

First Presbyterian Church of Rolla
Worship Service Second Sunday in Lent

March 1, 2026

Pre-Service Music: *Dark Mystery* John Turner

Welcome and Announcements:

Prelude: *Poured Out for You* Austin North

Introit: #45: *I to the Hills Will Lift My Eyes* vs. 1 *Psalm 121*

Responsive Call to Worship/Prayer of the Day

The Lord God keeps us, saves us, and protects us in times of trouble.

Our help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Even when fear strikes us, we know that we are safe, for we belong to God.

We shall never be shaken or moved, for we are shadowed by God's almighty hand. We lift our voices together in thanks and praise.

Prayer of the Day

All-powerful and eternal God, we thank you for light, for golden sunlight, silver moonlight, the stars that map our skies, a crackling fire on which to cook, and the shining faces of those around us. Help us to meet you in the darkness, that, without the need for sight, we may learn you are as close to us as our own breath, skin, and bones, knit in our very being, in this moment and forever. Amen.

Opening Hymn #165 *The Glory of These Forty Days* (stand)

Call to Confession

Our help does truly come from God. This help is not just for the times when trouble befalls us, or when our lives are hard, but when we are the ones who are to blame, when we face the consequences of our own actions. Knowing that, we turn to God for help, trusting in unending grace.

With that knowledge, we confess our sins before God and each other.

Prayer of Confession

Teacher, you call us to go, following the plan that you have set out for us. You promise us blessings and purpose, but we do not trust your words. We cling to what we already know, we trust in what we can see and touch, we make excuses for our failure to trust in you. Call to us again, that we may be born again through your Spirit. Help us to believe and give us the abundant life that comes from following your will. Amen.

Declaration of Forgiveness

God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Thanks be to God. We will bear witness to God's saving grace with our lives.

The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

Passing the Peace of Christ

Lenten Response #775: *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* vs. 1

Anthem: *O Jesus Grant Me Health and Comfort* Franck/Buszin

Time for sharing joys and concerns, and the prayer list.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Hear us O God. **Your mercy is great.**

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

Jesus says: Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Let us offer our lives to the Lord. *Matthew 6:21*

Offertory Hymn #697: *Take My Life* vs. 1 and 4 (seated)

Prayer of Dedication and Illumination:

God of grace, you have gifted us with life in Christ. Today we bring the gifts of our work and the gifts of our hearts. May all that we bring and all that we are be your means of grace in the world, that all people may encounter your good news.

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us by your Word through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Scriptures for the Day:

Old Testament Lesson: Genesis 12:1 – 4a

Epistle Lesson: Romans 4:1 – 5, 13 - 17.

Gospel Lesson: John 3:1 - 17

We proclaim Christ crucified—the wisdom and power of God.

Thanks be to God. *1 Corinthians 1:23–25*

Sermon:

Susan Murray

Comm. Hymn #274: *You Lord, Are Both Lamb and Shepherd* vs. 1-3

Invitation to the Table and Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... Therefore we praise you, joining the song of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest! Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest!

Remembering your goodness and grace, we offer ourselves to you with gratitude as we share this joyful feast.

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus:

**Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life.
Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

According to Christ's commandment:

**We remember his death, we proclaim his resurrection, we
await his coming in glory.**

... Now pray the words Jesus our Savior taught us to pray:

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

Distribution of the Elements #533 *In the Singing*

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples saying: Take, eat. This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. *(take the bread)*

In the same way Jesus took the cup saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me. The gifts of God for the people of God.

Thanks be to God. *(take the juice)*

Prayer After Communion

Thank you, gracious God, for giving us bread for the journey of these forty days. As we travel on through the wilderness, help us to share your grace with others and draw us ever closer to you; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending Hymn #634: *To God be the Glory*

Benediction:

May the steadfast love of God, the abundant grace of Jesus Christ, and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.** *Psalm 51:1, 11*

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus: If any wish to be my disciples, let them take up the cross and follow me. **Amen.** *Mark 8:34*

Go in peace. Live in love. **Serve the Lord!**

Postlude: *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* Mary McDonald

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