

GOD'S PEOPLE GATHER

Fourth Sunday in Lent

PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

*We live in a world of denial, and we don't know what the truth is anymore.*

~Javier Bardem

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND LIFE IN THE CHURCH

\*\*\*

INTROIT

*We Thank You, Lord*

L. Larson

\*CALL TO WORSHIP

Leader: There is always a choice before us.

**People: Let us follow Jesus.**

Leader: There is always his path before us.

**People: Let us follow Jesus.**

Leader: There is always a call upon us.

**People: Let us heed the call that leads us home.**

\*HYMN

*Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy*

GG: 415

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (in unison)

**Denial is a familiar thing to us. We live in denial of the things that make us uncomfortable. The world is full of hardships and there are times when we would rather escape into TV shows, food, alcohol, and other comforts that bring us immediate gratification than struggle against the larger problems of our lives and our world. We deny the painful truths about ourselves and blame relationship problems on others. We deny the part we play in destructive behaviors. We don't want to look at the truth. We deny *You, Lord*. Help us in our denial. Help us learn from our mistakes. Grant us courage to face the hard truths and courage to take action to address them. Teach us the right kind of denial, that we might deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow you.**

*(A time of silent confession)*

Amen.

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Leader: Just as Jesus understood Peter's faults and loved him anyway, so we too are forgiven for our shortcomings.

**People: Though at times we deny you Lord, we love you with all our hearts and seek to follow you always. We give thanks for your goodness!**

\*RESPONSE

*Jesus, Remember Me* (sing twice)

GG: 227

**All: *Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.***

***Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.***

\*PASSING OF THE PEACE

Leader: Hear the teaching of Christ: A new command I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. The peace of Christ be with you all.

**People: And also with you.**

Leader: Let us share the peace of Christ with one another!

HEARING THE WORD

ANTHEM

*There Is A Balm in Gilead*

L. Larson

TIME WITH THE CHILDREN

\*HYMN

*Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart*

GG: 688

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 17:1-7, pg. 496

SCRIPTURE: John 18: 12-27, pg. 112

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

**All: Thanks be to God.**

SERMON

“In Denial”

Rev. Abbie Huff

RESPONDING TO THE WORD

OFFERING

OFFERTORY                      *Amazing Grace*                      arr. Fred Bock

\*DOXOLOGY              *Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow*              tune GG: 606

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host;  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

SHARING OUR JOYS AND CONCERNS

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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 debts as we forgive  
our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For  
Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.**

GOING OUT INTO THE WORLD

\*HYMN                      *Our God, Our Help in Ages Past*                      GG: 687

\*BENEDICTION

BENEDICTION RESPONSE      *God Be With You Til We Meet Again*

POSTLUDE                      *Agincourt Hymn*                      Dunstable

\*All who are able please stand.      \*\*\*Latecomers seated