

Jesus said, "Whoever serves me must follow me.
Where I am, there will my servant be also."

Let us worship God and serve in the name of Jesus Christ.

* Hymn 186 (PH) "Thy Mercy and Thy Truth, O Lord"
Ushers will collect prayer request cards from the center aisle.

* Call to Confession

* Prayer of Confession

**Holy God, hear your children as we confess our sin.
You offer us the security of your love, but we seek other comforts.
You encourage us to love deeply, but we flinch from the challenge.
You seek our complete obedience,
but we stray again and again from your rule.
Forgive us, God, we humbly pray.
Write your law on our hearts, and fill us with your Holy Spirit,
that we might live in righteousness
and glorify you in all we do, through Jesus Christ our Savior.**

* Silent Confession

* Kyrie **Kyrie eleison. Kyrie eleison.**

* Assurance of Pardon

* Passing of the Peace

PROCLAIM GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:31-34 (OT, p. 735)

A Time with Children

11:15 - Children through grade 4 are invited to Children's Worship in Room 110.

Anthem "How Lovely is Thy Dwelling Place" Mary Lynn Lightfoot

Second Lesson: Mark 9:14-29 (NT, p. 44)

Sermon: "Only Through Prayer" Rev. Carter

Lenten Series: Deliver Us from Evil

RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

* Hymn 403 (PH) "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

Affirmation of Faith: **Journey Toward Easter**

We gather this day in Lent to celebrate the coming of Jesus Christ
not only as he approaches Jerusalem
but as he enters each of our hearts.

**Each of us has an empty spot where pain reminds us of our loss
an empty spot that needs to be filled
but we don't know how, or with what, or how long it will take,
and it hurts.**

We travel toward Easter this year
with a new awareness of our need for comfort, strength, and hope.
**God has given us each other. God has given us Jesus Christ.
God has given us hope. Yet in some ways, the peace that passes
our understanding eludes us.**

We wonder. We cry. We are angry. We try to forget. We isolate ourselves.
And we wonder some more. How can this be?
**Even as we seek answers, we learn to live
with the questions in new ways.**

We feel some guilt,
thinking that words we said or things we did could have been different
or things we didn't do, we could have done
or words that were not spoken could now be said. But they can't.

**In the midst of all our grief comes the season of Lent,
and Holy Week, and then Good Friday.
How could anyone call it good?**

...until Easter comes and wipes away the tears and creates
hope from memories, and light from darkness, and life from death.

**For us, Easter this year is not so much
about the resurrection of our Lord
as it is about the promise he gives:
that those we love, though they died, now live.**

We gather together to share our loss,
to care for each other, and to claim the promises of faith.
**Because God's love is stronger than death
we can entrust our loved ones to God's care,**

***knowing God will also comfort us
and give us strength to keep living and loving.***

All: ***Christ lives in us and loves us from the cross
from the empty tomb forever.***

Jeremiah 31:31-34

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

Mark 9:14-29

When they came to the disciples, they saw a great crowd around them, and some scribes arguing with them. When the whole crowd saw him, they were immediately overcome with awe, and they ran forward to greet him. He asked them, “What are you arguing about with them?” Someone from the crowd answered him, “Teacher, I brought you my son; he has a spirit that makes him unable to speak; and whenever it seizes him, it dashes him down; and he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid; and I asked your disciples to cast it out, but they could not do so.” He answered them, “You faithless generation, how much longer must I be among you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him to me.” And they brought the boy to him. When the spirit saw him, immediately it convulsed the boy, and he fell on the ground and rolled about, foaming at the mouth. Jesus asked the father, “How long has this been happening to him?” And he said, “From childhood. It has often cast him into the fire and into the water, to destroy him; but if you are able to do anything, have pity on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you are able! —All things can be done for the one who believes.” Immediately the father of the child cried out, “I believe; help my unbelief!” When Jesus saw that a crowd came running together, he rebuked the unclean spirit, saying to it, “You spirit that keeps this boy from speaking and hearing, I command you, come out of him, and never enter him again!” After crying out and convulsing him terribly, it came out, and the boy was like a corpse, so that most of them said, “He is dead.” But Jesus took him by the hand and lifted him up, and he was able to stand. When he had entered the house, his

disciples asked him privately, “Why could we not cast it out?” He said to them, “This kind can come out only through prayer.”