

Fifth Sunday In Lent, March 26, 2023

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

3228 SW Sunset Blvd, Portland, Oregon

<https://zoom.us/j/738059997> or <http://www.facebook.com/standrewspdx/live>



## GATHERING

### Prelude

### Welcome

### Time to Center

### Call to Worship

We come, for God gathers us here,  
with that community called faith:  
***where the hungry are served first,  
where the thirsty drink life's water.***

We come, for God welcomes us here  
into that home called grace:  
***where the naked are clothed in robes of hope;  
where the stranger is embraced as the long-lost prodigal.***

We come, for God reunites us here,  
sisters and brothers in that family called love:  
***where the imprisoned model justice,  
where the sick are cradled in God's peace.***

\* **Opening Hymn**     *I The Lord of Sea and Sky (Here, I Am Lord)*  
Glory to God #69

### Call to Confession

They are the promises stretching back into the dim recesses of time,  
yet as new as this very moment.  
When we lose our way, God searches for us until we are found.  
When we hurt others, God brings healing to all. When we sin, God forgives us.  
Let us hold these promises close to our hearts,  
as we confess those things we try to hide.

**Unison Prayer of Confession**

*We stock the food pantries,  
but brush aside those  
who hunger for friendship.  
We give our hand-me-downs away,  
but overlook those whose hopes  
have been stripped away.  
We glad-hand those just like us,  
but turn a deaf ear to  
our neighbors who 'talk funny.'*

*Forgive us, Hope of the ages.  
You persistently search for us in the side streets of the world,  
gathering us up and bringing us home,  
so we may be drenched in the waters  
of your bottomless pool of forgiveness,  
watched over by your Child, Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.*

*Silence is kept*

**Assurance of Pardon**

God searches for the lost,  
**and finds us;**  
God invites the hungry to the table,  
**and feeds us;**  
God sends Jesus,  
**and frees us from death's prison;**  
God forgives all who sin,  
**and heals us with mercy and grace.**  
**Thanks be to God. Amen**

**\*Sung Response of Praise** *Amazing Grace (v. 1 only)* Glory to God #649

**\*Passing the Peace**

... The Peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

**THE WORD**

**Sung Prayer of Illumination** *Lord Prepare Me* Glory to God #701

**A Reading from the Book of Psalms** *Psalms 98:7-9*

**Readers' Theater from the Gospel of Matthew** *Matthew 25:31-46*

Narrator: ...Then those who are righteous will reply to him,  
 Sheep (Right side of congregation):  
*Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you a drink? When did we see you as a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothes to wear? When did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?*

Narrator: ...Then they will reply,  
 Goats (Left Side of Congregation):  
*Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't do anything to help you?'*

**Sermon**

**RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD**

**Silent Reflection on the Word Preached**

**Hymn**     *Like a Mother Who Has Borne Us*             Glory to God #44

**Worshipping God with our Tithes and Offerings**

**Invitation to Generosity**

**Offertory Anthem**

**\*Doxology**     *Praise to Our Creator Unceasing*  
 (tune, Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence)

*Praise to our Creator Unceasing  
 Source of all on land, sea, and sky  
 Praise to Christ Eternal Wisdom  
 Praise the Spirit, Holy Fire  
 Let our voices rise to praise Thee  
 Everlasting Love Divine*

**\*Prayer of Dedication**

***May these gifts be used to feed the hungry and clothe the naked,  
 to bring medicine to the sick  
 and provide a hospice bed for the dying,  
 to offer hope to those who thirst for it in their lives  
 and to bring friendship to those who sit in jail cells.  
 May these gifts bring your kingdom  
 to everyone who longs for its presence  
 in every circumstance, we pray. Amen.***

**Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer**

**\*Hymn**    *Send Me, Jesus*

**SENDING**

Glory to God #746

**Our Ministry in Christ**

**Charge and Benediction**

**And All God's People Say**