

LENT 3 – MIDWEEK
MARCH 11, 2026

Theme of the Day: We are given only one **detail** in our text from Job 14:1–19; one small part of a much larger story. But this one part—this one detail—is enough. *And it is beautiful.*

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 #715 JESUS, SAVIOR, PILOT ME (stanzas 1-2)

Jesus, Savior, pilot me Over life's tempestuous sea;
Unknown waves before me roll, Hiding rock and treach'rous shoal.
Chart and compass come from Thee, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

As a mother stills her child, Thou canst hush the ocean wild;
Boist'rous waves obey Thy will
When Thou say'st to them, "Be still!"
Wondrous Sov'reign of the sea, Jesus, Savior, pilot me.

Confession and Absolution

Pastor: Gracious God, I confess that I am often like Job,

People: Lost in a sea of pain and confusion.

Pastor: Tossed about by storms and dark clouds.

People: Overwhelmed by churning waves and unknown waters.

Pastor: I often feel as though I'm sinking and drowning.

People: Losses and struggles paralyze me and sometimes threaten to destroy me.

Pastor: I feel disconnected, despondent and increasingly desperate.

All: God, be merciful to me a sinner.

Pastor: Job says, "There is hope for a tree. If it is cut down, it will sprout again, and its new shoots will not fail. Its roots may grow old in the ground and its stump die in the soil, yet at the scent of water it will bud and put forth shoots like a plant." (Job 14:7–9) We have hope and forgiveness because on the tree of the cross Jesus took away our sin and our wretchedness. On the tree of the cross Jesus identifies with our rejection and pain. And three days later the Crucified One is risen!

All: I know that my Redeemer lives!

Hymn #715 JESUS, SAVIOR, PILOT ME (stanza 3)

When at last I near the shore And the fearful breakers roar
Twixt me and the peaceful rest,
Then, while leaning on Thy breast,
May I hear Thee say to me, "Fear not, I will pilot thee."

Prayer of the Day

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, we adore you and worship you, for you saw us in our wretched state and sent Christ Jesus to die upon Calvary's tree so that we might have hope—hope today and hope forever; 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
CHRIST IS OUR HOPE**

Old Testament Reading Job 14:1-19

"Man who is born of a woman is few of days and full of trouble.
² He comes out like a flower and withers; he flees like a shadow and continues not. ³ And do you open your eyes on such a one and bring me into judgment with you? ⁴ Who can bring a clean thing out of an unclean? There is not one. ⁵ Since his days are determined, and the number of his months is with you, and you have appointed his limits that he cannot pass, ⁶ look away from him and leave him alone, that he may enjoy, like a hired hand, his day. ⁷ "For there is hope for a tree, if it be cut down, that it will sprout again, and that its shoots will not cease. ⁸ Though its root grow old in the earth, and its stump die in the soil, ⁹ yet at the

2 continued

scent of water it will bud and put out branches like a young plant.
¹⁰ But a man dies and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he? ¹¹ As waters fail from a lake and a river wastes away and dries up, ¹² so a man lies down and rises not again; till the heavens are no more he will not awake or be roused out of his sleep. ¹³ Oh that you would hide me in Sheol, that you would conceal me until your wrath be past, that you would appoint me a set time, and remember me! ¹⁴ If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my service I would wait, till my renewal should come. ¹⁵ You would call, and I would answer you; you would long for the work of your hands. ¹⁶ For then you would number my steps; you would not keep watch over my sin; ¹⁷ my transgression would be sealed up in a bag, and you would cover over my iniquity. ¹⁸ "But the mountain falls and crumbles away, and the rock is removed from its place; ¹⁹ the waters wear away the stones; the torrents wash away the soil of the earth; so you destroy the hope of man.

Epistle Reading 2 Corinthians 4:8-18

⁸ We are afflicted in every way, but not crushed; perplexed, but not driven to despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed; ¹⁰ always carrying in the body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that the life of Jesus also may be manifested in our mortal flesh. ¹² So death is at work in us, but life in you. ¹³ Since we have the same spirit of faith according to what has been written, "I believed, and so I spoke," we also believe, and so we also speak, ¹⁴ knowing that he who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and bring us with you into his presence. ¹⁵ For it is all for your sake, so that as grace extends to more and more people it may increase thanksgiving, to the glory of God. ¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

Gospel Luke 7:11-17

¹¹ Soon afterward he went to a town called Nain, and his disciples and a great crowd went with him. ¹² As he drew near to the gate of the town, behold, a man who had died was being carried out, the only son of his mother, and she was a widow, and a considerable crowd from the town was with her. ¹³ And when the Lord saw her,

he had compassion on her and said to her, "Do not weep." ¹⁴ Then he came up and touched the bier, and the bearers stood still. And he said, "Young man, I say to you, arise." ¹⁵ And the dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. ¹⁶ Fear seized them all, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has arisen among us!" and "God has visited his people!" ¹⁷ And this report about him spread through the whole of Judea and all the surrounding country.

Hymn #763

WHEN PEACE, LIKE A RIVER

When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
 When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
 Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say,
 It is well, it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
 Let this blest assurance control,
 That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate
 And hath shed His own blood for my soul.
 It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

He lives-oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
 My sin, not in part, but the whole,
 Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more.
 Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
 It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
 The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
 The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
 Even so it is well with my soul.
 It is well with my soul, It is well, it is well with my soul.

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

One Detail
 (Job 14:1-14)

Sermon Notes

Truth of the Day: One detail is _____

And it is _____ .

"Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He springs up like a **flower** and withers away." (Job 14:1-2)

"A **mountain** erodes and crumbles." (Job 14:18)

“Water wears away **stones** and torrents wash away the **soil**.”
(Job 14:19)

“If a tree is cut down, it will sprout again,
and its new **shoots** will not fail.” (Job 14:7)

“There is hope for a **tree**.” (Job 14:7)

A tree can overcome being _____.

A tree can overcome being _____.

“Its roots may grow old in the ground and its stump die in the soil,
yet at the scent of water it
will bud and put forth **shoots** like a plant.”
(Job 14:8–9)

“I will wait for my renewal to come.” (Job 14:14)

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: Almighty Father, we confess our faith in Jesus, who died
on the tree of the cross to give us a living hope.

People: We flee to no other refuge,

Pastor: Wash in no other fountain,

People: Build on no other foundation,

Pastor: Or listen to any other voice.

People: Enable us in our pain and disappointment

Pastor: To find joy in our Savior

People: Who is too wise to error,

Pastor: Too tender to crush,

People: And too merciful to cast us away.

+ Additional Prayers +

Pastor: Oh, God, a tree can overcome being cut down.

People: And so we will persevere.

Pastor: A tree can overcome being left for dead.

People: And so we claim renewal and life in Christ's name.

All: 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 #918 GUIDE ME, O THOU GREAT REDEEMER

Guide me, O Thou great Redeemer,
Pilgrim through this barren land.
I am weak, but Thou art mighty;
Hold me with Thy pow'rful hand.
Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
Feed me till I want no more:
Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain
Whence the healing stream doth flow;
Let the fiery, cloudy pillar
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong deliv'rer, strong deliv'rer,
Be Thou still my strength and shield;
Be Thou still my strength and shield.

When I tread the verge of Jordan,
Bid my anxious fears subside;
Death of death and hell's destruction,
Land me safe on Canaan's side.
Songs of praises, songs of praises
I will ever give to Thee;
I will ever give to Thee.

Silent Prayer: Jesus, I believe that there is hope for a tree and
there is hope—enduring hope—for me! Amen.

Worship Leader

Lectors

Organist

Pastor Harold Bender

Grant Gundersen, Debbie Nier

Deaconess Carole King