



LOOKOUT MOUNTAIN

Presbyterian Church

IN PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*Come, thou desire of all thy saints, our humble strains attend, while with our praises
and complaints low at thy feet we bend. When we thy wondrous glories hear, and all thy
suff'rings trace, what sweetly awful scenes appear! What rich unbounded grace!*

*Come, Lord, thy love alone can raise in us the heav'nly flame;
then shall our lips resound thy praise, our hearts adore thy name.*

—from “Entreating the Presence of Christ in His Churches” by Anne Steele

MARCH 16, 2025 • SANCTUARY SERVICE

* Congregation standing as you are able

Order of Worship

Prelude

“He Was Wounded for Our Transgressions”
(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #244)

Welcome and greetings

Joe Donnovin, ruling elder

* Call to worship

based on Psalm 118

Leader: Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good; his love endures forever.
Open for us the gates of righteousness; we will enter and give thanks
to the LORD.

**All: We will give thanks, for you answered us and have become our
salvation.**

Leader: The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

All: This is the day the LORD has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

* Hymn of praise 167, vv. 1, 5, 6

“When Morning Gilds the Skies”

When morning gilds the skies, my heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Alike at work and prayer to Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

Let earth’s wide circle round in joyful notes resound:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Let air and sea and sky, from depth to height, reply:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

Be this, while life is mine, my canticle divine:
May Jesus Christ be praised.
Be this th’eternal song, through all the ages on:
May Jesus Christ be praised.

text from Germany, ca. 1800; music by Joseph Barnby, 1868, LAUDES DOMINI

* Prayer of adoration

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy
Ghost, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified,
dead, and buried; he descended into hell. The third day he rose again from the
dead; he ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father
Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

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

*The Apostles' Creed is so named because it summarizes what the apostles believed and taught in
Jesus' name. The earliest versions of the Creed can be traced back to the 2nd century. We use the
traditional translation of the Creed which contains some unfamiliar words: "quick" instead of
"living" and "catholic" instead of "universal." Also, when we say that Christ "descended into hell,"
we are not saying that Jesus literally entered hell; instead, we are affirming that Jesus suffered all
the pains and torments of hell as he endured the unmitigated wrath of God on the cross.*

Call to confession

from Isaiah 64 and Joel 2

All of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are
like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us
away.

"Even now," declares the LORD, "return to me with all your heart,
with fasting and weeping and mourning." Rend your heart and not your
garments. Return to the LORD your God, for he is gracious and compassionate,
slow to anger and abounding in love.

Silent prayers of confession

Choral prayer

"Who Is This, So Weak and Helpless"

Chancel Choir

Who is this, so weak and helpless, child of lowly Hebrew maid,
rudely in a stable sheltered, coldly in a manger laid?
'Tis the Lord of all creation, who this wondrous path has trod;
he is God from everlasting, and to everlasting God.

Who is this? Behold him shedding drops of blood upon the ground!
Who is this, despised, rejected, mocked, insulted, beaten, bound?
'Tis our God, who gifts and graces on his church is pouring down;
who shall smite in holy vengeance all his foes beneath his throne.

text by William Walsham How, 1823-1897; music by John Ambrose Lloyd, 1815-1874, EIFIONYDD

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

based on 2 Corinthians 5 and Zephaniah 3

Leader: God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

All: **Be glad and rejoice! The LORD has taken away our punishment. The LORD our God is with us, he is mighty to save. He will take great delight in us, he will quiet us with his love, he will rejoice over us with singing.**

*** Hymn of assurance 44, vv. 1, 3, 4**

“How Great Thou Art”

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
consider all the worlds thy hands have made,
I see the stars, I hear the rolling thunder,
thy pow'r thro'out the universe displayed.

Refrain: Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!
Then sings my soul, my Savior God, to thee:
how great thou art, how great thou art!

And when I think that God, his Son not sparing,
sent him to die, I scarce can take it in,
that on the cross, my burden gladly bearing,
he bled and died to take away my sin. *Refrain*

When Christ shall come with shout of acclamation
and take me home, what joy shall fill my heart!
Then I shall bow in humble adoration,
and there proclaim, my God, how great thou art. *Refrain*
text by Stuart K. Hine, 1949; Swedish folk melody, arr. Stuart K. Hine, 1949, O STORE GUD

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

Offertory

“Jesus Paid It All”

Chancel Choir

I hear the Savior say, “Thy strength indeed is small,
child of weakness, watch and pray, find in me thine all in all.”

Refrain: Jesus paid it all, all to him I owe;
sin had left a crimson stain, he washed it white as snow.

For nothing good have I whereby thy grace to claim—
I'll wash my garments white in the blood of Calv'ry's Lamb. *Refrain*

And when, before the throne, I stand in him complete,
“Jesus died my soul to save,” my lips shall still repeat. *Refrain*
text by Elvina M. Hall, 1865; music by John T. Grape, 1868; arr. Robert Sterling, 1985

*** 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 23:13–25**

Stephanie Wharton

¹³Pilate then called together the chief priests and the rulers and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was misleading the people. And after examining him before you, behold, I did not find this man guilty of any of your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither did Herod, for he sent him back to us. Look, nothing deserving death has been done by him. ¹⁶I will therefore punish and release him.”

¹⁸But they all cried out together, “Away with this man, and release to us Barabbas”—¹⁹a man who had been thrown into prison for an insurrection started in the city and for murder. ²⁰Pilate addressed them once more, desiring to release Jesus, ²¹but they kept shouting, “Crucify, crucify him!” ²²A third time he said to them, “Why, what evil has he done? I have found in him no guilt deserving death. I will therefore punish and release him.” ²³But they were urgent, demanding with loud cries that he should be crucified. And their voices prevailed.

²⁴So Pilate decided that their demand should be granted. ²⁵He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, for whom they asked, but he delivered Jesus over to their will.

This is the Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Prayer of preparation for the study of God’s Word

Sermon

“The Innocent for the Guilty”
Frank Hitchings, senior associate pastor

1. The dilemma of Pilate (vv. 13-16)
2. The rejection of Jesus (vv. 18-23)
 - Open hostility (vv. 18, 21, 23)
 - Cowardly capitulation (vv. 16, 20, 22, 24)
3. The substitution for Barabbas (vv. 24-25)

Pastoral prayer

* Hymn of response 468

“My Faith Has Found a Resting Place”

My faith has found a resting place, from guilt my soul is freed;
I trust the ever living One, his wounds for me shall plead.

Refrain: I need no other argument, I need no other plea,
it is enough that Jesus died, and that he died for me.

Enough for me that Jesus saves, this ends my fear and doubt;
a sinful soul I come to him, he'll never cast me out. *Refrain*

My heart is leaning on the Word, the written Word of God:
salvation by my Savior's name, salvation thro' his blood. *Refrain*

My great Physician heals the sick, the lost he came to save;
for me his precious blood he shed, for me his life he gave. *Refrain*
text by Lidie H. Edmunds, 1891; music by André Grétry, 1741-1831, LANDAS

* Benediction

* Congregational response

“Threefold Amen”

* Postlude

“Man of Sorrows! What a Name”
(words for meditation may be found in your hymnal, #246)

Musicians for this week:

Randall Crenshaw – piano

Joy Gibbons – choral director, organ

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

FOR OUR SUNDAY EVENING GATHERING today, we will worship and celebrate communion at 6:00 p.m. in the sanctuary. Nursery will be provided.

LAST WEEK WAS STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY, and 2025 pledge cards were distributed after the presentation. On Sunday, March 23 during the offering, we will bring our pledge cards forward as an act of worship. Even if you update your pledge online at lmpc.org/give or through Realm Connect, we would invite you to bring a card forward on that Sunday. The goal on that Sunday is not to be showy, but for us to have a physical reminder that this is a part of our worship and that we do it together. More pledge cards are available in the fellowship hall lobby, sanctuary Narthex, and church office. Thank you for your support of the ministries and work here at LMPC.

THERE WILL BE LIMITED WEDNESDAY EVENING activities on March 19 due to spring break: Chancel Choir will rehearse and Wed. Evening Prayer will be held at 6:15 p.m.

WE WILL WELCOME THE COVENANT SINGERS, under the direction of Christine Hassevoort, to our sanctuary worship services on Sunday, March 23.

LMPC HAS A JOB OPENING for the position of Director of Choral Ministries. For more information and to apply, please contact David Henry at davidh@lmpc.org.

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

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 today 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.

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