

3 Lent
March 22-23, 2024
Holy Communion

The Prelude is a signal to *end our conversation* and prepare our hearts for worship.

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS AND (U) **PASSING OF PEACE**

CALL TO WORSHIP "Sweet, Sweet Spirit"

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place,
And I know that it's the Spi - rit of_ the Lord.
There are sweet expressions on each face,
And I know they feel the pre - sence of_ the Lord.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

**P Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God, who writes the law
on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus.**

C Amen.

**P Held in God's mercy, let us confess our sin in the presence
of God and of one another. Holy God,**

**C we confess that we are caught in snares of sin and cannot
break free. We hoard resources while our neighbors are
hungry and cold. We speak in ways that silence others. We
are silent when we should speak up. We keep score in our
hearts. We let hurts grow into hatred. For all these things
and for sins only you know, forgive us, Lord. Amen.**

**P Here is a flood of grace: Out of love for the whole world,
God draws near to us, breaks every snare of sin, washes
away our wrongs, and restores the promise of life through
✝ Jesus Christ.**

C Amen.

GATHERING HYMN "Rock of Ages"

**1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me,
let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood,
from thy riven side which flowed,
be of sin the double cure;
cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.**

**3 Nothing in my hand I bring;
simply to thy cross I cling.
Naked, come to thee for dress;
helpless, look to thee for grace;
foul, I to the fountain fly;
wash me, Savior, or I die.**

GREETING

**P From our God who loves us with an everlasting love, who
brings forth a new creation in Christ, who leads us by the
Spirit in the wilderness: Grace and abundant mercy be with
you all.**

C And also with you.

KYRIE

**Kyrie eleison, on our world_ and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.
For peace in the world, for the health of the church,
for the unity of all;
For this holy house, for all who worship and praise,
Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.**

**Kyrie eleison, on our world_ and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.
For your Spirit to guide;
that you center our lives in the water and the word;
That you nourish our souls...with your body and blood,**

**Let us pray to the Lord, let us pray to the Lord.
Kyrie eleison, on our world_ and on our way.
Kyrie eleison, ev'ry day.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray together.

C Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

D

LESSON OF THE DAY

Isaiah 55:1-9

The lesson begins:

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the Lord your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

P The Word of the Lord.

c Thanks be to God.

ANTHEM

PSALM 63:1-8 – RESPONSIVE

P O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

C Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place, that I might behold your power and your glory.

P For your steadfast love is better than life itself; my lips shall give you praise.

C So will I bless you as long as I live and lift up my hands in your name

P My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,

C when I remember you upon my bed, and meditate on you in the night watches.

P For you have been my helper, and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.

C My whole being clings to you; your right hand holds me fast.

U

Lenten Acclamation:

Let your steadfast love come to us_, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL

Luke 13:1-9

P **The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the thirteenth chapter.**

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. [Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

P **The Gospel of the Lord.**

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

U

SERMON RESPONSE "Restore In Us, O God"

Restore in us, O God, the splendor of your love;

Renew your image in our hearts, and all our sins remove.

APOSTLE'S CREED

P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

C I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

D

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence

P We pray for the church, called to be a witness to all peoples. Grant humility and wisdom to bishops, pastors, deacons, elders, councils, and congregations, that they may call upon you in making decisions. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P We pray for the earth, called to provide abundantly. Teach your people the goodness of your generosity, that in sharing what we have been given, all life may flourish on the planet that is our shared home. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P We pray for the nations, called to protect their inhabitants and collaborate in the work of justice and peace. Forge bonds of compassion and mutual care across human borders and boundaries, that all the world may have enough to live. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P We pray for those in need of your compassion (*especially*). Comfort those whose lives have been disrupted through natural and man-made disasters and human conflict (*especially*). Aid communities in coming together to mourn, heal, and rebuild. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P We pray for this assembly, called to welcome its neighbors to the table of your grace. Bless food pantries, community gardens and kitchens, clean water projects, and all ministries that address human hunger and thirst. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P We give thanks for the faithful lives of those who proclaimed your gospel in times of challenge and strife, and for all those whose lives of love and service have ended (*especially*). May their witness inspire our own. Lord, in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer

P Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

C Amen.

U

THE OFFERTORY “Create In Me A Clean Heart”

**Create in me a clean heart_, O God,
and renew a right spirit within_ me.
Cast me not away from your presence,
and take not your Holy Spir-it from_ me.
Restore to me the joy of your salvation,
and uphold me with your free_ Spir-it.
Create in me a clean heart_, O God,
and renew a right spirit within_ me.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P Lift up your hearts.

C We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, creator of heaven and earth. You brought all things into being and called them good. From the dust of the earth you formed us into your image and breathed into us the breath of life. When we turned away, and our love failed, your love remained steadfast. When rain fell upon the earth for forty days and forty nights, you bore up the ark on the waters, saved Noah and his family, and made covenant with every living creature on earth. When you led your people to Mount Sinai for forty days and forty nights, you gave us your commandments and made us your covenant people.

When your people forsook your covenant, your prophet Elijah fasted for forty days and forty nights; and on your holy mountain, he heard your still small voice. And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS (SUNG)

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might,
Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of pow'r and might.
Heaven and earth are full, full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest, hosanna in the highest.**

P Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ. When you gave him to save us from our sin, your Spirit led him into the wilderness, where he fasted forty days and forty nights to prepare for his ministry. When he suffered and died on a cross for our sin, you raised him to life, presented him alive to the apostles during forty days, and exalted him at your right hand. By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your Church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Now, when we your people prepare for the yearly feast of Easter, you lead us to repentance for sin and the cleansing of our hearts, that during these forty days of Lent we may be gifted and graced to reaffirm the covenant you made with us through Christ.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION (Pastor's own words)

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P As a community, let us say the Lord's Prayer.

C 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, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

P All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread.

THE COMMUNION is given and received.

U

THE BLESSING

P Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

C AMEN

THE BENEDICTION

SENDING HYMN "Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer"

**1 Guide me ever, great_ Re - deemer,
pilgrim through this barren land.**

**I am weak, but you_ are_ mighty;
hold me with your_ pow'rful hand.**

**Bread of heaven, bread of heaven,
feed me now and evermore,
feed me now_ and_ evermore.**

**3 When I tread the verge_ of_ Jordan,
bid my anxious fears subside;
death of death and hell's_ de - struction,
land me safe on_ Canaan's side.**

**Songs and praises, songs and praises,
I will raise forevermore,
I will raise_ for - evermore.**

DISMISSAL

A **Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.**

C **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE