

Wandering Heart

Figuring out faith
with Peter

Words for Worship for Lent-Easter

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About this Liturgy Outline

- *Italicized lines are notes for worship leaders.*
- Unbolded lines are to be spoken by worship leaders and, when appropriate, printed in bulletins or projected on screens.
- **Bolded lines are to be spoken by the congregation and printed in bulletins or projected on screens.**

A Benediction for the Series | Wandering Heart

Beloved wanderer,
as you leave this place,
may you carry your curious heart on your sleeve.
May you look for God in every face.
May you find the courage to get out of the boat,
to run to the tomb,
and to speak of your faith.
And when the world falls apart,
may you hear God's voice deep within,
saying, "Take heart, it is I, be not afraid."
You are called.
You are blessed.
In both your ups and your downs,
you always belong to God.
Go now in peace.
Go trusting that good news.
Amen.



ASH WEDNESDAY

Wandering Heart: "Tune my heart"

PSALM 51:1-17

Please check our blog for a worship outline with liturgy and ideas for Ash Wednesday: sanctifiedart.org/blog/wandering-heart-ash-wed-liturgy



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Wandering Heart: "Jesus sought me"

LUKE 5:1-11 | PSALM 25:1-10

Call to Worship

Come in.

Feel your feet on the floor.

Settle your worries.

Take a deep breath.

Dust the cobwebs from your ears.

Relax the tension in your jaw,

for Christ is here.

God never stops seeking us.

We have been found.

Let us find God in return.

Let us worship the God of deep waters.

Amen.

Call to Confession

In our scripture passage for today, we will read about Jesus calling Peter to be a disciple. In the story, Peter is in the presence of the Divine for quite some time before he realizes it. Jesus crawls into Peter's boat. He tells him to head toward deep water. Together, they let the nets down. And it is only when the boat threatens to sink, due to the extreme abundance of fish, that Peter turns to Jesus and truly sees who's in his boat.

Sometimes we miss what's right in front of us. Fortunately, Christ keeps crawling into our boats anyhow. So join me in the prayer of confession, not out of fear, but out of a desire to finally see who's right in front of us. Let us pray:



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Wandering Heart: "Jesus sought me" (continued)

Prayer of Confession

Loving God,

You call us by name.

You join us in the deep waters of life.

You invite us to drop our nets and follow you,
and yet, more often than we'd like to admit, we are like Peter.

Over and over again, we stand slack jawed and surprised
to find you in our midst.

Forgive us for drowning out your voice with our own.

Forgive us for assuming that we can tackle deep waters by ourselves.

Forgive us for forgetting that you will never stop climbing into our boat.

Turn our hearts, our minds, and our spirits toward you,
for you are the Lord our God, and it is in your name that we pray.

Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Friends, Peter didn't exactly make a good first impression when Jesus got into his boat. He questioned dropping his nets, as they hadn't caught any fish all night. He was oblivious to who Christ was for quite some time, and once he realized the Divinity standing in his boat, he quickly deemed himself unworthy.

And even still, Jesus called Peter a disciple and a friend.

Church family, hear and believe this good news:

You can make a thousand bad impressions.

You can make every mistake in the book, roll your eyes, and assume you know better.

And *even still*, Christ will forgive you, claim you, and continue to seek your heart.

That is the good news of the gospel. Rest, celebrate, and trust in that.

Amen.

Prayer for Illumination

Creator God,

You hear everything.

You hear the rush of the wind through the trees.

You hear a baby's first cry.

You hear the crickets chirping, our silent prayers, and laughter around tables.

You hear it all!

(continued)



THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

Wandering Heart: "Jesus sought me" (continued)

Prayer for Illumination (continued)

We don't need that same capacity,
but we do need to hear your Word, O God,
for we cannot live on bread alone.
So today we pray: give us the ability to truly listen.
Give us the ability to listen with our hearts,
and may the truths revealed in your scripture today change us.
With hearts full of gratitude we pray,
amen.

Affirmation of Faith

I believe in a God of abundance—
**a God who sees possibilities where I cannot,
and who holds onto hope when I am at the end of my rope.**

I believe in a God who comforts—
**a God who says, "Do not be afraid;"
a God who joins me in life's deep waters.**

I believe in a God who invites—
**a God who says, "Follow me,"
and, "You will be fishers of people."**

I believe in a God who seeks after me relentlessly and persistently—
**a God of second chances and boundless mercy;
a God who calls us by name.**

We believe.

Help our unbelief.

In Christ's name we pray.

Amen.