FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 30, 2025
11:00 AM

As a courtesy to others, please silence your phone.

GATHERING AROUND THE WORD

RINGING OF THE BELLS

LIFE OF THE CHURCH Rev. Dr. Timothy T. Boggess

PRELUDE *Holy, Holy, Holy* arr. Frank Voltz, harp

adapted from Psalm 145

CALL TO WORSHIP Susan McDonald

Great is the Lord, and greatly to be praised;
God's greatness is unsearchable.
The Lord is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
The Lord is good to all,
and his compassion is over all that he has made.
God's kingdom is an everlasting kingdom,
and God's dominion endures throughout all generations.

***HYMN 310** *I Love Thy Kingdom, Lord* ST. THOMAS

I love thy kingdom, Lord,
the house of thine abode,
the church our blest Redeemer saved
with his own precious blood.

I love thy church, O God.
Her walls before thee stand,
dear as the apple of thine eye,
and graven on thy hand.

For her my tears shall fall;
for her my prayers ascend;
to her my cares and toils be given,
till toils and cares shall end.

Beyond my highest joy
I prize her heavenly ways:
her sweet communion, solemn vows,
her hymns of love and praise.

Sure as thy truth shall last,
to Zion shall be given
the brightest glories earth can yield,
and brighter bliss of heaven.

* Please rise in body or in spirit.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Living, loving Lord,
we know that we should first trust that your love for us
is behind every gift and every challenge that comes our way.
You know, better than we do, what is best for us.
Yet our instinct is not to trust but to fear you,
to hide from your judgments,
and to hoard what we might lose.
Forgive and reform us;
remake us in the image of Jesus Christ,
who is your image, and who, as your Son,
withholds nothing from you.

(a moment for silent reflection)

***ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!
Thanks be to God.

***SONG OF JOY 804** (v. 1) *Rejoice, Ye Pure in Heart* MARION

Rejoice, ye pure in heart!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!
Your festal banner wave on high,
the cross of Christ your King.

Refrain:
Rejoice! Rejoice!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing!

***PASSING OF THE PEACE**

The peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
And also with you.

PROCLAIMING THE WORD

The powerful words you are about to hear in song were discovered at the end the Second World War. They had been inscribed into a wall in the basement of the Cathedral in Cologne where Jews had found refuge from the Nazis. May these words energize our own faith when we most need it.

ANTHEM *I Believe* Mark Miller
(The Chancel Choir)

I believe in the sun even when it's not shining.
I believe in love even when I don't feel it.
I believe in God even when God is silent.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

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SCRIPTURE READING Luke 18:18-30

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

SERMON *That Question Again* Rev. Boggess

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER Susan McDonald

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our debts,
as we forgive our debtors:
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERING OUR GIFTS TO GOD

OFFERTORY *Wondrous Love / Wondrous Cross* arr. Frank Voltz, harp

***DOXOLOGY 607** *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow* OLD HUNDRETH

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore;
praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

from *A Declaration of Faith* (1977)

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH** Susan McDonald

Jesus announced the coming of God's kingdom
and its hidden presence in the midst of the world's kingdoms.
Christ calls each of us to a life appropriate to that kingdom:
to serve as he has served us;
to take up our cross,
risking the consequences of faithful discipleship;
to walk by faith, not by sight,
to hope for what we have not seen.

BEARING THE WORD INTO THE WORLD

***HYMN 363** *Rejoice, the Lord Is King!* DARWALL'S 148TH

Rejoice, the Lord is King!
Your Lord and King adore!
Rejoice, give thanks, and sing,
and triumph evermore.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Our Savior, Jesus, reigns,
the God of truth and love;
when he had purged our stains,
he took his seat above.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

His kingdom cannot fail;
he rules o'er earth and heaven;
the keys of death and hell
are to our Jesus given.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

Rejoice in glorious hope!
For Christ, the Judge, shall come
and gather all the saints
to their eternal home.
Lift up your heart; lift up your voice!
Rejoice, again I say, rejoice!

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION** Rev. Boggess

POSTLUDE Improvisation on "Simple Gifts" Steven Phillips

The postlude concludes our worship today. It's the custom of this congregation to sit and enter into this moment with gratitude and celebration.

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