



# ***“I Am Willing”***

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*“Jesus could no longer enter a town openly but stayed outside in lonely places. Yet the people still came to him from everywhere.” Mark 1:45*

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Welcome & Announcements

Offering (Online Giving)

Invocation and Repentance

“O God of Peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence will be our strength; by the strength of your Spirit lift us, we pray to you, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

*(Book of Common Prayer, Language Modernized by Stuart Strachan Jr.)*

*Teach Us Your Ways  
God, I Look To You*

Time of Personal Reflection and Prayer

*Jesus, Strong and Kind  
Reckless Love \**

Sermon: “I am willing” — Pastor Paul Stephen Olson

Benediction

Postlude

*\* Children, ages 3-5th grade, will be dismissed to Children’s Church.*

## EVENTS THIS WEEK \*\*

- TODAY:** 9:30 am The Gathering with Bagels and Beverages (Dining Room)  
9:45 am Prayer Room for anyone needing prayer with the pastors  
10 am **Worship Service** (in person and on Facebook)  
<https://www.facebook.com/ElimChurchMpls/live>  
11:15 am-Noon Sunday Connections, Adult, Youth and Children's Ministry Options

\*\*Masks are not required for attendees at Elim. As always, please take any precautions to protect your health and the health of others.

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- Mon-Fri:** 12 noon Noon Online Prayer Meeting  
URL: <https://meet.google.com/ast-cxmh-ykk>  
Phone: +1 401-684-3085 PIN: 724 649 481#
- Tues:** 10 am Women's Tuesday Study on the book of Mark at the online link above
- Wed:** 6-7 pm *Re-Covering in God* Bible Study  
6:30-8 pm Youth Group meeting  
6:30-8 pm GriefShare in the Lounge
- Fri:** 8-9:30 am Men's Bible Study online
- Sat:** 8-10 am Hope Avenue Ministry

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### Save the date (check the events page for information that may be available):

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|------------------------------|--|
| ~~ Sun, 4/10, 10 am          | Palm Sunday Service                          |
| ~~ Mon-Fri, 4/11-15, 7:30 am | Morning Prayer Time                          |
| ~~ Mon-Fri, 4/11-15, 12 noon | Noon Soup/Bread and Prayer                   |
| ~~ Tues, 4/12, 9 am          | Merry Makers Breakfast                       |
| ~~ Wed, 4/6, 6:30-8 pm       | GriefShare in the Lounge                     |
| ~~ Fri, 4/15, 7 pm           | Good Friday Service                          |
| ~~ Sat, 4/16, 10-12 pm       | Logan Park Easter Egg Hunt                   |
| ~~ Sun, 4/17, 9-9:45 am      | Easter Continental Breakfast                 |
| ~~ Sun, 4/17, 10 am          | Easter Celebration Service                   |
| ~~ Tues, 4/19, 6:30-8:30 pm  | Leadership Team Meeting in the Library       |
| ~~ Sun, 4/24, 11:15am-12pm   | Annual Business Meeting. Easter Buddy reveal |
| ~~ Sun, 5/1, 11:15-1 pm      | <i>6Friends</i> meet across the congregation |
| ~~ Sun, 5/1, 1 pm            | Baptism combined with Mill City              |

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**Paul Stephen Olson** - Lead Pastor  
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**Becky Hanson** - Pastor, Congregational Care  
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**Jill Jezierski** - Chair of Leadership Team  
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## UPCOMING EVENTS and NEWS

**The Merry Makers** are resuming the breakfast meetings. On **April 12th** the Merry Makes will meet at Fat Nat's Eggs, 2700 29thAve. NE. St Anthony 55421 at 9:00 am. Reservations are due by Friday, April 8th. [barbara.gabel@gmail.com](mailto:barbara.gabel@gmail.com) (952 255 9581)

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**6Friends:** The landscape around Elim includes old and new faces. To help us all connect and get to know each other, we are introducing *6Friends*, beginning Sunday, May 1 after church in the Dining Room. Let's shake it up a bit: this will be a 2 hours/once a month gathering over a meal of six people-couples and singles, new and old to Elim-with the sole intention of getting to know others at Elim. After three gatherings, everyone will switch to another group of 6Friends. Sign-up begins in the dining room on April 3 at the *6Friends* table. Questions? Connect with Pastor Becky.



### **EASTER BUDDIES - keep praying!**

Do you have an encouraging prayer or Scripture verse you'd like to anonymously share with your Elim Kid/Youth? Handwritten cards or notes addressed to your buddy can be given to Melanie Eslinger at the piano on Sundays for distribution. You can also feel free to email messages to [ElimEasterBuddies@gmail.com](mailto:ElimEasterBuddies@gmail.com) and they will be delivered for you.

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### **VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**

**The Kidz Klozet** is seeking volunteers in April to help with the organization and change to Spring/Summer clothing. . Please connect with Janice Schreck at:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1a1L0vQv7YXWWsrB1QkG8PtzLetKAcMnatxfdFE540k/edit?usp=drivesdk>

As the **Children's Ministry** loves and teaches the littlest ones, volunteers are needed to welcome them at check-in for both the service hour and for Connections. Please contact Heather ([heather@elimchurch.com](mailto:heather@elimchurch.com)). The Nursery also needs volunteers during the worship service hour. Please contact Colleen Knuth ([colleentr@gmail.com](mailto:colleentr@gmail.com)). Together we make a strong ministry!

**The Gathering:** The need remains for a few volunteers to occasionally set up food and coffee for the Gathering. Also, to clean up the bagels and beverages after Sunday. Connections. Sign up as a family unit or with your friends. It's a great time to welcome people to church. Please connect with the church office.

### **Prayerful Pause**

What do you learn about Jesus' heart and power when he reaches out to touch the leper in Mark 1:41? *"Filled with compassion, Jesus reached out his hand and touched the man. 'I am willing,' he said. 'Be clean!'"*

## “I Am Willing” - The Beginning of the Story of Easter

Pastor Paul Stephen Olson, MDiv

**Text: Mark 1:40-45** A Story from the Beginning of Mark’s Gospel in order to prepare us for Easter. Mark’s famously ‘terse’ gospel account pauses at the end of a string of events in chapter one.

### “[he] begged him on, his knees, “If you are willing...” v. 40

- a debilitating, non-deadly, semi-infectious disease caused by a bacterial agent, affecting the skin and peripheral nervous system, (ancient biblical leprosy is thought to encompass other diseases, but often similar to modern-day ‘Hansen’s disease’) see also the description in Mark 3:5
- A man on his knees... Mark’s introduction to Jesus: The man with the unclean spirit (Capernaum) and the leprous man (Greater Galilee): poses the possibility “if” to Jesus.
- Easter Faith: to ponder and wonder at the possibilities only God could bring about! How is your posture toward God today? Like this man?

### “Jesus had compassion... touched the man... and said, I am willing. Be Clean!” v. 41

- Jesus was moved (*splagchna* - 'the inward parts,' especially the nobler entrails – the heart, lungs, liver, and kidneys. These gradually came to denote the seat of the affections" HELPS word studies )
- Jesus: “Be clean” responds instantly to the man’s request “cleanse me”.
- Skin disease or disfigurement was thought to be a kind of moral and spiritual debilitation as well as a physical one. Laws in Leviticus called for forcible expulsion from the community. (A way to limit the spread of some skin-related diseases)
- Easter Compassion: Jesus came into our lowly broken world and touched humanity. “I am willing” is the beginning of a journey to the cross. Are you willing to be used by God to touch humanity?

### “A strong warning:” v. 43-44

- Mark’s “Secrecy Motif” - “don’t tell anyone!” Builds tension in the story. Jesus waits to reveal his full identity to outsiders, explains it secretly to his disciples, and continues to point to the cross and burial as his final earthly destination.
- Jewish customs required consultation with a priest and a sacrifice in order for re-entry into society. Jesus’ Jewish identity and piety are on display through his desire for the man to see a priest. Alternative translation vs. 44: “Go show yourself to the priest... as a testimony *against* them” points to the reality of a broken religious system and the superiority of Jesus’ authority.
- Easter Mission: We (those healed and cleansed by Jesus) are sent out into the world with specific instructions, are we following them?

### **“Instead he went out...” v. 45**

- Double jeopardy: In his excitement, the man disobeys Jesus and the laws of Moses.
- A People movement! The man who was once expelled from town goes back into town, the townspeople go out to see Jesus.
- Easter Consequences: “As a result, Jesus could no longer enter a town openly...” Jesus will reverse the flow of humanity from life→death, to death→life

### **Reflection Questions:**

- What was Jesus willing to do for us in his coming to earth? (List as many from this passage as you can.)
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What might Jesus be willing to do in your life that you haven't yet asked him to do?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- Are you willing to follow Jesus' instructions? What are the warnings that Jesus is giving you?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- What is the result of a life of someone who is 'willing' to do as God desires?

**Next Sunday:** Come and celebrate Palm Sunday with us as Holy Week begins.

**Good Friday:** Reflect and remember the death of Jesus

**Saturday:** Egg Hunt in the Park, (Invite your friends, family, neighbors, roommates!)