

Midweek Lenten Service, February 25, 2026

Unbound: Longing for Wholeness

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier, who hears our longings and gives us new life. **Amen.**

Loving God, who knows each of our stories, ***we confess that we have sinned against you in our thoughts, actions and inactions. We have been bound by jealousy, shame and hatred. We have not listened to the cries of our siblings. We have participated in dishonest systems and benefited from violence done on our behalf. Forgive us, we pray. In your mercy free us from all that keeps us bound and grant us healing and wholeness.***

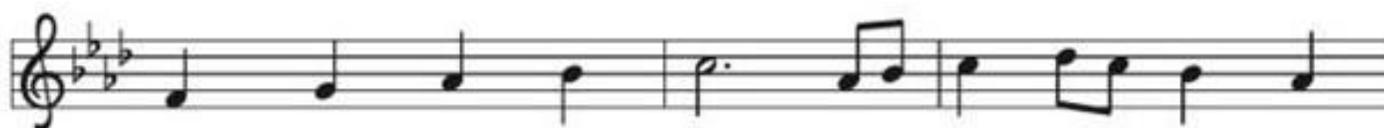
Sisters and brothers in Christ, do not be afraid. In the name of Jesus your sins are forgiven. May God speak kindly to you, restore your paths, and look upon you with favor all the days of your life. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn

Cast Out, O Christ



1 Cast out, O Christ, cast far a - way the
2 Our rag - ing griefs, our jeal - ous fears are
3 Once long a - go, from Gal - i - lee, you
4 Your word breathes life and health and hope that
5 So come, O Christ, and cast a - way the



de - mons that de - stroy: the haunt - ing dreads that
Le - gion in their name. Our shack - led hearts im -
sailed to storm - tossed shores. And still, in pow'r, you
break through e - vil's thrall. You send us, strength - ened,
de - mons that de - stroy. Trans - form our lives to



choke our souls, the hates that sti - fle joy.
plore your grace to loose our bind - ing shame.
brave new paths to breach our bolt - ed doors.
home in peace to live your gos - pel call.
sense your love and spread a - broad your joy.

Prayer of the Day

Together we pray: *All knowing, all loving God. When someone else receives what we ourselves desire, how quickly our hearts turn to anger and hatred. Free us from jealousy. Give us wholeness, security, and peace in your love, and grant us the generosity of heart to listen to each other's dreams. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen*

Word of God: Genesis 37:3-11

Joseph, being seventeen years old, was shepherding the flock with his brothers; he was a helper to the sons of Bilhah and Zilpah, his father's wives, and Joseph brought a bad report of them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than any other of his children because he was the son of his old age, and he made him an ornamented robe. ^[a] ⁴ But when his brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, they hated him and could not speak peaceably to him.

⁵ Once Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him even more. ⁶ He said to them, "Listen to this dream that I dreamed. ⁷ There we were, binding sheaves in the field. Suddenly my sheaf rose and stood upright; then your sheaves gathered around it and bowed down to my sheaf." ⁸ His brothers said to him, "Are you indeed to reign over us? Are you indeed to have dominion over us?" So, they hated him even more because of his dreams and his words.

⁹ He had another dream and told it to his brothers, saying, "Look, I have had another dream: the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." ¹⁰ But when he told it to his father and to his brothers, his father rebuked him and said to him, "What kind of dream is this that you have had? Shall we indeed come, I and your mother and your brothers, and bow to the ground before you?" ¹¹ So his brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept the matter in mind.

Sermon**Hymn****If You But Trust in God to Guide You**

1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Thanksgiving for the Word

When we are consumed by jealousy, meet us in our longing for dignity and love.

God, restore us to wholeness.

When violence shatters our world, meet us in our longing to remember we are siblings.

God, restore us to wholeness.

When dishonest systems silence and punish, meet us in our longing to be heard and believed.

God, restore us to wholeness.

When family is bound up in guilt and harsh words, meet us in our longing to be cared for and seen. ***God, restore us to wholeness.***

When guilt makes us fearful and shame makes us retreat, meet us in our longing for honest hearts and genuine love. ***God, restore us to wholeness.***

We thank you for the story of Joseph and his family.

We praise you, holy God, for stories that illuminate our lives.

Through the wisdom of your scriptures, teach us to live in wholeness.

When we are bound by forces within and without, free us to live fully in you. Amen.

Blessing

May the God of dreams and faithful promises, Father, son and Holy Spirit, bless and protect you always. ***Amen.***

Sending Hymn**Joyous Light of Heavenly Glory**

1 Joy - ous light of heav'n-ly glo - ry, lov-ing glow of God's own
 2 In the stars that grace the dark - ness, in the blaz - ing sun of
 3 You who made the heav-en's splen - dor, ev-'ry danc - ing star of



face, you who sing cre - a - tion's sto - ry, shine on
 dawn, in the light of peace and wis - dom, we can
 night, make us shine with gen - tle jus - tice, let us



ev - 'ry land and race. Now as eve - ning falls a -
 hear your qui - et song. Love that fills the night with
 each re - flect your light. Might - y God of all cre -



round us, we shall raise our songs to you. God of day - break,
 won - der, love that warms the wea - ry soul, love that bursts all
 a - tion, gen - tle Christ who lights our way, lov - ing Spir - it



God of shad - ows, come and light our hearts a - new.
 chains a - sun - der, set us free and make us whole.
 of sal - va - tion, lead us on to end - less day.

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