

Sunday Worship - April 6, 2025
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

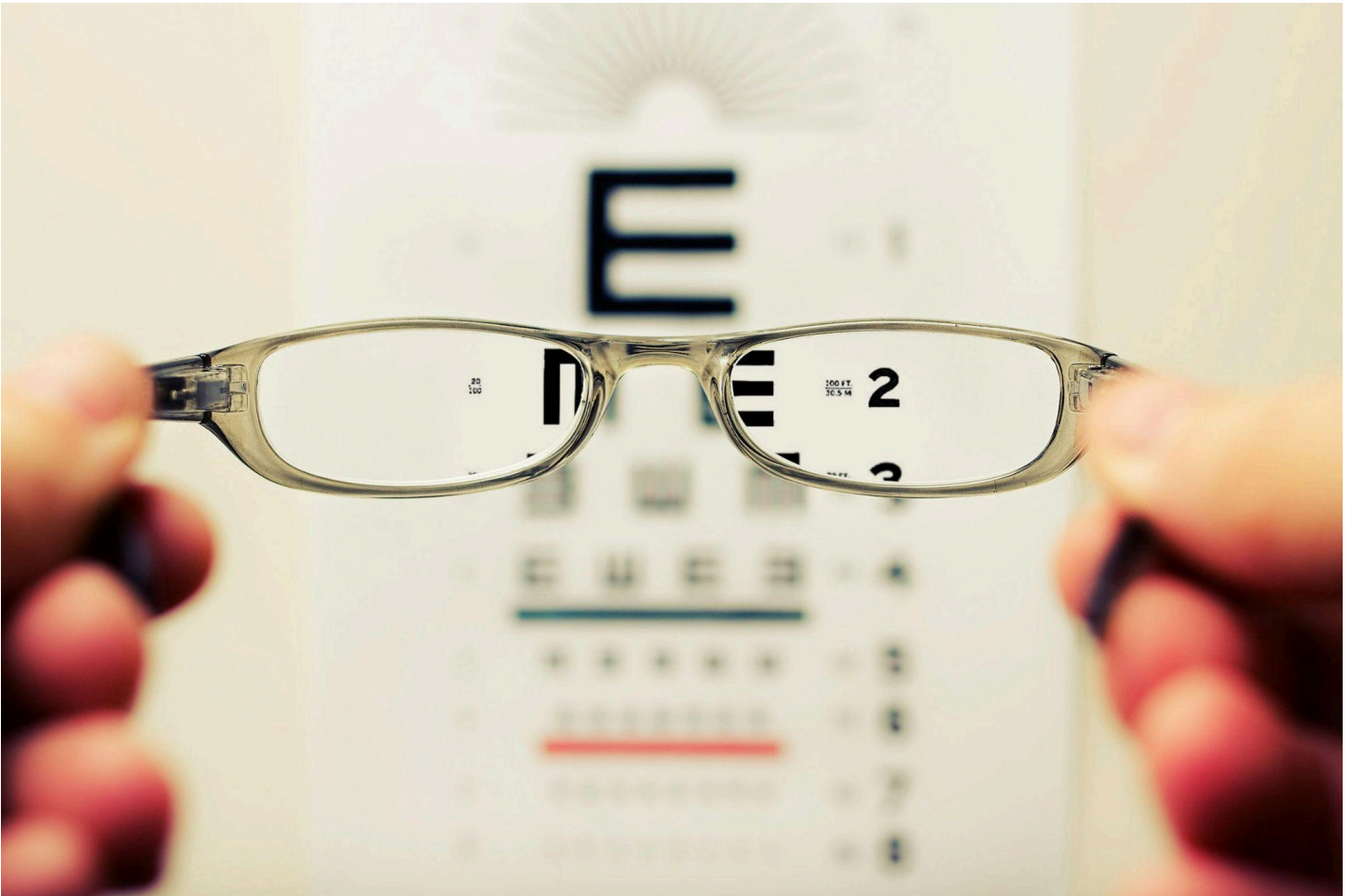


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Narrative Lectionary Year 3- The Gospel of Luke
Luke 18:31-19:10 - I Want to See

First Presbyterian Church of Mount Vernon, Iowa

"Striving to live as Jesus lived -confronting injustice with love, compassion, service."

Welcome to Worship

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE HOUR

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Leader: The Lord be with you.

All: And also with you.

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: Along the way on this journey:

All: Praise God for insight and clarity!

Leader: When the view is blocked:

All: Praise God for revealing good news!

Leader: In the midst of the crowds or off out of sight:

All: Praise God for restoring community! (© Teri Peterson)

*OPENING PRAYER

Leader: Let us pray...

Glory and honor and praise are yours, Living God!

We long to see you, we stand on tiptoe and shout our praise and prayer,
we hope you can sense our excitement and our faith.

What will you do today, Holy One?

We want to be close, to be a part of whatever it is, wherever you are.

Come among us and give us a glimpse of your grace.

Amen. (© Teri Peterson)

SONG Come, Let Us Worship God

Ray Makeever

Leader: Come, let us worship God. **ALL: Come, let us worship God.**

Leader: Come, let us worship God. **ALL: Come, let us worship God.**

Leader: Welcome everyone **ALL: Welcome everyone**

Leader: to the love of God. **ALL: to the love of God.**

Additional verses: Rest for the weary...

Food for the hungry...

Hope for the children...

*PRAYER OF RECONCILIATION

Leader: Who can understand the heart? Only God.

Let us confess the ways we have turned from the One who knows us and saves us.

ALL: Have mercy on us, O God. When it's all too much to bear, when we cannot hear the words, we cannot take in the enormity, have mercy on us. When we try to protect you from our neighbors in need, when we try to protect you from questions or different ideas, when we try to protect you from those we think of as sinners, have mercy on us, O God. When we assume the worst of others, and when we are upset that others assume the worst of us, have mercy on us, O God. When we care more about appearances than reality, when we overlook those who do not fit our boxes and categories, when we push people to the periphery so we don't have to be in community with "them," have mercy on us, O God. When we are too unsure about your presence, promise, or power, and so we cling instead to rules and keep our voices quiet except to grumble, have mercy on us, O God.

Time of Silence

Amen. (© Teri Peterson, adapted)

*WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Wherever you find yourself today,

Jesus sees you and calls you to him.

Trust in his good news: today salvation has come to this house.

ALL: Thanks be to God! Amen. (© Teri Peterson)

RESPONSE Day by Day

Day by day, day by day

Oh, dear Lord, three things I pray

To see thee more clearly

Love thee more dearly

Follow thee more nearly, day by day (by day by day by day)

*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

DISCOVERY TIME

SCRIPTURE READING

Leader: In the beginning was the Word.

All: And the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

Leader: And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us.

Luke 18:31-19:10 (CEB) - Three Stories About Seeing

Reader 1: ³¹ Jesus took the Twelve aside and said, “Look, we’re going up to Jerusalem, and everything written about the Human One by the prophets will be accomplished. ³² He will be handed over to the Gentiles. He will be ridiculed, mistreated, and spit on. ³³ After torturing him, they will kill him. On the third day, he will rise up.” ³⁴ But the Twelve understood none of these words. The meaning of this message was hidden from them and they didn’t grasp what he was saying.

Reader 2: ³⁵ As Jesus came to Jericho, a certain blind man was sitting beside the road begging. ³⁶ When the man heard the crowd passing by, he asked what was happening. ³⁷ They told him, “Jesus the Nazarene is passing by.”

³⁸ The blind man shouted, “Jesus, Son of David, show me mercy.” ³⁹ Those leading the procession scolded him, telling him to be quiet, but he shouted even louder, “Son of David, show me mercy.”

Reader 1: ⁴⁰ Jesus stopped and called for the man to be brought to him. When he was present Jesus asked, ⁴¹ “What do you want me to do for you?”

He said, “Lord, I want to see.”

⁴² Jesus said to him, “Receive your sight! Your faith has healed you.” ⁴³ At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus, praising God. When all the people saw it, they praised God too.

Reader 2: **19** Jesus entered Jericho and was passing through town. ² A man there named Zacchaeus, a ruler among tax collectors, was rich. ³ He was trying to see who Jesus was, but, being a short man, he couldn’t because of the crowd. ⁴ So he ran ahead and climbed up a sycamore tree so he could see Jesus, who was about to pass that way. ⁵ When Jesus came to that spot, he looked up and said, “Zacchaeus, come down at once. I must stay in your home today.” ⁶ So Zacchaeus came down at once, happy to welcome Jesus.

Reader 1: ⁷ Everyone who saw this grumbled, saying, “He has gone to be the guest of a sinner.”

⁸ Zacchaeus stopped and said to the Lord, “Look, Lord, I give half of my possessions to the poor. And if I have cheated anyone, I repay them four times as much.”

Reader 2: ⁹ Jesus said to him, “Today, salvation has come to this household because he too is a son of Abraham. ¹⁰ The Human One came to seek and save the lost.”

Leader: For the Word of God in scripture, for the Word of God among us,
for the Word of God within us,

ALL: Thanks be to God.

REFLECTION

HYMN Bread for the Journey

Bret Hesla

Give us bread for the journey. Give us bread.
Give us bread for the journey. Give us bread.
When our legs are getting heavy
And we're hanging down our heads,
Give us bread for the journey. Give us bread.

Make us one with each other. Make us one.
Make us one with each other. Make us one.
All the walls we've built around us
May we learn to tear them down.
Make us one with each other. Make us one.

Guide our way as we travel. Guide our way.
Guide our way as we travel. Guide our way.
With so many roads before us,
where to go is hard to say.
Guide our way as we travel. Guide our way.

Give us bread for the journey. Give us bread.
Give us bread for the journey. Give us bread.
When our legs are getting heavy
And we're hanging down our heads,
Give us bread for the journey. Give us bread

WE OFFER OURSELVES AND OUR GIFTS

Leader: Everything we have is a gift from God, and our offerings are a way of acknowledging God as the giver. Whatever and whenever we give is a vital part of our response to God and helps us connect our love for God with our life of discipleship. Let us pray:

**ALL: May we commit ourselves, Lord God, once again looking ahead to this week:
to find ways to serve, to find ways to give,
to find ways to use our abilities in bringing about change for justice and peace,
to find ways to use our whole selves in bringing about your Kingdom. Amen.**

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER *(from A Wee Worship Book, Fifth Incarnation)*

INVITATION

Gathered round a table is where Jesus so often met people...

...gathered round the table of Matthew,
the table of Zacchaeus,
the table of Simon,
the table of Peter,
the table of Martha and Mary,
the tables of Joanna and Susannah...

...gathered round a table where he could see people face to face,
listen to their stories, share their laughter.

And here, we are gathered round a table
Because this is where Jesus has promised to be
for those who want to meet him.

So accept his invitation and feel his welcome at this table.
Jesus Christ, who here offers us a foretaste of eternal life,
invites you to be his guests.

THE GREAT PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

ALL: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

ALL: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

ALL: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise
for the life you lived among us,
speaking our language,
learning our ways,
sitting at our tables,
listening to our complaints
and never giving up on us.

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise
for never compromising the truth by which you lived,
for refusing to be swayed by popular opinion,
for identifying the seductions of power,
for confronting institutionalized prejudice
and never selling your soul.

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise
for loving the unlovable,
forgiving the unforgivable,
recognizing the gold beneath the dross,
the potential beneath the pain,
and never taking an easier path.

Yes, it is right to give you thanks and praise,
for in the face of our small-mindedness
you, Jesus, have shown us God and God's kingdom
in fascinating beauty and converting power.

So we gladly celebrate your life,
as in concert with the church in heaven and earth
we join the song of your unending praise:

ALL: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Oh, Holy Jesus, it is not by virtue that we are here,
but by your gracious invitation.
It is not to continue an ancient tradition
but to be nourished by our living Lord.
God our Maker,
as you gave your people water from a rock in the desert
and fed them with bread in the wilderness,
let your Holy Spirit fill this bread and this cup
with the fullness of Jesus
so that we, in stretching out our hands,
receive, through faith, food for our souls.
In the intimacy of this sacrament,
as heaven and earth become one,
enable us to know you more deeply,
and resolve to love, honor and serve you more faithfully
in this world, until your kingdom comes.
Amen.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Among friends, gathered round a table,
Jesus took bread, and broke it, and said,
“This is my body, broken for you.”

Later he took a cup of wine and said,
“This is the new relationship with God
made possible because of my death.
Take it, all of you, to remember me.”

All you who hunger and thirst
for a better life,
a deeper faith,
a better world,
here is the bread of life:
feed on it with gratitude;
here is the cup of salvation:
drink from it and believe.
The gifts of God for the people of God.

DISTRIBUTION OF THE ELEMENTS

Gluten, allergen free cracker and individual cups of juice are available

Hymn #507 Come to the Table of Grace (verses 1-5, repeated as needed)

1. Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace.
This is God's table; it's not yours or mine. Come to the table of grace.
2. Come to the table of **peace**...
3. Come to the table of **love**...
4. Come to the table of **hope**...
5. Come to the table of **joy**...

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Go now, you have been fed,
you have shared the living bread;
you have been grafted to the vine,
you have tasted heaven's new wine.
Go now, you have been blessed.
Jesus calls you each his guest.
God knows your name and says you're wanted
and in your lives God's seed is planted.
Go now, and go in Christ's own peace
and in your going do not cease
to love yourself—you are God's treasure,
and love the world—it is God's pleasure,
and love the Lord in greatest measure.

Amen.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION by the Sunday School

*POSTLUDE

Thank you to the following people for helping with our service this morning:

Pat Hogan, Music

Larry Petrick, Liturgist

Scott Larson and Gerald Gerber, AV

Penny Gerber, Coffee Hour

First Pres Mount Vernon Staff:

Lori Wunder, Pastor

Cristina Galán, Office Manager

Nona Hutchinson, Treasurer

Jeff Bray, Custodian