



# Worship with Communion

## The Third Sunday in Lent

VIDEO: Participate on any device at 10AM on March 7, 2021

[go.mysjec.com/facebook](https://go.mysjec.com/facebook) or [go.mysjec.com/youtube](https://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!**

### ♪ **Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church**

Eternal Lord of love, behold your Church  
walking once more the pilgrim way of Lent.  
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
moved by your love and toward your presence bent:  
far off yet here—the goal of all desire.

So daily dying to the way of self,  
so daily living to your way of love,  
we walk the road, Lord Jesus, that you trod,  
knowing ourselves baptized into your death:  
so we are dead and live with you in God.

If dead in you, so in you we arise,  
you the firstborn of all the faithful dead;  
and as through stony ground the green shoots break,  
glorious in springtime dress of leaf and flower,  
so in the Father's glory shall we wake.

Words: Thomas H Cain (b 1931). Music: *OLD 124TH*.

*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. Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: Keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

*People* **AMEN!**

## **Old Testament**

*Reader* A reading of Exodus chapter 20, verses 1 through 17.

Then God spoke all these words: I am the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; you shall have no other gods before me. You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the Lord your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments. You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the Lord your God, for the Lord will not acquit anyone who misuses his name. Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. For six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the Lord your God is giving you. You shall not murder. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor."

*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 19, verses 7 through 14.

*All* The law of the Lord is perfect and revives the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure and gives wisdom to the innocent. The statutes of the Lord are just and rejoice the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear and gives light to the eyes. The fear of the Lord is clean and endures for ever; the judgements of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold, sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb. By them also is your servant enlightened, and in keeping them there is great reward. Who can tell how often they offend? Cleanse me from my secret faults. Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense. Let the words of my mouth and the meditations of my heart be acceptable in your sight; O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.

## **New Testament**

*Reader* A reading of 1 Corinthians chapter 1, verses 18 through 25.

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

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

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

## **Gospel**

John 2. 13-22

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

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

*Celebrant* The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken."

*Celebrant* The Gospel of the Lord.

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

## **Sermon**

### **A Lenten Litany of Renewal and Purpose**

*Reader* Every day is a day to be renewed... to become the people God created us to be.

*People* **May we learn to recognize our true selves as we reflect on God's hope and intention for creation.**

*Reader* God calls us to proclaim the gospel for the salvation of all humanity.

*People* **May we seek to be the presence of Christ in the world without creating clubs that push people away.**

- Reader* God calls us to shelter, nurture, and cultivate spiritual communion among all God's children.
- People* **May we be a safe place for everyone to question, to know, to struggle, and to grow.**
- Reader* God calls us to worship in spirit and in truth.
- People* **May we abandon entertainment for profound awareness; may we share our gifts and creativity in our expression; and may the table at which we gather always have room.**
- Reader* God calls us to uphold the truth.
- People* **May we faithfully struggle to understand truth, so that instead of being chained and imprisoned to it, we may be joyfully and completely set free by it.**
- Reader* God calls us to be advocates for social justice.
- People* **May everything that seeks to undermine God's love make us uncomfortable and passionately counteractive.**
- Reader* God calls us to be a visible manifestation of God's vision of, and hope for, all creation.
- People* **May we live as if we truly believe that; shining light in darkness... sprinkling salt on blandness... and celebrating the joy of life that we all share together. 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.

## ♪ We Grieve the Many Thousands

We grieve the many thousands — yet we can't understand;  
we cannot grasp how many have died throughout this land.  
We cannot see their faces or hear the stories told  
of all the ways they blessed us — the young ones and the old.

O God, we grieve the struggle of those who died alone —  
so far from friends and neighbors, from all they'd ever known.  
We grieve for precious people who could not say goodbye;  
we weep for those, now mourning, who sit alone and cry.

O God, we grieve for millions who now are unemployed  
who cannot feed their families — whose hope has been destroyed.  
We grieve that needed workers must worry for their health  
while some with lives of privilege stay home and build their wealth.

O God of love and mercy, we cry to you, "How long?"  
In troubled times remind us: Your love is ever strong.  
Now as we grieve the suffering, Lord, show us how to be  
A healing, loving presence in each community.

Words: ©2020 Carolyn Winfrey Gillette. All rights reserved. Tune: *AURELIA*, Samuel Sebastian Wesley, 1864.

## 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](http://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 notation consists of three staves of music in 2/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The melody is written on a treble clef. The lyrics are written below the notes.

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!**

## ♪ **Singing Songs of Expectation**

Singing songs of expectation, onward goes the pilgrim band,  
 through the night of doubt and sorrow, marching to the promised land.  
 Clear before us through the darkness gleams and burns the guiding light:  
 trusting God we march together stepping fearless through the night.  
 One the light of God's own presence, o'er his ransomed people shed,  
 chasing far the gloom and terror, brightening all the path we tread:  
 one the object of our journey, one the faith which never tires,  
 one the earnest looking forward, one the hope our God inspires.  
 One the strain the lips of thousands lift as from the heart of one;  
 one the conflict, one the peril, one the march in God begun:  
 one the gladness of rejoicing on the far eternal shore,  
 where the one almighty Father reigns in love forevermore..

Words: Bernard S Ingermann (1789-1862), tr Sabine Baring-Gould (1834-1924). Music: *TON-Y-BOTEL*, Thomas J Williams, 1890.

## **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](http://mySJEC.com/donate).*

*March's special offering supports Painting Pathways Clubhouse—please label accordingly.*