

**September Presbytery Sermon
Suggested Liturgy**

CALL TO WORSHIP (based on Psalm 27)

One thing we ask of the Lord,
this is what we seek:

**to dwell in the house of the Lord
all the days of our lives;
to behold his beauty and ponder his ways
in the company of his people.**

Let us enter God's presence together,
offering our worship and praise,
singing and shouting with joy.

**Hear our cry, O God,
and respond with your grace.**

HYMN #267 (GG) "Come, Christians, Join to Sing"

CALL TO CONFESSION

Trusting in the promise of grace, let us bring our confessions to God,
seeking and receiving God's mercy as we pray together...

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Creator God, we confess that at times we are skeptics. At times we doubt that You exist because of the evil we have seen in the world. Oppression, marginalization, and plain hate still plague our world, and it is hard to see Your love and light. Sometimes, even those who bear Your name do not walk in Your ways. Help us to see Your goodness in this world. Help us to know Your love. Fill us with Your love and goodness, so that we might love one another, and lift up one another in faith. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

The psalmist says, *"I am sure I shall see the goodness of our God in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"*

Know that you do not wait alone.

God has given us one another for this journey of faith, to help one another.

Know that you do not wait alone; Christ is with us.

Be encouraged, and encourage one another. Go and share the Good News.

Amen.

THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

HYMN #661 (GG) "His Eye Is on the Sparrow"

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Holy God, We walk by faith and not by sight. So guide our steps in your Word today that, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we are kept from falling and find our way in your way. Through Christ we pray. Amen.

SCRIPTURE LESSON Luke 23:44-56

MESSAGE Faces of Our Faith: Joseph of Arimathea
Rev. Leanne Thompson
First Presbyterian Church of Willmar

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Listening God, hear our prayers as we come before you.

Hear the ones who are crying with pain in their heart.

Hear the ones who are weeping with grief long into the night.

Hear the ones who are sobbing in their loneliness.

Loving God, heal their pain.
Restore their lives.
Mend their broken hearts.

Leading God, lead us through the dark valleys.
Lead us through troublesome times.
Lead us to our home with you.

Teach us to listen to your voice,
that we may hear the cry of the needy and respond.
Teach us to love,
that we may offer care that brings others to you for healing.
Teach us to lead with your vision,
so that we do not lead others blindly through life.

Through your son who taught us to pray:

**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 debts
as we forgive our debtors;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power,
and the glory, forever. Amen.**

HYMN #465 (GG)

“What a Friend We Have in Jesus” Scriven/Converse