

LARGE PRINT

Worship Celebration

Second Sunday in Lent

February 25, 2024 + 9 AM

We Gather as God's Children

Words of Welcome

Opportunities for Ministry

Prelude - *Lobe Den Herren "Praise to the Lord"* Johann Gottfried Walther

+ Call to Worship

Lenten travelers, who is this Jesus that we follow?

He is the Messiah.

What kind of Messiah is Jesus?

He is the Messiah who teaches that he will lose his life

and who calls us to lose our lives in order to save our lives.

How does it feel to follow a Messiah

whose teachings and call are so hard and uncomfortable?

Some feel fear and anger,

while others feel uncertain and anxious,

and still others feel resolute and ready to follow.

Lenten travelers, we are not alone in our feelings

about following Jesus as our Messiah.

It is a hard road. The blessing is that we do not travel it alone.

Thanks be to God

that we share this journey with Jesus and one another

as we lose our lives for the sake of the gospel

to save our lives through Jesus, our Messiah. Amen.

*Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Used with permission of Discipleship Ministries, www.umcdiscipleship.org,
September 2023.*

+ Hymn

Take Up Thy Cross

UMH 415

Prayers of the People (Seeking & Offering Peace)

Music of Meditation & Reflection - *It Is Well With My Soul*

Philip P. Bliss, arr. Josh Kraybill

The Lord's Prayer

We Grow in God's Word

Leader: With disciples of every time and place,
let us listen for the word of God among us.

People: *Our ears and hearts are open.*

First Lesson - Colossians 3.12-17 (NRSVUE)

¹²Therefore, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. ¹³Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. ¹⁴Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. ¹⁵And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. ¹⁶Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. ¹⁷And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Second Lesson - Mark 8.31-38 (NRSVUE)

³¹Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes and be killed and after three days rise again. ³²He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. ³³But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things."

³⁴ He called the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "If any wish to come after me, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. ³⁵ For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. ³⁶ For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? ³⁷ Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? ³⁸ Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

The word of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon - *Grace for Others: Using our Senses*

Rev. Carrie Antczak

Pastor Carrie is mentioning two organizations today: Margie's Hope/ Margie's Closet (more information at margieshope.org) and Deep Time Coffee (more information at <https://www.deeptimeavl.org>).

Feel encouraged to learn more about both of these gracious groups.

+ **Hymn**

Hope of the World

UMH 178

Invitation to Give Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory Choir Anthem - *God is Our Refuge*

Jay Johnson, Allen Pote

+ **Doxology**

(to the tune of Amazing Grace, UMH 378)

***Praise God our Maker, Christ the Son,
who came to walk this earth.
Through joy and pain he knows our life,
with Spirit, gives new birth.***

Public Domain

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Commitment

God of Boundless Goodness:

**We have come to this place this day
to worship you with our songs, with our words,
with our gifts, and with our whole hearts.**

We are reminded that our discipleship decision involves more than what we bring this day to the altar; it calls us to a place where a cross that is ours alone must be picked up and carried. This, more than anything else, is why we need the community of your church. Strengthen us, we pray, not just to carry our own cross, but to help sisters and brothers carry their crosses as well. In the name of the one who bore his cross for us. Amen.

Used with permission of Discipleship Ministries, www.umcdiscipleship.org

We Go Out to Serve in God's Name

+ Hymn

Come, Holy Ghost, Our Hearts Inspire

UMH 651

+ Benediction

Beloved, go from this place in the love and power of the Triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit—to meet your neighbors and yourself with an open heart as we take up our cross and follow Jesus for the sake of the gospel.

Amen.

Written by Dr. Lisa Hancock, Used with permission of Discipleship Ministries, www.umcdiscipleship.org, September 2023.

Postlude - Surely He Hath Borne Our Grievs from "Messiah"

George Frideric Handel, arr. Josh Kraybill

***Our service of worship is ended.
Our worship through service now begins.***