

heart

CONVERSATIONS with JESUS

gathering

The love of God poured into our hearts,
the saving grace of Jesus Christ,
and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

opening prayer

Let us pray.

Though we seek to walk in faithfulness
through the wilderness of our own lives, O God,
the tempter's traps have been set along our path.

Strengthen your living word within us,
that we may remain true to Christ,
our way, our truth, our life.

Amen.

song

Open My Heart

Part I



O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart.

Part II



O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart.

Part III



O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart.



O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart.



O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart.



O - pen my heart, o - pen my heart.

word

A reading from the gospel of Matthew.

¹ Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tested by the devil. ² He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterward he was famished. ³ The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” ⁴ But he answered, “It is written,

‘One does not live by bread alone,
but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ”

⁵ Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, ⁶ saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down, for it is written,

‘He will command his angels concerning you,’
and ‘On their hands they will bear you up,
so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’ ”

⁷ Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ”

⁸ Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory, ⁹ and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” ¹⁰ Then Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written,

‘Worship the Lord your God,
and serve only him.’ ”

¹¹ Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

prayer stations

ALTAR OF MEMORY

At this prayer station,
you are invited to remember the “big rocks”
that have shaped your life and faith,
and to carefully stack them one atop another,
forming a small altar of gratitude and grit.

This altar will stand as a reminder
of the anchor points that will get you through
your wilderness wanderings.

NAMING OUR G-D

At this prayer station,
you will select a name for the divine
that is particularly relevant to the wilderness
you are facing today.

A list of names for G-d
from the book of Deuteronomy is provided,
or you can select another that is personally meaningful to you;
you are invited to paint it in water on the slate tile
and pray silently until the name is lifted from the stone (evaporates).

offering

As God so freely offers us
the gift of life in Jesus Christ,
let us respond with gratitude,
offering our lives to God.

*Our offering during Lenten midweek worship services
is supporting the mission and ministry
of Camp Lutherwood.*

prayers of intercession

Driven by the Spirit into Lent's wilderness,
let us pray for the church and the world.

At the conclusion of each petition:

We pray.

Hear us, and have mercy.

Hear us, God of salvation,
and give us the gifts of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving
to sustain us in Lent's wilderness,
that Easter may find us renewed
and joyful in the light of Christ's glory,
to the praise of your holy name.

Amen.

lord's prayer

Lord, remember us in your kingdom
and teach us to pray:

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.**

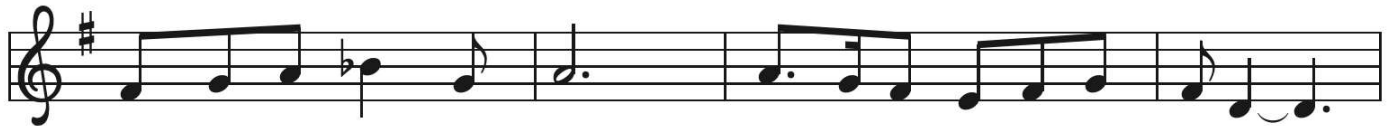
**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

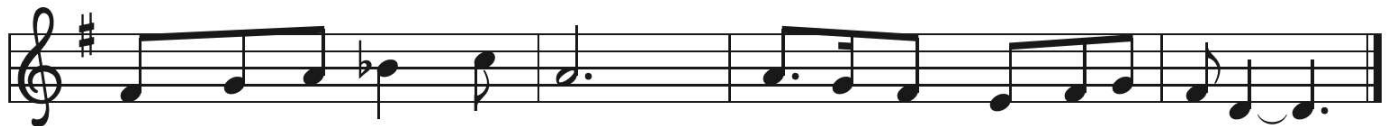
song

Now Is the Time of Grace

Congregation: refrain; cantor: verses.



Now is the time of grace, now is the day of sal - va - tion.



Turn now, and seek God's face, now be-hold God's in-vi - ta - tion.

- 1 This is the fast that God would choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to let the captives go free,
and to break the yoke of oppression.

Refrain.

- 2 Sharing your bread with the hungry
and welcoming homeless in,
offering hope and offering help,
this is what God requires.

Refrain.

- 3 Then shall your light break forth as dawn,
and healing shall come to you quickly;
then you shall call and God shall answer,
God's love shall go before you.

Refrain.

sending