

# Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith  
with Peter

*Praise the mount*

Art, reflections, &  
poetry for the  
season of Lent



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## Lenten Midweek, February 28, 2024

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# ***A LITURGY OF DOUBT AND HOPE***

Worship in a traditional order drawing on along with words of doubt and hope  
from Scripture, poets, and writers.

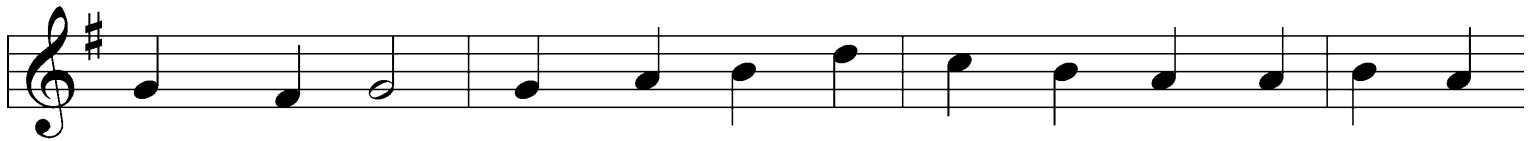
## ***Opening Hymn***

## ***Jesus, Refuge of the Weary***

LSB 423



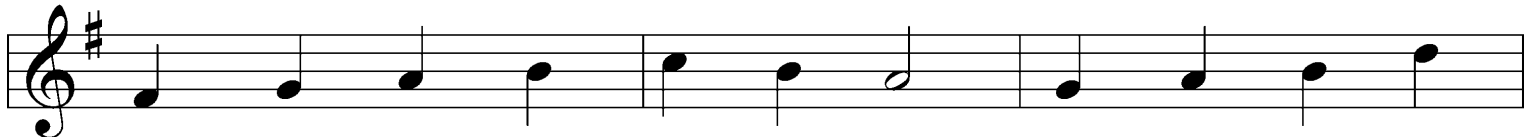
1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, Blest Re - deem - er,  
2 Do we pass that cross un - heed - ing, Breath - ing no re -  
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing With more fer - vent



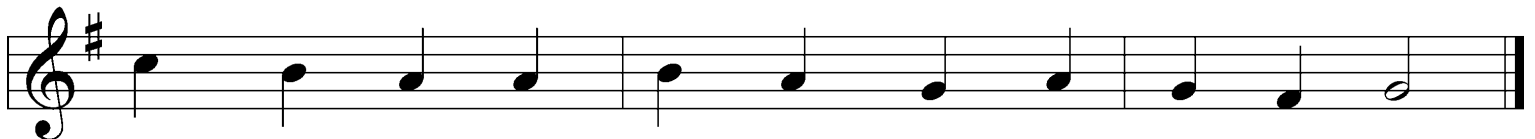
whom we love, Foun - tain in life's des - ert drea - ry, Sav - ior  
pen - tant vow, Though we see You wound - ed, bleed - ing, See Your  
love for You; May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing To be -



from the world a - bove: Of - ten have Your eyes, of - fend - ed,  
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Yet Your sin - less death has brought us  
hold Your cross a - new Till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



Gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; Yet up - on the  
Life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest; On - ly what Your  
From the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, Grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, You have borne the pain of all.  
grace has taught us Calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.  
hearts for - ev - er, Dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied.

Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452–98; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826–96, alt.  
Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, 1745, Basel

## **Invocation**

Jude 1-2, 20-22, 25

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: To those who are called, beloved in God the Father and kept for Jesus Christ:

May mercy, peace, and love be multiplied to you.

**C: To the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority,  
before all time and now and forever. Amen.**

P: We come to be built up in our most holy faith,  
building one another up through the Word of God.  
God the Father calls on us to have compassion on one another:

**C: “Have mercy on those who doubt.”**

P: God the Son calls on us to support one another  
as we wait for His mercy that leads to eternal life:

**C: Jesus is able to keep us from stumbling  
and to present us blameless before the presence of his glory  
with great joy. Amen.**



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## **Acknowledgements**

This liturgy arranged and written by the Rev. Dr. Benjamin C. Squires. © 2019.  
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“Absolution” adapted from LCMS World Relief Lenten Series, by Rev. Bernie Seter.

“Confession of Faith” by Rainsong/First Nations Version. © 2013 Rain Ministries, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

“Prayers of the Church” adapted from “Prayer [2]”, *The Collected Poems of Langston Hughes*. © 1994 Estate of L. Hughes.

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## **Confession of Sins**

Based on "Emmanuel" by Aaron Niequist

P: Can we just admit together that we're not fine?

**C: *Because I'm not fine, and you're not fine.***

P: Can we just admit together that we're afraid?

**C: *Because I'm afraid, and you're afraid.***

P: Can we just admit together that we have doubts?

**C: *Because I have doubts, and you have doubts.***

P: Can we just admit together that we're not free?

**C: *Because I'm not free, and I want to be.***

P: If you're not free, then call out to God with me:

**C: *Emmanuel,***

***God with us today,***

***We humbly call out Your Name:***

***Emmanuel,***

***As near as our need,***

***As close as the air that we breathe,***

***Emmanuel.***

***Lord, have mercy.***

P: Can we just admit together that we have failed?

**C: *Because I have failed, and you have failed.***

P: Can we just admit that our hands aren't clean?

**C: *And our hearts aren't clean, and they'll never be.***

P: Until we're freed, and mercy sings.

**C: *Emmanuel,***

***God with us today,***

***We desperately cling to Your Name:***

***Emmanuel,***

***As near as our need,***

***As close as the air that we breathe.***

***Emmanuel.***

***Lord, have mercy. Amen.***



## ***Absolution (Forgiveness)***

*Based on liturgy by Bernie Seter and "Emmanuel" by Aaron Niequist*

**P:** Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners, which means He does not desire your death. But rather He calls you to turn from your wicked ways and find life in the life of Christ. He has had mercy upon you. He graciously forgives your sins through the death and resurrection of your Lord Jesus Christ. He strengthens you by the power of the Holy Spirit to amend your sinful lives according to His will, and will keep you in His grace until that day when He will take you to be with Him for eternity. Therefore, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, in His stead and by His command, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** *Amen.*

*Emmanuel,  
God with us today,  
In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:  
Emmanuel,  
Who came near so we are freed,  
As close as the Word that we hear.  
Emmanuel.  
The Lord has had mercy on us.*

**P:** Now we can admit together that we've failed,

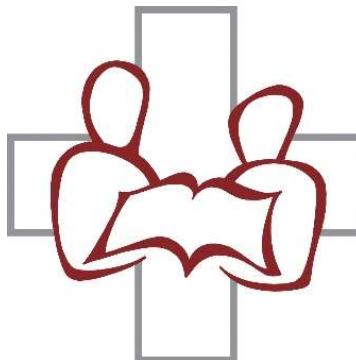
**C:** *Because I am forgiven, and you are forgiven.*

**P:** Now we can admit together that our hands aren't clean,

**C:** *Because Jesus made me clean, and He made you clean.*

**P:** If you're now free, then call out to God with me:

**C:** *Emmanuel,  
God with us today,  
In thanksgiving we praise Your Name:  
Emmanuel.  
The Lord has had mercy on us. Amen.*



## ***A Reading About Peter***

## ***Matthew 16:13-20 (ESV)***

<sup>13</sup>Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” <sup>14</sup>And they said, “Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.” <sup>15</sup>He said to them, “But who do you say that I am?” <sup>16</sup>Simon Peter replied, “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.” <sup>17</sup>And Jesus answered him, “Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven. <sup>18</sup>And I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. <sup>19</sup>I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” <sup>20</sup>Then he strictly charged the disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

## ***Companion Psalm***

## ***Psalm 19 (ESV)***

<sup>1</sup>The heavens declare the glory of God,  
and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.  
<sup>2</sup>Day to day pours out speech, and night to night reveals knowledge.  
<sup>3</sup>There is no speech, nor are there words, whose voice is not heard.  
<sup>4</sup>Their measuring line goes out through all the earth,  
and their words to the end of the world.  
In them he has set a tent for the sun,  
<sup>5</sup>which comes out like a bridegroom leaving his chamber,  
and, like a strong man, runs its course with joy.  
<sup>6</sup>Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them,  
and there is nothing hidden from its heat.  
<sup>7</sup>The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;  
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;  
<sup>8</sup>the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;  
<sup>9</sup>the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;  
the just decrees of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.  
<sup>10</sup>More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;  
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.  
<sup>11</sup>Moreover, by them is your servant warned;  
in keeping them there is great reward.  
<sup>12</sup>Who can discern his errors?  
Declare me innocent from hidden faults.  
<sup>13</sup>Keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins;  
let them not have dominion over me!

Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.  
<sup>14</sup>Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
 be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

**Greeting and Collect (Prayer of the Day)**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

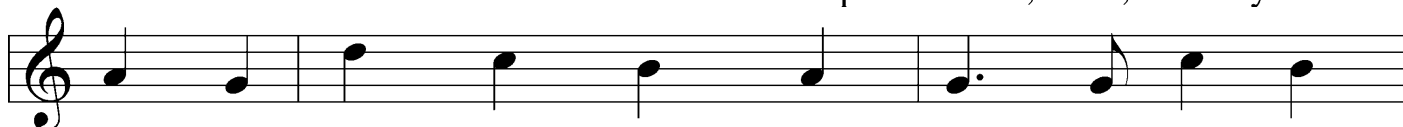
**Hymn of the Day**

**My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less**

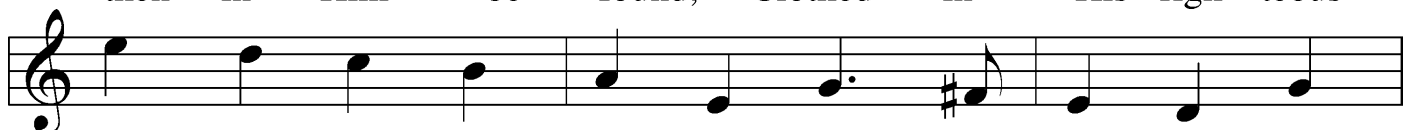
LSB 575



1 My hope is built on noth - ing less Than Je - sus'  
 2 When dark - ness veils His love - ly face, I rest on  
 3 His oath, His cov - e - nant and blood Sup - port me  
 4 When He shall come with trum - pet sound, Oh, may I



blood and righ - teous - ness; No mer - it of my  
 His un - chang - ing grace; In ev - 'ry high and  
 in the rag - ing flood; When ev - 'ry earth - ly  
 then in Him be found, Clothed in His righ - teous -



own I claim But whol - ly lean on Je - sus' name.  
 storm - y gale My an - chor holds with - in the veil.  
 prop gives way, He then is all my hope and stay.  
 ness a - lone, Re - deemed to stand be - fore His throne!

*Refrain*



On Christ, the sol-id rock, I stand; All oth-er ground is sink-ing sand.

Text: Edward Mote, 1797–1874, alt.  
 Tune: John Stainer, 1840–1901

## **Devotion      “Rescue me from danger”**

- **Commentary:** *Matthew 16:13-20*  
by the Rev. Dr. Terence Lester  
([LoveBeyondWalls.org](http://LoveBeyondWalls.org))
- **Art:** *“Who Do You Say That I Am?”*  
by the Rev. Lauren Wright Pittman
- **Poem:** *“Praise the mount”*  
by the Rev. Sarah Speed



## **Confession of Faith (adapted from the Apostles' Creed)**

First Nations Version

Our Father and Creator, the One Above Us All,  
made all things in the world above and the earth below.

Jesus, his special born Son,  
was fathered by the Holy Spirit  
and was born into this world through a virgin named Mary.  
He suffered under Pontius Pilate, a ruler of the Roman people,  
who had him nailed to a tree pole, the cross, where he bled to death.  
He was buried and then went down to the world of the dead.  
On the third day he came back to life, never to die again.  
He returned to his Father in the world above  
and sat down at his powerful right hand.  
One day he will return to this earth to make the final decision  
about the eternity of the living and the dead.

After he went to the world above,  
Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to us from the Father,  
to live in and through us.  
There is only one holy and world-wide group of believers in Jesus  
—a Sacred Family called his Church.  
All of the Holy Spirit's holy people sit together equally in this Family  
and share his Sacred Food at his table.  
He has forgiven us and set us free from all of our broken ways,  
and all who trust in him, even though they cross over to death,  
will be brought back to life again,  
to a life that will never end. Amen.



## Offering

### Offertory

### On My Heart Imprint Your Image

LSB 422

*(we join in singing as the offerings are brought forward to the altar)*



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,



That life's rich-es, cares, and plea-sures Nev - er may Your work e-rase;



Let the clear in - scrip-tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,



Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

### Prayers of the Church

*Based on "God's Children" and "Changed" by Aaron Niequist*

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

P: We come to the altar of God. Let us pray:

Father of the beaten down

Lover of the strong and proud

God of every class, from the greenest grass to the underpass

You're the Maker of us all

Father of each citizen

Lover of each immigrant

God of everyone who has ever been an alien

You're Creator of us all

Father of the most oppressed

Lover of the least impressed,

C: **Thank You for seeing our need,**

**Loving us, crying for us,**

**dying for us, rising for us,**

**feeding us, returning for us.**

P: We were all once aliens,  
And we're all so full of sin,  
But in Jesus' name we are welcomed in, as citizens,  
A brand new family, old and young,  
From every nation, faith, and tongue,  
A new creation has begun.

C: *In Jesus' name I've been changed, I've been filled,  
I've been found, I've been freed, I've been saved!  
In Jesus' blood I've been loved, I've been cleansed,  
And redeemed and released and rearranged.  
In Jesus' name we are changed, we are called,  
We are chosen, adopted, and named!  
In Jesus' blood we are loved, we are healed,  
We're forgiven and free of our shame!*

### ***The Lord's Prayer***

P: Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:

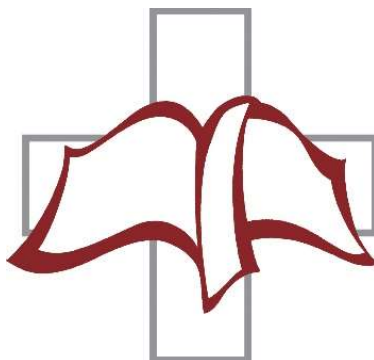
***All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.***

### ***Benediction (Blessing)***

*Colossians 1:19-20*

P: God was pleased to have all His fullness dwell in Jesus Christ, and through Him to reconcile to Himself all things, by making peace through His blood, shed on the cross. You are reconciled to God the Father, through the work of God the Son, and kept in this faith by God the Holy Spirit.

C: ***Amen.***



## **Closing Hymn**

## **My Faith Looks Up to Thee**

LSB 702



1 My faith looks up to Thee, Thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,  
2 May Thy rich grace im - part Strength to my faint - ing heart;  
3 While life's dark maze I tread And griefs a - round me spread,  
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, When death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine. Now hear me while I pray; Take all my  
My zeal in - spire! As Thou hast died for me, Oh, may my  
Be Thou my guide; Bid dark - ness turn to day, Wipe sor - row's  
Shall o'er me roll, Blest Sav - ior, then, in love, Fear and dis -



guilt a - way; O let me from this day Be whol - ly Thine!  
love to Thee Pure, warm, and change - less be, A liv - ing fire!  
tears a - way, Nor let me ev - er stray From Thee a - side.  
trust re - move; O bear me safe a - bove, A ran - somed soul!

## **Announcements**

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# **UPCOMING WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

## **LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28**

**WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE (IN SANCTUARY) - 6:30PM**

## **SUNDAY, MARCH 3**

**IN-PERSON WORSHIP (IN GYM W/COMMUNION) – 9AM**

**FELLOWSHIP 10-10:30AM**

**EDUCATION HOUR 10:30-11:30AM**

## **LENT MIDWEEK SERVICE WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6**

**WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE (IN SANCTUARY) - 6:30PM**



# EASTER LILIES

**Order Deadline:  
Friday, March 8**



As a donation to Bethel Lutheran Church I would like \_\_\_\_\_ Easter lily plant(s) at \$13.00 each to be placed in our worship areas for Easter services on **March 31**.

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Name and telephone number [please print]

Total amount enclosed: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Checks can be written to “Bethel Lutheran Church” and place check (or cash) with the form in an envelope, marked “Easter lilies” and place in the offering plate or turn in at the church office. \*\*\***Please include your donation when you submit your form.**

**Remember to take your lily plant(s) Easter Sunday after the service or later in the week if you would like to keep it.**