

The United Methodist Church at Absecon

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Unlikely Opposition: The Servant Girl

March 1, 2026 – Second Sunday in Lent

Today's Lay Reader: Melissa Wilson

Welcome

Prelude

Balm in Gilead

Traditional Spiritual

Call to Worship

Leader: Come! Come from our sanctuary or from your home. Come at 11 AM on Sunday or any time during the week. Come whenever and wherever you are. Come! Worship is called in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit!

People: **We come, ready to look at opposition in a different way.**

Leader: It can be easy to see opposition as a negative and personal attack. But is that the only way to look at it?

People: **Opposition can force us to reflect on our own decisions. We can get defensive, or we can take it as a place of needed growth. That choice is up to us.**

Hymn

Sing Praise to God Who Reigns Above (verses 1, 2, and 4)

1. Sing praise to God who reigns a-bove, the God of all cre -
 2. The Lord is nev - er far a - way, but through all grief dis -
 3. Thus, all my toil - some way a - long, I sing a - loud thy
 4. Let all who name Christ's ho - ly name give God all praise and

a - tion, the God of power, the God of love, the God of
 tress - ing, an ev - er pres - ent help and stay, our peace and
 prais - es, that earth may hear the grate - ful song my voice un -
 glo - ry; let all who own his power pro - claim a - loud the

our sal - va - tion. With heal - ing balm my soul is filled and
 joy and bless - ing. As with a moth - er's ten - der hand, God
 wea - ried rais - es. Be joy - ful in the Lord, my heart, both
 won - drous sto - ry! Cast each false i - dol from its throne, for

ev - ery faith - less mur - mur stilled: To God all praise and glo - ry.
 gent - ly leads the cho - sen band: To God all praise and glo - ry.
 soul and bod - y bear your part: To God all praise and glo - ry.
 Christ is Lord, and Christ a - lone: To God all praise and glo - ry.

Opening Prayer

God, thank you for today's opportunity to see opposition as a tool for spiritual growth. Opposition can be an unlikely teacher in our lives. Open our hearts and minds to all that we can learn from the Servant Girl who questions Peter. Through this story, and through our own opposition, deepen our faith in Christ as we journey through this season of Lent. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer

The Lord's Prayer

Hymn

His Name is Wonderful

His name is won-der-ful, his name is won-der-ful, his name is

The first system of musical notation for the hymn. It consists of a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff, both in 3/4 time and B-flat major. The melody is in the treble clef, and the bass line is in the bass clef. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

won-der-ful, Je - sus, my Lord. He is the might-y King,

The second system of musical notation. It continues the melody and bass line from the first system. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

Mas-ter of ev-ery-thing; his name is won-der-ful, Je-sus, my Lord.

The third system of musical notation. It continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

He's the great Shep-herd, the Rock of all a - ges, al - might-y

The fourth system of musical notation, which concludes the hymn. It continues the melody and bass line. The lyrics are written below the treble staff.

God is he; bow down be-fore him, love and a-
 dore him, his name is won-der-ful, Je - sus, my Lord.

The image shows a musical score for a choir. It consists of two systems of music. Each system has a treble clef staff and a bass clef staff. The music is in a key with one flat (B-flat major or D minor) and a 4/4 time signature. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first system ends with a double bar line, and the second system continues the melody and accompaniment.

Senior Choir**More Precious Than Silver**

arr. Stan Pethel

Young Disciples Chatting with the Rev**Scripture Lesson**

Mark 14:66-72

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the female servants of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she stared at him and said, "You also were with Jesus, the man from Nazareth." But he denied it, saying, "I do not know or understand what you are talking about." And he went out into the forecourt. Then the cock crowed. And the female servant, on seeing him, began again to say to the bystanders, "This man is one of them." But again he denied it. Then after a little while the bystanders again said to Peter, "Certainly you are one of them, for you are a Galilean, and you talk like one." But he began to curse, and he swore an oath, "I do not know this man you are talking about." At that moment the cock crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered that Jesus had said to him, "Before the cock crows twice, you will deny me three times." And he broke down and wept.

Leader: The Word of God for the people of God

People: Thanks be to God**Message** *Unlikely Opposition: The Servant Girl***Offering Ourselves and Our Gifts to God****Offertory**

Interlude

Charles L. Talmadge

Offertory Hymn

Lift High the Cross

(verse 1)

Lift high the cross, the love of Christ pro-claim

till all the world a-dore his sa-cred name.

Fine

Harmony

1. Come, Chris-tians, fol-low this tri-um-phant sign. The
 2. Each new-born ser-vant of the Cru-ci-fied bears
 3. O Lord, once lift-ed on the glo-rious tree, as
 4. So shall our song of tri-umph ev-er be: Praise

hosts of God in u-ni-ty com-bine.
 on the brow the seal of him who died.
 thou hast prom-ised, draw the world to thee.
 to the Cru-ci-fied for vic-to-ry!

D.C.

A Service of Word and Table

Please see the Communion Liturgy on [page 8](#) of this document.

Communion Anthem

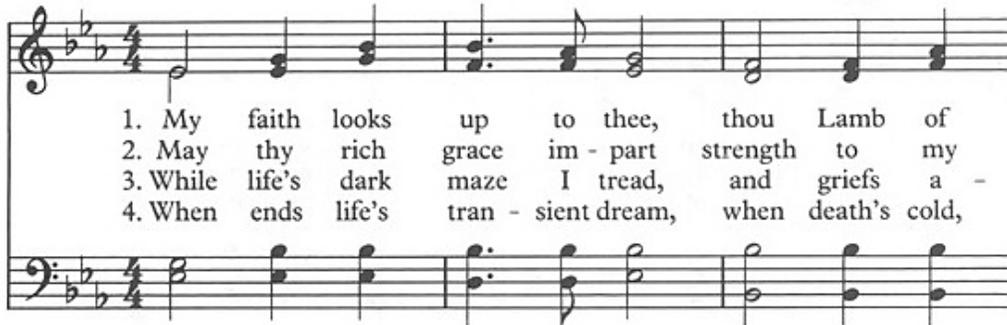
Comfort Me Dear Lord

Bert and Sonya Poorman

Hymn

My Faith Looks Up to Thee

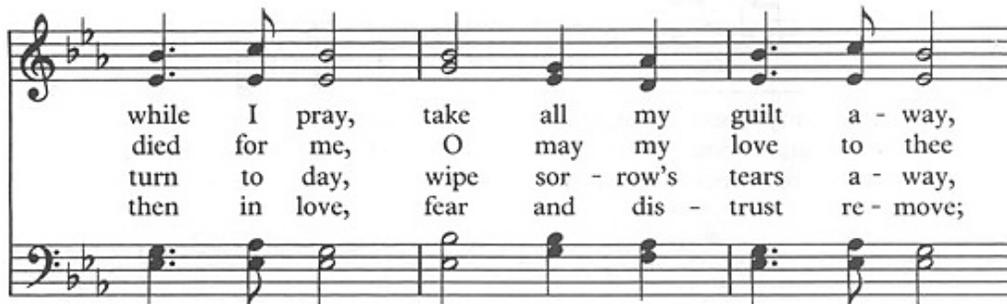
(verses 1, 2, and 4)



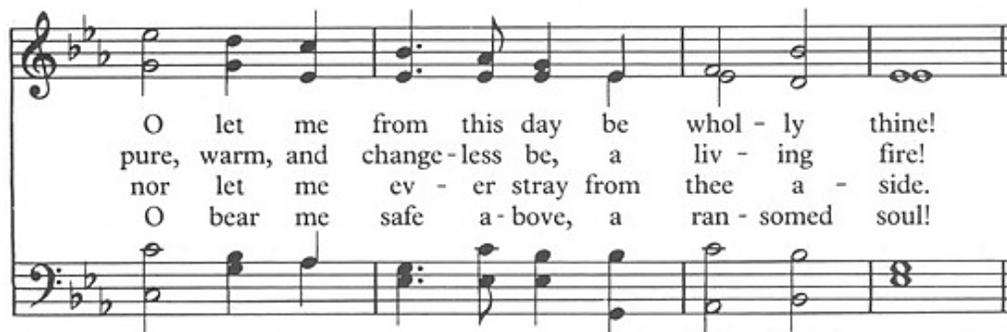
1. My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of
 2. May thy rich grace im-part strength to my
 3. While life's dark maze I tread, and griefs a -
 4. When ends life's tran-sient dream, when death's cold,



Cal - va - ry, Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me
 faint - ing heart, my zeal in - spire! As thou hast
 round me spread, be thou my guide; bid dark - ness
 sul - len stream shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior,



while I pray, take all my guilt a - way,
 died for me, O may my love to thee
 turn to day, wipe sor - row's tears a - way,
 then in love, fear and dis - trust re - move;



O let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
 pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
 nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
 O bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Benediction

Postlude

The Church's One Foundation

S. S. Wesley

A Service of Word and Table

Invitation

Pastor: Christ our Lord invites to His table all who love him, who earnestly repent of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

Confession and Pardon

People: Merciful God, we confess that we have not loved You with our whole heart. We have failed to be an obedient church. We have not done Your will, we have broken Your law, we have rebelled against Your love, we have not loved our neighbors, and we have not heard the cry of the needy. Forgive us, we pray. Free us for joyful obedience through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Pastor: Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are all forgiven!

People: In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

All: Thanks be to God!

The Great Thanksgiving

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The pastor gives thanks appropriate to the occasion, remembering God's mighty acts of salvation, and concludes: And so, with Your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The people sing their response:

Sanctus

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord; God of
power and might. Heav - en and earth are
full of your glo - - - -
- ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high -
est! Blest is the one who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal* (Isa. 6:3; Matt. 21:9)

MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

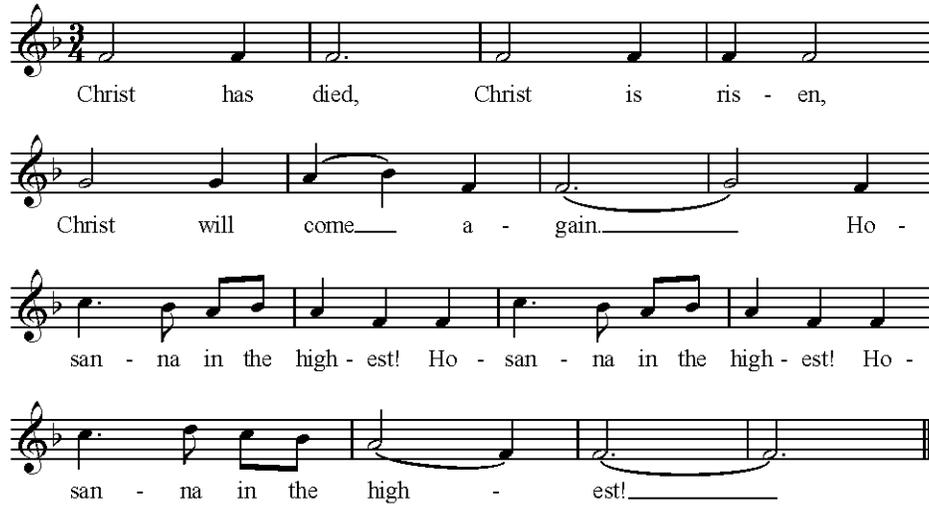
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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-b.

The pastor continues the Thanksgiving. The institution of the Lord's Supper is recalled. The pastor concludes: And so, in remembrance of these Your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith:

The people sing their response:

Memorial Acclamation



Christ has died, Christ is ris - en,
Christ will come a - gain. Ho -
san - na in the high - est! Ho - san - na in the high - est! Ho -
san - na in the high - est!

WORDS: From *The United Methodist Hymnal*
MUSIC: Mark A. Miller

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Source: *The Faith We Sing*, no. 2257-c.

The pastor invokes the present work of the Holy Spirit and then praises the Trinity, concluding: All honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever.

ALL: Amen!

Breaking the Bread

Giving the Cup