

# ORDER OF WORSHIP

*4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent*

March 15, 2026

Eleven O'Clock

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Greeters: Elizabeth Price and Lori Gast ~ Liturgist: Pat Nash

## PRELUDE:

## CHIMING THE HOUR

**GREETINGS** Psalm 118 says: **This is the Day that the Lord hath made, let us rejoice and be glad in it! Good morning and welcome. It is so nice to see all of you here this morning. Visitors, please sign the attendance registers located in each row.**

**Please stand, in body or spirit, and join me in our Call to Worship and remain standing through the the Assurance of Pardon**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP:** (Responsively)

Leader: **For once you were in darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.**

People: **Live as children of light!**

All: **Let us worship God.**

**Please bow your heads for our Opening Prayer**

**\*OPENING PRAYER** God of the living, through baptism we pass from the shadow of death to the light of the resurrection. Remain with us and give us hope that, rejoicing in the gift of the Spirit who gives life to our mortal flesh, we may be clothed with the garments of immortality, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Our first hymn today is:**

**\*HYMN** No. 157 "*I Danced in the Morning*" LORD OF THE DANCE

**\*CALL TO CONFESSION** If we say we are without sin, we deceive ourselves. Let us confess our sins before Almighty God.

**Let us pray together**

**\*PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

Merciful God, forgive our fearfulness in the face of earthly foes. We know we should depend on You, but find ourselves frightened by recent events. We look to the world for answers to problems. We fight to ensure we get our share of resources without regard to the needs of others. Lord, forgive us when in our fear we fail to trust in Your promises and refuse to consider the need of those around us. Forgive us as we humbly try to be faithful followers of Your Son, Jesus Christ. (Say – "**Please pray silently,**" and after about 20 seconds, say, **Amen**) Amen

**\*ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Leader: **Brothers and sisters in Christ, believe the good news of the Gospel. In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**You may be seated**

**A TIME FOR YOUTH It is now time for youth, so would our youth please come forward.**

**Please bow your heads for our Prayer for Illumination**

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION Through Christ You made us a new creation, O God, for with Him we pass from sin to the new life of grace. Accept our prayers in the warm embrace of Your compassion, and welcome all people to the festive banquet of Your table, where we may rejoice in Your love and celebrate the inheritance You have given to us. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**PSALTER LESSON Our Psalter Lesson comes from Psalm 23 please read it responsively with me.**

Leader: **The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.**

People: **He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside still waters;**

Leader: **He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for His name's sake.**

People: **Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.**

Leader: **You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.**

People: **Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord my whole life long.**

Leader: **The Word of the Lord.**

People: **Thanks be to God!**

**OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Our Old Testament Lesson comes from 1 Samuel 16:1-13, you may follow along in your pew Bibles on pages 259-260 of the Old Testament**

**1 Samuel 16:1-13**

The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons." Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.' Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you." Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?" He said, "Peaceably. I have come to sacrifice to the LORD; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice." And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, "Surely his anointed is now before the LORD." But the LORD said to Samuel, "Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him, for the LORD does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the LORD looks on the heart." Then Jesse called Abinadab and made him pass before Samuel. He said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, "Neither has the LORD chosen this one." Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, "The LORD has not chosen any of these." 1 Samuel said to Jesse, "Are all your sons here?" And he said, "There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep." And Samuel said to Jesse, "Send and bring him, for we will not sit down until he comes here." He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy and had beautiful eyes and was handsome. The LORD said, "Rise and anoint him, for this is the one." Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers, and the spirit of the LORD came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

**The choir will now sing the Anthem:**

**ANTHEM:** "Lamb of God" by Twila Paris/Mark Hayes

**GOSPEL LESSON** Our Gospel Lesson comes from John 9:1-41 you may follow along in your pew Bibles on pages 102-103 of the New Testament

**John 9:1-41**

As he walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some were saying, "It is he." Others were saying, "No, but it is someone like him." He kept saying, "I am the he." But they kept asking him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' Then I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, "He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not observe the Sabbath." Others said, "How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?" And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened." He said, "He is a prophet."

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind, but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him."

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, "Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" Then they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for

this man, we do not know where he comes from." The man answered, "Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?" And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him." Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he." He said, "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him. Jesus said, "I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees who were with him heard this and said to him, "Surely we are not blind, are we?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin remains.

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

## SERMON

Rev. Janet Boyanton

**Those who are able, please stand and join with me in singing:**

**\*HYMN** No. 649 "*Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound*" AMAZING GRACE

**Please join me in Affirmation of Faith as it is printed in your bulletin.**

**\*AFFIRMATION** The Apostles' Creed (Traditional)

**I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ His only Son our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

**\*RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 581 "*Glory Be to the Father*" GLORIA PATRI

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen, amen.**

**You may be seated, and now I would like to bring you a Minute for Mission**

A MINUTE FOR MISSION

Pat Nash

**ANNOUNCEMENTS** It is time for announcements, does anybody have an announcement they would like to make?

**CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY** And now it is time for our Prayer Concerns and Celebrations. Does anybody have anything they would like to share?

## **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

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

### **OFFERTORY:**

**\*RESPONSE:** Hymn No. 606 *"Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow"*

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

**Let us come to God with our prayer of Thanksgiving**

### **\*PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Discerner of hearts, You look beneath the outward appearance and see Your image in each of us. Banish in us the blindness that prevents us from recognizing the truth so we may see the world through Your eyes and with the compassion of Jesus Christ who redeems us. Amen.

**Our last Hymn today is:**

**\*HYMN** No. 187 *"Savior, like a Shepherd Lead Us"* BRADBURY

### **\*BENEDICTION**

### **\*BENEDICTION RESPONSE:**

Hymn No. 515 vs. 5 *"I Come with Joy"* DOVE OF PEACE

Together met, together bound by all that God has done,  
we'll go with joy, to give the world the love that makes us one,  
the love that makes us one.

### **\*PASSING OF THE PEACE**

### **\*POSTLUDE:**

**\*Those who are able may stand.**

# Daily Bread

Supplement

DeSoto Presbyterian Church [www.desotopresbyterian.church](http://www.desotopresbyterian.church)

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## THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES

**TUESDAY** – 10:30 AM Tuesday morning group - Bible Study

**THURSDAY** – 10:00 AM Art Group

**NEXT SUNDAY** –

09:45 AM Choir Practice

10:15 AM Sunday School

11:00 AM Worship Service

## EASTER LILY SIGN-UP SHEET

There is a sign-up sheet on the large round table in the Opportunity Corner if you would like to purchase Easter Lilies. The last day to sign-up will be Sunday, March 29, 2026.

## ST PATRICK'S POT-LUCK LUNCHEON CELEBRATION

We will be celebrating St. Patrick's Day with a Pot-Luck Luncheon today, March 15, 2026. We will also be celebrating Joan Christy's 96<sup>th</sup> birthday. All are welcome.

## PRAYER CONCERNS

Our Leaders

Our Presbytery, our church, our Session

Our Troops

Thomas Alexander – please continue to pray

Jim Glander

The church and nation of Ukraine

DeSoto Food Pantry

Chikezie is very weak

Christians in Pakistan

Joan Christy – continued prayers

Jessica Zinn

Travel mercies for Bill Gast

Makia's childhood friend passed away, prayers for his family and friends

## CELEBRATIONS

Ivan is celebrating having Susan here

Pat is glad the Perry's are back