



Seventh & James Baptist Church
March 9, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.
The First Sunday in Lent

Seventh & James Baptist Church
March 9, 2025 · 11:00 a.m.
The First Sunday in Lent

Chiming of the Hour

Meditation

“The Glory of These Forty Days”

(DEO GRACIAS)
Charles Callahan

Welcome and Call to Worship

Leslie Rosencrans

One: Beloved child of God, you are welcome here....

Many: We give thanks to God for bringing us into this moment of worship.

One: For no matter who you are or where you’ve been, you matter to God and to us.

Many: Our hearts rejoice and give thanks for all those who have come before us and made a place for us to worship, pray, sing, wonder, doubt, believe, and just be.

One: May the love of God through Christ our Lord convince you of your worth and invitation into this body of believers as we worship together in thanksgiving and hope.

Choral Summons

“Seek the Lord”

Dale Grotenhuis

Seek the Lord while he may be found; call upon him while he is near.

Processional Hymn, No. 467

“We Are One in Christ”

Responsive Reading of Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

Dan McNeil

One: You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.”

Many: Because you have made the Lord your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent.

One: For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways.

Many: On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.

One: You will tread on the lion and the adder, the young lion and the serpent you will trample under foot.

Many: Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name.

One: When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them.

All: With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.

Prayer of Thanksgiving Dan McNeil

Old Testament Reading *Deuteronomy 26:1-11* Rachel Farris

Epistle Reading *Romans 10:8b-13* Sharon McNeil

Hymn, No. 169 "Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days"

Gospel Reading *Luke 4:1-13* Scott Turner

One: This is the Word of the Lord.

Many: Thanks be to God.

Prayers of God's People Scott Turner

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, the power, and the glory,
Forever and ever. Amen.

Offertory "I Call to Thee, Lord, Jesus Christ" BWV 639 J.S. Bach

During the offertory, we invite you to prayerfully consider your stewardship of all the resources God is entrusting to you. The work of God at Seventh & James is dependent on the financial generosity and volunteer service of its members and friends. Offering plates are available at the doors of the sanctuary as you leave worship. Join us as you respond to God's call.

Doxology

(sung to O WALY, WALY, tune of "When Love Is Found," No. 524)

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.

Children's Sermon

Leslie Rosencrans

*All children are invited to come forward for the Children's Sermon.
Preschoolers [ages 4-kindergarten] may then go to Extended Session.*

Confession

Matt Rosencrans

One: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor. Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you...

Many: In thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone.

One: We have not loved you with our whole heart;

Many: We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.

One: We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

Many: For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

One: Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,

All: Strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. Amen.

— The Book of Common Prayer

Anthem

"My Song in the Night"

arr. Elaine Hagenberg

O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night,
Come to us with Thy tender love, my soul's delight.
Unto Thee, O Lord, in affliction I call,
My comfort by day, and my song in the night.

O why should I wander, a stranger from Thee,
Or cry in the desert, Thy face to see?
My comfort and joy, my soul's delight,
O Jesus my Savior, my song in the night.

Sermon

“A Wandering Aramean Was My Ancestor”
(Deuteronomy 26:1-11)

Erin Conaway

Communion

All communion bread is gluten-free.

Please come forward to receive Communion from any of the three stations at the front of the sanctuary. You will be served the bread and the cup. A basket is available for your empty cup once you are finished. To ease congestion, please walk down on the right side of your aisle and return up the left side of your aisle. You may come to any of the three stations. Communion will be brought to anyone unable to come forward; please raise your hand as the Minister and Deacon walk back to serve you.

Silent Reflection

To acknowledge our ancestors means we are aware that we did not make ourselves, that the line stretches all the way back, perhaps to God; or to Gods. We remember them because it is an easy thing to forget: that we are not the first to suffer, rebel, fight, love, and die. The grace with which we embrace life, in spite of the pain, the sorrow, is always a measure of what has gone before.

— Alice Walker, *Her Blue Body Everything We Know*, p. 155

Hymn of Commitment, No. 667

“As Saints of Old Their First Fruits Brought”

*If you would like to make a public profession of your faith in Christ
or request membership in this congregation, our ministers
will greet you at the front of the sanctuary.*

Congregational Response

In response to your decision, we pledge ourselves to be the family of God for you in this place; we offer you our love, our care, our kinship, and our hopes; we hope to learn from you, give to you, and receive from you, by God's grace. Amen.

Pastoral Blessing

Erin Conaway

One: Every step closer to Holy Week brings us that much closer to the darkness.

Many: Give us courage to walk this path with you.

One: We know even as the light grows dim, there is an increasing brightness behind the shadows.

Many: Fellow bearers of light...let us walk out together in hope and joy.

One: Go out into the world ready to receive unexpected grace and live into the high calling of Christ's sacrificial love.

Choral Benediction

“The Grace of Our Lord Jesus
Christ Be Upon You”

Herbert Colvin

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be upon you;
The love of God, the Father, be with you;
And the sweet communion of the Holy Spirit be yours,
Now and evermore. Amen.

Postlude

“Toccata in E Minor”

Johann Pachelbel

Today at Seventh

On Communion Sundays, the Benevolence offering is received at the doors to help our neighbors in need.

Our Pianist today is Jim Williams.

The Artwork on the Cover is by Rachel Farris.

The Rose on the Organ celebrates the birth of Uffe (Ooh-feh) Bjern Tiihonen on March 2. Great-Grandmother is Dorothy Schleicher. Parents are Kristina Bjern Tiihonen and Kalle Tiihonen.

The Sanctuary Flowers are given by Viola to celebrate the life of her parents, Dorothy Jo and Garland Osborn.

Hearing devices are available at the sound booth for any who need assistance.

Permission to print music obtained from CCLI, license #1450684. Permission to record and stream worship services from CCLI, license #22321029.