

LENT 1 – MIDWEEK
FEBRUARY 25, 2026

Theme of the Day: Surrender! Like Job, we have three choices when something catastrophic happens. We can let it *destroy* us. We can let it *define* us. Or we can let it *develop* us. Today we learn how suffering can develop us and it all begins with one act —**surrender**.

Invocation

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

Call to Worship (*Based upon Job 19:23-27*)

Pastor: Oh, that my words were recorded, that they were written on a scroll.

People: That they were inscribed with an iron tool on lead, or engraved in rock forever!

Pastor: I know that my Redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand upon the earth.

People: And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God.

Pastor: I myself will see him with my own eyes, I, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

All: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Hymn #420 Christ, the Life of All the Living (stanzas 1-3)

Christ, the life of all the living,
Christ, the death of death, our foe,
Who, Thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe:
Through Thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit,
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou, ah! Thou, hast taken on Thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon Thee,
O Thou sinless Son of God!
Thus didst Thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yes, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Gracious and most merciful Father,

People: In the light of your holiness we see ourselves as we really are.

Pastor: And we are ashamed.

People: We confess that we have impure thoughts and unclean lips.

Pastor: We think too highly of ourselves and too little of others.

People: We cling so tightly to the treasures of this world,

Pastor: That we cannot open our hands to receive blessings from above.

People: Our feet follow the paths of sin.

Pastor: We wander so far astray that we become strangers to righteousness.

People: Forgive us, and set us again on the path that leads to life.

Pastor: Deal with us not as we deserve, but according to your mercy,

People: Not because we are worthy but because you are gracious.

Pastor: While it is true that we have sinned, it is a greater truth that through God's love in Jesus Christ we are forgiven. God has shown his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross and by his wounds we are healed. I declare to you in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

All: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Hymn #420 Christ, the Life of All the Living (stanzas 6, 7)

Thou has suffered great affliction
And hast borne it patiently,
Even death by crucifixion,
Fully to atone for me;
Thou didst choose to be tormented
That my doom should be prevented.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto Thee.

Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
For Thy sorrows deep and sore.
For Thine anguish in the Garden,
I will thank Thee evermore,
Thank Thee for Thy groaning, sighing,
For Thy bleeding and Thy dying,
For that last triumphant cry,
And shall praise Thee, Lord, on high.

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, when life seems cruel and the going gets real rough, empower us to surrender to your loving will, even as we say, "Blessed be the name of the LORD;" through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE LESSONS REFLECT THE THEME OF SURRENDERING TO GOD'S WILL

Old Testament Reading JOB 1:13-22

¹³ Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, ¹⁴ and there came a messenger to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ and the Sabeans fell upon them and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁶ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants and consumed them, and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁷ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "The Chaldeans formed three groups and made a raid on the camels and took them and struck down the servants with the edge of the sword, and I alone have escaped to tell you." ¹⁸ While he was yet speaking, there came another and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house, and behold, a great wind came across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell upon the young people, and they are dead, and I alone have escaped to tell you." ²⁰ Then Job arose and tore his robe and shaved his head and fell on the ground and worshiped. ²¹ And he said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." ²² In all this Job did not sin or charge God with wrong.

Epistle Reading 2 Corinthians 1:3-9

³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. ⁵ For as we share abundantly in Christ's sufferings, so through Christ we share abundantly in comfort too. ⁶ If we are afflicted, it is for your comfort and salvation; and if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which you experience when you patiently endure the same sufferings that we suffer. ⁷ Our hope for you is unshaken, for we know that as you share in

our sufferings, you will also share in our comfort.⁸ For we do not want you to be unaware, brothers, of the affliction we experienced in Asia. For we were so utterly burdened beyond our strength that we despaired of life itself.⁹ Indeed, we felt that we had received the sentence of death. But that was to make us rely not on ourselves but on God who raises the dead.

Gospel Luke 9:51-62

⁵¹ When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. ⁵² And he sent messengers ahead of him, who went and entered a village of the Samaritans, to make preparations for him. ⁵³ But the people did not receive him, because his face was set toward Jerusalem. ⁵⁴ And when his disciples James and John saw it, they said, "Lord, do you want us to tell fire to come down from heaven and consume them?" ⁵⁵ But he turned and rebuked them. ⁵⁶ And they went on to another village. ⁵⁷ As they were going along the road, someone said to him, "I will follow you wherever you go." ⁵⁸ And Jesus said to him, "Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay his head." ⁵⁹ To another he said, "Follow me." But he said, "Lord, let me first go and bury my father." ⁶⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Leave the dead to bury their own dead. But as for you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God." ⁶¹ Yet another said, "I will follow you, Lord, but let me first say farewell to those at my home." ⁶² Jesus said to him, "No one who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is fit for the kingdom of God."

Hymn #524 How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds In a believer's ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.

It makes the wounded spirit whole And calms the heart's unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul and to the weary, rest.

Dear name! The rock on which I build, My shield and hiding place;
My never failing treasury filled With boundless stores of grace.

O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end, Accept the praise I bring.

How weak the effort of my heart, How cold my warmest thought!
But when I see Thee as Thou art, I'll praise Thee as I ought.

Till then I would Thy love proclaim With ev'ry fleeting breath;
And may the music of Thy name Refresh my soul in death!

Sermon: "Job: Blessed be the Name of the Lord"

Sweet Surrender
(Job 1:13–22)

Sermon Notes

Suffering can:

- D _____ me
- D _____ me
- D _____ me

"At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship and said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be **the name** of the LORD.'" (Job 1:20–21)

Surrender through _____.

- "Yahweh" (LORD) is related to the Hebrew word for **LIFE**.
- "Yahweh" appears over **6,000** times in the Old Testament.
- "Yahweh, Yahweh" only appears in Exodus 34:6.

Surrender through _____.

- "El Shaddai" = God **Almighty**
- This name appears **31** times in Job
- It appears **16** more times in the Old Testament

Surrender in _____.

- "Eloah" = **Raise Up**
- This name appears **41** times in Job
- It appears **16** more times in the Old Testament

Offertory

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.
Cast me not away from Thy presence,
and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
And uphold me with Thy free spirit. Amen.

Offerings

Prayers of the Church

Pastor: O God, when you allow suffering and pain instead of
sunshine and gladness we will still believe and live by
your Holy Word.

**People: When we feel loss empower us to still bless your
holy name.**

Pastor: For it is the weak and humble who receive your love;

People: Who are pardoned and healed,

Pastor: Who are enlightened and strengthened.

People: And so we will find joy in suffering

Pastor: And pray for your will to be done.

Additional Prayers may be offered by the pastor.

Pastor: Father, we surrender to our present circumstances that
we can't control;

People: Because we have your names—

Pastor: Yahweh, El Shaddai and Eloah.

People: We have your name—

Pastor: Jesus.

**All: “The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away.
Blessed be the name of the LORD.” Amen.**

Benediction (Based upon Job 1:21)

Pastor: The LORD gives.

People: And the LORD takes away.

Pastor: Blessed be the name of the LORD.

People: Yes, blessed be the name of the LORD!

Pastor: And so we go forth confidently in the name of our LORD.

People: The Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Closing Hymn #725 Children of the Heavenly Father

Children of the heav'nly Father
Safely in His bosom gather;
Nestling bird nor star in heaven
Such a refuge e'er was given.

God His own doth tend and nourish;
In His holy courts they flourish.
From all evil things He spares them;
In His mighty arms He bears them.

Neither life nor death shall ever
From the Lord His children sever;
Unto them His grace He showeth,
And their sorrows all He knoweth.

Though He giveth or He taketh,
God His children ne'er forsaketh;
His the loving purpose solely
To preserve them pure and holy.

Silent Prayer: Lord Jesus, I surrender to your will for my life as I
bless your holy name! Amen.

Worship Leader
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Harold Bender
Grant Gundersen, Debbie Nier
Deaconess Carole King