



**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**15 March 2026**

**Worship Leaders: Chanda Rule-Bernroiter & Tamika Rybinski**



**PRELUDE & MEDITATION**

Seulji Choi Organ

**WELCOME & CANDLE LIGHTING**



## OPENING HYMN – CH 79, vv. 1-4

### *God is My Shepherd*

1 God is my shepherd, I'll not want, I feed in pastures green. God grants me rest and bids me drink from waters calm and clean. Through daily tasks, I'm blessed and led by one I have not one seen.

2 Restored to life each morning new, I rise up from the dust to follow God whose presence gives me confidence and trust. I praise the name of God today; in God I put my trust.

3 When I must pass through shadowed vale, where loss and death await, I will not fear for God is there, my shepherd strong and great, whose rod and staff will comfort me and all my fears abate.

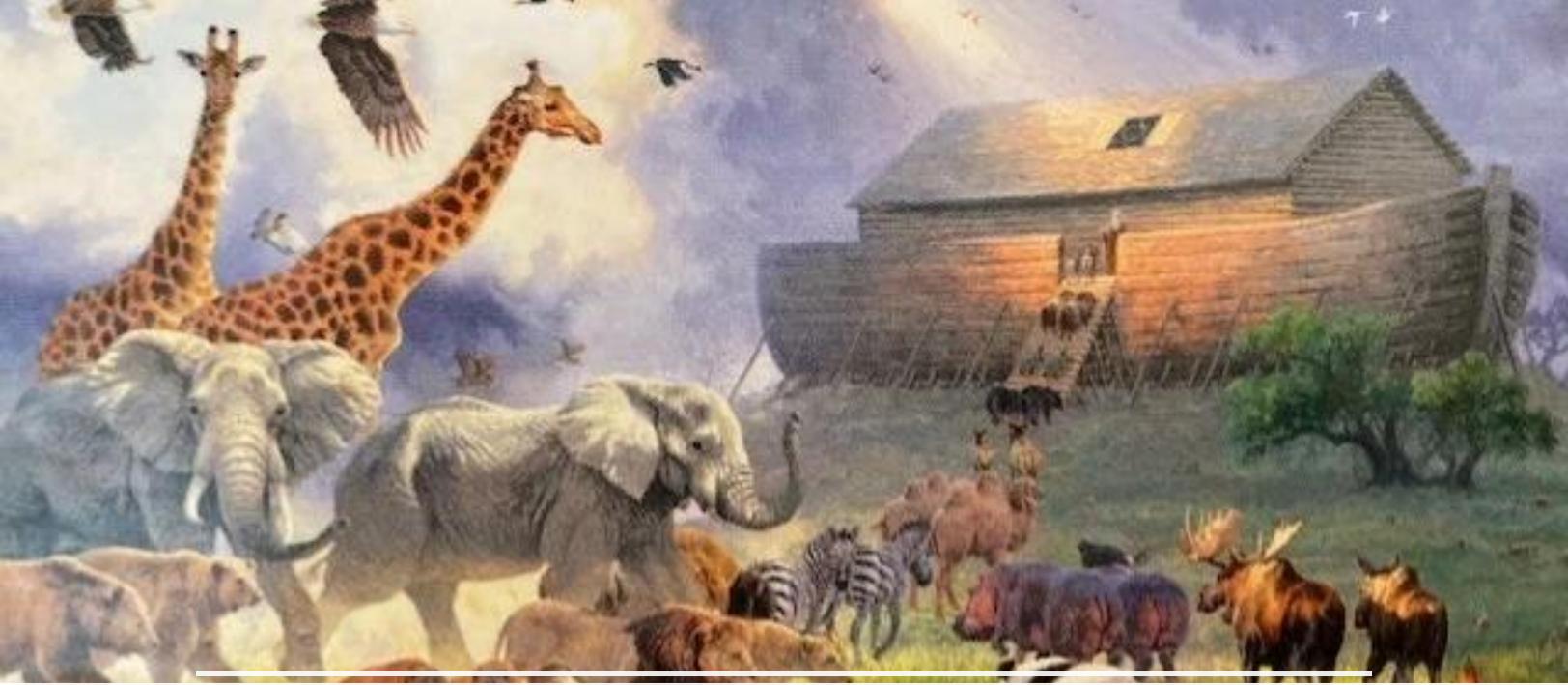
4 No enemy can overcome, no power on earth defeat the one  
anointed by God's grace and fed with manna sweet. My cup is  
filled and overflows as I my Savior greet.



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## **PASSING OF THE PEACE**

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## SPECIAL PEOPLE



# SCRIPTURE READING

## *1 Samuel 16:1-13*

Read by David Corcoran, Luka, Clemens, Mamusu

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you mourn for Saul, since I have rejected him as king over Israel? Fill your horn with oil and be on your way; I am sending you to Jesse of Bethlehem. I have chosen one of his sons to be king.” But Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears about it, he will kill me.” The Lord said, “Take a heifer with you and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what to do. You are to anoint for me the one I indicate.” Samuel did what the Lord said. When he arrived at Bethlehem, the elders of the town trembled when they met him.

They asked, "Do you come in peace?" Samuel replied, "Yes, in peace; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord. Consecrate yourselves and come to the sacrifice with me." Then he consecrated Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they arrived, Samuel saw Eliab and thought, "Surely the Lord's anointed stands here before the Lord." But the Lord said to Samuel, "Do not consider his appearance or his height, for I have rejected him. The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and had him pass in front of Samuel. But Samuel said, "The Lord has not chosen this one either." Jesse then had Shammah pass by, but Samuel said, "Nor has the Lord chosen this one."

Jesse had seven of his sons pass before Samuel, but Samuel said to him, "The Lord has not chosen these." So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives." So he sent for him and had him brought in. He was glowing with health and had a fine appearance and handsome features. Then the Lord said, "Rise and anoint him; this is the one." So Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and from that day on the Spirit of the Lord came powerfully upon David. Samuel then went to Ramah.

# SCRIPTURE READING

## *John 9:1-41*

As he went along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” “Neither this man nor his parents sinned,” said Jesus, “but this happened so that the works of God might be displayed in him. As long as it is day, we must do the works of him who sent me. Night is coming, when no one can work. While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” After saying this, he spit on the ground, made some mud with the saliva, and put it on the man’s eyes. “Go,” he told him, “wash in the Pool of Siloam” (this word means “Sent”). So the man went and washed, and came home seeing.

His neighbors and those who had formerly seen him begging asked, "Isn't this the same man who used to sit and beg?" Some claimed that he was. Others said, "No, he only looks like him." But he himself insisted, "I am the man." "How then were your eyes opened?" they asked. He replied, "The man they call Jesus made some mud and put it on my eyes. He told me to go to Siloam and wash. So I went and washed, and then I could see." "Where is this man?" they asked him. "I don't know," he said. They brought to the Pharisees the man who had been blind. Now the day on which Jesus had made the mud and opened the man's eyes was a Sabbath.

Therefore the Pharisees also asked him how he had received his sight. "He put mud on my eyes," the man replied, "and I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others asked, "How can a sinner perform such signs?" So they were divided. Then they turned again to the blind man, "What have you to say about him? It was your eyes he opened." The man replied, "He is a prophet." They still did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they sent for the man's parents. "Is this your son?" they asked. "Is this the one you say was born blind? How is it that now he can see?"

But how he can see now, or who opened his eyes, we don't know. Ask him. He is of age; he will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jewish leaders, who already had decided that anyone who acknowledged that Jesus was the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. That was why his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." A second time they summoned the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God by telling the truth," they said. "We know this man is a sinner." He replied, "Whether he is a sinner or not, I don't know. One thing I do know. I was blind but now I see!" Then they asked him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered, "I have told you already and you did not listen.

Why do you want to hear it again? Do you want to become his disciples too?" Then they hurled insults at him and said, "You are this fellow's disciple! We are disciples of Moses! We know that God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow, we don't even know where he comes from." The man answered, "Now that is remarkable! You don't know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners. He listens to the godly person who does his will. Nobody has ever heard of opening the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." To this they replied, "You were steeped in sin at birth; how dare you lecture us!" And they threw him out.

Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, and when he found him, he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" "Who is he, sir?" the man asked. "Tell me so that I may believe in him."

Jesus said, "You have now seen him; in fact, he is the one speaking with you." Then the man said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I have come into this world, so that the blind will see and those who see will become blind." Some Pharisees who were with him heard him say this and asked, "What? Are we blind too?" Jesus said, "If you were blind, you would not be guilty of sin; but now that you claim you can see, your guilt remains."

# SCRIPTURE READING

## *Psalm 23*

Read by

The Lord is my shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake. Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

You anoint my head with oil my cup overflows. Surely your goodness and love will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.



**SPECIAL MUSIC  
VCC CHOIR**

**We Are Called (David Haas)**

**Cassandra McConnell-Grujcic , Choir Director**

# SERMON

## *Light in the Valley, Joy that Finds us in the Darkness (Psalms and John in Dialogue)*



**RESPONSIVE HYMN- Sing & Response**  
*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say*

4 May God haste the day when my faith shall be sight,  
the clouds be rolled back as a scroll;  
the trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,  
even so, it is well with my soul. [Refrain]

[Refrain:]

It is well (It is well) with my soul (with my soul),  
it is well, it is well with my soul.

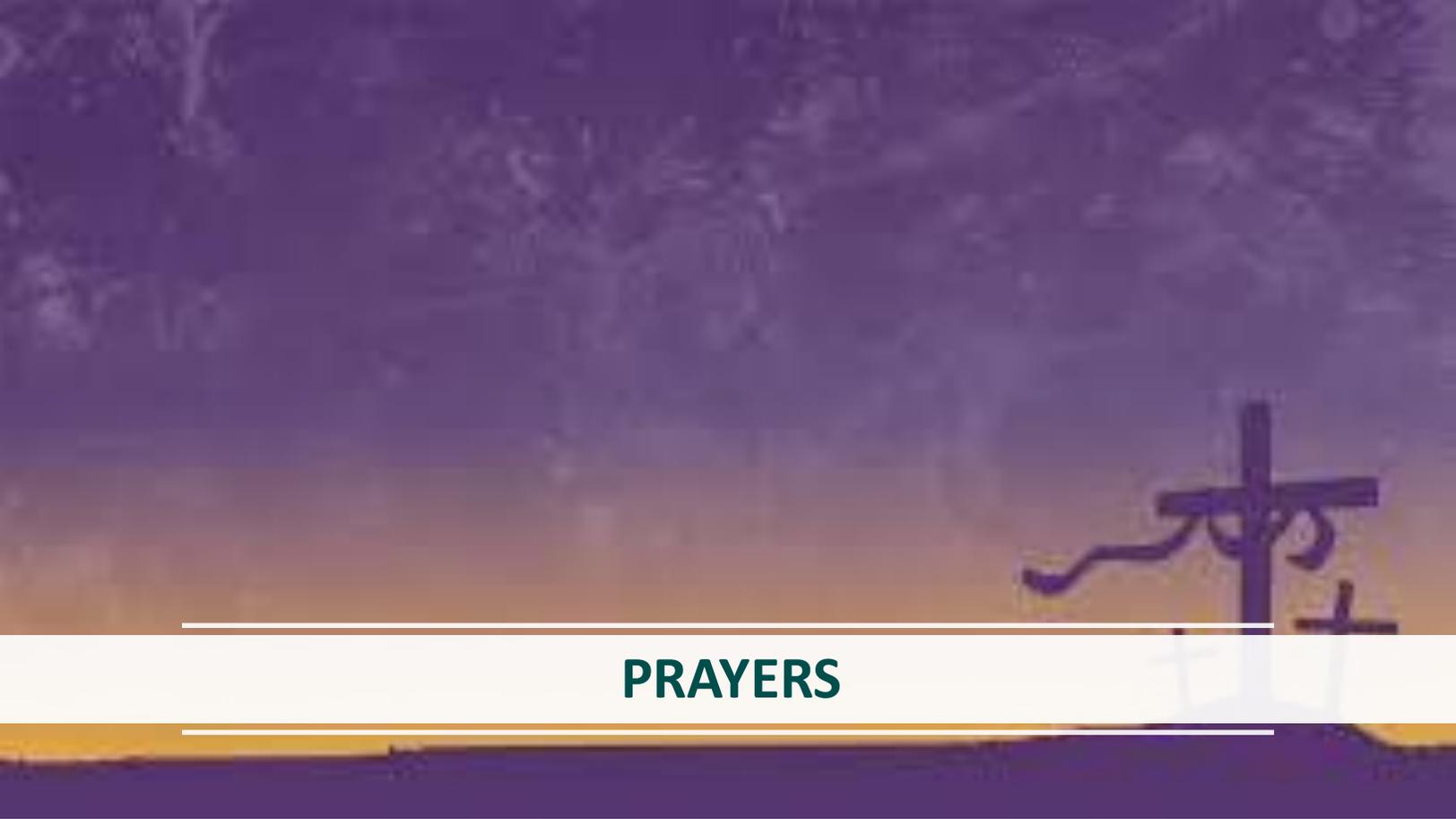
A pair of hands is shown from the wrist up, palms facing each other and holding a glowing white cross. The hands are silhouetted against a bright, golden sunset sky with soft clouds. The overall mood is spiritual and serene.

**OFFERING  
&  
MEDITATION**

Seulji Choi Organ

## DOXOLOGY – CH 46

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.  
Praise him all creatures here below;  
praise him above, ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen!



# PRAYERS

Our Father in heaven  
hallowed be your name,  
your kingdom come,  
your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,  
and the glory are yours now and forever.

Amen.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## **CLOSING HYMN – CH 545**

### ***He Leadeth Me, O Blessed Thought!***

1 He leadeth me: O blessed thought! O words with heavenly  
comfort fraught! Whate'er I do, where'er I be, still 'tis God's  
hand that leadeth me.

[Refrain:]

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;  
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

2 Lord, I would place my hand in thine, nor ever murmur nor  
repine; content, whatever lot I see, since 'tis thy hand that  
leadeth me.

[Refrain]

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;  
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

3 And when my task on earth is done, when by thy grace the  
victory's won, e'en death's cold wave I will not flee, since God  
thro' Jordan leadeth me.

[Refrain]

He leadeth me, he leadeth me, by his own hand he leadeth me;  
his faithful follower I would be, for by his hand he leadeth me.

# BLESSING

GO IN PEACE TO LOVE  
AND SERVE THE LORD.

THANKS BE TO GOD

*Amen!* אָמֵן

# POSTLUDE

Seulji Choi Organ

