



PRELUDE

WELCOME

CALL TO WORSHIP

As we begin the season of Lent,
let us be led by the Spirit,

**even if the path to the promised land
leads through the desert,
through hunger and doubt and temptation;
even if we are led
where we would rather not go.
Yet we choose to be led by the Spirit
and end our journey with new strength and faith,
rejoicing in the Lord our God.**

HYMN #314 *Christ, Be Our Light*

PRAYER OF PRAISE

God of all hope, we gather today deeply aware
of the world's grief and pain—and our own.
Comfort us, we pray, with the sure knowledge
that our Lenten journey culminates in Easter joy.
We thank you for the life of Christ, our Savior,
through whom we live.

RESPONSE #630 *Fairest Lord Jesus*

PRAYER OF CONFESSION AND REFLECTION

Jesus, our savior and friend,
you have told us that life is gained
by losing it, giving it away, and letting it go.
We confess that these words frighten us,
for we are often unwilling to release control.
Yet during this Lenten season we ask that
you teach us what it means to let go
that we might be embraced by divine love,
forever beyond our control, and
forever bountiful in mercy.

(silent prayer and reflection)

WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Jesus, our Shepherd, guides us in paths of
righteousness,
and provides for all our needs: rest, peace,
forgiveness,
and renewed strength for our journey.
People of God, fear not! Your compassionate
Shepherd
leads in love, and feeds us the nourishment we truly
need.

Thanks be to God!

PASSING THE PEACE

HYMN #803 *My Shepherd Will Supply My Need*

SCRIPTURE READINGS Psalm 30 and John 11
(selections)

MESSAGE Women of the Bible: Martha

SONG #247 *Now the Green Blade Rises*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your 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 yours is the kingdom,
and the power,
and the glory
now and forever. Amen.

SONG #250 *In the Bulb There is a Flower*

BENEDICTION

POSTLUDE