

*Today's flowers were provided
by Jennifer Sereda and Art Smith.*

CALL TO WORSHIP

After he was baptized by John,
Jesus was sent by himself to the wilderness
to be strengthened in his identity, his belovedness,
and his calling.

**After forty days in the desert, Jesus was tempted
to become relevant, spectacular, and powerful.**

This morning, we begin to journey with Jesus
through the season of Lent,
which brings us to face
some of our own weaknesses and temptations,
and to strengthen our identity,
our belovedness, our calling.

**Let us worship God and walk the journey,
seeking the spirit as our guide and companion
along the way.**

SONG *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

I want Jesus to walk with me
I want Jesus to walk with me
All along my pilgrim journey
I want Jesus to walk with me.

In my trials, Lord, walk with me
In my trials, Lord, walk with me
When my heart is almost breaking,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me
When I'm in trouble, Lord walk with me
When life becomes a burden,
Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

I want Jesus to walk with me
I want Jesus to walk with me
All along my pilgrim journey
I want Jesus to walk with me.

LENTEN PRAYER OF REFLECTION AND CONFESSION

O Jesus, shepherd of our growth, just as the
endurance of winter produces a hardiness within us
and a greater appreciation for spring, so does
endurance of uncertainty and trouble cause a
strengthening of faith, a growth of spiritual courage,
and greater compassion toward those whose trials
have been more difficult than ours. We thank you,
God, for times of trouble and uncertainty. We thank
you for wilderness-like experiences. Had our
journey been carefree, we might not know the
fullness of your love.

(time for silent prayer and reflection)

HYMN *Restore in Us, O God*

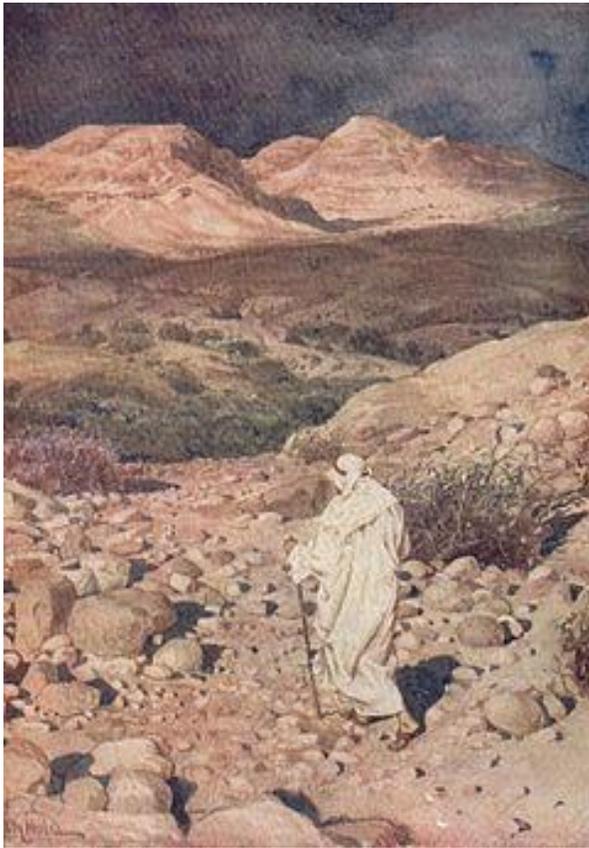
Restore in us, O God,
the splendor of your love;
renew your image in our hearts,
and all our sins remove.

O Spirit, wake in us
the wonder of your power;
from fruitless fear unfurl our lives
like springtime bud and flower.

Bring us, O Christ, to share
the fullness of your joy;
baptize us in the risen life
that death cannot destroy.

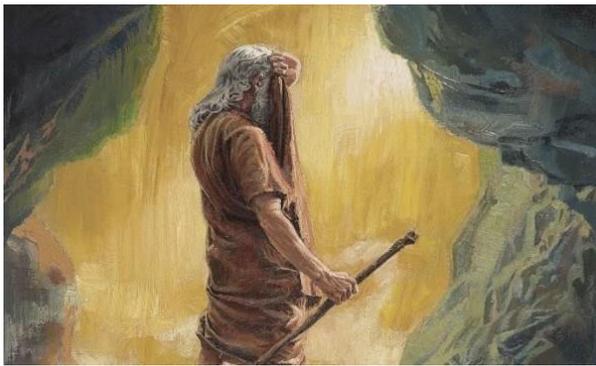
Three-personed God, fulfill
the promise of your grace,
that we, when all our searching ends,
may see you face to face.





SCRIPTURE READINGS: Hebrews 4:14-16 and
Matthew 4:1-11

MESSAGE The Call of Wilderness



PRAYER

HYMN *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*

Lord, dismiss us with your blessing;
fill our hearts with joy and peace;
let us each, your love possessing,
triumph in redeeming grace.
O refresh us, O refresh us,
traveling through this wilderness.

Thanks we give and adoration
for your gospel's joyful sound:
may the fruits of your salvation
in our hearts and lives abound:
ever faithful, ever faithful
to the truth may we be found.

Savior, when your love shall call us,
from our struggling pilgrim way,
let no fear of death appall us,
glad your summons to obey:
may we ever, may we ever
reign with you in endless day.



BENEDICTION

May the grace of Christ attend you,
The love of God surround you,
And the Holy Spirit keep you,
That you may live in faith,
Abound in hope,
And grow in love,
Now and forevermore.
And all of God's people said, Amen!

"As the Father has sent me, so I send you."
- John 20:21

