tribute to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.” ³And Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?” And he

answered him, "You have said so." ⁴Then Pilate said to the chief priests and the crowds, "I find no guilt in this man." ⁵But they were urgent, saying, "He stirs up the people, teaching throughout all Judea, from Galilee even to this place."

⁶When Pilate heard this, he asked whether the man was a Galilean. ⁷And when he learned that he belonged to Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him over to Herod, who was himself in Jerusalem at that time. ⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad, for he had long desired to see him, because he had heard about him, and he was hoping to see some sign done by him. ⁹So he questioned him at some length, but he made no answer.

¹⁰The chief priests and the scribes stood by, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹And Herod with his soldiers treated him with contempt and mocked him. Then, arraying him in splendid clothing, he sent him back to Pilate. ¹²And Herod and Pilate became friends with each other that very day, for before this they had been at enmity with each other.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God's Word

Sermon

"Jesus on Trial"

Aaron Tolson, pastor of youth ministries

1. The innocence of Jesus (vv. 1-5)
2. The silence of Jesus (vv. 6-9)
3. The mockery of Jesus (vv. 10-12)

Pastoral prayer

* **Hymn of response 498**, vv. 1, 2, 5

"Jesus! What a Friend for Sinners!"

Jesus! what a Friend for sinners! Jesus! lover of my soul;
friends may fail me, foes assail me, he, my Savior, makes me whole.

Refrain: Hallelujah! what a Savior! Hallelujah! what a Friend!
Saving, helping, keeping, loving, he is with me to the end.

Jesus! what a strength in weakness! Let me hide myself in him;
tempted, tried, and sometimes failing, he, my strength, my vict'ry wins. *Refrain*

Jesus! I do now receive him, more than all in him I find;
he hath granted me forgiveness, I am his, and he is mine. *Refrain*
text by J. Wilbur Chapman, 1910; music by Rowland Hugh Pritchard, 1855, HYFRYDOL

* **Benediction**

* **Congregational response**

“Threefold Amen”

Musicians for this week:

Joy Gibbons – choral director

Joshua Knight – organ

IN MEMORIAM

Mary Ann Rennick

December 25, 1926 – March 1, 2025

Celebrating the baptism of Haven Grace Thomas at the 9:30 service in the fellowship hall today are her parents, Hannah and Bo Thomas, and her grandparents, Laurie and John King and Colleen and Bill Thomas.

Celebrating the baptisms of Eleanor Ann Nadeja and Jackson Douglas (JD) Nadeja at the 11:00 service in the fellowship hall today are their parents, Stephanie and Mike Nadeja, and their grandparents, Evelyn Sizemore and Kim and David Nadeja.

The rosebud in the service today is for the birth of Percy Joy Carr, born to Emilie and Perrin Carr on February 27.

AS WE MOVE THROUGH THE LENTEN SEASON, please take note of the sparse floral decor in the chancel area. This serves as a visual reminder of the simplicity of Lent: a time of prayer, reflection, and self-examining humility before we celebrate Christ’s Resurrection Day in beauty and splendor.

STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 2025

Pledge cards for the 2025 budget will be distributed at the end of the service today and will be available in the church office. You may return completed cards on Sunday, March 23. You may also pledge using the form at lmpc.org/give, or on Realm Connect. Thank you for your support of the ministries and work of LMPC.

SUNDAY EVENING COMMUNION SERVICE

Our evening communion services take place in the sanctuary on the third Sunday of each month, combining the beauty of the sanctuary with the instrumentation of the fellowship hall. Our pastors will launch a new series on March 16 on the topic of our six values as a church: Primacy of the Gospel, Vitality of Worship, Indispensability of the Church, Necessity of Prayer, Centrality of Community, and Priority of Mission. Each month, we will see how our beliefs guide our behavior. On Sunday evenings, communion is celebrated in smaller groups. Nursery is always provided. We encourage everyone to attend, including small groups that meet on Sunday nights, that we might enjoy the unifying and nourishing power of the Lord's Supper together.

To see upcoming Sunday Evening Gatherings, visit lmpc.org/sunday-night.

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

COME BACK AT 6:00 P.M. TODAY to hear from the short-term team that recently traveled to India. Join us in the fellowship hall; light refreshments will be served.

PASTOR AARON TOLSON is taking a much-deserved sabbatical from March 16 until June 16. Please pray for his rest. If you see him in the community, feel free to greet him. However, please protect him from the work and business of the church for this season. If you need assistance, contact Aaron's assistant, Margaret Compton (margaretcompton@lmpc.org or 423-424-5974), who will direct you to someone to help with your specific need.

To find out more about happenings at LMPC, visit lmpc.org/events.