

February 21, 2021
1st Sunday in Lent

Gathering Music – Laura Ritter

Welcome – Rev. Shawna Darnall

Prelude – *God Himself is with Us*, arr. Hal Hopson – Saint Mark Ringers

***Call to Worship (responsive) – Victoria Arnold**

Leader: Lift up your voice and call out to God.

People: We cry out, believing that God hears us.

Leader: Come together and wait for God.

People: We come together, trusting that God is still speaking.

Leader: Surely God's presence is here with us now.

People: We wait in hope, for God's steadfast love lifts our hearts.

Leader: Come, worship the Lord.

People: We celebrate the power of God that restores us.

Hymn – *Holy, Holy, Holy! Lord God Almighty

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
Early in the morning
Our song shall rise to Thee.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons,
Blessed Trinity.

Holy, holy, holy!
All the saints adore Thee,
Casting down their golden crowns
Around the glassy sea;
Cherubim and seraphim
Falling down before Thee,
Which wert, and art,
And evermore shalt be.

Holy, holy, holy!
Though the darkness hide Thee,
Though the eye of sinful man
Thy glory may not see,
Only Thou art holy;
There is none beside Thee,

Perfect in power,
In love and purity.

Holy, holy, holy!
Lord God Almighty!
All Thy works shall praise Thy name,
In earth and sky and sea.
Holy, holy, holy!
Merciful and mighty,
God in three persons,
Blessed Trinity.

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A Time for Young Disciples – Pastor Shawna

Leader: What is our prayer for these children?

People: Our prayer for our Saint Mark children is that they grow to be more and more like Jesus, strong and brave, full of grace and truth. And that we will help them along their way.

Anthem – *Here is Love*, arr. Evelyn R. Larter – Chancel Choir subset

Offering Prayer (unison) – Todd will lead by saying, “In recognition of God’s tithes, and our gifts and offerings that have been given in-person or virtually today, let us give thanks to God in prayer. Let us pray.)

Holy God, source of all good things, you have blessed your children with many gifts, and each of us can serve and help build your kingdom here on earth. We know at times we have denied our giftedness, and dismissed the impact our gifts can have.

As we dedicate our tithes and offerings today, remind us that you seek not only that we open our wallets, but open our hearts and our whole being to the work of making your love and compassion the norm, not the exception in this world. We pray this in Christ’s name. Amen.

***Scripture:** Mark 12: 28-31

²⁸ One day, a teacher of religious law was listening to Jesus debate. He realized that Jesus had answered well, so he asked, “Of all the commandments, which is the most important?”

²⁹ Jesus replied, “The most important commandment is this: ‘Listen, O Israel! The Lord our God is the one and only Lord.³⁰ And you must love the Lord your God with all your heart,

all your soul, all your mind, and all your strength.’³¹ The second is equally important: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ No other commandment is greater than these.”

This is the Word of God for the people of God, thanks be to God.

Sermon - *Begin with Love* - Rev. Todd

A Commitment to Love Recklessly (unison) - Emma Rivers

We believe that our lives are held within the encircling love of God,
who knows our names, recognizes our deepest needs, and calls us Beloved.

We believe that Christ came among us, the living God,
and that his grace is like living waters that can never be exhausted.

We believe in the renewing and enabling Spirit of God
who yearns for our wholeness and for the restoration of all the world.

We believe that our journey has a purpose and a destination,
and that our path leads to a glory we cannot yet imagine.

We believe that in the church we are fellow pilgrims on the road,
and that we are called to love one another as God loves us.

We believe that God is using these forty days set apart to mold us,
and that we are to be more and more like Christ with our love.

This is our faith and our earnest prayer as we trust in God’s mercy.

Anthem - *Kyrie Eleison* (Keith Getty & Stuart Townend) - Chancel Choir

Chorus

Kyrie Eleison, have mercy,
Christe Eleison, have mercy.

As we come before You with the needs of our world,
We confess our failures and our sin,
For our words are many, yet our deeds have been few;
Fan the fire of compassion once again.

Chorus

If we love our God with all our heart, mind and strength,
And we love our neighbors as ourselves,
Then this law of love will heal the nations of the earth,
And the glory of Christ will be revealed.

Chorus

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Keith Getty | Stuart Townend
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Closing Hymn: *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heaven, to earth come down;
Fix in us Thy humble dwelling;
All Thy faithful mercies crown!
Jesus, Thou art all compassion,
Pure, unbounded love Thou art;
Visit us with Thy salvation;
Enter every trembling heart.

Breathe, O breathe Thy loving Spirit
Into every troubled breast!
Let us all in Thee inherit;
Let us find that second rest.
Take away our bent to sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning,
Set our hearts at liberty.

Come, Almighty to deliver,
Let us all Thy life receive;
Suddenly return and never,
Never more Thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
Serve Thee as Thy hosts above,
Pray and praise Thee without ceasing,
Glory in Thy perfect love.

Finish, then, Thy new creation,
Pure and spotless let us be.
Let us see Thy great salvation
Perfectly restored in Thee;
Changed from glory into glory,
Till in heaven we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before Thee,
Lost in wonder, love, and praise.

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Benediction – Rev. Todd

Departing Music - Laura Ritter