

We are imperfect believers, passionate about sharing the love of Christ: by Connecting, Growing, and Serving.



# A Service of Worship for the Lord's Day

## Third Sunday in Lent Sacrament of Holy Communion March 3, 2024

## We Gather to Worship God

Welcome! If you are visiting, please use the QR code on the visitor card found in the pew rack to share your info online or fill out the back of the card and drop it in the offering plate. Prayer cards are also available in the pew rack, and we invite you to list your concerns and place them in the offering plate as well.

\*Congregation stands as noted

Chiming of the Hour

**Welcome and Announcements** 

Introit

Call to Worship (from Psalm 19)

Leader: The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul;

People: The decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

Leader: The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;

People: The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever.

Leader: The ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. People: They are more desirable than gold and sweeter than honey.

All: Let us worship God!

Invocation

\*Opening Hymn #5

"God the Sculptor of the Mountains"

## We Acknowledge Our Brokenness and Seek Reconciliation with God

Preparing Our Hearts for Confession - "Confession" Words/Music by Kenneth Jones Lord, I come before you, asking your forgiveness. I am broken, I have faltered. I have turned from you. Create in me a new heart. Fill me with your love. Grant that I receive your grace, I pray.

Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy. Amen.

**Prayer of Confession (Unison)** 

Loving and merciful God, we confess that we do not keep your commandments. We bow down before idols, declaring our allegiance to other powers and principalities. We take your name in vain, using it to justify our own prejudices and opinions. We do not make adequate time to rest and remember your goodness, nor to revel in the delight of family and friends. We look the other way in the face of violence and oppression. Our dishonesty and greed get the better of us. Yet you gave us commandments not for condemnation, but so that we might live as your disciples. Cleanse us and enfold us in your grace. Guide us in all that we say and do so that our lives may reflect your love for all people. Amen.

#### Time of Silent Reflection and Personal Prayer of Confession

Leader: And all the people of Christ say,

People: Amen

#### \*Assurance of Pardon

Leader: Hear these words from the Apostle Paul. "God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength." The grace of Christ is sufficient for us. Know that we are forgiven and be at peace.

People: Thanks be to God!

#### \*Thanks for God's Forgiveness (#647; no repeats)

Give thanks with a grateful heart; give thanks to the Holy One; give thanks because we're given Jesus Christ, the Son. And now let the weak say, "We are strong"; let the poor say, "We are rich because of what the Lord has done for us!" Give Thanks! Give Thanks!

#### \*Passing of the Peace

Leader: Grace to you, and peace from God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. The peace of Christ be with you.

People: And also with you.

\*Transition Hymn #626

"As the Deer"

## We Respond to God's Faithfulness in Our Life

Offering Our Lives to Jesus through Our Time, Gifts, and Resources

Offertory

\*Doxology (#606)

Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise Him all creatures here below; Praise Him above, ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

\*Prayer of Dedication

## God's Word Is Read and Proclaimed

Scripture Reading Exodus 20:1-17

Time for Young Disciples

(Children that have not yet finished 1st Grade are dismissed afterwards for Children's Church.)

Special Music "And Can It Be?" Chancel Choir

arr. Susan Naylor Callaway

Scripture Reading John 2:13-22

Leader: This is the word of God for the people of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

Proclamation of God's Word Rev. Preston Shealy

"God's Love"

## Responding to God's Word

\*Hymn of Preparation for Communion #537

"When at This Table"

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Invitation to the Table

Great Prayer of Thanksgiving (see liturgy on laminated card in pew rack)

Words of Institution

Communion of the People

**Prayer after Communion** 

## Sending Out Into the World

\*Sending Hymn #209

"Our Song Is Love Unknown"

\*Charge and Blessing

\*Congregational Benediction

"Love Will Be Our Lenten Calling"

sung to the PICARDY tune ("Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence"), words by Elizabeth Smith

Peace will be our Lenten living as we turn for home again, longing for the words of pardon, stripping off old grief and pain, till we stand, restored and joyful, with the Church on Easter day.

\*Postlude

Thank you for choosing to worship with us today. We hope you were blessed so you can go and be a witness to Christ's love in the world. May your spirits be renewed for the days ahead.







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