



Wandering Heart

"Teach me"

Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 17, 2024





***“Teach Me”* | The Fifth Sunday in Lent**

Open book: Peter’s posture toward Jesus is that of an open book. He is eager to learn from Jesus all he can glean. In this week’s text, he wants to know all about the nature of forgiveness and grace.

Introduction

Peter is often all or nothing, either resisting Jesus or drawing closer to him in earnest. In this scripture, we see a version of Peter who is hungry to learn. His posture is humble and open—he wants to absorb Jesus’ teachings like a wet sponge. He asks a question and might expect a straightforward answer: “How many times should I forgive?” Instead, Jesus’ math is not predictable—it’s infinite. Forgiveness is abundant; grace is not earned. In your own faith, do you find comfort in theological formulas? Do you wish for straightforward answers? Can you let go of black-and-white thinking and instead embrace the infinite colors of grace?

Teach me

A poem by Sarah (Are) Speed

Teach me about the ways of the wind,
about the ways of the world,
about the ways of the heart.
Teach me about the soft crook of my lover’s arm,
and the way two souls can hold each other close.
Teach me about forgiveness, about the language of *I’m sorry*
and the softness of sincerity.
Teach me about abundance, about *seventy-times-seven*
and *all the days of my life*.
Teach me about joy, about its contagious weaving
and its soul-healing.
Teach me about mercy, about open hands and deep breaths.
Teach me about the dawn of time and the stars in the sky.
Teach me what matters most.
Teach me what is mine to do.
Teach this achingly curious heart
until I run out of questions
or I run out of days.
Teach me some melodious sonnet,
and I will have a life well-lived.

ELW = red hymnal

ACS = purple hymnal

Gathering

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

Prelude

Welcome

Tuning Our Hearts: Come Thou Fount

Bell Choir - "Come, Thou Fount" arr. Larry Sue

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":

Two text versions include the lyrics "teach me" - both are included here

Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing,
tune my heart to sing thy grace;
streams of mercy, never ceasing,
call for songs of loudest praise.
While the hope of endless glory
fills my heart with joy and love,
teach me ever to adore thee;
may I still thy goodness prove.

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!

Call to Worship

Why are you here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.

I see it! You're in the right place!

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Why are *you* here?

I am seeking God with my whole heart,
with my entire mind,
with a fire burning in my bones.

We see that in you! You're in the right place.

This is God's house. The door is open to you.

Let us worship God.

Let us learn from the Spirit. Amen!

Return to You: Wandering Heart Theme Song

Alison Jackson, 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 notation is written on a single staff in treble clef with a key signature of two flats (Bb and Eb) and a 6/8 time signature. The melody consists of eighth and quarter notes, with some phrases marked with slurs. The lyrics are written below the staff, with measure numbers 1 through 13 indicated above the notes.

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

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

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

14 do than re - turn to you, 15 16 17 there's no - thing I'd ra - ther do. 18 The

19 storm may rise, 20 the trum - pet sound, 21 the cur - tain tear, and 22 e - ven now, re -

23 turn to you, 24 there's no - thing I'd ra - ther

27 do 28 than re - turn to 29 30 you.

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,

We long to be lifelong learners.

We long to approach you with curiosity and an open mind.

Instead, we often live as if we know best.

We forget that the disciples called you "Rabbi, Teacher."

Forgive us for the times when we fail to be curious.

Forgive us for the times when we assume we know best.

Forgive us for the moments when we imagine that our learning is done and that we have all the answers.

Like Peter—who was brave enough to ask, "How many times should we forgive?"—make us brave. Spark a desire in us to learn, and may our curiosity carry our faith into deeper waters. With hope and humility we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

...So hear and rest in this good news:

You are forgiven.

You are loved.

You are invited to serve.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Hymn

As We Gather at Your Table

ELW 522

Prayer for Illumination

...God, we want to learn your ways.

Meet us here.

Speak your truth.

Help us listen.

Amen.

Word

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

First Reading: Psalm 119:9-16

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

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-22

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

Ask the Complicated Questions

ACS 1005

Affirmation of Faith

We believe that questions are a building block of faith.

"How many times should I forgive?"

"Jesus, where are you going?"

"What must I do to inherit eternal life?"

We believe that humble curiosity can open our eyes.

"Where does it hurt?"

"What do you need?"

"How can I help?"

We believe that God is a teacher.

"Speak, Lord, your servant is listening."

"Here I am."

"Send me."

We believe that faith invites our whole being to engage,

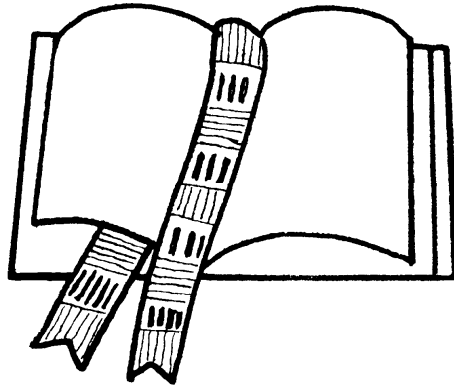
with all our heart,

with all our mind,

with all our strength.

We believe. Help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray, Amen.



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 includes a triplet of eighth notes and a "Last time" instruction 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

*We Eat the Bread of Teaching
Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*

**ELW 518
ELW 712**

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.

Announcements

Sending Hymn

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

ELW 818

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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Wandering Heart texts, poetry and artwork from A Sanctified Art LLC





Next Sunday
Palm/Passion Sunday
"Songs of loudest praise"

Coffee Bar & Reflection on Art | 8:45am

Worship | 9:30am

Coffee with Luther (Fellowship) | 10:30am





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

Concluding this Wednesday

**Lenten Midweek
Soup Supper & Worship**

Wednesday Evenings

6:00pm: Soup

7:00pm: Worship



Available at the Welcome Desk in the Narthex:

40 Days of Giving Bags

Serving in Worship

	This Morning 9:30am	Next Sunday-Palm/Passion Sunday March 24
Musician:	Cindy Rogers	Michelle Carlson
Worship Assistant:	Michelle Carlson	Geof Kusch
Worship Coordinator:	Fred Russell	Nadine LaGruth
Usher:	Robie Clearwood	Sue Winzeler
Acolyte:	Luke Metdepenningen	Keagan Mischka
Reader:	-----	Many Voices
Greeter:	Pam Clearwood	Tom & Sandy Roehl
Coffee Bar Attendant:	Karen McCormick	Rick Carlson
Coffee With Luther Host:	ELCA Gathering Reuben Sale/Lunch	Doug & Doreen Vernier
Altar Guild:	Nancy Bond	Sherry Russell
Offering Tellers:	Angie Tucker Jeff Tucker	Peggi Starkey Nadine LaGruth

	This Wednesday March 20
Soup Supper Coordinator:	Doreen Vernier
Musician:	Michelle Carlson
Worship Coordinator:	Jim Thornhill



The Beacon: Pilgrim's Weekly E-news

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Altar Flowers

Today is the final day to order flowers to decorate the sanctuary on Easter. You can sign up to purchase flowers 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

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Pastor Mike: plcpastor@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org
Michelle, Dir. of Music: plcmusic@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org
Sheri, Office Manager: plcoffice@pilgrimchurchofmarysville.org

WIFI: PILGRIM Password: YouAreLoved

Next Sunday's Texts

John 12:12-16 & The Passion



Seventy-seven Times

by Lauren Wright Pittman

Inspired by Matthew 18:15-22

Digital painting