



Wandering Heart

"Praise the mount"

Third Sunday in Lent
March 3, 2024





***“Praise the mount”* | The Third Sunday in Lent**

Mountain peak: Peter has a moment of clarity and professes Jesus to be the Messiah. Jesus affirms Peter’s proclamation by saying Peter is the rock upon which he will build his church and that Peter will be given “the keys of the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 16:19). A mountain peak represents this moment of clarity and affirmation along Peter’s wandering journey.

Introduction

“Praise the mount of God’s unchanging love. . .” This lyric represents Peter’s mountaintop faith moment. It speaks to spiritual euphoria and feeling the closeness of God. In this story, Peter proclaims who Jesus is. He speaks with conviction. Peter claims his faith. If you had to speak your faith in one sentence or phrase, what would you say? When we have the courage to say, “This, I believe...” then that conviction has a ripple effect on others. When life gets rocky, we lean on mountain top moments and our deepest convictions to see us through.

Praise the Mount

A poem by Sarah (Are) Speed

I have stayed quiet before.
I have held my tongue
while passing mountains.
I have slipped my hands deep into pockets,
despite the music that invites me to dance.
I have glimpsed a new moon and a new love
and have acted as if it was something other than a complete, God-given miracle.
But not today.
Not today.
Today I will dance.
Today I will tap my toes all the way to heaven’s gates.
Today I will point out every shade of gold and periwinkle that we pass.
Today I will talk about my faith like we talk about the weather—
early and unprompted, comfortable and unashamed.
Today I will tell you that God did such a good job with freckles, willow trees,
and your entire being.
And I will not be embarrassed by my own conviction.
I will not swallow my praise.
I have stayed quiet before,
but not today.
Today I will sing.

ELW = red hymnal

ACS = purple hymnal

Gathering

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

Pre|lude

Wel|come

Tuning Our Hearts: Come Thou Fount

arr. Scheer Suzanne Jackson, flute solo

We hear a special arrangement of "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," as we prepare our wandering hearts for worship. Today's theme comes from the following verse of "Come Thou Fount":

Come, thou Fount of every blessing;
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
sung by flaming tongues above;
praise the mount! I'm fixed upon it,
mount of God's unchanging love!

**this verse has slightly different language than the one in the ELW.
It can be found in the Glory to God Presbyterian Hymnal, verse 1.*

Call to Worship *Inspired by Psalm 19*

If you ask the sky who God is,

the sky will tell you of God's reach.

If you ask the day who God is,

the sun will tell you of God's warmth.

If you ask the night who God is,

the moon will tell you of God's comfort.

"The heavens are telling the glory of God".

Are you listening?

We are listening!

We will sing of God's glory.

Let us worship Holy God.

Return to You: Wandering Heart Theme Song

Emily Holth, soloist

Soloist:

I've read the stories of heartache and of glory.
I've prayed ev'ry prayer for you.
And I've tasted glory because you say we're worthy.
I've sung ev'ry song for you.

Chorus - All:

The musical score is written in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (B-flat and E-flat) and a 6/8 time signature. It consists of seven lines of music, each with a measure number above the staff. The lyrics are written below the notes. The score includes various musical notations such as quarter notes, eighth notes, and rests, with some notes beamed together. The lyrics are: "But I have a wan-dering heart and a fick-le faith. Can you find me here can I see your face? Help me re - turn to you there's no - thing I'd ra - ther do than re - turn to you, there's no - thing I'd ra - ther do. The storm may rise, the trum - pet sound, the cur - tain tear, and e - ven now, re - turn to you, there's no - thing I'd ra - ther do than re - turn to you." The score ends with a double bar line at measure 30.

1 But I have a wan-dering heart and a fick-le faith.

2

3

4

5 Can you find me here can I see your face?

6

7

8

9

10 Help me re - turn to you there's no - thing I'd ra - ther

11

12

13

14 do than re - turn to you, there's no - thing I'd ra - ther do. The

15

16

17

18

19 storm may rise, the trum - pet sound, the cur - tain tear, and e - ven now, re -

20

21

22

23 turn to you, there's no - thing I'd ra - ther

24

25

26

27 do than re - turn to you.

28

29

30

Soloist:

I'll leave the boat but when the storm comes, I'll let go
And I'll sink faster than a stone.
And I've called your name when the world is full of pain,
But I still need to see your hands.

All sing Chorus again

Prayer of Confession

Holy God,
Some days, we are quick to declare your goodness.
Like Peter, we see you in our midst and we are confident in our faith.
Other days, we are distracted and uncertain, desperate for answers.
Forgive us for losing sight of you.
Some days we are quick to trust your blessings—
trusting that we are called, that we can make a difference.
Other days, our praise falls silent and doubt creeps in.
Forgive us for losing sight of ourselves.
We know that fear and doubt are part of the journey of faith.
But for the days when we are far from you and far from ourselves, we ask for your tender
grace.
Pull us closer toward you. Remind us of the mountaintop moments of our faith. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

...So rest in this good news:
regardless of how loudly you live your faith—you belong to God.
You are loved. You are claimed. You are forgiven.
Speak *that* good news with confidence.
Amen.

Hymn

How Great Thou Art

ELW 856

Prayer for Illumination

...Still our busy minds so that we might truly comprehend what you have to say to us today.
With joy and hope we pray,
Amen.

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

First Reading: Psalm 19

After the reading: This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Before the reading: The holy gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

After the reading: The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Pastor Mike Opfermann

Hymn of the Day

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty

ELW 858

Affirmation of Faith

Jesus asked the disciples, "But what about you? Who do you say that I am?"

Church, what do you say?

**Jesus is a hand reaching out in the storm,
the voice of truth spoken over us,
and love without walls.**

**Jesus is justice for the weary,
healing for the hurt,
and welcome for the stranger.**

**Jesus is teacher, Messiah, and friend—
with me on the mountain
and beside me in the valley.**

**Jesus is a star in the night,
and the love that knows my name.**

Jesus asked, "Who do you say that I am?"


Like Peter, we say,

"Jesus, you are the Messiah, son of the Living God."

Prayers of the People

Trusting in our God who creates, redeems, and sustains all of creation, we pray for the church, our world, and all those in need.

We sing:



The image shows three staves of musical notation in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of the hymn: "To you all hearts are o - pen, to". The second staff continues the melody: "you all de - sires known. To you there are no". The third staff concludes the hymn: "se - crets, al - might - y God; we come to you." It features a triplet of eighth notes and a "Last time" marking above the final measure.

Each petition concludes: We open our hearts to you, O God. **Hear our prayer.**

We sing "To You All Hearts Are Open" again before the prayers conclude.

Accompany us as we journey and receive these prayers of our hearts through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

At this time, we share God's peace with our neighbors. Congregation is then seated for the offering.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

The Table is prepared as offering and worship record cards are collected and brought forward.

Offering Prayer

Loving God,
Our journey in faith is one that ebbs and flows,
seeks and wanders,
yet you have drawn us to this table.
As Christ welcomes Peter who drops his nets to follow,
receive these, the offerings of our hearts,
and prepare us to meet at this table,
your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.
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.

Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

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.

Invitation to Communion

Bread for the journey.
A feast for hungry hearts. Come!
Thanks be to God.

Communion

All are welcome to Christ's table!

In this meal, we meet Jesus and the expansive life He brings. An usher will invite you forward to the communion rail. You may kneel or stand as you are able. You will receive a wafer from Pastor and an individual cup of red wine or white grape juice. You may then drop your cup in the basket, stand, and return to your seat via the side aisle. If you would like to receive communion from Pastor, but are unable to come up front, please let an usher know and Pastor will come to you.

Where is the chalice and homemade bread? Lent is a season of longing for and returning to Jesus. We have simplified the elements and chosen to kneel before the cross. The common cup and fresh bread will return, like the "Alleluia," on Easter Sunday.

Communion Songs

*I Received the Living God
Praise, Praise! You Are My Rock*

**ELW 477
ELW 862**

Prayer after Communion

Generous God,
In this meal, we have met your beloved Son.
In this meal, we have feasted upon your grace.
In this meal, your love for imperfect people has been made known.
Send us forth to share this love and grace with all those we encounter.
In the name of Jesus, we pray.
Amen.

Sending

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Sending of Communion

Announcements

Sending Hymn

Blessed Assurance

ELW 638

Benediction

Beloved wanderer,
as you leave this place,
may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.
May you look for God in every face.
May you find the courage to get out of the boat,
to run to the tomb,
and to speak of your faith.
And when the world falls apart,
may you hear God's voice deep within,
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."
You are called.
You are blessed.
In both your ups and your downs,
you always belong to God.
Go now in peace.
Go trusting that good news.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

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Next Sunday

"I'm fixed upon it"

Coffee Bar & Reflection on Art | 8:45am

Worship | 9:30am

Coffee with Luther (Fellowship) | 10:30am



Serving in Worship



**Midweek Study and Devotion
Wednesdays at 10am**

Continuing through March 20, 2024

**Lenten Midweek
Soup Supper & Worship**

Wednesday Evenings

6:00pm: Soup

7:00pm: Worship



Available at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex:

**Daily Devotion Cards
&
40 Days of Giving Bags**

St. Patrick's Day
Reuben sale/lunch
Sunday, March 17th

to benefit Pilgrim's youth attending the
ELCA Youth Gathering in New Orleans

PRE-ORDER PLEASE

Order forms are on the welcome table in the narthex. Please fill out
and return to the Carlsons' mailbox by **March 10th**.

Payment can be accepted at time of order or on March 17th.
(Cash or Check—payable to Pilgrim Lutheran)

**Freshly-grilled-on-site Reuben sandwich (with cheese, sauerkraut, and a
side of homemade dressing), kettle chips, and a drink—\$12.50**
(*special requests possible on order form)

Orders can be for lunch served at Pilgrim or for take-out
10:45-11:15am

Serving in Worship

	This Morning 9:30am	Next Sunday March 10
Musician:	Cindy Rogers	Michelle Carlson
Worship Assistant:	Mark White	Rick Carlson
Worship Coordinator:	Rick Carlson	Everette Yaek
Usher:	Tom Roehl	Peggy Yaek
Acolyte:	Ava DeShon	Jacob Smith
Greeter:	Geof Kusch	Dennis Smith
Coffee Bar Attendant:	Jenifer Kusch	Fred & Jean Russell
Coffee With Luther Host:	Carol Griffin	Fred & Jean Russell
Altar Guild:	Tammy Bakko	Gale Smith
	Judy M. & Barb H.	-----
Offering Tellers:	Fred Russell	Tammy Bakko
	Jean Russell	Ann Herrick
	This Wednesday March 6	Next Wednesday March 13
Soup Supper Coordinator:	Doreen Vernier	Doreen Vernier
Musician:	Michelle Carlson	Michelle Carlson
Worship Coordinator:	Sue Winzeler	Bill Kauffman



The Beacon: Pilgrim's Weekly E-news

Stay up to date on all things Pilgrim with our Thursday newsletter!



Scan for this week's news



Scan to subscribe to our emails



Altar Flowers

We do not decorate the sanctuary with flowers throughout the season of Lent. You can sign up to purchase flowers for Easter Sunday on the bulletin board in the hallway.

Flowers cost \$10- \$23 and may be given in memory or honor of someone or an important life moment.

Stay Connected

www.pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org

facebook.com/plcmarysville

Pastor Mike: plcpastor@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org

Michelle, Dir. of Music: plcmusic@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org

Sheri, Office Manager: plcoffice@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org

WIFI: PILGRIM Password: YouAreLoved

Sunday's Texts

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 & Matthew 16:21-23



Who Do You Say That I Am?

by Lauren Wright Pittman
Inspired by Matthew 16:13-20
Digital painting