

Celebration of Worship

First Sunday in Lent

March 5, 2017

9:30 A.M.

We welcome you to worship. We are glad that you are here! Nursery and Preschool care is available if you need it. The Young and Young at Heart are welcomed to the front early on for a special time in the service. Please sign the Friendship Pads so that we can get to know you better, and join us for coffee in the Narthex after the service.

We Gather at God's Invitation

PRELUDE *Trio in B minor* J.S. Bach

WELCOME AND GREETING

RINGING THE CHURCH BELL

INTROIT *Appassionata* Michael Joy
Alleluia Bells

* Please stand, if you are able
+ Found on the screen

*+OPENING SENTENCES OF SCRIPTURE *Psalm 40:6-8*

Reader: Doing something for you, God, bringing something to you-
that's not what you're after.

Being religious, acting pious –

that's not what you're asking for.

You've opened my ears so I can listen.

All : So I answered, "I'm coming!

I read in your letter what you wrote about me,

and I'm coming to the party you're throwing for me."

That's when God's Word entered my life,

became part of my very being.

* SONG FOR TRUTH *Open My Eyes That I May See* # 324

* PRAYER AS WE GATHER

* GOD'S BLESSING ON OUR WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS

God Speaks through the Word

WORDS FOR THE YOUNG AND THE YOUNG AT HEART

Message

Prayer

(Children in PreK – 2nd Grade are dismissed for Praise & Play.)

PRAYER FOR GOD'S SPIRIT TO MOVE AMONG US

SERMON

Unmasked in Lent:

Honesty and Faithfulness Before God

Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan

+ OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Psalm 40:1-5* Insert

+ VIDEO *Bono & Eugene Peterson: The Psalms* (selected sections)

+ OLD TESTAMENT LESSON *Jeremiah 15:15-21* Insert

+ NEW TESTAMENT LESSON *Ephesians 5:1-17* Insert

+ VIDEO *U2's 40* *Psalm 40*

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God Speaks through the Sacrament

WE CONFESS OUR SINFULNESS BEFORE GOD *Psalm 40:11-15*

Reader 1: Now God, don't hold out on me,
don't hold back your passion.

Your love and truth

are all that keeps me together.

All: When troubles ganged up on me,

a mob of sins past counting,

I was so swamped by guilt

I couldn't see my way clear.

More guilt in my heart than hair on my head,

so heavy the guilt that my heart gave out.

Silent Prayer

Reader 2: Soften up, God, and intervene;

Hurry and get me some help,

But all who are hunting for you –

Oh, let them sing and be happy.

All: Let those who know what you're all about
tell the world you're great and not quitting.

And me? I'm a mess. I'm nothing and have nothing:
make something of me.

You can do it; you've got what it takes –
but God, don't put it off.

GOD'S GRACE AND FORGIVENESS GRANTED

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you!

And also with you!

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

PRAYER FOR THE MYSTERY OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

THE MEAL IS SHARED

(Please wait until all are served before eating and drinking.)

PRAYER *In Remembrance* Courtney & Red
Chancel Choir

THE BREAD

Take, eat. This is my body, given for you.
Do this and remember me.

We do this and remember.

THE CUP

This is the cup of the new Covenant, sealed in my blood.
Whenever you drink it, remember me.

We do this and remember.

Praise to you, Christ Jesus!

Dying, you destroyed our death;

Rising, you restored our life;

Lord Jesus, come in glory!

PRAYER OF GOD'S PEOPLE IN THANKSGIVING

THE LORD'S PRAYER (Debts/debtors)

We Rededicate Ourselves to God

THE MORNING OFFERING

OFFERTORY

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

God Sends Us Out to Serve

* HYMN *The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want* # 170
Psalm 23

* GOD'S BLESSING AS WE GO OUT TO SERVE

* POSTLUDE *Voluntary in B flat* Greene

Reader 1: I waited and waited and waited for God.

At last he looked; finally he listened.

He lifted me out of the ditch,
pulled me from deep mud.

He stood me up on a solid rock
to make sure I wouldn't slip.

He taught me how to sing the latest God-song,
a praise-song to our God.

More and more people are seeing this:
they enter the mystery,
abandoning themselves to God.

Reader 2: Blessed are you who give yourselves over to God,
turn your backs on the world's "sure thing,"
ignore what the world worships;

The world's a huge stockpile
of God-wonders and God-thoughts.

Nothing and no one
comes close to you!

I start talking about you, telling what I know,
and quickly run out of words.

Neither numbers nor words
account for you.

Jeremiah 15:15-21

The Message (MSG)

- ¹⁵ You know where I am, God!
Remember what I'm doing here!
Take my side against my detractors.
Don't stand back while they ruin me.
Just look at the abuse I'm taking!
- ¹⁶ When your words showed up, I ate them—
swallowed them whole. What a feast!
What delight I took in being yours,
- ¹⁷ O God, God-of-the-Angel-Armies!
I never joined the party crowd
in their laughter and their fun.
Led by you, I went off by myself.
You'd filled me with indignation.
Their sin had me seething.
- ¹⁸ But why, why this chronic pain,
this ever worsening wound and no healing in sight?
You're nothing, God, but a mirage,
a lovely oasis in the distance—and then nothing!
- ¹⁹ This is how God answered me:
"Take back those words, and I'll take you back.
Then you'll stand tall before me.
Use words truly and well. Don't stoop to cheap whining.
Then, but only then, you'll speak for me.
Let your words change *them*.
Don't change your words to suit them.
- ²⁰ I'll turn you into a steel wall,
a thick steel wall, impregnable.
They'll attack you but won't put a dent in you
because I'm at your side, defending and delivering."

God's Decree.
- ²¹ "I'll deliver you from the grip of the wicked.
I'll get you out of the clutch of the ruthless."

Ephesians 5:1-17

The Message (MSG)

- ¹⁻² Watch what God does, and then you do it, like children who learn proper behavior from their parents. Mostly what God does is love you. Keep company with God and learn a life of love. Observe how Christ loved us. His love was not cautious but extravagant. He didn't love in order to get something from us but to give everything of himself to us. Love like that.
- ³⁻⁴ Though some tongues just love the taste of gossip, those who follow Jesus have better uses for language than that. Don't talk dirty or silly. That kind of talk doesn't fit our style. Thanksgiving is our dialect.
- ⁵ You can be sure that using people or religion or things just for what you can get out of them—the usual variations on idolatry—will get you nowhere, and certainly nowhere near the kingdom of Christ, the kingdom of God.
- ⁶⁻⁷ Don't let yourselves get taken in by religious smooth talk. God gets furious with people who are full of religious sales talk but want nothing to do with him. Don't even hang around people like that.
- ⁸⁻¹⁰ You groped your way through that murk once, but no longer. You're out in the open now. The bright light of Christ makes your way plain. So no more stumbling around. Get on with it! The good, the right, the true—these are the actions appropriate for daylight hours. Figure out what will please Christ, and then do it.
- ¹¹⁻¹⁶ Don't waste your time on useless work, mere busywork, the barren pursuits of darkness. Expose these things for the sham they are. It's a scandal when people waste their lives on things they must do in the darkness where no one will see. Rip the cover off those frauds and see how attractive they look in the light of Christ.
Wake up from your sleep,
Climb out of your coffins;
Christ will show you the light!
So watch your step. Use your head. Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!
- ¹⁷ Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants.