

Unbound: Longing for Wholeness
Wednesday, March 25, 2026 – 7:00 p.m. Worship
“Bound by Guilt” Genesis 50: 15-21

Prelude

Becky Retherford

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the Holy Trinity, + Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier,
who hears our longings and gives us new life. **Amen.**

Loving God, who knows each of our stories,

**We confess that we have sinned against you in our thoughts,
actions, and inactions.**

We have been bound by jealousy, shame, and hatred.

We have not listened to the cries of our siblings.

**We have participated in dishonest systems
and benefited from violence done on our behalf.**

**Forgive us, we pray. In your mercy free us from all that keeps us bound,
and grant us healing and wholeness.**

Siblings in Christ, do not be afraid.

In the name of + Jesus your sins are forgiven.

May God speak kindly to you, restore your paths,
and look upon you with favor all the days of your life. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #157 “Kyrie”

L: In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For the reign of God, and for peace throughout the world,
for the unity of all let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

For your people here who have come to give you praise,
for the strength to live your word, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, and defend us, O God. **Amen.**

THE GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion
of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

4 To God in heaven
 all praise be given!
 O God, we offer
 and gladly proffer
 gifts from your hand; these alone you will prize:
 hearts that receive you
 and faith to believe you;
 hymns that adore you
 are precious before you
 and to your throne like sweet incense arise.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

We give you praise, holy God, for stories that illuminate our lives.

We thank you for the story of Joseph and his family.

When we are consumed by jealousy, meet us in our longing for dignity and love.

God, restore us to wholeness.

When violence shatters our world, meet us in our longing to remember we are Siblings. **God, restore us to wholeness.**

When dishonest systems silence and punish, meet us in our longing to be heard and believed. **God, restore us to wholeness.**

When family is bound up in guilt and harsh words, meet us in our longing to be cared for and seen. **God, restore us to wholeness.**

When guilt makes us fearful and shame makes us retreat, meet us in our longing for honest hearts and genuine love. **God, restore us to wholeness.**

We thank you for the story of Joseph and his family.

We give you praise, holy God, for stories that illuminate our lives.

Through the wisdom of your scriptures teach us to live in wholeness.

When we are bound by forces within and without, free us to live fully in you.

BLESSING

May the God of dreams and faithful promises, + Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
 bless and protect you always. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN ELW #848 “Give to Our God Immortal Praise”

- 1 Give to our God immortal praise!
 Mercy and truth are all his ways.
 Wonders of grace to God belong;
 repeat his mercies in your song.

- 2 He sent his Son with pow'r to save
 from guilt and darkness and the grave.
 Wonders of grace to God belong;
 repeat his mercies in your song.

- 3 Give to the Lord of lords renown;
 the King of kings with glory crown.
 His mercies ever shall endure
 when lords and kings are known no more!

DISMISSAL Go in peace, forgiven, whole, and free.
 Thanks be to God.