



**Worship Service Theme: Humility**  
**Second Sunday of Lent**

**Helpful Elements:**

Purple table covering (Lenten Season)

**Welcome:** Welcome! Thank you for coming to our service today. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I'll be leading our worship time. Today is the second Sunday of Lent, the 40 days leading up to Easter, a time of reflecting on our humanity and God's glory. We use the color purple during Lent as the color of repentance and forgiveness. Today we'll be looking at the idea of **humility**.

Please pray with me as we open our time together.

**Opening Prayer:** Great and loving God, we ask your Holy Spirit to bless our time together and to refresh us with your presence. In the midst of a world full of trouble and strife, we thank you for watching over us, guiding us, and as we confess our sins, for forgiving us. Enable us to enter your presence today joyfully and reverently, and let us depart with the assurance that our sins are forgiven. Fill us, O God, with the peace that passes all understanding. Amen.

**Opening Hymn: Doxology**

**Statement of Faith:** Let us affirm our statement of faith by reciting Psalm 23, "The Lord is My Shepherd" together:

<sup>1</sup>The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want.

<sup>2</sup>He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

<sup>3</sup>He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

<sup>4</sup>Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.

<sup>5</sup>Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over.

<sup>6</sup>Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

**Hymns:**

**Savior, Like a Shepherd Lead Us  
Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee**

**First Reading:** This is from the twenty-fifth Psalm (Psalm 25:8-10):

<sup>8</sup>Good and upright is the Lord;

therefore God instructs sinners in the way.

<sup>9</sup>The Lord teaches the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.

<sup>10</sup>All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep God's covenant and testimonies.

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

**Hymns:**

**Jesus Loves Me  
Oh How I Love Jesus  
Holy, Holy, Holy**

**Second reading:** From the fourteenth chapter of Luke's gospel (Luke 14:7-11):

<sup>7</sup>Jesus told a story to those who were invited [to a feast], when he noticed how people chose the places of honor. Jesus said to the people, <sup>8</sup>"When you are invited by someone to a wedding feast, do not sit down in a place of honor, because someone more distinguished than you may be invited, <sup>9</sup>and the person who invited you both will come and say to you, 'Give your place to this person,' and then you will begin with shame to move to the lowest place. <sup>10</sup>But when you are invited, go and sit in the lowest place, so that when your host comes he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored in the presence of all who sit at table with you. <sup>11</sup>Because everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

This is the word of the Lord; thanks be to God.

## Hymns:

**His Eye is on the Sparrow**

**Shall We Gather at the River**

**Interactive Homily:** Let's think a bit about humility.

- What does it mean to be a humble person?
  - Gentle, kind, considerate of others, not proud, not focused on self
  - Dictionary: "having or showing a modest or low estimate of one's own importance."
- Jesus tells the story about a wedding feast, with the lesson that it's better not to take the best seat for yourself, and to let the host move you to a better seat. I wonder what that would look like in everyday situations? How would you describe a person that would take the best seat for themselves, a "proud" (not humble) person?
  - Arrogant, self-centered, boastful, pretentious, entitled, even rude and impolite; pretty unpleasant!
- As Jesus says, "Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled." What does it mean when someone "exalts" himself or herself?
  - Saying they're better than everyone else, always right, "deserving" of the best
- Christ flips that attitude on its head, saying that "those who are humble will be lifted up (exalted)." How does that work? Does God look at our impressive accomplishments and status? What does God look at instead?
  - God sees the heart.
  - In God's kingdom, the lowly people are closer to the king!
- Often, being humble translates into simple politeness and civility. Who taught you how to be polite? What are some basic politeness instructions?
  - Always say thank you; open doors for elders; let older people take your seat; let others go first in line; don't take all the food for yourself; leave the best for someone else
- Jesus is our model in this! The beloved Son of God told his followers that he came "not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many" (Matthew 10:45).

Let us pray together to be reminded of the virtue of humility and for creativity and honesty to practice humility with others.

**(Silent Prayer)** ... Lord, hear our prayers. Now let us pray the Lord's prayer together:

**Lord's Prayer:** 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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

**Hymns:**

**He's Got the Whole World**

**In the Garden**

**Standing on the Promises**

**Third Reading:** Quotes on Humility

If you are humble nothing will touch you, neither praise nor disgrace, because you know what you are. –Mother Teresa

Religion ... is meant for self-transformation. Religion is meant to transform anxiety into peace, arrogance into humility, envy into compassion, to awaken the pure soul in man and his love for the Source, which is God. –spiritual teacher Radhanath Swami

Something very beautiful happens to people when their world has fallen apart: a humility, a nobility, a higher intelligence emerges at just the point when our knees hit the floor. –spiritual author Marianne Williamson

We learned about gratitude and humility – that so many people had a hand in our success, from the teachers who inspired us to the janitors who kept our school clean ... and we were taught to value everyone's contribution and treat everyone with respect. –former First Lady Michelle Obama

Humility is the solid foundation of all virtues. –Chinese philosopher Confucius

Do you wish to rise? Begin by descending. You plan a tower that will pierce the clouds? Lay first the foundation of humility. –Saint Augustine

**Hymns:**

**It is Well with My Soul**

**Amazing Grace**

**There is Power in the Blood**

**Fourth Reading:** Humility, C.S. Lewis (from his book *Mere Christianity*)

Do not imagine that if you meet a really humble man he will be what most people call 'humble' nowadays: he will not be a sort of greasy, smarmy person, who is always telling you that, of course, he is nobody. Probably all you will think about him is that he seemed a cheerful, intelligent chap who took a real interest in what you said to him. If you do dislike him, it will be because you feel a little envious of anyone who seems to enjoy life so easily. He will not be thinking about humility: he will not be thinking about himself at all.

**Hymns:**

**When the Saints Go Marching In**

**How Great Thou Art**

**[sing more or fewer songs to fill out the time]**

**Closing Blessing:** (Strike bell as you say the word "Lord")

The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine upon you, and be gracious unto you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you, and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Closing Hymn: Doxology, Reprise**

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Extra material:

Old Testament prophet Micah 6:6-8:

"With what shall I come before the Lord,  
and bow myself before God on high?  
Shall I come before him with burnt offerings,  
with calves a year old?  
<sup>7</sup>Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams,

with ten thousands of rivers of oil?  
Shall I give my firstborn for my transgression,  
the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul?”  
<sup>8</sup> He has told you, O people, what is good;  
and what does the Lord require of you  
but to do justice, and to love kindness,  
and to walk humbly with your God?

A funny story about humility 😊

Once there was a lion who was proud of his supposed mastery of the animal kingdom. He proudly and confidently went to the bear and asked, “Who is the king of the jungle?” The bear, trembling, replied, “Why, why, you are, of course, Mr. Lion.” The lion gave a mighty roar of approval.

Next, the lion asked the tiger, “Who is the king of the jungle?” The tiger quickly replied, “Everyone knows that you are, oh great lion!” Once again, the lion roared with pride.

Next on the list was the elephant. The lion boldly faced the elephant and confidently asked his question: “Who is the king of the jungle?” The elephant immediately grabbed the lion with his trunk, whirled him around the air and slammed him into a tree. Then the elephant pounded the lion onto the ground several times, dunked him in water in a nearby lake, and finally threw him onto the shore.

The lion – bruised and beaten – struggled to his feet. He looked at the elephant and said, “Hey! Just because you didn’t know the answer is no reason for you to get so upset about it!”