



# Wandering Heart

*"Rescue me from danger"*

But when he saw the wind, he was afraid  
and, beginning to sink, cried out, "Lord, save me!"  
(MATTHEW 14:30)

## Second Sunday in Lent

Immanuel Lutheran Church ELCA

Forest City, Iowa

Pastors Rod Hopp & Zech Anderson, Intern Elizabeth Carr

February 25, 2024 9:15am

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*Building community in the name and likeness of Jesus Christ.*

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*The second covenant in this year's Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God's promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham's faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.*

## ORDER OF WORSHIP

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### PRELUDE

### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

L: God welcomes the dreamers and doubters,

**C: the courageous and the fearful,**

L: the hungry and the hopeful,

**C: the impatient and the reserved.**

L: God welcomes the young and the old,

**C: the poets and the prophets,**

L: the faithful and the tired,

**C: the curious and the convicted.**

L: Wherever you are on your journey, wherever your boat is at sea,

**C: there is room for all to gather here.**

L: This is God's house.

**C: Let us worship the one whom even the seas obey.**

L: In the prayer of confession, we are honest about the storms that rage within and around us. In this prayer, we speak with honesty in an effort to move closer to God. This is our moment to crawl out of the boat. So friends, let's be like Peter. Join me in being courageous. Join me in truth-telling. Join me in prayer. It's time to get our feet wet. Let us pray together...

**C: Gracious God, there are days that threaten to swallow us, days when the storms of life feel too big. In those moments, we often cling to the sides of our ships in fear, spending more energy hiding from storms than looking for you. Forgive us for doubting ourselves. Forgive us for doubting you. Rescue us from the storms of today and from the fears that trap us. With hope in our hearts we pray. Amen.**

L: Family of faith, You could get out of the boat and walk on water like Peter, or fall to your knees and stay in one place. No matter what you do, Christ's love for you is unchanging. Fearful or brave, faithful or doubting, Christ is always walking toward you. So hear and believe this good news: God's love is stronger than any storms. On our best days, and on our worst days, we are seen, forgiven, and loved. God is always walking toward you. Thanks be to God!

**ALL: Amen.**

## GATHERING SONG: “You Are My All in All”

You are my strength when I am weak. You are the treasure that I seek. You are my all in all.  
Seeking You as a precious jew’l, Lord, to give up I’d be a fool. You are my all in all.

*Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name! Jesus, Lamb of God, worthy is Your name!*

Taking my sin, my cross, my shame, Rising again I bless Your name; You are my all in all.  
When I fall down, You pick me up; When I am dry, You fill my cup; You are my all in all.

Words and music by Dennis Jernigan; 1991 Shepherd’s Heart Music, Inc.; CCLI song #825356

## GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Holy God, there are days where the wind is loud. There are days where the rain tears through the trees and the storms of life beg for our attention. So just as you stilled the wind and the sea, still our wandering hearts. Quiet our restless minds. Reach out your hand to us and pull us into your Word so that we might hear, really hear, your message to us today. With one foot out of the boat, we pray.

**C: Amen.**

SCRIPTURE: Psalm 22:23-31 [read responsively]

<sup>23</sup>You who fear the LORD, give praise! All you of Jacob’s line, give glory.

Stand in awe of the LORD, all you off-spring of Israel.

<sup>24</sup>**For the LORD does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither is the LORD’s face hidden from them; but when they cry out, the LORD hears them.**

<sup>25</sup>From you comes my praise in the great assembly;

I will perform my vows in the sight of those who fear the LORD.

<sup>26</sup>**The poor shall eat and be satisfied,**

**Let those who seek the LORD give praise! May your hearts live forever!**

<sup>27</sup>All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the LORD;

all the families of nations shall bow before God.

<sup>28</sup>**For dominion belongs to the LORD, who rules over the nations.**

<sup>29</sup>Indeed, all who sleep in the earth shall bow down in worship;

all who go down to the dust, though they be dead, shall kneel before the LORD.

<sup>30</sup>**Their descendants shall serve the LORD,**

**whom they shall proclaim to generations to come.**

<sup>31</sup>They shall proclaim God’s deliverance to a people yet unborn,

saying to them, “The LORD has acted!”

GOSPEL: Matthew 14:22-33

Announcement: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Conclusion: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

CHILDREN'S SERMON / SERMON

Pastor Zech

HYMN OF THE DAY: **"In Christ Alone"**

In Christ alone my hope is found, He is my light, my strength, my song;  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace, when fears are stilled, with strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

In Christ alone, who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe!  
This gift of love and righteousness, scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Till on that cross as Jesus died, the wrath of God was satisfied.  
For ev'ry sin on Him was laid; Here in the death of Christ I live.

There in the ground His body lay, Light of the world by darkness slain;  
Then, bursting forth in glorious Day, up from the grave He rose again!  
And as He stands in victory, sin's curse has lost its grip on me;  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

No guilt in life, no fear in death, this is the pow'r of Christ in me;  
From life's first cry to final breath, Jesus commands my destiny.  
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man, can ever pluck me from His hand;  
Till He returns or calls me home, here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand!

Words and music by Keith Getty & Stuart Townend; 2001 Thankyou Music; CCLI song # 335-395

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**I believe in a God who moves toward me when storms rage. I believe in a God who invites me to be brave. I believe in a God whom the wind and waves obey. I believe in a God who knows my name. I believe in a God of love. I am not afraid. Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH: *L: Hear us, O God. C: Your mercy is great.*

<b>Ruby Sue</b> Albertsen	<b>Chris</b> McCormick	<b>Casey</b> Sink (Audrey's daughter)
<b>Liam</b> Bartleson	<b>Jill</b> (Lewison) Nedved	<b>Jennie</b> Spencer
<b>Hayden</b> Despenas	<b>Melvin</b> Peterson	<b>Lucky</b> Truong
<b>Parker</b> Farland	<b>Carroll</b> Reines	<b>Missionary Karen</b> Anderson
<b>Donna</b> Kvale	<b>Tim</b> Schmidt	<b>Evangelical Lutheran Church of the Magallanes</b>

SHARING OF THE PEACE: *L: The peace of Christ be with you always. C: And also with you.*

OFFERING / SPECIAL MUSIC: "Fairest Lord Jesus"

Dr. Jonathan Korth, pianist

## OFFERTORY: **“Give Thanks”**

Give thanks with a grateful heart, give thanks to the Holy One;  
Give thanks because He’s given Jesus Christ, His Son. [repeat]

And now let the weak say, “I am strong,” let the poor say,  
“I am rich,” because of what the Lord has done for us; [repeat]

Give thanks.

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## OFFERING PRAYER

Jesus, you are the bread of life and the host of this meal. Bless these gifts that we have gathered that all people may know your goodness. Feed us not only with this holy food but with hunger for justice and peace. We pray this in your name.

**Amen.**

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION / LORD’S PRAYER

## COMMUNION

## POST-COMMUNION BLESSING / PRAYER

## SENDING HYMN: **“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”**

1. Amazing grace, how sweet the sound, that saved a wretch like me.  
I once was lost, but now I’m found, was blind but now I see.
2. ‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved.  
How precious did that grace appear, the hour I first believed.  
*My chains are gone. I’ve been set free, my God, my Savior has ransomed me.  
And like a flood His mercy rains, unending love, amazing grace.*
3. The Lord has promised good to me, His word my hope secures.  
He will my shield and portion be, as long as life endures. [*Chorus*]
4. The earth shall soon dissolve like snow, the sun forbear to shine.  
But God, who called me here below, will be forever mine,  
Will be forever mine. You are forever mine.

Words and music by John Newton, Chris Tomlin, Louie Giglio; 2006 sixsteps Music-Vanco Publishing;  
CCLI song # 4768151

BLESSING / DISMISSAL:            God in peace. You are God’s beloved.  
   **Thanks be to God.**

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**Today's worship** is broadcast at 11:00am over KLOW 107.3 FM. Broadcast is given in memory of Michael Gernetzke (Feb. 25 b'day) from family Gary, Ruth, Maren, & David Gernetzke.

**Worship Participants:**

Ushers: Gary McCarthy, Jim Lund, Tina Berg

Song Leaders: Scott Bertelsen, Renae Hopp, Ollivia Banta

Piano: Karen Post

Band: Geno Lopes-guitar, Antonio Lopes-drums

Communion Set Up: Tasha Banta

Communion Servers: Keith Walker, Mary Kingland

Altar Care: Kathy Leuwerke

Assisting Minister: Dave Readinger

Greeter: Shirley Rollefson

Scripture Reader: Mary Kingland

Sound/Video Techs: Brody Hopp, Jacob Beenken