

Listen  
Pastor Steve Maske  
Good Shepherd, Elgin

Have you heard of the phrase, "slow to speak, and quick to listen?" Listening is an acquired skill. It takes lots of practice! There is a BIG difference between simply hearing words and actually listening to what a person is trying to say. Careful listening is more than merely hearing sounds. Active listening requires our full attention.

In Luke 9:35, God the Father speaks something that we should ALL pay close attention to and listen to. "This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him!" God invites us to listen to Jesus! We have so much in our world that distracts us from focusing on God and listening to Him. As children of God, we need to listen, again and again, to His Word of love that He shares with us through His Son, Jesus. This happens every time that we read and study God's Word.

On March 5th, we will observe Ash Wednesday, which means Lent is upon us. Lent is one of the most important times in the church year. It's a new chance to listen to Jesus and His love for us. Jesus invites you to listen closely to His passion story. Perhaps you have been thinking about giving something up this Lent. As we enter Lent, my prayer and challenge is that you consider taking time to listen to Jesus. As you "Love Jesus" in worship and as you "Love God's Word" through the study of God's Word, the Holy Spirit will guide you to listen to God's love for you in Jesus Christ!