

THE ORDER OF WORSHIP

February 28, 2021

Second Sunday of Lent

We Gather in God's Name . . .

PRELUDE

PRAYER OF PREPARATION FOR WORSHIP

(for silent prayer during the prelude)

God of mercy, you are full of tenderness and compassion, slow to anger, rich in mercy, and always ready to forgive. Grant us grace to renounce all evil and to cling to Christ, that in every way we may prove to be your loving children; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. 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: "The God of Abraham Praise" #488

The God of Abraham praise, Who reigns enthroned above; The ancient of eternal days, The God of love! The Lord, the great I Am, By earth and heaven confessed, We bow before Your holy name, Forever blest.

Your spirit still flows free, High surging where it will; In prophet's word You spoke of old And You speak still. Established is Your law, And changeless it shall stand, Deep writ upon the human heart, On sea, or land.

You have eternal life Implanted in the soul; Your love shall be our strength and stay, While ages roll. We praise You, living God! We praise Your holy name; The first, the last, beyond all thought, And still the same!

*CALL TO CONFESSION

Jesus told the crowd with his disciples that if they wanted to become his followers, they must deny themselves and take up their cross and follow him. We, though, like to keep our distance from Jesus and to limit our commitment, but he commands our all. Let us confess where we hold Jesus at a distance in our lives.

*SILENT PRAYER OF CONFESSION

*CORPORATE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, our purifier, you tell us that if we want to save our lives, we must lose them to you for those who lose their lives for your sake and for the sake of the gospel will save their lives. We want to benefit from the promises you provide us but don't want to be indebted to our Lord. We want the benefits but not the responsibilities. Forgive our sinfulness and grow our faith. In the name of the One who purchased our lives so that we may be reconciled to you and enjoy eternal life. 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 *Heidelberg Catechism* (Question 92)

One: What is God's law?

Many: God spoke all these words:...

You shall have no other gods before me...

You shall not make for yourself an idol...

You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the

Lord your God...

Remember the Sabbath and keep it holy...

Honor your father and mother...

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 ... anything that belongs to your neighbor.

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 17:1-7, 15-16 **p. 13**

EPISTLE READING Romans 4:13-25 **p. 155**

***GOSPEL READING** Mark 8:31-38 **p. 44**

One: The word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

SERMON "Never Too Old" 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.)

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.

BAPTISM OF LANCE MICHAEL HITCHCOCK

***PROFESSION OF FAITH**

One: With the whole church, let us confess our faith. Do you believe in God, the Father almighty?
Many: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
One: Do you believe in Jesus Christ?
Many: I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
One: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?
Many: I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the

resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

***THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER**

One: The Lord be with you.
Many: And also with you.
One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

... to Give Thanks to God ...

PRAYER OF DEDICATION (IN UNISON)

Faithful God, you are always faithful even when we are not. When Peter rebuked our Lord, he responded sharply but continued leading him and teaching him. After Peter denied our Lord three times, Jesus called him to shepherd his flock three times. You are patient, also, with us, who may at times deny you or follow you only when it seems convenient or comfortable. In thankfulness for your many benefits and for your endurance with us, we offer these gifts for the work of your church. Amen.

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

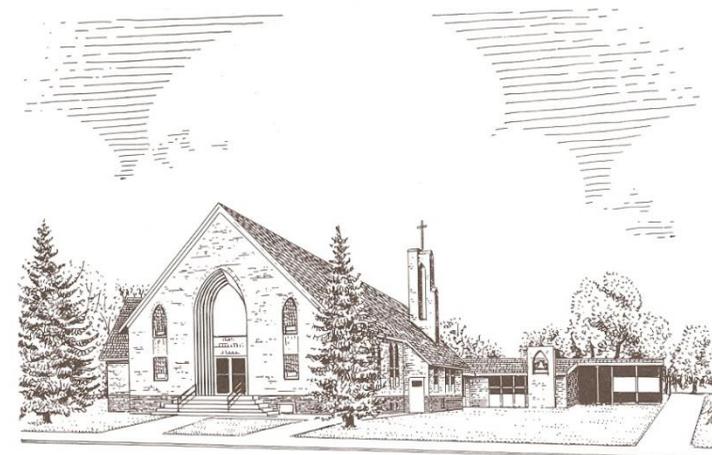
CLOSING HYMN: "Take Up Your Cross, the Savior Said" #393

Take up your cross, the Savior said, If you would My disciple be;
Take up your cross with willing heart, And humbly follow after Me.
Take up your cross, let not its weight Fill your weak spirit with alarm;
Christ's strength shall bear your spirit up And brace your heart and nerve your arm.
Take up your cross, heed not the shame, And let your foolish heart be still;
The Lord for you accepted death Upon a cross, on Calvary's hill.
Take up your cross, then, in Christ's strength, And calmly every danger brave:
It guides you to abundant life And leads to victory o'er the grave.

***BENEDICTION**

***POSTLUDE**

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