Second Sunday in Lent

ELW Holy Communion Setting Two

Sunday, March 5, 2023

**Announcements (ELW p. 136)**

**Gathering**

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

**Confession and Forgiveness (ELW p. 116)**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God,

who forgives all our sin,

whose mercy endures forever.

**Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

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

Gracious God,

**have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.**

**Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of ☩ Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

**Amen.**

**Gathering Song*In the Cross of Christ I Glory* (ELW 324)**

1 In the cross of Christ I glory,  
tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.  
All the light of sacred story  
gathers round its head sublime.  
  
2 When the woes of life o'ertake me,  
hopes deceive, and fears annoy,  
never shall the cross forsake me;  
lo, it glows with peace and joy.  
  
3 When the sun of bliss is beaming  
light and love upon my way,  
from the cross the radiance streaming  
adds more luster to the day.  
  
4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure,  
by the cross are sanctified;  
peace is there that knows no measure,  
joys that through all time abide.

**Greeting (ELW p. 120)**

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 you.**

**Kyrie (ELW p. 120)**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace from above,

and for our salvation,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For the peace of the whole world,

for the well-being of the Church of God,

and for the unity of all,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

For this holy house,

and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

**Amen, amen.**

**Prayer of the Day (ELW p. 124)**

Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**Word**

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

**First Reading: Genesis 12:1-4a**

1The Lord said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. 2I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. 3I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”  
 4aSo Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm: Psalm 121**

1I lift up my eyes **|** to the hills;  
  from where is my **|** help to come?  
 2**My help comes | from the Lord,**  
  **the maker of heaven and earth.**  
 3The Lord will not let your **|** foot be moved  
  nor will the one who watches over you **|** fall asleep.  
 4**Behold, the keeper of Israel**  
  **will neither slumber nor sleep;**   
 5the Lord watches **|** over you;  
  the Lord is your shade at **|** your right hand;  
 6**the sun will not strike | you by day,**  
  **nor the | moon by night.**  
 7The Lord will preserve you **|** from all evil  
  and will **|** keep your life.  
 8**The Lord will watch over your going out and your | coming in,**  
  **from this time forth forevermore.**

**Second Reading: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17**

1What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? 2For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. 3For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.” 4Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. 5But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.  
 13For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. 14If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. 15For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.  
 16For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, 17as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Acclamation (ELW p. 124)**

**Let your steadfast love come to us, O Lord.**

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

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

**Gospel: John 3:1-17**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

1Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. 2He came to Jesus by night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God.” 3Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” 4Nicodemus said to him, “How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother’s womb and be born?” 5Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. 6What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. 7Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ 8The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.” 9Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” 10Jesus answered him, “Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?  
 11“Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. 12If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? 13No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. 14And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, 15that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.  
 16“For 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.  
 17“Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him.”

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**Sermon (ELW p. 125)**

**Hymn of the Day*My Faith Looks Up to Thee* (ELW 759)**

1 My faith looks up to thee,  
thou Lamb of Calvary,  
Savior divine!  
Now hear me while I pray,  
take all my guilt away,  
oh, let me from this day  
be wholly thine!  
  
2 May thy rich grace impart  
strength to my fainting heart,  
my zeal inspire;  
as thou hast died for me,  
oh, may my love to thee  
pure, warm, and changeless be,  
a living fire!  
  
3 While life's dark maze I tread  
and griefs around me spread,  
be thou my guide;  
bid darkness turn to day,  
wipe sorrow's tears away,  
nor let me ever stray  
from thee aside.  
  
4 When ends life's transient dream,  
when death's cold, sullen stream  
shall o'er me roll;  
blest Savior, then, in love  
fear and distrust remove;  
oh, bear me safe above,  
a ransomed soul!

**Creed (ELW p. 126)**

**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**

Merciful God,

**receive our prayer.**

**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.**

**Preface (ELW p. 130)**

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 (ELW p. 130)**

**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.**

**Thanksgiving at the Table (ELW p. 130)**

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.

**Lord’s Prayer (ELW p. 134)**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,**

**hallowed be thy name,**

**thy kingdom come,**

**thy will be done,**

**on earth as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread;**

**and forgive us our trespasses,**

**as we forgive those**

**who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation,**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,**

**forever and ever. Amen.**

**Invitation to Communion (ELW p. 134)**

Taste and see that the Lord is good.

**Communion (ELW p. 134)**

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Amen.

**Communion Song (ELW p. 135)**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;**

**grant us peace.**

**Song after Communion (ELW p. 135)**

**Amen.**

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:**

**your word has been fulfilled.**

**My own eyes have seen the salvation**

**which you have prepared**

**in the sight of ev’ry people:**

**a light to reveal you to the nations**

**and the glory of your people Israel.**

**Prayer after Communion (ELW p. 136)**

Let us pray.

Compassionate God, you have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage: may our fasting be hunger for justice; our alms, a making of peace; and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Sending**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

**Blessing (ELW p. 136)**

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord’s face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song*The Lord Now Sends Us Forth: Enviado soy de Dios* (ELW 538)**

The Lord now sends us forth  
with hands to serve and give,  
to make of all the earth  
a better place to live. Repeat  
  
The angels are not sent  
into our world of pain  
to do what we were meant  
to do in Jesus' name;  
that falls to you and me  
and all who are made free.  
Help us, O Lord, we pray,  
to do your will today. Repeat

**Peace (ELW p. 128)**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**Dismissal (ELW p. 137)**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**

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