

LENT



the darkness of denial

Mid-Week Lent 2
February 21, 2024
“The Darkness of Denial”

WELCOME

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP – Psalm 42

- P: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

HYMN

What Wondrous Love is This

543

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

- P: Dear friends, let us approach God with a true heart and confess our sins, asking Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to forgive us.
C: **Lord of life, I confess that I am by nature dead in sin. For faithless worrying and selfish pride, for sins of habit and sins of choice, for the wrong I have done and the good I have failed to do, I ask for Your mercy. O Lord, I am sorry for my sins and ask for Your forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ.**

(silence for personal confession and self-reflection)

- P: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake, forgives you all your sins. Therefore, I announce to you the forgiveness of your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: **Amen.**

PSALM OF THE DAY – PSALM 73

*(all sing) I am continually with You, You hold my right hand.
My flesh and heart may fail, but for me it is good to be near God.*

**Surely God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.
But as for me, my feet had almost slipped; I had nearly lost my foothold.
For I envied the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.
They have no struggles; their bodies are healthy and strong.
They are free from common human burdens; they are not plagued by human ills.
Therefore pride is their necklace; they clothe themselves with violence.
From their callous hearts comes iniquity; their evil imaginations have no limits. (vv. 1-7)**

*(all sing) I am continually with You, You hold my right hand.
My flesh and heart may fail, but for me it is good to be near God.*

**When I tried to understand all this, it troubled me deeply
till I entered the sanctuary of God; then I understood their final destiny.
Surely You place them on slippery ground; You cast them down to ruin.
How suddenly are they destroyed, completely swept away by terrors!
They are like a dream when one awakes;
when You arise, Lord, You will despise them as fantasies.
When my heart was grieved and my spirit embittered,
I was senseless and ignorant; I was a brute beast before you. (vv. 16-22)**

*(all sing) I am continually with you, You hold my right hand.
My flesh and heart may fail, but for me it is good to be near God.*

**Yet I am always with You; You hold me by my right hand.
You guide me with Your counsel, and afterward You will take me into glory.
Whom have I in heaven but You? And earth has nothing I desire besides You.
My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my
portion forever. (vv. 23-26)**

*(all sing) I am continually with you, You hold my right hand.
My flesh and heart may fail, but for me it is good to be near God.*

**Those who are far from You will perish; You destroy all who are unfaithful to You.
But as for me, it is good to be near God. I have made the Sovereign Lord my refuge; I
will tell all Your deeds. (vv. 27-28)**

*(all sing) I am continually with you, You hold my right hand.
My flesh and heart may fail, but for me it is good to be near God.*

FIRST READING		Genesis 12:1-8
HYMN	Lamb of God	550
GOSPEL READING		John 8:31-39

HYMN

I Lay My Sins on Jesus

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SERMON

“The Darkness of Denial”

Pastor Meyer
ESM Shepherd of the School

APOSTLES’ CREED

OFFERING/OFFERTORY

POETRY READING

“Denial”

Celine Newman

EIGHTH GRADE CONFIRMATION TESTIMONY 7:00p

Ethan Loggins whose confirmation verse is Philippians 4:6

PRAYERS

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

P: May God the Father, who does not despise the broken spirit, give to you a contrite heart.

C: Lord have mercy.

P: May Christ, who bore my sin in His body on the tree, heal you by His wounds.

C: Amen.

P: May the Holy Spirit, who leads us into all truth, speak to you words of pardon and peace.

C: Amen.

P: And may the Lord bless you and keep you. May the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. May the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYMN

Beautiful Savior

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SILENT PRAYER

Lord, thank you for never denying me as Your own. Strengthen me to confess You always. Amen.