

Countryside Community Church WORSHIP



Zacchaeus, Lauren Wright Pittman, [Sanctified Art](#)

Fifth Sunday of Lent
April 6, 2025

Order of Worship

Sunday, April 6, 2025

† Indicates those places where those who are able are invited to stand.

Text in **bold** indicates places where the congregation is invited to join in response.

Gathering

COMMUNITY TIME (9:55)

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

PRELUDE

Mr. P.C.

John Coltrane

WELCOME & CALL TO WORSHIP

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

One: We come, seeking mercy and grace for those living under oppression, in pain.

Many: We come, bringing our righteous anger for the injustices they continue to bear.

One: We come, wrestling with a gospel that confronts, and extends mercy to those who do harm.

Many: We come, seeking to understand how to do justice, love mercy, and walk humbly with God.

Come, let us worship!

†PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: The Peace of God be With You

Many: And also with you.

†HYMN OF RESPONSE

Hymn #575 Come and Find the Quiet Center

CHILDREN'S TIME

Children are invited to join Heather for a lesson at the chancel and then head to Discovery Kids classes. Nursery is available for children 0-4 years.

Sung Response

Go Now in Peace

Go now in peace, go now in peace,
may the love of God surround you
everywhere, everywhere
you may go.

Hearing the Word

FIRST LESSON

***The Wound* by Lynn Ungar**

Reader: Molly Anderson

This is not the season of perfection.
Not the time to pretend
that grace belongs only to the pure.

This is the season of the wound.
The time when grace draws near
not to the virtuous,
but to those who weep,
who mourn,
who ache.

You are not the sum of what you've done,
but of the love that comes to find you
in the shadow.

MUSIC REFLECTION

There's A Wideness In God's Mercy
Countryside Community Church Choir

Karen Marroli

SECOND LESSON : Luke 19: 1-10

Rev. Dr. Jenny Shultz-Thomas

He entered Jericho and was passing through it. A man was there named Zacchaeus; he was a chief tax collector and was rich. He was trying to see who Jesus was, but on account of the crowd he could not, because he was short in stature. So he ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him, because he was going to pass that way. When Jesus came to the place, he looked up and said to him, "Zacchaeus, hurry and come down, for I must stay at your house today." So he hurried down and was happy to welcome him. All who saw it began to grumble and said, "He has gone to be the guest of one who is a sinner. Zacchaeus stood there and said to the Lord, "Look, half of my possessions, Lord, I will give to the poor, and if I have defrauded anyone of anything, I will pay back four times as much." Then Jesus said to him, "Today salvation has come to this house, because he, too, is a son of Abraham. For the Son of Man came to seek out and to save the lost."

MESSAGE

Embracing God's Scandalous Grace

Responding to the Word

PASTORAL PRAYER & THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come, your 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.

SHARING OUR GIFTS

Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones

The Social Justice and Outreach Board has designated OneWorld Community Health Centers for the April Box donations. OneWorld is also the 2025 Easter Offering recipient.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Merciful God, we offer these gifts as a reflection of Your boundless compassion. May they serve as instruments of justice, healing, and hope in a hurting world.

SERVICE OF COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

One: The Lord be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them to God.

One: Let us give thanks to the God of love.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Words of Remembrance

As you are able, please come forward to receive the bread and cup. If you prefer to take communion in your seat, raise your hand and a server will bring the elements to you. At Countryside, we serve gluten-free bread and non-alcoholic grape juice to support a diversity of needs. Communion cups may be discarded in the basket as you leave the sanctuary.

Prayer of Thanksgiving

We give thanks, gracious God, that you have refreshed us at your table by granting us the presence of Jesus Christ. Strengthen our faith, increase our love for one another, and send us forth into the world in courage and peace, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sending

†SENDING HYMN

Hymn #546 *Amazing Grace* (1, 3, 4)

†COUNTRYSIDE BLESSING

Molly Anderson

POSTLUDE

Mercy, Mercy, Mercy

Josef Zawinul

Alex Ritter, piano and organ; Carlos Figueroa, drums; Steve Gomez, bass;
Matt Wallace, saxophone; Countryside Community Church Choir; Adam Witte, director

Joys & Concerns

Join us as we pray for our congregation members and their loved ones who are on our Joys and Concerns list every week on Thursdays at 9 a.m. in the Sanctuary. If you have someone who would benefit from prayer, want to share a joy or be included on the bulletin list, and /or be included on Countryside's Prayer Chain, contact Rev. Sarah Rentzel Jones at 402-391-0350, ext. 225 or sarahrj@countrysideucc.org

Please join in praying for the following new and ongoing concerns:

Ann Naylor is having hip replacement surgery at Ortho Nebraska on April 7 and appreciates all our prayers!

Jodie Nichols has shared that her niece, Steph, for whom we have been praying, has completed chemotherapy and is now receiving radiation treatments. She will have another surgery in a few weeks to prevent the cancer from spreading. Please continue to hold her in prayer.

Margie (Glen) Phillips fell last week and is anticipating surgery to repair injuries to her ACL and meniscus. She has also been diagnosed with a compression fracture in her back. Please keep her in prayer as she prepares for surgery!

Please keep **Heather Russell** and her family in your prayers as they mourn the death of **John Russell**, who passed away in Greece last week. His funeral will be held on Saturday, April 12, here at Countryside.

Don Sarton also asks for prayers for his friend Keith Waggoner's wife, Sue, as they are concerned about a suspicious spot on Sue's breast and are heading to Denver to have a biopsy.

Don and Diane Scott's daughter, Sarah Linhardt, fell and broke her ankle last Friday. She had surgery to insert a halo and will have a second surgery next week to repair a dislocation in her left ankle. Please pray for pain relief for her as she awaits the second surgery, for guidance for the medical team, and for healing and recovery after her next surgery.

Lenten Season

Labyrinth Prayer Walk: Through Thursday, April 17

Art Walk: Through Thursday, April 17

Poetry Journey: Through Sunday, April 20

Sundays, Through April 13

- Contemplative Lenten Taizé Worship, 8:30 a.m.
- Traditional, Jazz and Communion Worship, 10 a.m.

Monday, April 7

- Discover Awe Book Study, 12 p.m.

Holy Week & Easter Sunday

Sunday, April 13, Palm Sunday

- Procession, 9:45 a.m.
- Service, 10 a.m.

Friday, April 18 - Good Friday

- *Tenebrae* Service, 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 20 - Easter Sunday

- Sunrise Service, 7 a.m.
- Worship Service, 9 a.m.
- Easter Brunch & Egg Hunt, 10-11 a.m.
- Worship Service, 11 a.m.

Easter Offering

This Easter season, Countryside's Easter Offering will support OneWorld Community Health Centers, a vital resource ensuring quality medical, dental, and behavioral health care for all—regardless of income or insurance status. Founded in 1970 as a volunteer-run clinic, OneWorld remains committed to breaking down barriers to care. Your generosity makes a real difference in South Omaha and beyond.

Give today—online, by mail*, by scanning the QR code at right, or using the envelopes in the pews. **Please make checks payable to Countryside Community Church with memo: Easter Offering 2025 and use the enclosed envelope. We can only track and attribute credit for your donation if the check is made out and sent to Countryside. You can also donate online at countrysideucc.org/give.*



The Fifth Sunday in Lent



Righteousness & Mercy

As children we were taught to tell the teacher.

(Justice was dealt when we spoke up.)

As children we were taught to always be kind.

(Friends were made when we spoke love.)

As children we were taught that Zaccheus climbed a tree.

(But we cut that tree down a long time ago.)

So what are the rules for this day and age?

Can we turn black and white into shades of gray?

Do we call each other out, for righteousness sake?

Do we call each other in? Do we grab something to eat?

As always, love is somewhere in between.

Prayer by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

