

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 21, 2021

First Sunday of Lent^d
Bible Sunday

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

Almighty God, your Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin. Give us grace to direct our lives in obedience to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND GREETING

*LITANY FOR LENT

One: O Christ, out of your fullness we have all received grace upon grace. You are our eternal hope; you are patient and full of mercy; you are generous to all who call upon you.

All: Save us, Lord.

One: O Christ, fountain of life and holiness, you have taken away our sins. On the cross you were wounded for our transgressions and were bruised for our iniquities.

All: Save us, Lord.

One: O Christ, obedient unto death, source of all comfort, our life and our resurrection, our peace and reconciliation:

All: Save us, Lord.

One: O Christ, Savior of all who trust you, hope of all who die for you, and joy of all the saints:

All: Save us, Lord.

One: Jesus, Lamb of God,

All: have mercy on us.

One: Jesus, bearer of our sins,

All: have mercy on us.

One: Jesus, redeemer of the world,

All: grant us peace.

(Brief Silence for Reflection)

One: God of love, as in Jesus Christ you gave yourself to us, so may we give ourselves to you, living according to your holy will. Keep our feet firmly in the way where Christ leads us; make our mouths speak the truth that Christ teaches us; fill our bodies with the life that is Christ within us. In his holy name we pray.

All: Amen

OPENING HYMN: "This Is My Father's World" #293

This is my Father's world, And to my listening ears
All nature sings, and round me rings
The music of the spheres. This is my Father's
world: I rest me in the thought
Of rocks and trees, of skies and
seas; His hand the wonders wrought.

This is my Father's world: Oh, let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the Ruler yet. This is my
Father's world: The battle is not done;
Jesus who died shall be satisfied,
And earth and heaven be one.

*CALL TO CONFESSION

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In humility and faith let us confess our sin to God. Let us pray first silently and, then, together.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth. Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

*ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Hear the good news! The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. He himself bore our sins in his body on the cross, that we might be dead to sin, and alive to all that is good. Friends, believe the good news of the gospel: **In Jesus Christ we are forgiven.**

SHARING OF THE LAW

Our Lord Jesus said: "You shall love the Lord your God with all

your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And a second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets."

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

One: Since we have been reconciled to God in Jesus Christ, let us be reconciled to one another. The peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

All: And also with you.

. . . to Proclaim God's Word

FIRST READING Genesis 9:8-17 **p. 7**

EPISTLE READING 1 Peter 3:18-22 **p. 234**

PRESENTATION OF BIBLES AND CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

***GOSPEL READING** Mark 1:9-15 **p. 34**

SERMON "Salvation through Water" Rev. Andy Smothers

INTERCESSIONS FOR LENT AND LORD'S PRAYER

One: Jesus, remember us when you come into your kingdom. Hear our intercessions. For your church around the world,

All: we ask new life.

One: For all who carry out ministries in your church,

All: we ask grace and wisdom.

One: For people who have accepted spiritual disciplines,

All: we ask inspired discipleship.

One: For Christians of every land,

All: we ask new unity in your name.

One: For Jews and Muslims, Hindus and Buddhists, and people of other faiths,

All: we ask your divine blessing.

One: For those who cannot believe,

All: we ask your faithful love.

One: For governors and rulers in every land,

All: we ask your guidance.

One: For people who suffer and sorrow,

All: we ask your healing peace.

(Brief silence for individual intercessions and requests. Pastor continues with brief intercessions.)

PASTORAL PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER

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.

*CONFESSION OF FAITH *Heidelberg Catechism* (Question 88-91)

One: What is involved in genuine repentance or conversion?

Many: **Two things: the dying-away of the old self, and the rising-to-life of the new.**

One: What is the dying-away of the old self?

Many: **To be genuinely sorry for sin and more and more to hate and run away from it.**

One: What is the rising-to-life of the new self?

Many: **Wholehearted joy in God through Christ and a love and delight to live according to the will of God by doing every kind of good work.**

One: What are good works?

Many: **Only those which are done out of true faith, conform to God's law, and are done for God's glory; and not those based on our own opinion or human tradition.**

INVITATION TO THE LORD'S SUPPER

GREAT THANKSGIVING

One: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

One: Lift up your hearts.

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

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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

One: ...Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name:

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

One: ...Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

All: **Dying you destroyed our death, rising you restored our life. Lord Jesus, come in glory.**

One: ...Through Christ, all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit in the holy church, now and forever.

All: **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND CONFESSION

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

... to Give Thanks to God ...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (*IN UNISON*)

Gracious God, scripture testifies and our lives display the failure of our ways — the sinfulness of humanity, our personal sin, and their consequences. You would have been justified in having given up on humanity, but, instead, you have offered us a path to forgiveness and reconciliation. Even in the time of Noah, you limited yourself promising to never destroy the earth by a flood again and placing your rainbow in the sky as a sign of your promise. In thankfulness for your incredible mercy, we offer these gifts in thankfulness in the name of our Lord Jesus. Amen.

... and to Be Sent in God's Name.

CLOSING HYMN: "Forty Days and Forty Nights" #77

Forty days and forty nights You were fasting in the wild; Forty days and forty nights Tempted, and yet undefiled.

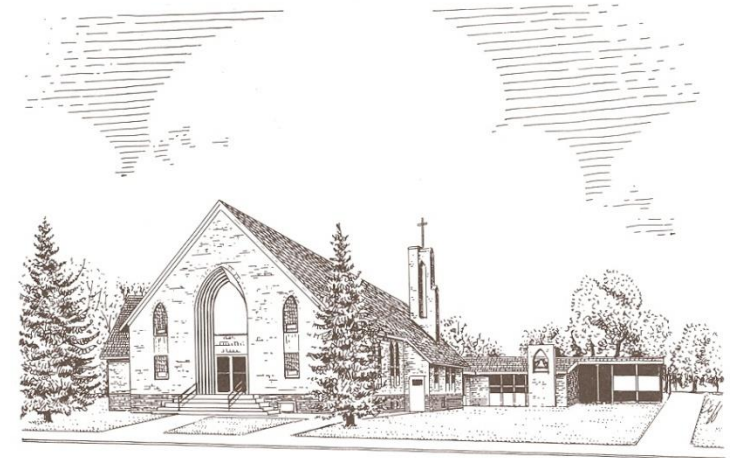
Shall not we Your sorrow share And from worldly joys abstain,
Fasting with unceasing prayer, Strong with You to suffer pain?
Then if Satan on us press, Flesh or spirit to assail, Victor in the wilderness, Grant that we not faint nor fail!

So shall we have peace divine: Holier gladness ours shall be;
Round us, too, shall angels shine, Such as served You faithfully.
Keep, O keep us, Savior dear, Ever constant by Your side; That with You we may appear At the eternal Eastertide.

*BENEDICTION

*POSTLUDE

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ⁱ Some service elements adapted from *Book of Common Worship* (1993).