The Season of Lent

February 26, 2020

Ash Wednesday

Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 The day of the Lord is coming; return to God with all your heart.

or Isaiah 58:1–12 The fast God chooses: do justice, release captives, help the poor.

 Psalm 51:1–17 Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new spirit within me.

2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Be reconciled to God in Christ; now is the day of salvation!

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21 Don’t flaunt your fasting and prayer; store up treasure in heaven.

*For other resources for Ash Wednesday, see the* Book of Common Worship *(WJKP, 2018), pp. 247–257.*

***— Gathering —***

**Opening Sentences**

People of God-—listen to the trumpet’s call!

**We come from near and far**

**to kneel before the Holy One.**

Children of God-—listen to the voice of your Creator!

**We return to God with open hearts**

**and minds ready to be transformed.**

Beloved of God—listen to the good news!

**The Lord is merciful and kind,**

**full of faithful love and ready to forgive.**

Let us worship God!

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*At the baptismal font:*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

O Lord our God, we give you thanks

for the mercy you so freely offer us

through the grace of our baptism—

safe passage through the sea,

justice rolling down like water,

deliverance from sin and death forever.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

poured out upon us in baptism,

teach us to love and serve you faithfully

and reconcile us to you and to one another

as members of one, living body;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Confession and Pardon**

*At the baptismal font:*

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit,

a broken and contrite heart.

In faith, let us confess our sin

to the One who heals us and makes us whole.

*This prayer may be led by three voices as indicated, or by one voice. You might also use a setting of Psalm 51, such as GTG 422 or 423, PS 48.*

*Voice 1:* Have mercy on us, O God,
according to your faithful love!
According to your great mercy,
wipe away our wrongdoings.

*Voice 2:* For we have sinned against you,
choosing comfort over compassion,
and selfish gain over self-giving service.

*Voice 3:* With delight, you knit us together in secret
and gave us hearts for love.
But so often these hearts lust after the empty gods of this world,

and cause you distress.

*Voice 1:* Create in me a clean heart, O God,
**and put a new and right spirit within me.**

*Voice 2:* Have mercy on us, O God,
for we tear away at your vision of shalom.
You yearn for creation to flourish,
but we privilege our own security over the welfare of all.

*Voice 3:* Rather than breaking the yoke,
we are complicit in systems that oppress.
Rather than sharing of your abundance,
we satisfy our own hearts and sate our own appetites.

*Voice 1:* We pass by those who are desperate,
when we could offer refuge or respite.
We overlook those who are downtrodden,
when we could offer comfort or care.

*Voice 2:* Create in me a clean heart, O God,
**and put a new and right spirit within me.**

*Voice 3:* Have mercy on us, O God, and transform our lives.
Purge our hearts and homes, our community and country
of words that diminish and actions that harm.

*Voice 1:* Have mercy on us, O God, and renew our spirits.
Draw near to us that we might draw near to you—
not with superficial repentance,
but with a deep desire to walk in your ways.

*Voice 2:* Have mercy on us, O God,
and restore to us salvation’s joy.
Set us on the path of justice and righteousness,
so that our light might break forth like the dawn.

*Voice 3:* Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and put a new and right spirit within me.

*Lifting water from the font:*

*Voice 1:* Hear these words of promise:
the Lord will guide you continually
and satisfy your needs in parched places.

*Voice 2:* You shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water whose waters never fail.

*Voice 3:* God’s grace washes over us,
cleansing our hearts and renewing our spirits.
Know that you are forgiven, and be at peace!
Thanks be to God!

***— Word —***

**Prayer for Illumination**

*At the lectern or pulpit:*

Merciful God,

your Word is our way of truth and life.

Create in us hearts that are clean

and put your Holy Spirit within us,

so that we may receive your grace

and declare your praise forever;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture**

*Before the readings:*

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

*After the readings:*

We proclaim Christ crucified—

the wisdom and power of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 1:23–25

**Sermon**

**Ascription of Praise**

*After the sermon:*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

we bend our knees and lift up our hearts,

giving glory to God forever. **Amen.**

Philippians 2:9–11

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**The reconciling act of God in Jesus Christ**

**exposes the evil in people**

**as sin in the sight of God.**

**In sin, people claim mastery of their own lives,**

**turn against God and each other,**

**and become exploiters**

**and despoilers of the world.**

**They lose their humanity in futile striving**

**and are left in rebellion, despair, and isolation.**

**But God’s love never changes.**

**Against all who oppose the divine will,**

**God expresses love in wrath.**

**In the same love, God bore judgment**

**and shameful death in Jesus Christ,**

**to bring all people to repentance and new life.**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.12, 9.14*

**Prayers of Intercession**

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest
who knows our weakness and suffering;
therefore, with boldness, let us seek God’s grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church . . .
Make us messengers of your reconciling love—
faithful in suffering, hardship, and danger—
always proclaiming the joy of life in Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . .
Where clouds of poison spread gloom
and the land trembles at human violence,
blow the trumpet! Sound the alarm.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . .
Break the yoke of oppression; put an end
to the pointing of fingers and speaking of evil,
so that all peoples may live in dignity and peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . .
Rebuild the ruins of our cities and towns;
restore our streets as safe places to live,
so that generations to come may praise you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . .
Spring up quickly, with your healing power,
to satisfy the needs of those who suffer
and clothe the weak with your compassion.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers,
knowing that you alone can provide
grace to help in our time of need;
in the name of our great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

Hebrews 4:14–16

***— Eucharist —***

**Invitation to Offering**

*At the communion table:*

Jesus says: Where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Matthew 6:21

**Prayer of Dedication**

At the communion table:

God of grace,

you have gifted us with life in Christ.

Today we bring the gifts of our work

and the gifts of our hearts.

May all that we bring and all that we are

be your means of grace in the world,

that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.

**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.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.

The fast that you desire is righteousness and justice, compassion and peace:

to feed the hungry, help the poor, welcome the stranger, and set captives free.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song

of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

*A Sanctus (“Holy, holy, holy”) is sung.*

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

Jesus teaches sincerity of faith, and purity of heart in prayer and action—

not to make a spectacle of worship or charity, but to seek the inner gifts of grace;

not to store up treasures on earth, but to trust the heavenly treasure of your love.

*The words of institution are included here.*

Remembering your goodness and grace,

we offer ourselves to you with gratitude

as we share this joyful feast.

*A Memorial Acclamation (e.g., “Christ has died”) is sung.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Keep us faithful through hardship and suffering, hunger and sleepless nights.

Grant us purity, patience, kindness, holiness, truthful speech, and genuine love,

so that we may be reconciled to you through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Spirit,

we bless you, God of glory,

now and forever.

*An Amen is sung.*

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Communion of the People**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Prayer after Communion**

*At the communion table:*

Thank you, gracious God,

for giving us bread for the journey

of these forty days.

As we travel on through the wilderness,

help us to share your grace with others

and draw us ever closer to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

— *Sending —*

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Blessing and Charge**

*At the doors of the church:*

May the steadfast love of God,

the abundant grace of Jesus Christ,

and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit

be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Psalm 51:1, 11

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

If any wish to be my disciples

let them take up the cross

and follow me. **Amen.**

Mark 8:34

March 1, 2020

First Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7 The man and woman disobey God, eating forbidden fruit.

 Psalm 32 My sin tormented me; but when I confessed, God forgave me.

Romans 5:12–19 Sin and death came from Adam; grace and life come from Christ.

Matthew 4:1–11 Jesus spends forty days in the wilderness and is tested by the devil.

***— Gathering —***

**Opening Sentences**

We do not live by bread alone,

**so we gather to feast on God’s sustaining Word.**

We come at the Spirit’s leading

**to offer ourselves in service to Christ.**

Come, find strength for the journey.

**Let us worship the one, true God.**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*At the baptismal font:*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

O Lord our God, we give you thanks

for the mercy you so freely offer us

through the grace of our baptism—

safe passage through the sea,

justice rolling down like water,

deliverance from sin and death forever.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

poured out upon us in baptism,

teach us to love and serve you faithfully

and reconcile us to you and to one another

as members of one, living body;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Confession and Pardon**

*At the baptismal font:*

The psalmist declares:

While I kept silence, my body wasted away;

I was groaning all day long.

But then I confessed my transgressions

and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Trusting that God will receive us with grace

let us confess our sin before God and one another.

**Holy God, you call us to worship**

**and to serve only you.**

**Yet, when other things demand our attention,**

**we stray from the path Jesus tread.**

**We serve powers that privilege**

**the comfort of some over the well-being of many.**

**We serve a culture that values competition over collaboration.**

**We serve our own desires**

**without considering the needs of our neighbors.**

**Forgive us, Lord.**

**Send your Spirit to guide us back to you.**

**Free us from the clutches of sin and death**

**and draw us close,**

**that we might respond to the grace we know in Christ**

**and follow the ways of justice and righteousness.**

*Lifting water from the font:*

Happy are those whose wrongdoing is forgiven,

whose sin is covered!

Friends, rejoice in the Lord and be glad,

for God’s steadfast love surrounds us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God**.

***— Word —***

**Prayer for Illumination**

*At the lectern or pulpit:*

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness,

guide us by your Word through these forty days,

and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,

so that we may be reformed,

restored, and renewed;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture**

*Before the readings:*

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

*After the readings:*

We proclaim Christ crucified—

the wisdom and power of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 1:23–25

**Sermon**

**Ascription of Praise**

*After the sermon:*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

we bend our knees and lift up our hearts,

giving glory to God forever. **Amen.**

Philippians 2:9–11

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**The reconciling work of Jesus**

**was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.**

**His cross and resurrection become personal crisis**

**and present hope for women and men**

**when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.**

**In this experience,**

**the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to all,**

**moves people to respond in faith,**

**repentance, and obedience,**

**and initiates the new life in Christ.**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.21*

**Prayers of Intercession**

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest
who knows our weakness and suffering;
therefore, with boldness, let us seek God’s grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church . . .
O Lord our God, let us worship you alone.
Feed us with your Word, our daily bread,
and lift us up on the wings of your Spirit.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . .
In the garden of Eden you have made,
help use to choose the paths of life,
for the sake of your good creation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . .
Destroy the dominion of death:
warfare, corruption, pollution, and hate;
give life to all people through Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . .
Feed those who are famished;
humble the high and mighty;
protect those who are on the edge of despair.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . .
Hear the prayers of all who suffer—
whether in silence or with loud cries—
surround them with your saving grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers,
knowing that you alone can provide
grace to help in our time of need;
in the name of our great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

Hebrews 4:14–16

***— Eucharist —***

**Invitation to Offering**

*At the communion table:*

Jesus says: Where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Matthew 6:21

**Prayer of Dedication**

At the communion table:

God of grace,

you have gifted us with life in Christ.

Today we bring the gifts of our work

and the gifts of our hearts.

May all that we bring and all that we are

be your means of grace in the world,

that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.

**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.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

You planted us in an abundant garden, full of good fruit to eat.

Even when we disobeyed your word, taking fruit from the tree of knowledge,

you loved us still, covering our nakedness and forgiving our sin.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song

of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

*A Sanctus (“Holy, holy, holy”) is sung.*

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

Tested for forty days in the wilderness, Jesus taught us

to seek nourishment in your word, to worship and serve you alone,

and to commit our lives to your providence and protection.

*The words of institution are included here.*

Remembering your goodness and grace,

we offer ourselves to you with gratitude

as we share this joyful feast.

*A Memorial Acclamation (e.g., “Christ has died”) is sung.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Give us the free and abundant gift of your grace,

so that sin and death may have no dominion over us,

but we might have forgiveness and fullness of life in Christ Jesus.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Spirit,

we bless you, God of glory,

now and forever.

*An Amen is sung.*

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Communion of the People**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Prayer after Communion**

*At the communion table:*

Thank you, gracious God,

for giving us bread for the journey

of these forty days.

As we travel on through the wilderness,

help us to share your grace with others

and draw us ever closer to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

— *Sending —*

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Blessing and Charge**

*At the doors of the church:*

May the steadfast love of God,

the abundant grace of Jesus Christ,

and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit

be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Psalm 51:1, 11

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

If any wish to be my disciples

let them take up the cross

and follow me. **Amen.**

Mark 8:34

March 8, 2020

Second Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings

Genesis 12:1–4a The Lord says to Abram: I will make you a blessing to the nations.

 Psalm 121 My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.

Romans 4:1–5, 13–17 Consider Abraham; the promise of God depends on faith.

John 3:1–17 Those who seek God’s kingdom must be born of water and Spirit.

or Matthew 17:1–9 On a high mountain with Moses and Elijah, Jesus is transfigured.

***— Gathering —***

**Opening Sentences**

In days of old God called Abraham and Sarah:

**Come—I am with you; step out in faith.**

God speaks still, claiming people of every land and race:

**Come—I will bless you, that you may bless others.**

Heirs of the covenant, let us continue the journey:

**Come—let us worship the Lord!**

*Or*

We lift our eyes to the hills—

from where does our help come?

**Our help comes from the Lord,**

**who made heaven and earth.**

The Lord is our keeper;

God protects us, heart and soul.

**Whether coming or going,**

**we are safe in God’s keeping.**

Our journeys have brought us here

to lift our voices in praise.

**We will worship our Creator**

**all the days of our lives.**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*At the baptismal font:*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

O Lord our God, we give you thanks

for the mercy you so freely offer us

through the grace of our baptism—

safe passage through the sea,

justice rolling down like water,

deliverance from sin and death forever.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

poured out upon us in baptism,

teach us to love and serve you faithfully

and reconcile us to you and to one another

as members of one, living body;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Confession and Pardon**

*At the baptismal font:*

People of God,

we have been born of water and Spirit

and joined to Christ’s ministry of justice and peace.

But we do not always live the faith of our baptism.

Trusting that God’s grace washes over us still,

let us confess our sinfulness and shortcomings.

Sending God,

you speak to souls both calm and chaotic

and summon us to follow.

**But your call threatens to uproot our lives,**

**so we disregard your voice**

**and cling to the soils of safe, familiar places.**

Guiding Spirit,

your wind whips through communities both settled and stirring

and urges us toward new expressions of faith.

**But your call threatens to blow us off course,**

**so we ignore your dynamic Spirit**

**and shelter within protected harbors.**

Saving Christ,

you enter into hearts both trusting and skeptical

and plant within us the seed of faith.

**Forgive us when we ignore your summons**

**to grow as disciples.**

**Immerse us in the Spirit’s sustaining waters**

**so that we might respond to your call**

with faith and faithfulness.

*Lifting water from the font:*

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone who believes in him may not perish

but may have eternal life.

Know that you are forgiven and be at peace!

**Thanks be to God**.

***— Word —***

**Prayer for Illumination**

*At the lectern or pulpit:*

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness,

guide us by your Word through these forty days,

and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,

so that we may be reformed,

restored, and renewed;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture**

*Before the readings:*

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

*After the readings:*

We proclaim Christ crucified—

the wisdom and power of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 1:23–25

**Sermon**

**Ascription of Praise**

*After the sermon:*

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giving glory to God forever. **Amen.**

Philippians 2:9–11

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**The reconciling work of Jesus**

**was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.**

**His cross and resurrection become personal crisis**

**and present hope for women and men**

**when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.**

**In this experience,**

**the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to all,**

**moves people to respond in faith,**

**repentance, and obedience,**

**and initiates the new life in Christ.**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.21*

**Prayers of Intercession**

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest
who knows our weakness and suffering;
therefore, with boldness, let us seek God’s grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church . . .
Make us new and holy people in Christ,
born from above by water and the Spirit,
a sign of your great love for the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . .
The whole creation lifts its eyes to you,
the Lord and Maker of heaven and earth.
Keep us from all evil; guard our life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . .
Remember your promise to our ancestors.
Extend the blessings of providence and peace
to all the families and peoples of the earth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . .
Let your church be a living sign in this place—
not of condescension or condemnation—
but of your gift of eternal and abundant life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . .
With your unslumbering eye, watch over
those who are coming in to this world at birth
and those who are going out to the next.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers,
knowing that you alone can provide
grace to help in our time of need;
in the name of our great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

Hebrews 4:14–16

***— Eucharist —***

**Invitation to Offering**

*At the communion table:*

Jesus says: Where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Matthew 6:21

**Prayer of Dedication**

At the communion table:

God of grace,

you have gifted us with life in Christ.

Today we bring the gifts of our work

and the gifts of our hearts.

May all that we bring and all that we are

be your means of grace in the world,

that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.

**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.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

You made a covenant with our ancestor Abraham,

promising to make of him a great nation,

and a blessing to all the families of the earth.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song

of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

*A Sanctus (“Holy, holy, holy”) is sung.*

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

Out of your great love for the world, you sent Jesus, not to condemn, but to save,

so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but have eternal life,

born again from above by water and the Spirit.

*The words of institution are included here.*

Remembering your goodness and grace,

we offer ourselves to you with gratitude

as we share this joyful feast.

*A Memorial Acclamation (e.g., “Christ has died”) is sung.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

By faith, make us children of Abraham and Sarah,

justified by the righteousness and grace of Christ,

so that we may share the blessings of your covenant people.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Spirit,

we bless you, God of glory,

now and forever.

*An Amen is sung.*

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Communion of the People**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Prayer after Communion**

*At the communion table:*

Thank you, gracious God,

for giving us bread for the journey

of these forty days.

As we travel on through the wilderness,

help us to share your grace with others

and draw us ever closer to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

— *Sending —*

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Blessing and Charge**

*At the doors of the church:*

May the steadfast love of God,

the abundant grace of Jesus Christ,

and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit

be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Psalm 51:1, 11

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

If any wish to be my disciples

let them take up the cross

and follow me. **Amen.**

Mark 8:34

March 15, 2020

Third Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings

Exodus 17:1–7 The people thirst and quarrel; God gives them water from a rock.

 Psalm 95 Make a joyful noise to the Lord, the rock of our salvation.

Romans 5:1–11 Justified by faith, we have peace with God through Jesus Christ.

John 4:5–42 Jesus offers living water to a Samaritan woman at the well.

***— Gathering —***

**Opening Sentences**

Come, you who are thirsty—

**here is living water.**

Come, you who are weary—

**here is the fount of eternal life.**

Let us drink from the well of grace.

**Let us worship the Lord!**

*Or*

Come, you who are thirsty—

**here is water that sustains weary souls.**

Come, you who are despairing—

**here is the Rock of Our Salvation.**

Come, make a joyful noise to the Lord.

**Let us enter God’s presence with praise!**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*At the baptismal font:*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

O Lord our God, we give you thanks

for the mercy you so freely offer us

through the grace of our baptism—

safe passage through the sea,

justice rolling down like water,

deliverance from sin and death forever.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

poured out upon us in baptism,

teach us to love and serve you faithfully

and reconcile us to you and to one another

as members of one, living body;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Confession and Pardon**

*At the baptismal font:*

The One who knows our weaknesses and wanderings

seeks us out to offer the gift of eternal life.

Therefore, with confidence,

let us come before the Savior of the World

and draw living water from the well of grace.

**Lord, time and again, you defy our expectations.**

**You cross barriers of culture and creed**

**and look into the eyes of a stranger,**

**and we are astonished.**

**We confess that we are not keen to do the same.**

**While you teach inclusion, we preserve division;**

**while you model hospitality, we default to suspicion.**

**Open our eyes to see your mission for what it is—**

**the healing of the world.**

**Astonish us with your grace, O God,**

**that we might move from surprise to service,**

**and from doubt to faithfulness.**

**By your Spirit, inspire and empower us**

to proclaim your good news in word and deed.

*Lifting water from the font:*

Christ assures us:

Whoever drinks from the water that I give

will never be thirsty.

For the water that I give will become in them

a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.

Friends, this living water is for you.

So, drink deeply of God’s grace,

and trust that your sins are forgiven.

**Thanks be to God**.

***— Word —***

**Prayer for Illumination**

*At the lectern or pulpit:*

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness,

guide us by your Word through these forty days,

and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,

so that we may be reformed,

restored, and renewed;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture**

*Before the readings:*

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

*After the readings:*

We proclaim Christ crucified—

the wisdom and power of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 1:23–25

**Sermon**

**Ascription of Praise**

*After the sermon:*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

we bend our knees and lift up our hearts,

giving glory to God forever. **Amen.**

Philippians 2:9–11

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**The reconciling work of Jesus**

**was the supreme crisis in the life of humankind.**

**His cross and resurrection become personal crisis**

**and present hope for women and men**

**when the gospel is proclaimed and believed.**

**In this experience,**

**the Spirit brings God’s forgiveness to all,**

**moves people to respond in faith,**

**repentance, and obedience,**

**and initiates the new life in Christ.**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.21*

**Prayers of Intercession**

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest
who knows our weakness and suffering;
therefore, with boldness, let us seek God’s grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church . . .
Help us to worship you in spirit and truth,
to proclaim the coming of the Savior,
and share living water with the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . .
Hold the mountains and the oceans
in the hollow of your gentle hand;
repair their brokenness; restore their glory.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . .
Reconcile all the peoples of the earth—
those who seem to share nothing in common.
Help us to find our deeper unity in you.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . .
Help us to feed our neighbors who are hungry,
and give drink to those who are thirsty;
through Christ, bread of life and living water.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . .
Heal the divisions in our families,
protect the victims of violence,
and let children live in peace and safety.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers,
knowing that you alone can provide
grace to help in our time of need;
in the name of our great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

Hebrews 4:14–16

***— Eucharist —***

**Invitation to Offering**

*At the communion table:*

Jesus says: Where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Matthew 6:21

**Prayer of Dedication**

At the communion table:

God of grace,

you have gifted us with life in Christ.

Today we bring the gifts of our work

and the gifts of our hearts.

May all that we bring and all that we are

be your means of grace in the world,

that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.

**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.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

Even in the wilderness of sin you guide our way.

Though we quarrel with one another and question your promises,

you satisfy our thirst with water from a stone.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song

of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

*A Sanctus (“Holy, holy, holy”) is sung.*

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

Jesus offers living water for our thirst, a wellspring gushing up to eternal life.

We believe that he is the Messiah, the Savior of the world,

and we seek to worship him in spirit and in truth.

*The words of institution are included here.*

Remembering your goodness and grace,

we offer ourselves to you with gratitude

as we share this joyful feast.

*A Memorial Acclamation (e.g., “Christ has died”) is sung.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

In our suffering, give us the strength to endure;

through our endurance, build in us the character of faith;

and by the gift of faith, fill our hearts with a hope that will never disappoint us.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Spirit,

we bless you, God of glory,

now and forever.

*An Amen is sung.*

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Communion of the People**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Prayer after Communion**

*At the communion table:*

Thank you, gracious God,

for giving us bread for the journey

of these forty days.

As we travel on through the wilderness,

help us to share your grace with others

and draw us ever closer to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

— *Sending —*

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Blessing and Charge**

*At the doors of the church:*

May the steadfast love of God,

the abundant grace of Jesus Christ,

and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit

be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Psalm 51:1, 11

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

If any wish to be my disciples

let them take up the cross

and follow me. **Amen.**

Mark 8:34

March 22, 2020

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings

1 Samuel 16:1–13 Samuel anoints David, the youngest son of Jesse, to be king.

 Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd; I will live in the house of God always.

Ephesians 5:8–14 Live as children of light; awake and rise, Christ will shine on you.

John 9:1–41 Jesus heals a man born blind; the Pharisees question him about sin.

***— Gathering —***

**Opening Sentences**

Lord Christ, open our eyes

**to see clearly the light of the world.**

Holy Spirit, illumine our minds

**to perceive God’s glory shining among us.**

Almighty God, prepare our hearts

**to see, to trust, to worship the Messiah.**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*At the baptismal font:*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

O Lord our God, we give you thanks

for the mercy you so freely offer us

through the grace of our baptism—

safe passage through the sea,

justice rolling down like water,

deliverance from sin and death forever.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

poured out upon us in baptism,

teach us to love and serve you faithfully

and reconcile us to you and to one another

as members of one, living body;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Confession and Pardon**

*At the baptismal font:*

God calls us to bear fruit of goodness, justice, and truth.

We know what is pleasing to the Lord,

but we still live in sin’s shadow.

Let us strive to live as children of light,

and tell the truth about the ways we have fallen short.

**Wonder-working God,**

**forgive us when preconceived notions**

**cloud our vision and blind us**

**to your activity in our lives.**

**We watch for signs of your glory**

**in the successful and strong,**

**in pious acts and answered prayers,**

**in favorable outcomes and dreams fulfilled.**

**But you make yourself known in unexpected ways:**

**in shepherd boys lifted to the throne**

**and outcasts returned to community;**

**in death-haunted valleys transformed by your presence,**

**and ordinary pools made extraordinary by your grace,**

**through water and mud,**

**and a table prepared with sacrificial love.**

**We long for a salve that relieves our stubborn focus**

**on inconsequential questions,**

**and for water that heals our blindness**

**to revelations of your love.**

**Open our eyes,**

**illumine our minds,**

**and prepare our hearts,**

to receive your amazing grace.

*Lifting water from the font:*

God, our Shepherd, leads us to restful waters

and restores our souls.

Indeed, goodness and mercy shall follow us all our days

and we shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God**.

***— Word —***

**Prayer for Illumination**

*At the lectern or pulpit:*

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness,

guide us by your Word through these forty days,

and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,

so that we may be reformed,

restored, and renewed;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture**

*Before the readings:*

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

*After the readings:*

We proclaim Christ crucified—

the wisdom and power of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 1:23–25

**Sermon**

**Ascription of Praise**

*After the sermon:*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

we bend our knees and lift up our hearts,

giving glory to God forever. **Amen.**

Philippians 2:9–11

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**To be reconciled to God**

**is to be sent into the world**

**as God’s reconciling community.**

**This community, the church universal,**

**is entrusted with God’s message of reconciliation**

**and shares God’s labor of healing the enmities**

**which separate people from God**

**and from each other.**

**Christ has called the church to this mission**

**and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**The church maintains continuity**

**with the apostles and with Israel**

**by faithful obedience to his call.**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.31*

**Prayers of Intercession**

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest
who knows our weakness and suffering;
therefore, with boldness, let us seek God’s grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church . . .
By your grace, make us children of light,
reflecting the glory of our Savior—
Jesus Christ, the light of the world.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . .
Renew in us a vision of the world restored,
shining with the splendor of your glory,
unstained by the sin of human greed.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . .
Raise up new leaders among us,
new shepherds who will defend the weak
and lead us all in paths of peace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . .
Help us to notice our neighbors in need.
Give us the courage and compassion
to see them all as your beloved children.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . .
Accompany those who walk in darkness;
protect those who are facing danger;
comfort those who live in fear.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers,
knowing that you alone can provide
grace to help in our time of need;
in the name of our great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

Hebrews 4:14–16

***— Eucharist —***

**Invitation to Offering**

*At the communion table:*

Jesus says: Where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Matthew 6:21

**Prayer of Dedication**

At the communion table:

God of grace,

you have gifted us with life in Christ.

Today we bring the gifts of our work

and the gifts of our hearts.

May all that we bring and all that we are

be your means of grace in the world,

that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.

**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.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

You are our shepherd; there is nothing we lack.

You prepare a table for us, even in the presence of our enemies.

You anoint our heads with oil; the cup of blessing overflows.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song

of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

*A Sanctus (“Holy, holy, holy”) is sung.*

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

Jesus is the light of the world, dispelling darkness and uncovering what is hidden.

He has the authority to judge, the grace to forgive, and the power to heal and set free.

Since the world began who has seen such things?

*The words of institution are included here.*

Remembering your goodness and grace,

we offer ourselves to you with gratitude

as we share this joyful feast.

*A Memorial Acclamation (e.g., “Christ has died”) is sung.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Help us to live as children of light,

always seeking what is good and right and pleasing to you.

Wake the dead from their sleep, to rise and shine with the light of Christ.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Spirit,

we bless you, God of glory,

now and forever.

*An Amen is sung.*

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Communion of the People**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Prayer after Communion**

*At the communion table:*

Thank you, gracious God,

for giving us bread for the journey

of these forty days.

As we travel on through the wilderness,

help us to share your grace with others

and draw us ever closer to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

— *Sending —*

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Blessing and Charge**

*At the doors of the church:*

May the steadfast love of God,

the abundant grace of Jesus Christ,

and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit

be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Psalm 51:1, 11

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

If any wish to be my disciples

let them take up the cross

and follow me. **Amen.**

Mark 8:34

March 29, 2020

Fifth Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings

Ezekiel 37:1–14 In a valley of dry bones, Ezekiel has a vision of hope for Israel.

 Psalm 130 Out of the depths I cry; the Lord has power to forgive and redeem.

Romans 8:6–11 Set your mind on the Spirit, not the flesh; God will give you life.

John 11:1–45 Jesus, the resurrection and the life, raises Lazarus from the dead.

***— Gathering —***

**Opening Sentences**

Thus says the Lord:

 “I will put my breath within you, and you shall live.”

**In gratitude, we praise the Giver of Life.**

Jesus says: “I am the resurrection and the life.

**In gratitude, we praise the Source of our Being.**

We gather to worship the One who frees us from the grave

and stirs dry bones to life.

**Spirit, come and enliven our worship!**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*At the baptismal font:*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

O Lord our God, we give you thanks

for the mercy you so freely offer us

through the grace of our baptism—

safe passage through the sea,

justice rolling down like water,

deliverance from sin and death forever.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

poured out upon us in baptism,

teach us to love and serve you faithfully

and reconcile us to you and to one another

as members of one, living body;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Confession and Pardon**

*At the baptismal font:*

Like tightly wound grave clothes,

sinstrangles our spirits and shrouds our lives.

But Christ summons us to new and abundant life.

Trusting the Spirit to unbind us,

let us confess the ways sin deadensour lives.

Holy One,

we have set our minds on wrong things—

**on selfish gain, not generous service;**

**on pursuits that distract, not inspire;**

**on tasks that diminish, rather than give, life.**

We long to set our minds on eternal things—

**on your way of mercy and compassion;**

**on paths that lead to justice and peace;**

**on living as people of hope.**

Spirit of God, dwell in us.

**Give us grace when we fall short,**

**transform our hearts and renew our minds,**

**and set us free to follow you faithfully.**

*Lifting water from the font:*

See how Christ loves us!

The One who is the Resurrection and the Life

will not let us languish in the tomb,

but calls us into the light.

Jesus says to us: I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live,

and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

Believe the good news:

The Lord of life unbinds our grave clothes,

and frees us for new and abundant life.

In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God**.

***— Word —***

**Prayer for Illumination**

*At the lectern or pulpit:*

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness,

guide us by your Word through these forty days,

and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,

so that we may be reformed,

restored, and renewed;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture**

*Before the readings:*

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

*After the readings:*

We proclaim Christ crucified—

the wisdom and power of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 1:23–25

**Sermon**

**Ascription of Praise**

*After the sermon:*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

we bend our knees and lift up our hearts,

giving glory to God forever. **Amen.**

Philippians 2:9–11

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**To be reconciled to God**

**is to be sent into the world**

**as God’s reconciling community.**

**This community, the church universal,**

**is entrusted with God’s message of reconciliation**

**and shares God’s labor of healing the enmities**

**which separate people from God**

**and from each other.**

**Christ has called the church to this mission**

**and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**The church maintains continuity**

**with the apostles and with Israel**

**by faithful obedience to his call.**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.31*

**Prayers of Intercession**

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest
who knows our weakness and suffering;
therefore, with boldness, let us seek God’s grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church . . .
Raise your church from the dead,
so that we may proclaim Christ,
the resurrection and the life.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . .
Send forth your Holy Spirit
to breathe upon this dying world
and renew the face of the earth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . .
Open the graves of the poor
so that they may arise and stand
to praise your holy name.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . .
In the villages and cities where we live,
help us to embody the good news of Christ,
who still lives and works among us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . .
Enter into the depths, O Lord,
to draw out those who wait for you,
who hope and trust in your word.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers,
knowing that you alone can provide
grace to help in our time of need;
in the name of our great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

Hebrews 4:14–16

***— Eucharist —***

**Invitation to Offering**

*At the communion table:*

Jesus says: Where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Matthew 6:21

**Prayer of Dedication**

At the communion table:

God of grace,

you have gifted us with life in Christ.

Today we bring the gifts of our work

and the gifts of our hearts.

May all that we bring and all that we are

be your means of grace in the world,

that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.

**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.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

From the valley of dry bones you raise us up,

giving us the flesh of your Word and the breath of your Spirit.

Jesus is the resurrection and the life.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song

of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

*A Sanctus (“Holy, holy, holy”) is sung.*

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

Those who believe in him, even though they die, will live;

and everyone who lives and believes in him will never die.

*The words of institution are included here.*

Remembering your goodness and grace,

we offer ourselves to you with gratitude

as we share this joyful feast.

*A Memorial Acclamation (e.g., “Christ has died”) is sung.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Set our minds on your Holy Spirit, in whom we find our life and peace.

Let the same Spirit who raised Jesus from the dead dwell in us always,

giving life to our mortal bodies and light to our souls.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Spirit,

we bless you, God of glory,

now and forever.

*An Amen is sung.*

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Communion of the People**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Prayer after Communion**

*At the communion table:*

Thank you, gracious God,

for giving us bread for the journey

of these forty days.

As we travel on through the wilderness,

help us to share your grace with others

and draw us ever closer to you;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

— *Sending —*

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Blessing and Charge**

*At the doors of the church:*

May the steadfast love of God,

the abundant grace of Jesus Christ,

and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit

be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Psalm 51:1, 11

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

If any wish to be my disciples

let them take up the cross

and follow me. **Amen.**

Mark 8:34

April 5, 2020

Palm/Passion Sunday / Sixth Sunday in Lent

Color: Purple

Lectionary Readings

Liturgy of the Palms

Matthew 21:1–11 Jesus enters Jerusalem on a donkey; the people shout: Hosanna!

 Psalm 118:1–2, Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.

 19–29

Liturgy of the Passion

Isaiah 50:4–9a The Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

 Psalm 31:9–16 Be gracious, Lord; my enemies assail me; my life is in your hand.

Philippians 2:5–11 Seek the mind of Christ, who was humble, but exalted by God.

Matthew 26:14—27:66 After the Passover meal, Jesus is betrayed, tried, and crucified.

or Matthew 27:11–54 [abbreviated reading] Jesus is tried and crucified.

***— Gathering —***

**Opening Sentences**

Look! Your king is coming—humble and riding on a donkey.

**Hosanna to the Son of David!**

Lay your cloaks before him; spread palms to honor him.

**Blessed is the One who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Raise your voices. Lift your hearts. Rejoice—our Savior comes!

**Hosanna in the highest heaven!**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*At the baptismal font:*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

O Lord our God, we give you thanks

for the mercy you so freely offer us

through the grace of our baptism—

safe passage through the sea,

justice rolling down like water,

deliverance from sin and death forever.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

poured out upon us in baptism,

teach us to love and serve you faithfully

and reconcile us to you and to one another

as members of one, living body;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Confession and Pardon**

*At the baptismal font:*

Today Jesus enters Jerusalem as a king.

**But soon shouts of “Hosanna!”**

**will turn to cries of “Crucify!”**

Like the crowds of long ago, we are fickle followers.

**But God is faithful.**

Trusting in God’s mercy,

let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Suffering God,

the way of the cross is a hard road.

**It is draining.**

**It is demanding.**

**It is fraught with danger.**

You ask us to stay by your side

as you walk toward Calvary.

But weariness and fear overtake us.

Like the first disciples, we are quick

**to betray you,**

**to deny you,**

**to abandon you.**

Forgive us, God, and strengthen us for the journey ahead.

Give us courage to face the pain and suffering

of this world and to respond with compassion.

As the darkness gathers,

**renew our faith,**

**fill us with hope,**

and startle us with your grace.

*Lifting water from the font:*

The One we greet with shouts of “Hosanna,”

does, indeed, come to save us from sin and death—

not with military might,

but with the power of love.

**O give thanks to the Lord, who is good!**

**God’s steadfast love endures forever!**

***— Word —***

**Prayer for Illumination**

*At the lectern or pulpit:*

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness,

guide us by your Word through these forty days,

and minister to us with your Holy Spirit,

so that we may be reformed,

restored, and renewed;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture**

*Before the readings:*

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

*After the readings:*

We proclaim Christ crucified—

the wisdom and power of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 1:23–25

**Sermon**

**Ascription of Praise**

*After the sermon:*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

we bend our knees and lift up our hearts,

giving glory to God forever. **Amen.**

Philippians 2:9–11

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**God’s reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery**

**which the Scriptures describe in various ways.**

**It is called the sacrifice of a lamb,**

**a shepherd’s life given for his sheep,**

**atonement by a priest;**

**again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt,**

**vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty,**

**and victory over the powers of evil.**

**These are expressions of a truth**

**which remains beyond the reach of all theory**

**in the depths of God’s love for humankind.**

**They reveal the gravity, cost,**

**and sure achievement of God’s reconciling work.**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.09*

**Prayers of Intercession**

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest
who knows our weakness and suffering;
therefore, with boldness, let us seek God’s grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church . . .
Let the mind of Christ Jesus be in us—
giving away the riches of heavenly glory,
taking the place of humble service on earth.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . .
Let the whole earth tremble this day—
not with the fear of destruction,
but with the hope of redemption.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . .
Let the nations see your suffering servant—
who vindicates victims of violence,
who sustains the weary with a word.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . .
Let us stand with those who suffer—
the outcast, despised, and forsaken;
prisoners, and those condemned to death.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . .
Let your face shine upon the weak—
those who spend their lives in sorrow,
those whose souls and bodies waste away.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers,
knowing that you alone can provide
grace to help in our time of need;
in the name of our great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

Hebrews 4:14–16

***— Eucharist —***

**Invitation to Offering**

*At the communion table:*

Jesus says: Where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Matthew 6:21

**Prayer of Dedication**

At the communion table:

God of grace,

you have gifted us with life in Christ.

Today we bring the gifts of our work

and the gifts of our hearts.

May all that we bring and all that we are

be your means of grace in the world,

that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.

**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.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

In our suffering and sorrow, we trust in your saving power,

for you are good and gracious; our lives are in your hands.

With you as our helper, we will not be put to shame.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song

of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

*A Sanctus (“Holy, holy, holy”) is sung.*

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

Betrayed and denied by those whom he loved,

Jesus surrendered himself to death—death on a cross.

There he gave his life in love for the world.

*The words of institution are included here.*

Remembering your goodness and grace,

we offer ourselves to you with gratitude

as we share this joyful feast.

*A Memorial Acclamation (e.g., “Christ has died”) is sung.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

By your Spirit, let us share the mind of Christ,

who emptied himself, suffering shame and death,

so that all might know the fullness of your glory.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Spirit,

we bless you, God of glory,

now and forever.

*An Amen is sung.*

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Communion of the People**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Prayer after Communion**

*At the communion table:*

We give you thanks, Holy One,

for the body and blood of our Lord,

given with love for the world.

Send us out in your Spirit

to share the good news of salvation

and give ourselves for others;

in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

— *Sending —*

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Blessing and Charge**

*At the doors of the church:*

May the steadfast love of God,

the abundant grace of Jesus Christ,

and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit

be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Psalm 51:1, 11

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

If any wish to be my disciples

let them take up the cross

and follow me. **Amen.**

Mark 8:34

April 9, 2020

Maundy Thursday

Color: Purple (Until church is stripped)

Lectionary Readings

Exodus 12:1–4 (5–10) 11–14 Before the Exodus, the Lord gives instructions for the Passover.

 Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19 What shall I return to the Lord? I will lift the cup of salvation.

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 Paul recounts and interprets the tradition of the Lord’s Supper.

John 13:1–17, 31b–35 Jesus washes the disciples’ feet and gives a new commandment.

*For other resources for Maundy Thursday, see the* Book of Common Worship *(WJKP, 2018), pp. 276–283.*

***— Gathering —***

**Opening Sentences**

Little children,

I am with you only a little longer, Jesus says.

**We come to draw near to our Lord,**

**to dwell in the gathering darkness,**

**to remember and to grieve.**

Just as I have loved you,

you also should love one another, Jesus says.

**We gather to feast at the table of grace,**

**to kneel at the feet of our friends,**

**to learn the way of sacrifice and service.**

Jesus’ hour has come to depart from this world.

Our hour has come to wait, to watch, and to pray.

**Let us worship the One who loves us to the end.**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*At the baptismal font:*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

O Lord our God, we give you thanks

for the mercy you so freely offer us

through the grace of our baptism—

safe passage through the sea,

justice rolling down like water,

deliverance from sin and death forever.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

poured out upon us in baptism,

teach us to love and serve you faithfully

and reconcile us to you and to one another

as members of one, living body;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Confession and Pardon**

*The Call to Confession may be divided line by line, as indicated, or divided into three parts by stanza.*

*It may also be read by one voice.*

*Voice 1:* Tonight, we sit at table with Judas, who betrays Jesus with a kiss;

*Voice 2:* and with Peter, who—three times—denies our Lord;

*Voice 3:* and with all the other disciples, who fail to keep watch and pray.

*Voice 1:* We are not so different from the twelve.

*Voice 2:* For we, too, have turned from Christ

*Voice 3:* when the demands of faith seemed too great.

*Voice 1:* Yet, Christ loved his own to the end.

*Voice 2:* And Christ loves us to the end.

*Voice 3:* With confidence, let us confess how we, too, have fallen short.

*Voice 1:* Do you know what I have done for you?

*Voice 2:* This, Lord, you asked of your disciples.

*Voice 3:* And this, Lord, you ask of us.

*Voice 1:* And the answer is:

*Voice 2:* “Yes.

*Voice 3:* “We do know.”

**We know that you have risen from the table**

**to kneel at our feet;**

**that you have taught us the way of sacrifice and service;**

**that you have given us a new commandment:**

**Love one another, as I have loved you.**

*Voice 1:* Do you know what I have done for you?

*Voice 2:* Yes, Lord, we do.

*Voice 3:* But we often forget.

**We forget that true discipleship means**

**caring for others with a servant’s heart—**

**those who have been cast aside,**

**those who feel unworthy of love,**

**those we deem undeserving of grace.**

*Voice 1:* For our forgetfulness,

*Voice 2:* for our fearfulness,

*Voice 3:* for our faithlessness

forgive us, Lord.

*Voice 1:* As you kneel like a servant before us,

*Voice 2:* as you break bread and offer the cup,

*Voice 3:* as you show us, once again, what it means to serve,

**break open our hearts,**

**and fill us with your steadfast love,**

**so that we might pour ourselves out in service.**

*Voice 1:* Like water poured over dusty feet,

*Voice 2:* like wine flowing into the cup of salvation,

*Voice 3:* God’s grace washes over us.

*Voice 1:* For Christ loves us fully.

*Voice 2:* Christ loves us completely.

*Voice 3:* Christ loves us to the end.

Thanks be to God.

***— Word —***

**Prayer for Illumination**

*At the lectern or pulpit:*

Eternal God, by your Word and Spirit,

you have given us a new commandment:

to love and serve one another in Jesus’ name.

Let the good news of your liberating love

be sealed in our hearts and shown in our lives;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture**

*Before the readings:*

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

*After the readings:*

We proclaim Christ crucified—

the wisdom and power of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 1:23–25

**Sermon**

**Ascription of Praise**

*After the sermon:*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

we bend our knees and lift up our hearts,

giving glory to God forever. **Amen.**

Philippians 2:9–11

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**To be reconciled to God**

**is to be sent into the world**

**as God’s reconciling community.**

**This community, the church universal,**

**is entrusted with God’s message of reconciliation**

**and shares God’s labor of healing the enmities**

**which separate people from God**

**and from each other.**

**Christ has called the church to this mission**

**and given it the gift of the Holy Spirit.**

**The church maintains continuity**

**with the apostles and with Israel**

**by faithful obedience to his call.**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.31*

**Prayers of Intercession**

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest
who knows our weakness and suffering;
therefore, with boldness, let us seek God’s grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church . . .
Keep us faithful in your new covenant
and obedient to your new commandment:
to love one another as Christ loves us.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . .
Let these plagues of death pass over us—
gross pollution, careless consumption.
Spare the earth from destruction.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . .
Liberate those who are enslaved and oppressed;
lead them into the land you have promised
by the grace of Jesus Christ, your holy Lamb.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . .
Teach us to take up the basin and towel,
to kneel humbly before our neighbors
and show them the great love of Christ.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . .
Hear the voices of those who cry to you.
Loosen all the chains that bind them,
so that they may love and serve you with joy.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers,
knowing that you alone can provide
grace to help in our time of need;
in the name of our great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

Hebrews 4:14–16

***— Eucharist —***

**Invitation to Offering**

*At the communion table:*

Jesus says: Where your treasure is,

there your heart will be also.

Let us offer our lives to the Lord.

Matthew 6:21

**Prayer of Dedication**

At the communion table:

God of grace,

you have gifted us with life in Christ.

Today we bring the gifts of our work

and the gifts of our hearts.

May all that we bring and all that we are

be your means of grace in the world,

that all people may encounter your good news. Amen.

**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.**

Blessed are you, O Lord our God:

With your people Israel, we remember how you have saved us—

sheltering us from the plagues of sin and death,

leading us through the waters to deliver us.

Therefore we praise you, joining the song

of the universal church and the heavenly choir:

*A Sanctus (“Holy, holy, holy”) is sung.*

Blessed is Jesus Christ, our Savior:

Kneeling down in humility to wash his disciples’ feet,

Jesus gave us a new commandment: to love one another.

By this love, the world will know that we are his disciples.

*The words of institution are included here.*

Remembering your goodness and grace,

we offer ourselves to you with gratitude

as we share this joyful feast.

*A Memorial Acclamation (e.g., “Christ has died”) is sung.*

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us and upon this bread and cup;
make us one in the body and blood of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Help us to hand on to others what we have received from you:

the gift of your grace and the promise of salvation in Christ.

As often as we do this, let our lives proclaim your love.

Through the Lord Jesus Christ,

in the unity of the Spirit,

we bless you, God of glory,

now and forever.

*An Amen is sung.*

**Lord’s Prayer**

**Breaking the Bread**

**Communion of the People**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Prayer after Communion**

*At the communion table:*

We give you thanks, Holy One,

for the body and blood of our Lord,

given with love for the world.

Send us out in your Spirit

to share the good news of salvation

and give ourselves for others;

in the name of Christ our Savior. Amen.

— *Sending —*

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Blessing and Charge**

*At the doors of the church:*

May the steadfast love of God,

the abundant grace of Jesus Christ,

and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit

be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Psalm 51:1, 11

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

If any wish to be my disciples

let them take up the cross

and follow me. **Amen.**

Mark 8:34

April 10, 2020

Good Friday

Color: No Color

Lectionary Readings

Isaiah 52:13—53:12 The innocent servant suffers; surely he has borne our sin.

 Psalm 22 A desperate prayer of lament turns to thanksgiving and praise.

Hebrews 10:16–25 Jesus opens the sanctuary for us; trust in him, for he is faithful.

or Hebrews 4:14–16; In Jesus, we have a great high priest who knows our weakness.
5:7–9

John 18:1—19:42 Jesus is arrested, put on trial, crucified, and buried.

*For other resources for Good Friday, see the* Book of Common Worship *(WJKP, 2018), pp. 284–289.*

***— Gathering —***

**Opening Sentences**

For whom are you looking?

**We are seeking Jesus of Nazareth,**

**the Son of God, who was handed over to death.**

For whom are you looking?

**We are seeking the servant of the Lord,**

**the righteous one, who makes many righteous.**

Here is the man. Here is your king.

**He will be exalted and lifted high.**

*Or*

This is the covenant that I will make with them,

says the Lord.

**I will place my laws in their hearts,**

**and write them on their minds.**

**And I will not remember their sins anymore.**

Let us hold fast to hope, for the Lord is faithful.

**With true hearts, let us draw near to God.**

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Thanksgiving for Baptism**

*At the baptismal font:*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

O Lord our God, we give you thanks

for the mercy you so freely offer us

through the grace of our baptism—

safe passage through the sea,

justice rolling down like water,

deliverance from sin and death forever.

By the power of your Holy Spirit,

poured out upon us in baptism,

teach us to love and serve you faithfully

and reconcile us to you and to one another

as members of one, living body;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Confession and Pardon**

*At the baptismal font:*

Like sheep we have all gone astray,

turning from right paths that lead to justice and peace

to pursue selfish ambitions

and chase after the desires of our hearts.

Still, the Lamb of God does not abandon us,

but searches for us;

Christ bears the weight of our sin

and carries us to the heart of God.

Trusting in God’s grace, let us confess our sin.

*Or*

*This call to confession may be read responsively, as indicated, or read by two alternating voices.*

Since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens —

**Jesus, the Son of God;**

Since we have a great high priest who understands our frailty—

**Jesus, the Son of God;**

Since we have a great high priest who freely grantsmercy —

**let us with boldness approach the throne of grace.**

*A different voice may lead each stanza.*

*Consider including moments of silence or singing a Kyrie after each refrain.*

O Jesus, we have rejected you and the One who sent you—

abandoning the way you tread,

denying the truth you teach,

despising the life you offer.

So now we climb to the Place of the Skull

and confess: **We have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

We have turned a blind eye toward suffering—

dismissing another’s hurt and pain,

crossing the street to avoid seeing need,

ignoring the plight of the displaced and desperate.

So now we fix our eyes upon

your wretched and wounded body

and confess: **We have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

We have kept silent when love demanded a response—

withholding kind words from one who craves compassion,

excusing comments that diminish and disparage,

shrinking in fear rather than speaking the truth in love.

So now we cry out in response to Christ’s heartbreaking lament

and confess: **We have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

We have done too little to confront the evils of this world—

denying the prejudice we carry and its power to harm,

feigning powerlessness in the face of injustice,

refusing to challenge systems

that value some lives more than others.

So now we stand ashamed before one unjustly condemned

and confess: **We have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

We have condoned violence in our nation and our world—

watching weapon stockpiles grow as the vulnerable suffer,

hearing news of violence with the silence of disinterested souls,

standing by as your precious children fall wounded and torn.

So now we behold your pierced and bleeding body

and confess: **We have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

We have abandoned you and turned against one another—

denying your claim on our lives,

even in everyday choices,

sowing division within the body of Christ

rather than claiming others as kin,

betraying you by rejecting your shalom.

So now we join your followers at the foot of your cross

and confess: **We have prepared a cross for our Savior.**

O Jesus, our suffering Lord,

We have rejected you and the One who sent you—

setting a crown of thorns upon your head,

mocking your humility with derision,

condemning you to the death of a criminal.

Forgive us. Redeem us. Renew us, we pray.

We are distraught as we confess:

We have prepared a cross for our Savior.

*Lifting water from the font:*

Even at this—the darkest hour—

when all seems lost,

we give thanks that God is near to us.

The rejected One does not reject us,

but carries our sin,

and heals our brokenness.

Believe the good news:

In Jesus Christ we are forgiven!

**Thanks be to God**.

***— Word —***

**Prayer for Illumination**

*At the lectern or pulpit:*

Holy One, our strength in suffering

and our hope for salvation,

lift up your Word of life

and pour out your Spirit of grace

so that we may follow faithfully

all the way to the cross;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Scripture**

*Before the readings:*

O Lord, open my lips,

and my mouth will declare your praise.

Psalm 51:15

*After the readings:*

We proclaim Christ crucified—

the wisdom and power of God.

**Thanks be to God.**

1 Corinthians 1:23–25

**Sermon**

**Ascription of Praise**

*After the sermon:*

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ

we bend our knees and lift up our hearts,

giving glory to God forever. **Amen.**

Philippians 2:9–11

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Affirmation of Faith**

**God’s reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery**

**which the Scriptures describe in various ways.**

**It is called the sacrifice of a lamb,**

**a shepherd’s life given for his sheep,**

**atonement by a priest;**

**again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt,**

**vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty,**

**and victory over the powers of evil.**

**These are expressions of a truth**

**which remains beyond the reach of all theory**

**in the depths of God’s love for humankind.**

**They reveal the gravity, cost,**

**and sure achievement of God’s reconciling work.**

*Adapted from the Confession of 1967, 9.09*

**Prayers of Intercession**

*The Solemn Intercession may be used in place of this prayer.*

In Christ Jesus, we have a great high priest
who knows our weakness and suffering;
therefore, with boldness, let us seek God’s grace.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the church . . .
Unite us in the company of the faithful,
the great congregation of your people,
giving thanks for your saving power.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for the earth . . .
Save this world from a violent end,
so that future generations will rejoice
in the glory of your good creation.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for all nations . . .
Rule over the nations with peace.
Silence those who threaten and curse,
and deliver us from weapons of war.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for this community . . .
Give dignity to those who are despised;
let the poor eat and be satisfied;
rescue the lost and bring them home.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

With boldness, we pray for loved ones . . .
Do not be far away from those in trouble.
Come quickly to help them; save their lives!
Surround them with your healing presence.

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

To you, O God, we entrust these prayers,
knowing that you alone can provide
grace to help in our time of need;
in the name of our great high priest
who has passed through the heavens,
Jesus Christ, our Sovereign and Savior. **Amen.**

Hebrews 4:14–16

— *Sending —*

**Hymn, Psalm, or Spiritual Song**

**Blessing and Charge**

*At the doors of the church:*

May the steadfast love of God,

the abundant grace of Jesus Christ,

and the abiding presence of the Holy Spirit

be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Psalm 51:1, 11

Remember the words of the Lord Jesus:

If any wish to be my disciples

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