

Call to Confession and Prayer of Confession [*together*]

Faithful God,
you call us to be saints,
and we are more comfortable with the role of sinner;
you call us to be your servants,
and we worry that we lack the skills;
you put a new song of praise in our mouths,
and we stumble on unfamiliar words.
Put your song on our lips and in our hearts,
and remind us of the joy that awaits us
when we put our trust in you. Amen.
[*Silence for Personal Prayer*]

Assurance of Pardon [*responsive*]

You are God's beloved—forgiven, washed clean,
and ready to respond for God's truth.
You are chosen by God to love and serve one another.
In the name of Jesus Christ, we are all forgiven.
Thanks be to God. Alleluia. Amen.

We Listen to God's Word

Children's Message

Scripture

Isaiah 43:1–7

But now thus says the Lord,
he who created you, O Jacob,
he who formed you, O Israel:
Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by name, you are mine.
² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you;
and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you;
when you walk through fire you shall not be burned,
and the flame shall not consume you.
³ For I am the Lord your God,
the Holy One of Israel, your Savior.
I give Egypt as your ransom,
Ethiopia and Seba in exchange for you.

⁴ Because you are precious in my sight,
and honored, and I love you,
I give people in return for you,
nations in exchange for your life.
⁵ Do not fear, for I am with you;
I will bring your offspring from the east,
and from the west I will gather you;
⁶ I will say to the north, 'Give them up',
and to the south, 'Do not withhold;
bring my sons from far away
and my daughters from the end of the earth—
⁷ everyone who is called by my name,
whom I created for my glory,
whom I formed and made.'

Mark 1:1–11

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

² As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,
'See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,
who will prepare your way;
³ the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:
"Prepare the way of the Lord,
make his paths straight" ',
⁴ John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for
the forgiveness of sins. ⁵And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the
people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan,
confessing their sins. ⁶Now John was clothed with camel's hair, with a leather belt around
his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. ⁷He proclaimed, 'The one who is more
powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong
of his sandals. ⁸I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy
Spirit.'

⁹In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the
Jordan. ¹⁰And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart
and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. ¹¹And a voice came from heaven, 'You are
my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

The Word of God for the people of God. **Thanks be to God.**

