



West End  
presbyterian church

# WEPC Lectionary Project: Union with Christ

In this 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year of West End Presbyterian Church, we are using the Scripture readings recommended by the Revised Common Lectionary as a framework for our corporate worship, and our personal and family devotion. The Lectionary gives us access to the whole counsel of Scripture and these texts are a means for us to grow in our understanding of our union with Christ.

## WEPC Weekly Readings

To subscribe to a daily email of these readings, register online at [wepc.org/lectionary](http://wepc.org/lectionary).

### March 24, 2019 | Third Sunday in Lent

Isaiah 55:1-9

*Come, Everyone Who Thirsts*

Psalms 63:1-8

*My Soul Clings to You*

I Corinthians 10:1-13

*Take Heed*

Luke 13:1-9

*A Fig Tree*

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### Reflection on Sunday, March 24

#### Monday

Jeremiah 11:1-17

*Judgment Against the Olive Tree*

Romans 2:1-11

*No Partiality*

#### Tuesday

Ezekiel 17:1-10

*Will it Thrive?*

Romans 2:12-16

*Written on Hearts*

#### Wednesday

Numbers 13:17-27

*This is Its Fruit*

Luke 13:18-21

*Seed & Leaven*

#### Daily

Psalms 39

*The Measure of My Days*

### Preparation for Sunday, March 31

#### Thursday

Joshua 4:1-13

*Finished Passing Over*

II Corinthians 4:16-5:5

*Longing to Put On Our Heavenly Dwelling*

#### Friday

Joshua 4:14-24

*Until We Passed Over*

II Corinthians 5:6-15

*Walk By Faith, Not Sight*

#### Saturday

Exodus 32:7-14

*The LORD Relented*

Luke 15:1-10

*Found*

#### Daily

Psalms 32

*You Preserve Me*

# PASTOR'S NOTE

Dear Ones,

Who among us does not judge others? We judge how we spend our money, our time, how we dress, how we vote, how we date, and how we raise our children.

We even judge one another in suffering.

The people approaching Jesus with the questions about disasters befalling people are judging as well. So, Jesus, as the only one who can truly judge, joins in the judgment and says something startling.

Repentance is the means to avoid the ultimate judgement.

Warmly,  
Steve

Sunday Worship Services: 9 AM and 10:30 AM  
Children's Sunday School: 9 AM

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## PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP & Communion

### **Third Sunday in Lent**

In the Christian year, we are now in the season of Lent. Lent is a time to ask God to help us confront our own mortality and sinfulness, to ask Him to show us our need for grace, to grow in repentance, and to reflect on the amazing truth of the Church's participation in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The season of Lent—the period between Ash Wednesday and the Saturday before Easter—lasts 40 days (not including Sundays), reminiscent of the 40 days Jesus fasted in the wilderness.

### **UNLESS YOU REPENT**

“You can't bypass repentance to get to grace. Christ is manifest in our humility, not in our disobedience.”

—Rosaria Butterfield

“To deny sin is bad news, indeed... Because with sin, there's a way out. There's the possibility of repentance. You can't repent of confusion or psychological flaws inflicted by your parent—you're stuck with them. But you can repent of sin. Sin and repentance are the only grounds for hope and joy. The grounds for reconciled, joyful relationships. You can be born again.”

—John Alexander

## CALL TO WORSHIP

*Isaiah 55:1-3*

### **The First Word**

Because we believe God initiates with sinners, we begin worship with His Word: His invitation to us to gather in His name.

Come, everyone who thirsts,  
come to the waters;  
and he who has no money,  
come, buy and eat!

**Come, buy wine and milk  
without money and without price.**

Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,  
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?

**Listen diligently to Me, and eat what is good,  
and delight yourselves in rich food.**

Incline your ear, and come to Me;  
hear, that your soul may live.

## INVOCATION

# SONG OF ADORATION

## ALL CREATURES OF OUR GOD AND KING

1. All creatures of our God and King;  
Lift up your voice and with us sing:  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
Thou silver moon with softer gleam.

*O praise Him! O praise Him!  
Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!*

2. O rushing wind that art so strong  
You clouds that sail in Heaven along,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
O rising moon, in praise rejoice,  
O lights of evening, find a voice!

*"Let them praise the name of the Lord, for His name alone is exalted!" – Psalm 148:13*

*Text: Francis of Assisi (1225), trans. William H. Draper (1926) Tune: LASST UNS ERFREUEN (arr. Vaughan Williams)*

3. All you who are of tender heart,  
Forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye! Alleluia!  
All you who pain and sorrow bear,  
Praise God and on Him cast your care!

4. Let all things their Creator bless,  
And worship Him in humbleness,  
O praise Him! Alleluia!  
Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
And praise the Spirit, Three in One!

## Welcome

*Visitors, we are glad you are here. Following the service, please join Pastor Steve Shelby for coffee in the Gallery.*

## New Testament Reading

*1 Corinthians 10:1-13*

For I do not want you to be unaware, brothers, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, and all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual Rock that followed them, and the Rock was Christ. Nevertheless, with most of them God was not pleased, for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

Now these things took place as examples for us, that we might not desire evil as they did. Do not be idolaters as some of them were; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink and rose up to play." We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did and were destroyed by serpents, nor grumble, as some of them did and were destroyed by the Destroyer. Now these things happened to them as an example, but they were written down for our instruction, on whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

# MINISTRY OF PRAYER

*Psalm 63:1-8.  
A Psalm of David,  
when he was in the  
wilderness of Judah.*

O God, You are my God; earnestly I seek You;  
my soul thirsts for You;

**My flesh faints for You,  
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.**

So I have looked upon You in the sanctuary,  
beholding Your power and glory.

**Because Your steadfast love is better than life,  
my lips will praise You.**

So I will bless You as long as I live;  
in Your name I will lift up my hands.

**My soul will be satisfied as with fat and rich food,  
and my mouth will praise You with joyful lips,**

When I remember You upon my bed,  
and meditate on You in the watches of the night;

**For You have been my help,  
and in the shadow of Your wings I will sing for joy.**

My soul clings to You;  
Your right hand upholds me.

*Pray for Our Church, Our City, and the World. This week:*

- For West End Presbyterian Church: Give us grace to repent and count Your steadfast love as better than life.
- For Metropolitan Richmond: Pray for health care: For the sick and suffering and those who care for them. For doctors, nurses, hospice workers, medical personnel, clinics, home healthcare workers, and all who minister to the health of others.
- For Refugees and Displaced Peoples around the world, currently an estimated 68 million people. For WEPC Mission Partners Bill & Suzanne Scott (Mission to the World, Atlanta) and Sarah Kalichman (Mission to North America, Harrisonburg). For the witness of the Persecuted Church.

# OFFERING

*If you missed today's offering and wish to give, or if you would like to submit your tear-off, the elders at the front of the sanctuary who are available for prayer following the service will be glad to receive them.*

The offering isn't just about money. Our response to the Gospel goes much deeper—God demands our whole selves. The act of giving in worship is a part of offering ourselves as “living sacrifices” to God (Rom. 12:1).

## SONG OF PRAISE

### STREAMS OF LIVING WATER

1. See, from Zion's sacred mountain,  
Streams of Living Water flow.  
God has opened there a Fountain  
That supplies the plains below.

*They are blessed, they are blessed  
Who Its sovereign virtues know.*

2. Through ten thousand channels flowing,  
Streams of mercy find their way.  
Life and health and joy bestowing,  
Making all around unstained.

*O believer, O believer,  
All your sins are washed away.*

3. Gladdened by the flowing Treasure  
All enriching as it goes.  
Lo, the desert smiles with pleasure,  
Buds and blossoms as the rose.

*Every sinner, every sinner  
Sings for joy where'er it flows.*

4. Trees of life the banks adorning,  
Yield their fruit to all around.  
Those who eat are saved from mourning,  
Pleasure comes and hopes abound.

*Fair their portion, fair their portion  
Endless life with glory crowned.*

*“Never again will they  
hunger; never again will  
they thirst. For the Lamb...  
will lead them to springs  
of living water.”*

*– Revelation 7:16-18*

*Text: Thomas Kelly  
Tune: Jeff Koonce  
& Brian T. Murphy  
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## CHILDREN'S WORSHIP (10:30 AM)

*During the 10:30 AM service, children (pre-K to second grade) are dismissed for Children's Worship. See p.14 for more information.*

## SCRIPTURE READING

*Luke 13:1-9*

<sup>1</sup> There were some present at that very time who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. <sup>2</sup> And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered in this way? <sup>3</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. <sup>4</sup> Or those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them: do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who lived in Jerusalem? <sup>5</sup> No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish."

<sup>6</sup> And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard, and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. <sup>7</sup> And he said to the vinedresser, 'Look, for three years now I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down. Why should it use up the ground?' <sup>8</sup> And he answered him, 'Sir, let it alone this year also, until I dig around it and put on manure. <sup>9</sup> Then if it should bear fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

## Sermon

*A Worship Guide with sermon notes and recordings is posted each Sunday at [wepc.org/sermons](http://wepc.org/sermons).*



# PREPARATION FOR THE LORD'S SUPPER

## WORDS OF INSTITUTION

For I received from the Lord what I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus on the night when he was betrayed took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and said, "This is my body which is for you. Do this in remembrance of me." In the same way also he took the cup, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

*1 Corinthians 11:23-32*

Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many of you are weak and ill, and some have died. But if we judged ourselves truly, we would not be judged. But when we are judged by the Lord, we are disciplined so that we may not be condemned along with the world.

# PRAYER OF CONFESSION

## Confession & Encouragement

Often we find that our hearts are worshipping something other than God. In confessing our sins, the Holy Spirit probes our hearts and minds and graciously shows us what we mistakenly believe will give us life. Jesus is good to lead us from sorrow over our sin to the sweetness of His grace.

**Merciful God, we have sinned in what we have thought and said, in the wrong we have done, and in the good we have not done. You proclaimed the Gospel of God, but we have been slow to repent; forgive our cold hearts. You said the Kingdom was at hand, but we have been slow to trust; forgive our unbelief. You called us to follow You, but we are given to our own way; forgive our rebel lusts. Forgive us, for our Savior Christ's sake, and renew our lives to the glory of Your name. Amen.**

*Silent Confession*

# LORD, HAVE MERCY

*"God, have mercy on me, a sinner" – Luke 18:13*

Ancient Greek hymn, 4<sup>th</sup> c.  
Tune: Kevin W. Greene (2019)

Oh Lord have mer - - - cy.

Oh Christ have mer - - - cy.

Oh Lord have mer - - - cy.

U - - pon us.

U - - pon us.

# WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

*Romans 8:1*

Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

# THE SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

West End Presbyterian Church welcomes all baptized Christians who actively trust in Jesus Christ for salvation, who are willing to forsake their sin and heart-idols, and who are members of congregations that proclaim the Gospel to participate in the sacrament of the Lord's Supper with us.

*Wine is in the outer ring of the communion tray, grape juice is in the inner rings.  
All bread is gluten-free.*

*Please come forward as you are ready to participate in the Lord's Supper individually, with a friend, or as a family.*

*If you need special assistance and are not able to come forward for Communion, raise your hand and we will come to you at the conclusion of the Lord's Supper.*

*Elders & Deacons are glad to pray for your children who have not yet become communing members. If your child is ready to make a public profession of faith in Jesus Christ, please mark today's tear-off or contact the WEPC office.*

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GOD THE HOLY SPIRIT TRANSFORMS US BY HIS GRACE

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## SONGS OF RESPONSE TO GOD'S GRACE

### O COME TO THE ALTAR

Are you hurting and broken within?  
Overwhelmed by the weight of your sin?  
Jesus is calling!  
Have you come to the end of yourself?  
Do you thirst for a drink from the well?  
Jesus is calling!

*O come to the altar,  
The Father's arms are open wide!  
Forgiveness was bought with  
The precious blood of Jesus Christ.*

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes—  
Come today there's no reason to wait,  
Jesus is calling!  
Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy,  
From the ashes a new life is born—  
Jesus is calling!

*Oh what a Savior, isn't he wonderful?  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen!  
Bow down before him for he is Lord of all!  
Sing alleluia, Christ is risen!*

*"I will turn their mourning into joy; I will comfort them, and give them gladness for sorrow." –Jeremiah 31:13*  
Chris Brown, Mack Brock, Steven Furtick, Wade Joye © 2015 Elevation Worship Used by permission. CCLI: 708363

## STEADFAST

*Give thanks to the Lord, for  
he is good, for his steadfast  
love endures forever.*  
– Psalm 136:1

Sandra McCracken, Leslie  
Jordan, & Josh Silverberg  
(with adaptations from  
Henri Nouwen)  
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1. I will build my house  
Whether storm or drought  
On the rock that does not move.  
I will set my hope in your love, O Lord,  
And your faithfulness will prove  
You are steadfast, steadfast.

2. By the word you spoke  
All the starry host  
Are called out by name each night.  
In your watchful care I will rest secure,  
As you lead us with your light.  
You are steadfast, steadfast.

3. I will not trust  
In the strength of kings,  
On your promise I will stand.  
I will shout for joy, I will raise my voice,  
Hallelujah to the Lamb!  
You are steadfast, steadfast.

## KINDNESS

*“Do you not know that  
God’s kindness is meant  
to lead you to repen-  
tance?” – Romans 2:4*

Text/Tune: Chris Tomlin,  
Jesse Reeves, Louie Giglio  
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Open up the skies of mercy,  
Rain down the cleansing flood,  
Healing waters rise around us;  
Hear our cries, Lord, let ‘em rise!

*It’s Your kindness, Lord, that leads us to repentance.  
Your favor, Lord, is our desire.  
It’s Your beauty, Lord, that makes us stand in silence.  
And Your love, Your love, is better than life!*

We believe Your mercy falling,  
You turn our hearts back again,  
Hear our praises rise to heaven,  
Draw us near, Lord, meet us here!

# DOXOLOGY



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.

*"Let everything that has breath praise the LORD."  
– Psalm 150:6*

*Text: Thomas Ken (1709)  
Tune: OLD HUNDREDTH  
(Bourgeois, 1551)*

**What does "doxology" mean?** It's a word derived from two Greek words meaning "glory" and "word." A doxology, then, is a spoken word or song that ascribes glory to God. Today's doxology calls all of creation to praise God as the source of all blessing and acknowledges His Trinitarian (three-in-one) nature.

# BENEDICTION

## The Last Word

God always has the last word in our worship. For those who are in Christ Jesus, these are always words of blessing.

*After the service, the Elders are available at the front of the sanctuary to pray with you or for you, and to answer questions about the sermon or West End Presbyterian Church.*

*Pastor Steve Shelby preached today's sermon. Pastor Kevin Greene led worship. Music was led by Kevin Shaffer, along with Sonya Smith, Becca Wethered, Hill Shore, Rick Hepner, Jamison Taggart, and Gordon Collier.*