



Worship with Communion

The Second Sunday in Lent

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 10AM on February 28, 2021

go.mysjec.com/facebook or go.mysjec.com/youtube

You can watch the videos at any time after their premier.

Welcome! We're glad you chose to worship with us today!

♪ **Again We Keep This Solemn Fast**

Again we keep this solemn fast, a gift of faith from ages past,
This Lent which bids us lovingly to faith and hope and charity.

The law and prophets from of old in figured ways this Lent foretold,
Which Christ, all ages' Lord and Guide, in these last days has sanctified.

More sparing, therefore, let us make the words we speak, the food we take,
Our sleep, our laughter, ev'ry sense; learn peace through holy penitence.

Let us avoid each harmful way that lures the careless mind astray;
By watchful prayer our spirits free from scheming of the Enemy.

We pray, O blessed Three in One, our God while endless ages run,
That this, our Lent of forty days, may bring us growth and give you praise.

Words: attr Gregory the Great, tr Peter J Scagnelli & John Mason Neale. Music: *ERHALT UNS HERR*, 1543.

Celebrant Blessed be the God of our salvation:

People **Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.**

Celebrant Jesus said, "The first commandment is this: The Lord your God is the only Lord. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: Love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these."

A time for personal reflection and confession

Celebrant We are easily seduced by the temptations all around us. But if we are willing to trust God and offer our confession, God is quick to forgive us and fill us with hope. Join me, as we pray together:

People We come before you, O God, your wayward children. We confess to you our love of worldly goods. We prefer to live by bread alone rather than your life-giving Word. We confess to you that we do not trust in your saving love. We test and question your presence in our lives. We do not see your angels that surround us. We confess to you that we worship worldly power and success. We ignore those in need. We believe that it is we, rather than you, who have charge over the world. Forgive us our sins and weakness and set us on the path toward health and wholeness that can be found only in you. May we worship and serve only you, now and forever. **AMEN!**

Celebrant As we walk this Lenten journey, we do so with the God of love. Our God accepts us when we turn away from sin and turn toward new life in God. Through the power of the Holy Spirit may you grow in grace.

People **AMEN!**

♪ **If My People** *You may sing the first part or the echoed part*

If my people (If my people) **called by my name** (called by my name)
turn from evil (turn from evil) **and seek my face.** (and seek my face.)

If my people (If my people) **called by my name** (called by my name)
turn from evil (turn from evil) **and seek my face.** (and seek my face.)

I will hear, (I will hear,) **I'll forgive,** (I'll forgive,)

I will heal, (I will heal,) **will heal their land.** (will heal their land.)

I will hear, (I will hear,) **I'll forgive,** (I'll forgive,)

I will heal, I will heal their land.

We, your people (We, your people) **called by your name** (called by your name)
turn from evil (turn from evil) **and seek your face.** (and seek your face.)

We, your people (We, your people) **called by your name** (called by your name)
turn from evil (turn from evil) **and seek your face.** (and seek your face.)

Hear our cry, (Hear our cry,) **Lord, forgive,** (Lord, forgive,)

come and heal, (come and heal,) **come heal our land.** (come heal our land.)

Hear our cry, (Hear our cry,) **Lord, forgive,** (Lord, forgive,)

come and heal, come and heal our land.

Celebrant God be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: Be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways, and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your Word, Jesus Christ your Son; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

People **AMEN!**

Old Testament

Reader A reading of Genesis chapter 17, verses 1 through 7 and 15 through 16.

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty; walk before me, and be blameless. And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. No longer shall your name be Abram, but your name shall be Abraham; for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring after you.

God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Unison Reading

Reader Let us read in unison Psalm 22, verses 22 through 30.

All Praise the Lord, you that fear God; stand in awe of God, O offspring of Israel; all you of Jacob's line, give glory. For God does not despise nor abhor the poor in their poverty; neither turns away from them; when they cry to the Lord, they are heard. My praise is of God in the great assembly; I will perform my vows in the presence of those who worship the Lord. The poor shall eat and be satisfied, and those who seek the Lord shall give praise: "May your heart live for ever!" All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations shall bow before God. For sovereignty belongs to the Lord, who rules over the nations. To God alone all who sleep in the earth bow down in worship; all who go down to the dust fall before God. My soul shall live for God; my descendants shall serve God; they shall be known as the Lord's for ever. They shall come and make known to a people yet unborn the saving deeds that God has done.

New Testament

Reader A reading of Romans chapter 4, verses 13 through 25.

For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations") —in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So

numerous shall your descendants be.” He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah’s womb. No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. Therefore his faith “was reckoned to him as righteousness.” Now the words, “it was reckoned to him,” were written not for his sake alone, but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel

Mark 8. 31-38

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark.

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Celebrant Jesus began to teach his disciples that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will

also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon

A Lenten Litany for the Kingdom of God

Reader This Lent and beyond, we give up the idea that we have no voice. We refuse to believe that we are powerless; that we cannot make a difference in our neighborhoods, country, and world. We give up the idea that our vision of a better tomorrow must wait until we're older, richer, smarter, or more holy.

People **We will hear each other's voices and see each other's visions. We acknowledge that with God all things are possible. We will support each other in our efforts here and everywhere.**

Reader This Lent and beyond, we give up the idea that war will always be a part of our world. We will not listen to those who lie to us when they say we must go to war to be safe. We refuse to believe that we must kill in order to bring democracy and freedom to others. We give up the idea that violence ever solves anything.

People **We will be honest with each other. We will not glorify weapons or violence, or righteous indignation. We will teach ways of peace and model ways of loving our enemies. We will seek out and support leaders who, like Christ, are willing to be mediators and peacemakers.**

Reader This Lent and beyond, we give up the idea that we are not responsible for our environment; that it has always been and will always be. We will stop taking our earth for granted and begin to hear her voice. We give up the idea that worship only happens indoors and behind stained glass. We will remember that our daily bread comes from God through a living, healthy planet and that we must care for her as she cares for us.

People **We will delight in the moon and stars, look for God in the waters, and hear the Spirit's voice in the winds. We will walk gently as we tend the earth together. We will try to reduce our impact on this planet and try to consume less. We will see all life as sacred and join together in preserving the earth.**

Reader This Lent and beyond, we give up the idea that we do not have a responsibility to act as healers through prayer, touch, and action. We give up the fear of disease, especially the fear that causes us to look away. We let go of the idea that illnesses like AIDS, malaria, or dysentery don't matter because they happen in other places. We refuse to believe that affordable healthcare must be only for some.

People **We will take on the role of healers, however we are best suited to do so. We'll help fund research to find cures and will support health education around the world. We will respond swiftly to natural disasters that threaten to bring new diseases to already battered people. When sickness occurs in our midst, be it physical, mental, or spiritual, we will not fear it. Through it all we will pray, touch, and be present together.**

Reader This Lent and beyond, we give up the idea that poverty is something normal for some people in some places. We will not tolerate poverty in our world, or the thought that the poor don't matter. We will turn from seeing poverty as someone else's problem. We give up the idea that people who don't have enough stuff or the right stuff are any less worthy of hope.

People **We will work together to help end poverty. We will put our own relative wealth to work, bringing hope and change to those who need it most. We will model providing food, clothing, shelter, companionship, and care to those in need, be they in our neighborhood or our world. We will stop pretending that the poor are not among us and we will help each other find ways to respond compassionately to needs.**

Reader This Lent and beyond, we give up the idea that hatred is ever okay. We refuse to believe people can be treated differently because they are a

different color, speak a different language, live on the other side of a border, or have crossed a border. We will not allow unequal treatment of women, of gay and lesbian people, of transgendered people, of people with different abilities or intellect. We will not divide by education or employment, by social or economic status, by religion or politics. We dream of a world where all people, in all places, of all faiths can live and work together. We give up the idea that hatred, bigotry, intolerance, bullying, or lack of charity or kindness should ever be associated with God.

People **We will fight against injustice together for each other and for those who will come after us in this church and this world. We will not harbor hate in our own lives, and we will speak out when we hear intolerance of any kind, knowing that to remain silent is not an act of love. We will help build the Kingdom of God that Jesus was willing to die for.**

Reader This Lent and beyond, we will seek and serve God together.

People **We will share the Kingdom of God with all. AMEN!**

♪ **Praise God Throughout These Forty Days**

Praise God throughout these forty days.

Praise Christ, our Lord, whom God did raise.

And praise the Spirit who imparts

God's love in Christ into our hearts. **AMEN!**

Words: GW Dub Shepherd, 2006; General Board of Discipleship, United Methodist Church, Tune: *OLD 100TH*, Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

Nicene Creed

Celebrant Let us join in the words of the Nicene Creed.

All **We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father; through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and became**

truly human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. AMEN!

Prayers of the People

Reader In this holy season of Lent, let us offer our prayers to God, who leads us through the wilderness. For the church, that in this season of repentance, it may turn from its own shortcomings to the transforming grace of God.

People **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**

Reader For our world, that the angels might still wait on those who wander among the beasts of poverty, hunger, and all oppression.

People **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**

Reader For our nation and our leaders, that they may have the courage to guard the rights of the poor and the powerless.

People **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**

Reader For those who suffer, that they may be blessed by our willingness to enter their wounds, with Christ; and that we may be blessed by their willingness to share them.

People **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**

Reader For the place where we live, that we open ourselves to examine, with discipline, the places in our community still waiting to be illumined by the light of Christ.

People **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**

Reader For our special concerns and hopes that, in their naming, we may know the certain presence of God with us.

People **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**

Reader For all who have died, that they may rest completely and joyfully in you, O God, even as they join with you to lead us through the wilderness.

People **God of love and mercy, show us through the wilderness.**

Reader Lord, hear the prayers of your people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of your Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **AMEN!**

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their birthdays.

All **O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen their trust in your goodness all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. AMEN!**

Celebrant Let us join in prayer for all those who have celebrated or will be celebrating their anniversaries.

All **O God, you teach us through the example of Jesus that love is the fulfilment of the Law; help those couples celebrating anniversaries to persevere in love, to grow in mutual understanding, and to deepen their trust in each other; that in wisdom, patience and courage, their life together may be a source of happiness to all with whom they share it. AMEN!**

Celebrant To all of you celebrating milestones: May the blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be upon you to guide and protect you and all those you love, today and always!

All **AMEN!**

Passing the Peace

Celebrant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Invitation to Communion

from the Iona Community, Scotland

Celebrant The table of bread and wine is now to be made ready. It is the table of company with Jesus, and all who love him. It is the table of sharing with the poor of the world, with whom Jesus identified himself. It is the table of communion with the earth, in which Christ became incarnate. So come to this table, you who have much faith and you who would like to have more; you who have been here often and you who have not been for a long time; you who have tried to follow Jesus, and you who have failed; come.

♪ God, Your Love is Everlasting

God, your love is everlasting and your grace is ever-near,
 Yet our worship and our fasting aren't enough to please you here.
 We love songs and prayers and preaching, yet, O Lord, we must confess
 That our actions aren't in keeping with our talk of righteousness.
 Even on this day of worship, many hurt and we don't see.
 While we bask in food and friendship, others long for dignity.
 Lord, we love to get a bargain, but the waitress where we eat
 Can't afford to feed her children, as her wage won't make ends meet.
 Some are cheated as they labor to produce the things we buy;
 We don't see our hurting neighbor, just what labor can supply.
 We don't see the cost of violence; we don't challenge and resist.
 Lord, forgive us when our silence towers like a wicked fist.
 God of mercy, how you love us! May we seek to live your way.
 May we welcome in the homeless; may we share our bread this day.
 May our worship lead to justice in the land and on the street;
 This is fasting at its finest, where our words and actions meet.

Words: Based on Matthew 6. ©2016 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Tune: *BEACH SPRING*, 1844.

Offering Our Gifts

Celebrant Gifts and offerings may be mailed to the church, dropped off in the church mail slot, or sent through your bank. There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate. We are grateful for your continued financial support of our ministry and mission.

Celebrant Inspire us to always share your love through action, O God:

People **Strengthen us to always be an inviting safe community for all.**

Great Thanksgiving

Eucharistic Prayer 3

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

All **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

All **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Celebrant All thanks and praise are yours at all times and in all places, our true and loving God; through Jesus Christ, your eternal Word, the Wisdom from on high by whom you created all things. You laid the foundations of the world and enclosed the sea when it burst out from the womb; you brought forth all creatures of the earth and gave breath to humankind. Wondrous are you, Holy One of Blessing, all you create is a sign of hope for our journey; and so as the morning stars sing your praises we join the heavenly beings and all creation as we shout with joy:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.**

Celebrant Glory and honor are yours, Creator of all, your Word has never been silent; you called a people to yourself, as a light to the nations, you delivered them from bondage and led them to a land of promise. Of your grace, you gave Jesus to be human, to share our life, to proclaim the coming of your holy reign and give himself for us, a fragrant offering. Through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, you have freed us from sin, brought us into your life, reconciled us to you, and restored us to the glory you intend for us.

We thank you that on the night before he died for us Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, gave it to his friends and said: "Take... Eat, this is my Body, broken for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper Jesus took the cup of wine, said the blessing, gave it to his friends and said: "Drink this, all of you: this cup is the new Covenant

in my Blood, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

And so, remembering all that was done for us: the cross, the tomb, the resurrection, and ascension, longing for Christ’s coming in glory, and presenting to you these gifts your earth has formed and human hands have made, we acclaim you, O Christ:

All **Dying, you destroyed our death. Rising, you restored our life. Christ Jesus, come in glory!**

Celebrant Send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine that they may be to us the Body and Blood of your Christ. Grant that we, burning with your Spirit’s power, may be a people of hope, justice and love. Giver of Life, draw us together in the Body of Christ, and in the fullness of time gather us with all your people into the joy of our true eternal home. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we worship you our God and Creator in voices of unending praise.

All **Blessed are you now and for ever. AMEN!**

Celebrant As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and for ever. AMEN!**

Breaking Bread

Celebrant We break this bread to share in the Body of Christ.

All **We who are many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.**

♩ We Will Take What You Offer

John L. Bell © 1998, WGRG, Iona Community. All rights reserved.

The musical score is written on three staves in 2/4 time. The melody is simple and repetitive, with lyrics written below the notes. The lyrics are: 'We will take what you of - fer, we will live by your word; we will love one an - oth - er and be fed by you Lord. We will take what you of - fer, we will live by your word; we will love one an - oth - er and be fed by you Lord.'

Celebrant The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Celebrant gives the invitation to spiritual communion to all participating near and far.

People In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. AMEN!

Celebrant Let us pray.

All Loving God, we give you thanks for restoring us in your image and nourishing us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of Christ's Body and Blood. Now send us forth a people, forgiven, healed, renewed; that we may proclaim your love to the world and continue in the risen life of Christ our Savior. AMEN!

Blessing for Lent

Franciscan blessing

Celebrant May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, hard hearts, half-truths, and superficial relationships: so that you may live deep within your heart where God's Spirit dwells.

People **AMEN!**

Celebrant May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression, and exploitation of people: so that you may work for justice, freedom, and peace.

People **AMEN!**

Celebrant May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer from pain, rejection, starvation, and war: so that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.

People **AMEN!**

Celebrant May God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in this world and in your neighborhood: so that you will courageously move outside your comfort zone, empowered by Jesus Christ to accomplish God's purposes.

People **AMEN!**

Celebrant And the blessing of God, who Creates, Redeems, and Sustains, be upon you and all you love and pray for, this day and forever more.

People **AMEN!**

♪ There's Trouble All Around

There's trouble all around; it's hard for us to bear!

O God of love, there's so much sadness everywhere.

We hear the daily toll of people who have died;
we see what comes when hate and fear are amplified.

We thank you, God, for faith that says that it's o.k.
to cry out as the Psalmist cried out, when we pray.

We thank you that in times when everything goes wrong,
we're once again reminded that your love is strong.

We thank you, God, for hope that daily sees us through —
 and for the gift of Jesus Christ who makes us new.
 We thank you, too, for hope that truth and science bring.
 The time will come when, once again, we'll laugh and sing.
 We thank you, God, for love, for kindness and for smiles,
 for friends and loved ones reaching out across the miles,
 and for your Spirit's gifts that help us through these days.
 God, may we know these blessings and give thanks and praise.

Words: ©2020 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Tune: *LEON!*, traditional Hebrew melody.

Sending

Celebrant Go in peace to love and serve the Lord!

People Thanks be to God!

St James Episcopal Church, 434 North 8th Street, Manitowoc, WI 54220

If you have any questions, concerns, or pastoral needs, please call The Rev Diane M Murray, Rector: 920.860.5152

Thank you for your support! Gifts may be mailed to the church or sent through your bank.

There are also online giving options on our web site at mySJEC.com/donate.

February's special offering supports the Rector's Discretionary Fund—please label accordingly.

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