



PLUM Worship

4th Sunday in Lent

Bridesmaids

March 19, 2023

3:00 p.m.

PRELUDE Awake, Awake for Night is Flying

<https://youtu.be/ioIwhfwLrQQ>

WELCOME and PRAYER REQUESTS

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CALL TO WORSHIP

Keep your lamps trimmed and burning.

Jesus Christ will soon be among us.

We do not know the day or the hour.

We will watch and be ready.

HYMN Keep Your Lamps Trimmed and Burning

<https://youtu.be/ex6VyV8Qoqk>

1 *Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for the time is drawing nigh.*

*Children, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary,
for the time is drawing nigh.*

2 *Darker midnight lies before us,
darker midnight lies before us,
darker midnight lies before us,
for the time is drawing nigh.*

*Sisters, don't grow weary,
sisters, don't grow weary,
sisters, don't grow weary,
for the time is drawing nigh.*

3 *Lo, the morning soon is breaking,
lo, the morning soon is breaking,*

*lo, the morning soon is breaking,
for the time is drawing nigh.*

*Brothers, don't grow weary,
brothers, don't grow weary,
brothers, don't grow weary,
for the time is drawing nigh.*

4 *Christian, journey soon be over,
Christian, journey soon be over,
Christian, journey soon be over,
for the time is drawing nigh.*

*Children, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary,
children, don't grow weary,
for the time is drawing nigh.*

5 *Keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
keep your lamps trimmed and burning,
for the time is drawing nigh.*

*Sisters, don't grow weary,
Brothers, don't grow weary,
Children, don't grow weary,
for the time is drawing nigh.*

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

We confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

God of grace and mercy,

We admit to you, to ourselves, and to this community that we have caused harm to others through our actions and through our failure to act. Give us the humility to accept our failings and make things right where we can. Forgive us and help us to forgive ourselves.

Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. In that love God forgives you all your sin, for the sake of our savior, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. God of promise, We wait for the time when all the world shall know your perfect peace and justice, and you shall reign over all creation in love. Keep us alert and active in your work while we wait, in Jesus name. **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING

Psalm 43:3-4

³O send out your light and your truth; let them lead me; let them bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling.

⁴Then I will go to the altar of God, to God my exceeding joy; and I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL**Matthew 25:1-13**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Glory to you, O Lord.

Readers: Jesus: Voice, Foolish Bridesmaid, Wise Bridesmaid

Jesus: “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like this. Ten bridesmaids took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. When the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them; but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. As the bridegroom was delayed, all of them became drowsy and slept. But at midnight there was a shout,

Voice: ‘Look! Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’

Jesus: Then all those bridesmaids got up and trimmed their lamps. The foolish said to the wise,

Foolish Bridesmaid: ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

Jesus: But the wise replied,

Wise Bridesmaid: ‘No! there will not be enough for you and for us; you had better go to the dealers and buy some for yourselves.’

Jesus: And while they went to buy it, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went with him into the wedding banquet; and the door was shut. Later the other bridesmaids came also, saying,

Foolish Bridesmaid: ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’

Jesus: But he replied,

Voice: ‘Truly I tell you, I do not know you.’

Jesus: Keep awake therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON Pastor Sue Devine**LITANY**

Jesus is coming! His reign is near!

We’ve waited so long and suffered so much disappointment.

Have faith and be ready. God’s promise is sure.

The world is in turmoil. We do not see justice.

Do not lose heart. Your God is with you.

How can we be prepared? There is so much else to do.

Keep your hearts kindled. Work for justice even when you don’t see it.

We are tired of waiting. The fire in our hearts is running out of oil.

Don’t look to the world to refill your lamps, but seek your God who sustains you in all things.

With God’s help, we will be ready. Come, Lord Jesus.

HYMN**Rejoice, Rejoice Believers**<https://youtu.be/V5avkCOCpNE>

*1 Rejoice, rejoice, believers,
and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing,
and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising
and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle;
at midnight comes the cry.*

*2 The watchers on the mountain
proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches
with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting;
the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory;
the bridegroom is at hand.*

*3 The saints, who here in patience
their cross and sufferings bore,
shall live and reign forever
when sorrow is no more.
Around the throne of glory
the Lamb they shall behold;
in triumph cast before him
their diadems of gold.*

*4 Our hope and expectation,
O Jesus, now appear;
arise, O Sun so longed for,
o'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted,
we plead, O Lord, to see
the day of earth's redemption
that sets your people free!*

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Trusting in the promise of Jesus Christ's unending love, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Holy God, you have challenged us to be ready for your triumphant return. Fill us with the oil of your fervent love, that we might burn bright until that glorious day. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

Nothing on this planet exists in a vacuum. All things are connected and reliant upon one another. Make us careful stewards of land, water, and air, and of every living thing that inhabits this earth. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

As we walk together on this journey of Lent, give us the humility to see where we have been foolish in our refusal to see the signs of your presence. Give us wisdom, that we might prepare a place in our hearts for you. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

Heal the hearts, minds, bodies, and spirits of all who suffer from any affliction, (*especially*). Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

Let all people in every corner of the earth recognize our interdependence, that all might work toward equity and justice for our collective survival. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

God of all good gifts, your Son gathered children into his arms and blessed them. Help us to understand our youth as they grow in years and in knowledge of your world. Teach us to encourage their search for truth and value in their lives. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

Lord, you know what is best for the ministry of PLUM. Continue to open our eyes, ears, and hearts, that we may faithfully carry out your work which you have entrusted to us. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

We remember with gratitude all the saints who lived and died in you. May we one day follow them with thanksgiving into your eternal banquet. Merciful God, **You hear our prayer.**

We lift these prayers to you, Gracious God, in the name of your son, Jesus Christ, our savior. **Amen.**

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

At this time, we offer ourselves to God—our physical resources and our whole life—recognizing that all we are and all we have are God's given to us and for which we

are stewards. If you have a monetary offering for your congregation, please send it or deliver it to the church.

Let us pray. God, you have showered us with abundance. Keep us ever mindful of the needs of others, that we might be inspired to share what we have. We offer now these gifts to your good work in the world. Accept them for the sake of Jesus Christ, our savior. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. You call your people to cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast, that, renewed in the gift of baptism, we may come to the fullness of your grace. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

<https://youtu.be/fnPqDhwZPjc>

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

In the night in which he was betrayed our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying; Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this in remembrance of me.

Together as the body of Christ, we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as the Lord taught us.

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.

INVITATION

Jesus comes to us where we are, and calls us into the wedding banquet that has no end. Come and share in the feast of rich foods, and be satisfied, for all is made ready.

Take and eat the body of Christ given for you. **Amen.**
Take and drink the blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**

COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray. Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice and breaks the oppressor's rod ✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you, today and always. **Amen.**

HYMN Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us

<https://youtu.be/CJM8sHu7M8>

- 1 *Lord of glory, you have bought us with your lifeblood as the price, never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice; and with that have freely given blessings countless as the sand to the unthankful and the evil with your own unsparing hand.*
- 2 *Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you gladly, freely, of your own. With the sunshine of your goodness melt our thankless hearts of stone till our cold and selfish natures, warmed by you, at length believe that more happy and more blessed 'tis to give than to receive.*
- 3 *Wondrous honor you have given to our humblest charity in your own mysterious sentence,*

*"You have done it all to me."
Naked, sick, in prison, hungry—
in the least, your face we view,
saying by your poor and needy,
"Give as I have giv'n to you."*

- 4 *Lord of glory, you have bought us with your lifeblood as the price, never grudging for the lost ones that tremendous sacrifice. Give us faith to trust you boldly, hope, to stay our souls on you: but, oh, best of all your graces, with your love our love renew.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love. **Thanks be to God.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS and GOD SIGHTINGS

COFFEE HOUR

ZOOM worship has continued to be a vital part of our weekly worship opportunities. Each week, a person is needed to join the worship service and read the congregational parts and lessons printed in the ZOOM bulletin. Please prayerfully consider volunteering to take on this role on one of our weekly ZOOM worship services. It only requires an hour of your time on Sunday Afternoon (3-4pm), but the outreach we are providing from these worship services are priceless. If you can assist in this ministry, please let your office staff or a Pastor know, so that you can be included. Thank you for your consideration.

"Walking With Jesus," a journey with Jesus through daily fasting and prayer for the 40 days of Lent. There are several options for participating in this time of fasting with Pastor Alex. Each Wednesday in March there will be a **mid-week Prayer Service** at 7:00 pm on Zoom.

"Bible People: Monologues for Lent by Steve Dornbusch" is a series of six monologues based on Biblical characters. Join Pastor Sue for a discussion of these monologues and the scriptural texts that they are based on. This study is Thursdays at 7:00 pm on Zoom during Lent.

The call-in line for PLUM Worship Services and meetings:
Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>
Zoom by phone: (646) 876 9923 Meeting ID: 401 596 541

PLUM Pastoral Team:

The Reverend John Gropp	412-680-7867
The Reverend Brenda Henry	412-390-8005
The Reverend Susan Devine	412-496-4889
The Reverend Dr. Alexander Sumo	614-218-6730

If you are not already connected to one of our congregations and would like to support our ministry, please send donations to:

Pittsburgh Lutheran United Ministries
405 Kennedy Avenue, Duquesne, PA 15110