

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 15, 2026

* *Please stand if you are able*

Prelude: "The Power of the Cross (Oh to See the Dawn)" arr. Keveren

Gathering

WELCOME & LIGHTING THE CHRIST CANDLE

Acolyte: Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith. For he didn't consider equality with God something to be grasped, but he emptied himself, even unto death on a cross. As we wait for the day of resurrection let us look to Jesus.

* CALL TO WORSHIP

Liturgist: God, my shepherd! I don't need a thing. You have bedded me down in lush meadows, you find me quiet pools to drink from.

All: True to your word, you let me catch my breath and send me in the right direction.

Liturgist: Even when the way goes through Death Valley, I'm not afraid when you walk at my side. Your trusty shepherd's crook makes me feel secure. You serve me a six-course dinner right in front of my enemies. You revive my drooping head; my cup brims with blessing.

**All: Your beauty and love chase after me every day of my life.
I'm back home in the house of God for the rest of my life.**

Psalm 23 – The Message

* **All Singing: 369 "My Shepherd Will Supply My Need"**

* GOD'S GREETING

* GOD'S PEOPLE GREETING ONE ANOTHER

* **All Singing: 521 “Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing”**

Children ages 2–7 may come forward for a brief word and blessing before they leave for “God Loves Me” and “Children in Worship.”

CHILDREN’S BLESSING

Children: The peace of Christ be with you.

All: And also with you.

Reconciliation

Liturgist: 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?”

All: “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.”

Liturgist: 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.” So the man went and washed, and came home seeing. *John 9:1-6*

All: Lord, our shepherd, forgive us for when we wander and forget to whom we belong. In your mercy, give us eyes to see when we stumble about in the dark. When we find ourselves lost in the shadows, lead us back home.

Silent Confession and Lament

Liturgist: Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Walk as children of light, for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.

All: Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness; rather, expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly, but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light.

Liturgist: Therefore, it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” *Ephesians 5:8-14*

* **All Singing: 707 “Goodness Is Stronger than Evil”**

Proclamation

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

All: God our shepherd, God of the Lenten journey, help us to discern your calling voice. Open us to change and growth, that we may walk with Christ. Amen.

Scripture: Mark 8:27-38

Minister: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sermon: Walking Toward the Cross

* **All Singing: 134 “Throughout These Lenten Days and Nights”**
Singing verses 1 – 5

Dedication

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Liturgist: With joy, let us now offer our gifts, in music, heart, and resource, as a sign of our deep devotion and covenant faithfulness.

OFFERING

1. General Fund
2. New Leaf Resources

Soloist: "The Call"

K. Lee Scott
text by George Herbert

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life:
Such a Way, as gives us breath:
Such a Truth, as ends all strife:
Such a Life, as killeth death.
Come, my Light, my Feast, my Strength:
Such a Light, as shows a feast:
Such a Feast, as mends in length:
Such a Strength, as makes his guest.
Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart:
Such a Joy, as none can move:
Such a Love, as none can part:
Such a Heart, as joyes in love.

Communion

INSTITUTION
THANKSGIVING
INVITATION
COMMUNION

All Singing: 808 "Table of Plenty"
Soloist singing verses, all singing refrain

833 "There is a Redeemer"
Standing to sing last verse

Sending

* BENEDICTION


Postlude: "In the Cross of Christ I Glory"

arr. Cassler

Worship Leaders

Organist:	Lynn Hollender	Acolyte:	Iris Bosscher
Pianist:	Anna Triezenberg-Sims	Liturgist:	Sally Larsen
Prelude Pianist:	Dorothy Wassenaar	Prayer:	Dave Larsen
Vocalists:	Helen Van Wyck Aron Reppmann		
Guitar:	Ty Hillegonds		
Percussion:	Clay Carlson		
Minister:	Roger Nelson		

Hymns are from *Lift Up Your Hearts* (Faith Alive Christian Resources, 2013)
CCLI Copyright License 813746 | CCLI Streaming License 20253780 | OneLicense A-704612

 **Hope** 5825 W 151st Street, Oak Forest, IL 60452
www.hope-rcc.org