

#### CHURCH LIFE UPDATE

Margaret LaMotte Torrence

**INTROIT** 

Alleluia, Song of Gladness (The Chancel Choir)

Folk tune/arr. David Ashley White

Alleluia, song of gladness, voice of joy that cannot die; Alleluia is the anthem ever dear to choirs on high; In the house of God abiding thus they sing eternally.

Alleluia you are sounding, true Jerusalem and free; Alleluia, joyful mother, bring us to your jubilee; Here by Babylon's sad waters mourning exiles still are we.

Alleluia cannot always be our song while here below; Alleluia our transgressions make us for a while forgo;

For the solemn time is coming when our tears for sin shall flow.

In our hymns we pray with longing: Grant us, blessed Trinity, At the last to keep glad Easter with the faithful saints on high; There to you forever singing alleluia joyfully.

#### \* CALL TO WORSHIP

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 Michael Fingerle

When the people were assembled Moses said to them:

Hear, O Israel: The Lord is our God, the Lord alone. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your might.

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart.

Recite them to your children

and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away,

when you lie down and when you rise.

Bind them as a sign on your hand,

fix them as an emblem on your forehead,

and write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.

# \* **HYMN 10**

# Sing Glory to the Name of God

Lasst uns erfreuen

Sing glory to the name of God,

Whose holy splendor shines abroad.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Enthroned above the crashing waves,

The God of grace and glory saves.

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The name of God is full of might: Resounding thunder, flashing light.

Alleluia. alleluia!

The wilderness cannot contain The echoes of the great refrain:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The name of God is wild and free.

Awhirl in holy mystery.

Alleluia, alleluia!

A secret wrapped in smoke and fire, Still chanted by the temple choir:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

May God forever be our peace; May hymns of glory never cease:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Let all the faithful people come;

Sing praise to God, the Three-in-One:

Alleluia, alleluia!

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

<sup>\*</sup>Those who are able are invited to stand.

#### PRAYER OF CONFESSION

Holy One,
We confess that we are half-hearted followers
of your full-hearted son.
We are afraid of rejection,
quick to seek comfort,
easily swayed by the promise of power.

In the silence, remind us that we are known, that you have walked the road we walk, that you offer another way.

(silent confession)

# **ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS**

\*SONG OF JOY 65 (v.3) Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah

When I tread the verge of Jordan, bid my anxious fears subside. Death of death, and hell's destruction, land me safe on Canaan's side. Songs of praises, songs of praises I will ever sing to thee. I will ever sing to thee.

### \*THE PEACE OF CHRIST

#### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

SCRIPTURE READING Luke 4:1-13

**SERMON** Beloved and Bewildered Margaret LaMotte Torrence

\* **HYMN 166** Lord Who throughout These Forty Days

St. Flavian

Lord, who throughout these forty days

For us did fast and pray, Teach us with you to mourn our sins

And close by you to stay.

As you with Satan did contend

And did the victory win.

O give us strength to persevere,

In you to conquer sin.

And through these days of penitence,

And through this Passiontide, Yes, evermore, in life and death.

O Lord, with us abide.

Abide with us, till when this life

Of suffering shall be past, An Easter of unending joy We may attain at last.

### \*AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Luke 10:25-27 Michael Fingerle

Jesus remembered the law and taught his followers: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind;

If we do this, we will live."

### SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

and your neighbor as yourself.

### INVITATION TO THE LORD'S TABLE AND PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

The season of Lent calls us to empty ourselves that we might be filled with something new. It invites us to make space in our heart for God's desire—

You will need strength for the journey that stretches before you.

It can be found at this table.

2

Hear the words of Jesus:

I am the bread of life.

Whoever comes to me will never be hungry,
and whoever believes in me will never thirst.

No one who comes to me will I cast out.

Feed us, Lord.
Feed us, Lord.
In the broken bread, be revealed again.
Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.

Author of life, In every chapter of your people's story you blessed us that we might be a blessing. You asked us to tend your world.

And every time we wandered from your way, you sent prophets and poets and priests to remind us of our holy charge.
When still we would not listen, your mercy took flesh.
You came to dwell among us in fearless love.

Quench us, Lord.
Quench us, Lord.
On this thirsty ground, may your love flow down.
Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.

In the fullness of time, your fierce and tender love took flesh. You did not come in wrath, but as the Holy One among us. You bent down to us. You healed us, and fed us— until the scandal of your love was more than we could bear and we handed you over, not knowing what we did. Breath of Life, move now in this place. Make known your power in this simple meal. As we taste the bread and lift the cup, grant us courage.

Fill us, Lord.
Fill us, Lord,
with the bread and wine of the risen Christ.
Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.

We pray as he taught us:

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors:
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
 and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

#### THE SHARING OF THE BREAD AND THE CUP

#### PRAYER OF RESPONSE

Faithful God, you have fed us at your table and bound us to each other.

Now send us into the world to spend and share the grace we have tasted.

Lead us, Lord. Lead us, Lord, nourished here by Christ, given strength for life. Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.

\*HYMN 292 As the Windsong Wairua Tapu

As the wind song through the trees,

As the stirring of the breeze,

So it is with the Spirit of God,

As the heart made strangely warm,

As the voice within the storm,

So it is with the Spirit of God.

Never seen, ever known

Where this wind has blown

Bringing life, bringing power to the world,

As the dancing tongues of fire,

As the soul's most deep desire,

So it is with the Spirit of God.

As the rainbow after rain,

As the hope that's born again,

So it is with the Spirit of God,

As the green in the spring,

As a kite on a string,

So it is with the Spirit of God,

Making worlds that are new,

Making peace come true,

Bringing gifts, bringing love to the world,

As the rising of the yeast,

As the wine at the feast,

So it is with the Spirit of God.

# \*BENEDICTION

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**POSTLUDE** 

Guide Me. O Thou Great Jehovah

Paul Manz

