

St. Andrew Worship
Sunday, February 18, 2024 @ 10:30 AM

* *Please stand in body or in spirit.*

Threshold

“*Woman, Weeping in the Garden*” (vs. 1)

No. 241

*Woman, weeping in the garden, who has pushed the stone aside?
Who has taken Jesus' body, Jesus Christ the crucified?*

*Call to Worship (*Responsive*)

Lent calls us to journey, this and every day,
following Jesus wherever he leads us.

*Lent calls us to journey:
to the place where God covenants with us,
to receive the new names we are given.*

Lent calls us to worship together,
to tell future generations the good news.

*Lent calls us to practice justice,
to bring God's hope to all people.*

Lent calls us to faithful living,
to trust the One who gives us life.

*Lent calls each of us to take up our cross,
to trust the One who bears it with us.*

Lent calls us to journey with God.

*Let us worship God, who walks with us,
this and every day.*

*Hymn 163

“*Wild and Lone the Prophet's Voice*”

*Wild and lone the prophet's voice echoes through the desert still,
calling us to make a choice, bidding us to do God's will:*

"Turn from sin and be baptized; cleanse your heart and mind and soul.

Quitting all the sins you prized, yield your life to God's control.

"Bear the fruit repentance sows: lives of justice, truth and love.

Trust no other claim than those; set your heart on things above.

*Soon the Lord will come in power, burning clean the threshing floor:
then will flames the chaff devour; wheat alone shall fill God's store."*

*With such preaching, stark and bold, John proclaimed salvation near,
and his timeless warnings hold words of hope to all who hear.*

*So we dare to journey on, led by faith through ways untrod,
till we come at last like John to behold the Lamb of God.*

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

Gracious God, as we begin this Lenten wilderness journey with Jesus, we confess our neglect of you and our faith. We make idols of nation, money and power. We build walls instead of better relationships. We fail to follow Jesus to the poor, the destitute, the stranger. Empty us this Lent, Holy God. Guide us in our faith so we can leave this wilderness season in right relationship with you. Amen.

(Time for silent reflection)

Assurance of Grace

Remember and receive these hopeful words from John 8:31-32, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." Receive God's truth. Receive God's grace. Accept the freedom God provides. Amen.

Response: *Gloria Patri* (*Unison*)

Anthem

"And All the Earth Shall Own Him Lord"

St. Andrew Choir

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Song of prayer

Lord, Listen To Your Children Praying

Lord, lis-ten to your chil - dren pray - ing, _____ Lord, send your
Spir-it in this place; _____ Lord, lis - ten to your chil - dren
pray - ing, _____ send us love, send us power, send us grace. _____

Prayers lifted to God

(Lord's Prayer p. 35 in Hymnal, using "debts/debtors")

*Hymn 459

"O Word of God Incarnate"

*O Word of God incarnate, O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging, O Light of our dark sky:
We praise you for the radiance that from the hallowed page,
a lantern to our footsteps, shines on from age to age.
The church from you, dear Savior, received this gift divine;
and still that light is lifted on all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass that, all life's voyage through,
amid the rocks and quick sands still guides, O Christ, to you.*

*O make your church, dear Savior, a lamp of purest gold
to bear before the nations your true light, as of old;
O teach your wandering pilgrims by this our path to trace,
till, clouds and storms thus ended, we see you face to face.*

Prayer for Illumination (*Unison*)

God of grace, help us seek you and the truth you intend for us today. Let us not be distracted by worldly pursuits or pleasures. Help us to focus our hearts and minds on you and your Word read and proclaimed. Amen.

First Lesson:

Mark 1:9-13

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." ¹²And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. ¹³He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

Second Lesson:

John 1:1-9

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being ⁴in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. ⁶There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. ⁷He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. ⁸He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. ⁹The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

Sermon

A New Wilderness

Rev. Anne McAnelly

*Affirmation

(from *A Brief Statement of Faith*)

We trust in God the Holy Spirit, everywhere the giver and renewer of life. The Spirit justifies us by grace through faith, sets us free to accept ourselves and to love God and neighbor, and binds us together with all believers in the one body of Christ, the Church. The same Spirit who inspired the prophets and apostles rules our faith and life in Christ through Scripture, engages us through the Word proclaimed, claims us in the waters of baptism, feeds us with the bread of life and the cup of salvation, and calls women and men to all ministries of the Church. In a broken and fearful world, the Spirit gives us courage to pray without ceasing, to witness among all peoples to Christ as Lord and Savior, to unmask idolatries in Church and culture, to hear the voices of peoples long silenced, and to work with others for justice, freedom, and peace. In gratitude to God, empowered by the Spirit, we strive to serve Christ in our daily tasks and to live holy and joyful lives, even as we watch for God's new heaven and new earth, praying, "Come, Lord Jesus!"

Offertory Music

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology

Offering Prayer (*Unison*)

God of grace, you provide for us in amazing ways. Accept these offerings as signs of our gratitude and bless them to further Christ's ministry and mission among the poor, the suffering and the destitute. Amen.

*Hymn 166

"Lord, Who throughout These Forty Days"

*Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.*

*As you with Satan did contend and did the victory win,
O give us strength to persevere, in you to conquer sin.*

*And through these days of penitence, and through this Passion tide,
yes, evermore, in life and death, O Lord, with us abide.*

*Abide with us, till when this life of suffering shall be past,
an Easter of unending joy we may attain at last.*

Benediction

The service of worship ends, the service of neighbor and world begins!