

AS WE GATHER

Throughout biblical history, God used prophets to call His people to repentance with the promise of mercy. God's mercy should encourage us to return to Him, but too often, the people of God refuse His care. Even in the Christian Church we become complacent in the things which matter most. That is the story of Jeremiah, who was sent by the Lord to speak His Word, warn His people of disaster if they refused to listen to God, and promise mercy to all who repent. It is also our story. The Law warns us of the failure to confess our sins and the Gospel promises forgiveness to all who confess and believe in our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, we pray the Lord to help us see each other as the Church and be more attentive to hear His Word.

Gathering Songs Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley

He had to walk It by Himself.

Oh...nobody else could walk it for him,

He had to walk it by Himself.

I must walk this lonesome valley,

I have to walk it by myself.

Oh...nobody else can walk it for me

I have to walk it by myself.

I must go and stand my trial.

I have to stand it by myself

Oh...nobody else can stand it for me

I have to stand it by myself.

Jesus walked this lonesome valley.

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Welcome & Invocation

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Opening Song Lord I Lift Your Name on High

¹ Lord, I lift Your name on high, Lord, I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life, I'm so glad You came to save us.

Chorus: You came from heaven to earth to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky,
Lord, I lift Your name on high.

² Lord, we come before Your throne, Bowed in humble adoration.
We're so glad to be Your own, So we sing in exaltation. **Chorus**

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Confession and Forgiveness *Based on Psalm 51*

Pastor: We join in King David's prayer of confession in Psalm 51:

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your unwavering love;

People: according to Your abundant mercy blot out my offenses.

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my immoral behavior,

People: and cleanse me from my sin!

Pastor: For I know the evil within me,
People: and my sin is ever before me.
 Pastor: Against You have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,
People: may You be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.
 Pastor: Purge me, and I shall be clean;
People: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
 Pastor: Let me hear joy and gladness;
People: let the bones that You have broken rejoice.
 Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
People: and renew a right spirit within me.
 Pastor: Cast me not away from Your presence,
People: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.
 Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,
People: and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Silence for meditation and reflection

Pastor: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.
People: I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven and to you, my friends and family, that I have sinned in thought, word, and deed by my fault, by my own fault, by my own most grievous fault; and I pray God Almighty to have mercy on me, forgive me all my sins, and bring me to everlasting life. Amen.
 Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
People: Amen.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: Almighty God, give us Your grace and Spirit that we may be faithful before temptation, that we may be able to stand strong in the face of evil, and against the schemes of the devil. Deliver us from our slavery to sin through the forgiveness You offer, so that we can serve You faithfully all our life, this we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
People: Amen.

Reader

Carol Wagner

Old Testament Reading

Jeremiah 26:8–15

(The Lord has sent me to speak all these words in your ears.)

⁸When Jeremiah had finished speaking all that the LORD had commanded him to speak to all the people, then the priests and the prophets and all the people laid hold of him, saying, "You shall die! ⁹Why have you prophesied in the name of the LORD, saying, 'This house shall be like Shiloh, and this city shall be desolate, without inhabitant?'" And all the people gathered around Jeremiah in the house of the LORD.

¹⁰When the officials of Judah heard these things, they came up from the king's house to the house of the LORD and took their seat in the entry of the New Gate of the house of the LORD. ¹¹Then the priests and the prophets said to the officials and to all the people, "This man deserves the sentence of death, because he has prophesied against this city, as you have heard with your own ears."

¹²Then Jeremiah spoke to all the officials and all the people, saying, "The LORD sent me to prophesy against this house and this city all the words you have heard. ¹³Now therefore mend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God, and the LORD will relent of the disaster that he has pronounced

against you. ¹⁴But as for me, behold, I am in your hands. Do with me as seems good and right to you. ¹⁵Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood upon yourselves and upon this city and its inhabitants, for in truth the LORD sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears."

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Epistle Reading

Philippians 3:17-4:1

(Paul laments those who lose their faith in the Church)

¹⁷Brothers, join in imitating me, and keep your eyes on those who walk according to the example you have in us. ¹⁸For many, of whom I have often told you and now tell you even with tears, walk as enemies of the cross of Christ. ¹⁹Their end is destruction, their god is their belly, and they glory in their shame, with minds set on earthly things. ²⁰But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

¹Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.

Reader: This is the Word of our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading

Luke 13:31-35

(Jesus would gather His people like a hen gathers her chicks)

³¹At that very hour some Pharisees came and said to [Jesus], "Get away from here, for Herod wants to kill you." ³²And he said to them, "Go and tell that fox, 'Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I finish my course. ³³Nevertheless, I must go on my way today and tomorrow and the day following, for it cannot be that a prophet should perish away from Jerusalem.' ³⁴O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to it! How often would I have gathered your children together as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, and you would not! ³⁵Behold, your house is forsaken. And I tell you, you will not see me until you say, 'Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!'"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to You, O Christ.

Children's Message

Song of the Day

A Mighty Fortress Is Our God LSB 657



1 A might - y for - tress is our God, A sword and shield vic -
 2 No strength of ours can match his might. We would be lost, re -
 3 Though hordes of dev - ils fill the land All threat - ning to de -
 4 God's Word for - ev - er shall a - bide, No thanks to foes, who



to - rious; He breaks the cruel op - pres - sor's rod And wins sal -
 ject - ed. But now a cham - pion comes to fight, Whom God Him -
 your us, We trem - ble not, un - moved we stand; They can - not
 fear it; For God Him - self fights by our side With weap - ons



va - tion glo - rious. The old sa - tan - ic foe Has sworn to
 self e - lect - ed. You ask who this may be? The Lord of
 o - ver - pow'r us. Let this world's ty - rant rage; In bat - tle
 of the Spir - it. Were they to take our house, Goods, hon - or,



work us woe. With craft and dread - ful might He
 hosts is He, Christ Je - sus, might - y Lord, God's
 we'll en - gage. His might is doomed to fail; God's
 child, or spouse, Though life be wrenched a - way, They



arms him - self to fight. On earth he has no e - qual.
 on - ly Son, a - dored. He holds the field vic - to - rious.
 judg - ment must pre - vail! One lit - tle word sub - dues him.
 can - not win the day. The King - dom's ours for - ev - er!

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An Excerpt from C.S. Lewis' *The Screwtape Letters*

Sermon

Silencing Screwtape: *The Church*

Pastor Aaron Boerst

Creed - NICENE CREED

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father.

And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for

the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life † of the world to come.
Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Litany of Repentance

Pastor: O Lord, You call sinners to repentance,

People: call us still that we may yet answer.

Pastor: Lord, so many of us have hardened our hearts,

People: soften the hearts of all who are not sorry for their sin.

Pastor: You who met our doubts with mercy,

People: deal gently with those who can scarcely believe.

Pastor: You who have been tempted by Satan himself,

People: give us courage in the face of temptation, strength in time of rest, and hope in despair.

Pastor: You who called out many demons,

People: set free today all who are victims of their lies and distractions.

Pastor: You who healed the sick,

People: grant us healing according to Your will, and patience to endure our afflictions.

Pastor: You who made the deaf to hear and the mute to speak,

People: open deaf ears to the voice of Your Word and loosen our tongues to confess.

Pastor: You who prayed for those who crucified You,

People: look in compassion upon those who persecute Your Church.

Pastor: You who came to save Your people from their sins,

People: save us, O Lord, who put our trust in You.

Pastor: You who raised the dead to life,

People: enliven our souls by Your Holy Spirit to lives of faith.

Pastor: Lord, have mercy upon us. Christ, have mercy upon us. Lord, have mercy upon us.

People: Save us, O Lord, for the sake of Your name.

Pastor: O Lord, Hear us now on behalf of those in our congregation and all who stand in need:

Local concerns are added by congregational elder here.

Pastor: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend ourselves and all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

People: Amen.

Sharing God's Peace

Offering Bless Thou Our Gifts

Bless thou the gifts our hands have brought

Bless thou the work our hearts have planned

Lord, ours the faith, the will, the thought

The rest, O God, is in thy hand. Amen.

Presentation of Gifts

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You are the giver of all good things, and Your Word makes clear that every good and perfect gift comes from You. We ask that You accept these gifts back unto Yourself and use them to Your glory. [*Psalm 145:15, James 1:17*]

People: Amen.

Holy Communion

Preface

Pastor: The Lord be with you. [*2 Timothy 4:22*]

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts. [Colossians 3:1]

People: We lift them to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. [Psalm 136]

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

The Words of Our Lord [Matthew 26:26–28; Mark 14:22–24; Luke 22:19–20; 1 Corinthians 11:23–25]

Proclamation of Christ

Pastor: As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
[1 Cor.11:26]

People: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus. [Revelation 22:20]

Lord's Prayer [Matthew 6:9–13]

Pastor: Lord Jesus Christ, remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

People: 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.

Distribution

In Remembrance of Me

Just As I Am LSB 570



1 Just as I am, with - out one plea But that Thy
2 Just as I am, and wait - ing not To rid my
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout With man - y a
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind; Sight, rich - es,



blood was shed for me And that Thou bidd'st me come to
soul of one dark blot, To Thee, whose blood can cleanse each
con - flict, man - y a doubt, Fight - ings and fears with - in, with -
heal - ing of the mind, Yea, all I need, in Thee to



Thee, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
spot, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
out, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

5 Just as I am, Thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because Thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; Thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be Thine, yea, Thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871 Tune: William B. Bradbury, 1816–68 Text and tune: Public domain

Above All

Above all powers above all kings
Above all nature and all created things
Above all wisdom and all the ways of man
You were here before the world began

Above all kingdoms above all thrones
Above all wonders the world has ever known
Above all wealth and treasures of the earth
There's no way to measure
What You're worth

Crucified laid behind the stone
You lived to die rejected and alone
Like a rose trampled on the ground
You took the fall and thought of me
Above all **(Repeat)**

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Announcements

Benediction [Numbers 6:24-26]

Pastor: The LORD bless you and keep you.
The LORD make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The LORD look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**

Sending Song **Lead Me, Guide Me LSB 721**

Refrain

Lead me, guide me, a - long the way;

For if You lead me, I can - not stray.

Lord, let me walk each day with Thee.

Lead me, O Lord, lead me.



1 I am weak and I need Thy strength and pow'r
 2 Help me tread in the paths of righ - teous - ness,
 3 I am lost if You take Your hand from me,



To help me o - ver my weak - est hour.
 Be my aid when Sa - tan and sin op - press.
 I am blind with - out Thy light to see.



Help me through the dark - ness Thy face to see.
 I am put - ting all my trust in Thee.
 Lord, al - ways let me Thy ser - vant be.



Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.
 Lead me, O Lord, lead me.

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