

Prelude: The Cross Medley: When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, Beneath the Cross of Jesus & Jesus Paid It All arr. By Melody Bober

Welcome:

Our Good Shepherd calls us together today. No matter how shadowy the valley or uncertain the terrain, God walks with us. We will not fear. We will worship, wherever we are, however we can, united in Christ no matter our physical distance. In joy, in hope, in courage, in our living rooms, and kitchen tables, in our pajamas, with our full pot of coffee.

Call To Worship: *Jesus, Remember Me, when you come into your kingdom.*
 Jesus, Remember Me, when you come into your kingdom.

One: In the Light of God's love we journey through the dark places of life knowing we should fear no evil and will be victors in God's grace.

All: So let us worship the one who journeys with us and helps us to overcome our fears to live with strength even in our tears.

One: So much has changed as we find ourselves in this time of trial?

All: As we walk through this valley, lead us to still waters.

One: Where is our hope in the darkest of times?

All: In the love and grace of God who gives us strength.

One: How do we journey through the challenges of life?

All: With trust in the One who journeys with us.

One: In that trust let us turn our eyes on Jesus as we praise and worship God.

Jesus, Remember Me, when you come into your kingdom.
 Jesus, Remember Me, when you come into your kingdom.

Opening Song: Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

1. Jesus walked this lonesome valley, He had to walk it by Himself;
 O, nobody else could walk it for Him, He had to walk it by Himself.

2. We must walk this lonesome valley, We have to walk it by ourselves;
 O, nobody else can walk it for us, We have to walk it by ourselves.

3. You must go and stand your trial, You have to stand it by yourself,
 O, nobody else can stand it for you, You have to stand it by yourself.
 Jesus, Remember Me, when you come into your kingdom.
 Jesus, Remember Me, when you come into your kingdom.

Passing of the Peace:

Prayer of Illumination: Parent God, you have created a world that is both amazing and yet terrifying. May we be reminded that new life is coming. The dark can be scary, and isolation is a lonely place. Help us not to be scared, help us to trust in your promises, and to be held in your love so that the darkness will not overcome us. Help us to be patient and to be calm, give us courage to wait for the new life that is coming. Guide us through the dark days, steer us in the right direction and remind us that you are with us always. Speak to us today in your word. Hearing, may we respond and connect with one another. Be present and lead us forward in your hope. Amen.

Spirit of Life Family, we make plans--and we adapt. Sometimes even the best laid plans--as so many of us were planning to be somewhere else for Spring Break this week--and it slowly became

abundantly clear that this was not going to happen--as we instead find ourselves instead putting on our homeschool teacher hats instead.

My family was scheduled to be boarding a cruise right about now (Sunday morning). Part of my planning included lining up a guest preacher. This is something I put a lot of thought into--as a solo pastor--you see me, you hear me--a lot. It is good to hear other voices--and I was excited for you this time--as I asked a rock star--a favorite of mine--a master with storytelling and words...but more than this--one who weaves the story and words in speaking to the heart of our gospel.

Not only is she a rock star--but I am honored for us to welcome her here today as she is my friend--a wonderful friend working hard together on important things we care deeply about in the trenches.

Together, with her leadership and vision, we worked together on establishing what is now the Matrix shelter--the Dakota County homeless shelter. She joined together with her congregation in fighting for Gladys. She is the former pastor at Grace Lutheran Church, and along with her husband are the new ELCA Young Adults in Global Mission Country Coordinators for Nepal--as a congregation we have sponsored--as their deployment has been delayed with issues of visas and now the virus. It is my honor with thanksgiving, let us welcome our friend, Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf.

Scripture: Romans 8:35, 38-39

35Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword 38For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, 39nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Matthew 6:25-31, 33

25“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? 26Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? 28And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, 29yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. 30But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? 31Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ 33But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

John 19:25b-27

Meanwhile, standing near the cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, “Woman, here is your son.” 27Then he said to the disciple, “Here is your mother.” And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

Sermon: Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf

Response: in the bulb pg 250



1. In the bulb there is a flow - er;
in the seed, an ap - ple tree;
in co - coons, a hid - den prom - ise:
but - ter - flies will soon be free!

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In the cold and snow of win - ter
there's a spring that waits to be,
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son,
some - thing God a - lone can see.



2. There's a song in ev - ery si - lence,
seek - ing word and mel - o - dy;
there's a dawn in ev - ery dark - ness,
bring - ing hope to you and me.



From the past will come the fu - ture;
what it holds, a mys - ter - y,
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son,
some - thing God a - lone can see.



3. In our end is our be - gin - ning;
in our time, in - fin - i - ty;
in our doubt there is be - liev - ing;
in our life, e - ter - ni - ty.



In our death, a res - ur - rec - tion;
at the last, a vic - to - ry,
un - re - vealed un - til its sea - son,
some - thing God a - lone can see.

Call To Offering: Generous God and Comforting God, All that we are and all that we have belongs to you. We are not our own. Inspire us to share our gifts. To check in with one another, and if we have two coats and our neighbor has none, that we share our abundance. May we offer encouragement, kinship, and kind words to our church family by checking in with each other. Help us to get beyond all pride if we are

in need of help and help us reach out and provide. Receive our offerings as we continue to faithfully seek how to share you love and abundance with our neighbors. Amen.

Special Music: Jesus Draw Me Ever Nearer

Verse 1

Jesus draw me ever nearer, As I labor through the storm
You have called me to this passage, And I'll follow though I'm worn

Chorus

May this journey bring a blessing, May I rise on wings of faith
And at the end of my heart's testing, With Your likeness let me wake

Verse 2

Jesus guide me through the tempest, , Keep my spirit staid and sure
When the midnight meets the morning, Let me love You even more

Chorus

Verse 3

Let the treasures of the trial, Form within me as I go
And at the end of this long passage, Let me leave them at Your throne

Chorus

(CCLI Song # 3552533 | Keith Getty | Margaret Becker)

Doxology: purple hymnal #606

Prayers of the People: Almighty God, we bow before you mindful that too often we ask the wrong questions, fail to see others as you see them and respond to your healing mercy with skepticism rather than joy. Grant us clear vision, especially during this time of uncertainty, as we all are want to do our best and be faithful not knowing what lies ahead in the long shadows cast by this pandemic. We pray for the church, that we might truly be Christ's Body, tending to the most vulnerable, extending compassion to all and bearing witness to the healing love Jesus came to bring the world. We pray for our congregation, help us to draw closer together in this time of social distancing. As we recognize the gift of being in close physical proximity, we treasure every opportunity to be together by whatever means available to us. May our ministry be a blessing and a beacon of hope in our community.

We pray for our world, the needs of which seem overwhelming. Knowing that Jesus is Lord of all we remember those around the globe who suffer due to a lack of life's basic necessities. You tell us, God, not to hoard or build bigger barns, but instead to share what we have and care for the least of these. In this time of increased stress and strain, a time when those already on the edge may well be pushed into the abyss, we seek your strength and your wisdom. We offer to you the resources that you have given us to steward and trust that you will bless and multiply them so that all may be nurtured and fed. We pray for those on the frontlines of combatting this virus, healthcare workers, first responders, caregivers and leaders, grant them clear thinking, rest and the peace that passes understanding. We lift up to you now, Lord, the concerns that weigh on our minds and the deepest longings of our hearts. (Silence) We entrust them all to you, knowing you will do more than we can ever hope or imagine. Open our eyes, that we may see, believe and follow Jesus Christ, the Messiah, who taught us to say when we pray, Our Father...

Closing Song: My Lighthouse

In my wrestling and in my doubts, In my failures You won't walk out, Your great love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea, You are the peace in my troubled sea

In the silence, You won't let go, In the questions, Your truth will hold, Your great love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea, You are the peace in my troubled sea

My lighthouse, my lighthouse, Shining in the darkness. I will follow You, My lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise, You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh), Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh), Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh), Safe to shore

I won't fear what tomorrow brings, With each morning I'll rise and sing, My God's love will lead me through, You are the peace in my troubled sea, You are the peace in my troubled sea

My lighthouse, my lighthouse, Shining in the darkness, I will follow You, My lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise, You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh), Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh), Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh), Safe to shore

Fire before us, You're the brightest, You will lead us through the storms, Fire before us, You're the brightest, You will lead us through the storms, Fire before us, You're the brightest, You will lead us through the storms

My lighthouse, my lighthouse, Shining in the darkness, I will follow You, My lighthouse, my lighthouse, I will trust the promise, You will carry me safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh), Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh), Safe to shore (oh-oh-oh-oh-oh), Safe to shore

Charge and Benediction:

Postlude