Order of Worship

1st Sunday in Lent

March 6, 2022

Call to Worship *(from Psalm 46)*

God is our refuge and strength
a present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear
though the earth should change
though the mountains shake in the heart of the sea.
though the waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with tumult,
God's love endures forever.

Call to Confession

The proof of God's amazing love is this: while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Christ rose for us. Christ reigns in power for us, Christ even prays for us. With such assurance, we need not fear confession, but simply draw near to our maker in candor.

Prayer of Confession *(from Psalm 51)*

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, blot out my offenses. Wash me through and through from my wickedness and cleanse me from my sins. For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight. Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure. Wash me, and I shall be clean indeed. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

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Assurance of Pardon

The saying is true and worthy of full acceptance that Christ died to save sinners. Brothers and sisters, believe the promise of the Gospel: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven.

Prayer for Illumination

O God, as we begin the journey of Lent, open our hearts and our minds to hear your Word to us in the wilderness, as we walk that journey with Christ.

Scripture readings

Sermon

Affirmation of Faith *(from The Theological Declaration of Barmen)*

We confess that Jesus Christ, as he is attested for us in Holy Scripture, is the one Word of God which we have to hear and which we have to trust and obey in life and in death. As Jesus Christ is God's assurance of the forgiveness of all our sins, so in the same way and with the same seriousness is he also God's mighty claim upon our whole life. Through him befalls us a joyful deliverance from the godless fetters of this world for a free, grateful service to his creatures. The church is the congregation in which Jesus Christ acts presently as the Lord in Word and Sacrament through the Holy Spirit. As pardoned sinners, we testify in the midst of a sinful world, with the church's faith as with its obedience, with its message as with its order, and that it loves and wants to live solely from his comfort and his direction at the expectation of his appearance.

Call for the Offering *(from Deuteronomy 26)*

When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance, you shall take some the first of all the fruit of the ground and you shall put it in a basket and you shall set it down before the Lord your God, and together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among, you shall celebrate with all the bounty the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

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Prayer of Dedication

Holy God, we present our offerings as did our ancestors of old, giving the first fruits of our labors. May they bring blessing to those with whom we travel the wilderness journey — to the widow, the orphan, the alien, the outsider, whom your Son calls us to love and to care for. Amen.

Prayers of the People and the Lord's Prayer

Gracious God,
because we are not strong enough to pray as we should,
you provide Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit
to intercede for us in power.
In this confidence, we ask you to accept our prayers.

We pray today for your creation.
You entrusted the earth to the human race,
yet we disrupt its wholeness with violence
and corrupt its purity with our greed.
Prevent us from destroying what you have made and called good,
so that our children's children
may inherit lands and seas brimming with life and beauty.

We pray today for the people of the world.
Preserve the people of every nation from tyrants.
Heal them of disease.
Protect them in disaster and war and famine.
Help all women, men, and children walk in the ways
that lead to peace.

We pray today for our city (town).
Heal the rifts and fear caused by violence and racism
in our streets and schools.
Protect all of our city's children
And give them lives of safety, hope, and joy.

We pray today for our country.
Give wisdom to those who govern us,
to our president and our congress and our courts.
Keep safe those who protect us from danger,
and form us as a nation
where justice flows like life-giving water.

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We pray today for this church.
Strengthen its leaders — its ministers, deacons, elders —
sustain them and give them the energy of your Holy Spirit
so that they may give others new life and hope.
Be close to those in our community who are sick
and those who grieve.

Eternal God, your love is stronger than death.
We rejoice in the lives of those who have died in faith.
Keep us in joyful communion with them
until we join the saints of every nation
gathered before your throne in ceaseless praise.
We pray these things through Christ, with Christ, in Christ,
in the mystery of the Holy Spirit,
in the name of the Triune God.

The Lord's Prayer

Charge and Benediction

Travel the wilderness road and return to the Lord your God.
For God is gracious and merciful
abounding in steadfast mercy.

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding,
keep your hearts and minds
in the knowledge and love of God,
and may God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
remain with you always.
Amen.

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Liturgy written by Barbara Chaapel,
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