

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY

March 18, 2007

11:00 AM

*A nursery is available during the service. An usher will be happy to assist you.
Hearing devices and large print hymnals are available upon request from an usher.*

Welcome and Announcements

Moments of Friendship

PRELUDE *Satisfied* arr. L. Larson

CALL TO WORSHIP Melanie Bolender, Liturgist

Liturgist: Blessed are they whose transgressions are forgiven,

Congregation: whose sin is put away!

Liturgist: Blessed are they who are free of guilt,

Congregation: in whose spirit there is no deceit!

Liturgist: Let us Pray.

PRAYER OF PRAISE

***HYMN No. 184** *How Blest Are Those*

***CONFESSION OF SIN** (*In Unison*)

O Lord, compassionate beyond measure, merciful beyond belief, we have been in the far country, lost in our sin, distant from you, seemingly beyond your reach. Yet something is calling us back. Somehow, we hope to return to you. We're just not sure about the details. Yet before we can work out what to say, you are running to us. Before we can voice our confession, your arms are around us, welcoming us home. Your forgiveness astounds us. Help us to believe that it is so, for the sake of Jesus Christ. Amen.

(Let each worshipper pray silently.)

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

***GLORIA PATRI** (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, No. 579)

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.

FIRST LESSON: Joshua 5:9-12 (Pew Bible, OT Section, page 193)

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord

People: Thanks be to God.

CHILDREN'S MOMENT Jonathan Fettig

(Children will be dismissed to Children's Church in Fellowship Hall)

ANTHEM *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley* American Spiritual

SECOND LESSON: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21 (Pew Bible, NT Section page 167)

Liturgist: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

***HYMN No. 288** *I Sing the Mighty Power of God*

SERMON LESSON: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32 (Pew Bible, NT Section page 72)

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

SERMON **Taking Our Inheritance For Granted** Jonathan Fettig

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH –** (*In Unison*) **Apostles' Creed (traditional)** *The Presbyterian Hymnal p. 14*

GIVING OF OUR TITHES AND OFFERINGS

Offertory *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* arr. L. Larson

***PRESENTATION, The Doxology** (*The Presbyterian Hymnal*, No. 592)

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.

***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

***HYMN No. 387** *Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us*

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

POSTLUDE *Prelude and Fugue in A Minor* JS Bach

MUSICAL NOTES

The Anthem, *Jesus Walked This Lonesome Valley*, taken directly from our hymnal, has become a very popular hymn during the Lenten Season. LindaJo McKim, the editor of [The Presbyterian Hymnal](#) and the author of [The Presbyterian Hymnal Companion](#), shared this insight on this American Spiritual.

This is an American spiritual which rose out of white communities. It portrays the true humanity of Jesus Christ in enduring the trials and temptations of life just as do all other humans. A New Testament allusion may be Hebrews 4:15. The text moves on to make these experiences more personal by saying in stanza 2, "We must walk this lonesome valley" and in stanza 3, "You must go and stand your trial."

If you wish to follow along with this moving text, you may do so by opening your hymnals to No. 80. However, I would encourage you to experience the strength that comes from this piece simply by listening.