

Sunday, March 21

*Fifth Sunday in
Lent*

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who creates, redeems, and sustains us and all of creation.
Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Faithful God,
have mercy on us.
**We confess that we are captive to sin
and cannot free ourselves.**
**We turn from your loving embrace
and go our own ways.**
**We pass judgment on one another
before examining ourselves.**
We place our own needs before those of our neighbours.
We keep your gift of salvation to ourselves.
**Make us humble, cast away our transgressions,
and turn us again to life in you
through Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord. Amen.**

God hears the cries of all who call out in need,
and through his death and resurrection,
Christ has made us his own.
Hear the truth that God proclaims:
Your sins are forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ.
Led by the Holy Spirit, live in freedom and newness
to do God's work in the world.

Amen.

OPENING HYMN – AMAZING GRACE

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind, but now I see

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear
And grace my fears relieved
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace

The Lord has promised good to me
His word my hope secures
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace

My chains are gone, I've been set free
My God, my Savior has ransomed me
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow
The sun forbear to shine
But God, who called me here below

Will be forever mine
Will be forever mine
You are forever mine

*Words and Music: John Newton. Refrain Chris Tomlin and Louis Giglio
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GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
And also with

CHILDREN'S TIME

KYRIE

PRAAYER OF THE DAY

L The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

L Let us pray....

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Saviour and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: JEREMIAH 31:31-34

A reading from Jeremiah.

³¹The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the LORD. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the LORD,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the LORD; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

L Please join me in reading the Psalm responsively by verse, beginning and ending with the refrain.

PSALM: PSALM 119:9-16

Refrain: I treasure your promise in my heart. (Ps. 119:11)

⁹How shall the young keep their way clean?

By keeping to your word.

¹⁰**With my whole heart I seek you;**

let me not stray from your commandments.

¹¹I treasure your promise in my heart,

that I may not sin against you.

¹²**Blessed are you, O LORD;**

instruct me in your statutes. R

¹³With my lips I recite
all the judgments of your mouth.

¹⁴**I take greater delight in the way of your decrees
than in all manner of riches.**

¹⁵I will meditate on your commandments
and give attention to your ways.

¹⁶**My delight is in your statutes;
I will not forget your word. R**

Refrain: I treasure your promise in my heart. (Ps. 119:11)

SECOND READING: HEBREWS 5:5-10

A reading from Hebrews

⁵Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him,

“You are my Son,
today I have begotten you”;

⁶as he says also in another place,

“You are a priest forever,
according to the order of Melchizedek.”

⁷In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. ⁸Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; ⁹and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, ¹⁰having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.

GOSPEL: JOHN 12:20-33

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 12th chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, “Sir, we wish to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name.” Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, “An angel has spoken to him.” ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY – TREE OF LIFE AND AWESOME MYSTERY

Tree of Life and awesome myst'ry,
in your death we are reborn;
though you die in all of hist'ry,
still you rise with ev'ry morn,
still you rise with ev'ry morn.

From the dawning of creation
you have loved us as your own;
stay with us through all temptation,
make us turn to you alone.

In our call to be a blessing,
may we be a blessing true;
may we live and die confessing
Christ as Lord of all we do.

Living Water of salvation,
be the fountain of each soul;
springing up in new creation,
flow in us and make us whole.

Give us eyes to see you clearly;
make us children of your light.
Give us hearts to live more nearly
as your gospel shining bright.

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APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**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.**

**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.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

Make your church a community of forgiveness throughout the world. Strengthen Bishop Susan and Bishop Jason as they lead. Give us and all your people courage to forgive and to accept forgiveness. Stir up in us acts of repentance and reconciliation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give us grace to care for this world that is filled with your presence. Grant weather that prepares the soil for seeds; protect all from violent storms, flooding, drought, and wildfires. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Guide us and all citizens throughout the world to shape communities that reflect your mercy, justice, and peace, and give us the creativity to work for the welfare of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Restore the joy of all who need to know your presence: those who are lonely, those in prison, and those who live with addictions. Give courage to all who need healing of mind or body, especially God and those we name before you now..... Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You promise new life when our own lives slip away. Give peace to those who are dying, and comfort to all those who grieve. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Give patience and strength to those who find this long pandemic time too long. Be with health care workers, medical professionals, teachers, cashiers, truckers, and all whose work puts them at risk and under pressure. Give us wisdom as we make decisions in the face of change, and give all people kindness and care for each other. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Empower us all to love and to serve. Make us attentive to the needs of our neighbours inside and outside this congregation, and draw us close to one another even when we are apart. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We give thanks for all those who have inspired us, guided us in the faith, enriched our lives, and who now find their rest in you. Stir up hope in

us, that we might look forward in joy to that day when we share with them and with all the feast that has no end. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

SHARING OF THE PEACE

OFFERTORY HYMN – COME TO THE TABLE (ELW 481)

**Come to the table of mercy,
prepared with the wine and the bread.
All who are hungry and thirsty,
come, and your souls will be fed.
Come at the Lord's invitation;
receive from his nail scarred hand.
Eat of the bread of salvation;
drink of the blood of the Lamb.**

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OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray:

Merciful God, you open wide your hand
and satisfy the need of every living thing.

You have set this feast before us:

Open our hands to receive it; Open our hearts to embrace it;

Open our lives to live it, that we may come to the help of all in need.

We pray this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,
that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

You call your people to cleanse their hearts
and prepare with joy for the paschal feast,
that, renewed in the gift of baptism,
we may come to the fullness of your grace.

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

**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.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Blessed are you, O God of the universe.
Your mercy is everlasting
and your faithfulness endures from age to age.

Praise to you for creating the heavens and the earth.
Praise to you for saving the earth from the waters of the flood.
Praise to you for bringing the Israelites safely through the sea.

Praise to you for leading your people through the wilderness
to the land of milk and honey.
Praise to you for the words and deeds of Jesus, your anointed one.
Praise to you for the death and resurrection of Christ.
Praise to you for your Spirit poured out on all nations.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks;
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

With this bread and cup
we remember our Lord's passover from death to life
as we proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died.
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

O God of resurrection and new life:
Pour out your Holy Spirit on us
and on these gifts of bread and wine.
Bless this feast.
Grace our table with your presence.
Come, Holy Spirit.

Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread.
Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world.
Breathe new life into us.

Send us forth,
burning with justice, peace, and love.
Come, Holy Spirit.

With your holy ones of all times and places,
with the earth and all its creatures,
with sun and moon and stars,
we praise you, O God,
blessed and holy Trinity,
now and forever.
Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Even in different places and even in different times we are gathered into one by the Holy Spirit. So as one people, we pray as Jesus taught:

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 forever. Amen.

WE SHARE COMMUNION TOGETHER

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Christ Jesus,
at this table we have feasted on your very life
and are strengthened for our journey.
Send us forth from this banquet
nourished in body and in spirit
to proclaim your good news
and serve others in your name.
Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy. The Lord look upon you with favour and give you peace.

Amen

SENDING HYMN – LORD, I LIFT YOUR NAME ON HIGH (ELW 857)

Lord, I lift your name on high;
Lord, I love to sing your praises.
I'm so glad you're in my life,
I'm so glad you came to save us.

You came from heaven to earth to show the way,
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay,
From the cross to the grave, from the grave to the sky;
Lord I lift your name on high.

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