

Worship Service
Second Sunday of Lent: HUMILITY

Welcome: Welcome! Thank you for coming to our service today. My name is _____ and I'll be leading our worship time. Today is the second Sunday of Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter, a time of reflecting on our humanity and God's glory. We use the color purple during Lent as the color of repentance and forgiveness. Today we'll be looking at the idea of **humility**.

Please pray with me as we open our time together.

Opening Prayer: Great and loving God, we ask that your Holy Spirit bless our time together and to refresh us with your presence. In the midst of a world full of trouble and strife, we thank you for watching over us, guiding us, and especially forgiving us. Enable us to enter your presence joyfully and reverently, and let us depart today with the assurance that our sins are forgiven. Fill us, O God, with the peace which passes understanding. Amen.

Opening Hymn: Doxology, p. 1

Statement of Faith: Let us affirm our statement of faith by reciting Psalm 23 together:

The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

²He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

³He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

⁴Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

⁵Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Hymns:

Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us, p. 3

Amazing Grace, p. 4

Holy, Holy, Holy, p. 5

First Reading: Psalm 25: 1-10

To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.

²O my God, in you I trust;

let me not be put to shame;

let not my enemies exult over me.

³Indeed, none who wait for you shall be put to shame;

they shall be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.

⁴Make me to know your ways, O Lord;

teach me your paths.

⁵Lead me in your truth and teach me,

for you are the God of my salvation;

for you I wait all the day long.

⁶Remember your mercy, O Lord, and your steadfast love,

for they have been from of old.

⁷Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions;

according to your steadfast love remember me,

for the sake of your goodness, O Lord!

⁸Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore he instructs sinners in the way.

⁹He leads the humble in what is right,

and teaches the humble his way.

¹⁰All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,

for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

Hymns:

Jesus Loves Me, p. 6

Softly and Tenderly, p. 7

It is Well with My Soul, p. 10

Second reading: Luke 14: 1-11

⁷Now [Jesus] told a parable to those who were invited [to the feast], when he noticed how they chose the places of honor, saying to them, ⁸“When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, lest someone more distinguished than you be invited by him, ⁹and he who invited you both will come and say to you, ‘Give your place to this person,’ and then you will begin with shame to take the lowest place. ¹⁰But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, ‘Friend, move up

higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. ¹¹For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

Hymns:

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing, p. 12

Shall We Gather at the River, p. 13

I Need Thee Every Hour, p. 15

Interactive Homily: Let's think a bit about humility.

- What does it mean to be a humble person?
 - gentle, kind, considerate of others, not proud, not focused on self
 - dictionary: "having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's own importance"
- Jesus tells the story about a wedding feast, with the lesson that it's better not to take the best seat for yourself, and to let the host move you to a better seat. Why? What is pride like? What does it look like in everyday situations?
 - arrogant, self-centered, boastful, pretentious, even rude and impolite; pretty unpleasant!
- As Jesus says, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled." What does it mean when someone "exalts" himself or herself?
 - saying they're better than everyone else, always right, "deserving" of the best
- Christ flips that on its head, saying that "those who are humble will be lifted up (exalted)"; how does that work?
 - God sees the heart; the lowly in God's kingdom are closer to the king!
- Often being humble translates into simple politeness and civility. Who taught you how to be polite? What are some basic politeness instructions?
 - always say thank you; open doors for elders; let ladies and older people take your seat; let others go first in line; don't take all the food for yourself; leave the best for someone else

Let us pray together to be reminded of the virtue of humility.

(Silent Prayer) ... Lord, hear our prayers. Now let us say the Lord's prayer together:

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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

Hymns:

O For a Thousand Tongues to Sing, p. 16

My Jesus, I Love Thee, p. 17

The Old Rugged Cross, p. 18

Third Reading: Quotes on Humility

If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are. –Mother Teresa

Religion is meant to teach us true spiritual human character. It is meant for self-transformation. It is meant to transform anxiety into peace, arrogance into humility, envy into compassion, to awaken the pure soul in man and his love for the Source, which is God. –Radhanath Swami

Something very beautiful happens to people when their world has fallen apart: a humility, a nobility, a higher intelligence emerges at just the point when our knees hit the floor. –Marianne Williamson

We learned about gratitude and humility - that so many people had a hand in our success, from the teachers who inspired us to the janitors who kept our school clean... and we were taught to value everyone's contribution and treat everyone with respect. –Michelle Obama

Humility is the solid foundation of all virtues. –Confucius

Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility. –Saint Augustine

Hymns:

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross, p. 19

Beneath the Cross of Jesus, p. 20

Fourth Reading: Micah 6:6-8

“With what shall I come before the Lord,
and bow myself before God on high?

Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,
with calves a year old?

⁷Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,
with ten thousands of rivers of oil?

Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”

⁸He has told you, O man, what is good;
and what does the Lord require of you
but to do justice, and to love kindness,
and to walk humbly with your God?

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

Hymn:

How Great Thou Art, p. 23

Closing Blessing: (Strike bell as you say the word “Lord”)

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you peace. Amen.

Closing Hymn: Doxology, reprise, p. 25

Philippians 2: 1-11

So if there is any encouragement in Christ, any comfort from love, any participation in the Spirit, any affection and sympathy, ²complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind. ³Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with

God a thing to be grasped,⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.