

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT MARCH 31, 2019

WE GATHER IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Gathering Music & Prelude “There is a Balm in Gilead”
Jan Mauck, Church Pianist

Welcome, Announcements, & Greeting Time Brice Smith

*Opening Song 72 “Great Is Thy Faithfulness” *Faithfulness*

*Call to Worship *The Joy of Forgiveness*

Let all who are faithful offer prayer to you, O God;

At a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

You, O Lord, are a hiding place for me;

You preserve me from trouble;

You surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

“I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you,” says the Lord.

Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous;

And shout for joy, all you upright in heart!

Timothy Matthew Slemmons, “The Joyful Feast: Liturgical Elements for Reformed Worship, Year C,” Cascade: Eugene, ©2014. Used with permission.

*Opening Prayer

Song 258 “At the Cross” *Hudson*

The Prayers of God’s People – 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. Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom, and the power and glory, forever.

WE HEAR THE WORD OF THE LORD

Old Testament Reading Joshua 5:9-12

Apostolic Reading 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

*Gospel Reading Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

*Song 257 “What Wondrous Love Is This?”
Appalachian Folk Hymn

Invitation to Give and Prayer of Dedication

Offertory

Children’s Message (2nd Grade and younger to Junior Church)

The Message: “Everyday Spirituality: Encountering Others”
The Reverend Doctor Ivan E. Greuter, Senior Minister

RESPONDING TO THE HOLY SPIRIT IN FAITH & SERVICE

*Invitation to Faith and Fellowship – If the Spirit of God is moving you to receive God’s forgiving love in Jesus, calling you to follow Christ in the waters of baptism, or encouraging you to join this Christian Church, please come forward during this song.

*Closing Song 354 “Just As I Am” *Woodworth*

*Spoken Benediction

*Postlude
*Please stand if able

LENT (Latin: *Quadragesima*, meaning “fortieth”) LENT (Latin: *Quadragesima*, meaning “fortieth”) is a solemn religious season of forty days, not counting Sundays, which begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. Lent comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten*, which means “spring.” The forty days represents the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, enduring the

temptation of Satan and preparing to begin his ministry. Lent is a time of repentance, fasting, and preparation for the coming of Easter. It is a time of self-examination and reflection. In the early church, Lent was a time to prepare new converts for baptism. Today, Christians focus on their relationship with God, often choosing to give up something or to volunteer and give of themselves for others. Sundays in Lent are not counted in the forty days because each Sunday represents a "mini-Easter" so we temper the reverent spirit of Lent with joyful anticipation of the Resurrection.

BELIEVER'S BAPTISM – The American Baptist churches practice "believer's baptism" which is the immersion of a person in water – regardless of age – who receives Jesus Christ as his/her personal Savior and publicly professes faith before the congregation. The Council schedules baptisms on most Sunday mornings throughout the year usually after the candidate completes an introductory class. Come to the front of the sanctuary during the *Invitation to Faith and Fellowship* if you would like to be baptized or speak privately with Pastor Ivan.

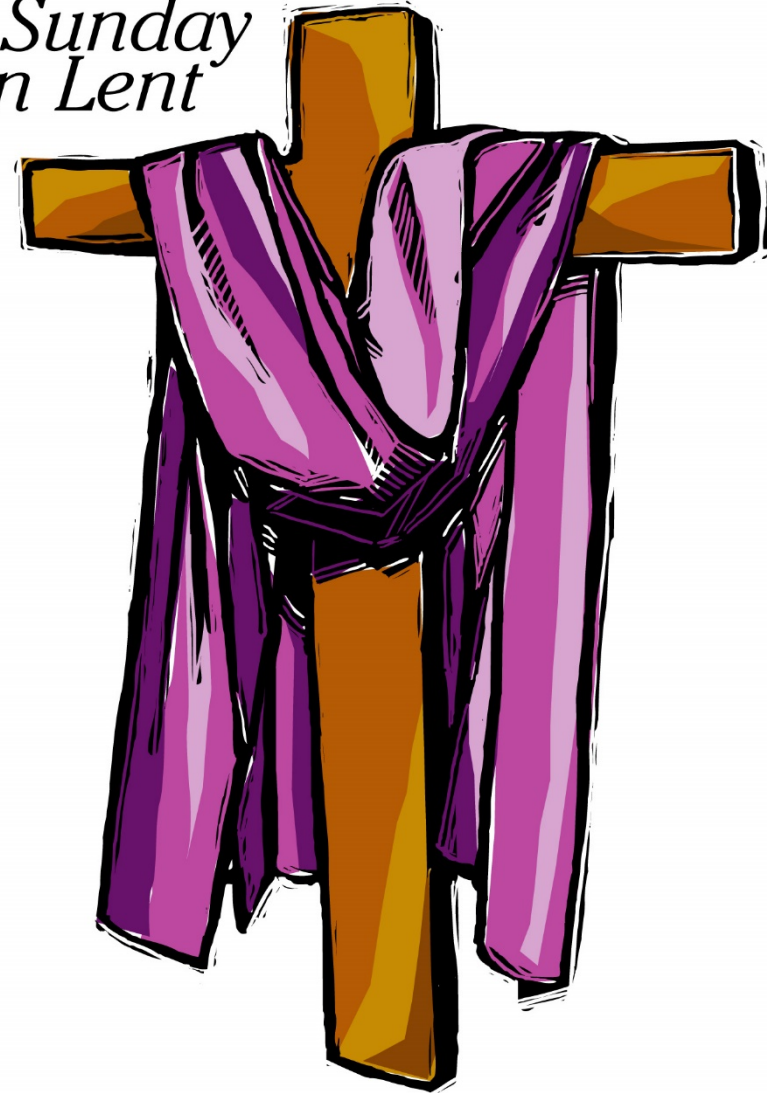
THE LORD'S SUPPER – West Side Baptist Church celebrates the Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) on the first Sunday of each month. We practice "open communion" which means the Table of the Lord is open to all baptized Christians regardless of age or religious affiliation. In solidarity with our brothers and sisters, we use only non-alcoholic grape juice. Please hold each element until everyone is served, then we will feast together.

American Baptist Church USA – American Baptist Churches USA (ABCUSA) is one of the most diverse Christian denominations today, with approximately 5,000 local congregations comprised of 1.3 million members across the United States and Puerto Rico.

American Baptist Church, USA
www.abc-usa.org



Fourth Sunday in Lent



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