

Prince of Peace
906 North Main St. Brockton, Massachusetts
508-586-7975

Sunday March 20, 2022

Holy Communion

Enough!

The Third Sunday in Lent



Faith in fertilizer time

Prelude

Welcome

As we continue our look at what it means to release overbearing expectations about perfection in our lives and in our faith, this week we turn to a harmful idea that the prescription for our fear of failure is to simply work harder. This Lent, we are taking some time to stop climbing ladders and staircases, to tend our souls slowly and lovingly, tilling the soil and mixing in fertilizer, and embracing our holy, "good enough," lives.

Prayer

Call to Worship “Enough for me”

John Foley, SJ

Verse 1

1. Take, Lord, re-ceive all my lib-er-ty, my
1. mem-o-ry, un-der-stand-ing, my en-tire will.

Refrain

Give me on-ly your love and your grace: that's e-
nough for me. Your love and your grace
are e-nough for me.

2

Text based on *Spiritual Exercises*; St. Ignatius of Loyola, 1491–1556; John Foley, SJ.

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**Holy One, Our Life, Our Feast, we lift our hands and call your name.
We are in need of healing—thirsting and hungry.
Your steadfast love is better than life.
Open us this day to your nourishment in the songs of the land,
in the beauty of the sky—
in the simple and good enough moments that fill our days. Amen.**

Time for Confession and Forgiveness

In our Gospel today, we will hear about the unproductive fig tree. There is shame in being unproductive! Cut it down! Make room for a more dedicated and hard-working fig tree! But who among us is living up to our fullest potential? The productivity experts these days can diagnose what's wrong and sell us the antidote in 3 amazing sessions for a low-low price that is guaranteed to turn our lives around. But the gospel gardener offers an alternative medicine—nurture it slowly, letting it soak in the manure all around until it can get the good stuff out of it. Lying fallow and getting fertilized with laughter and tears at the manure stuff of life can help heal your soul. Is this not sometimes productive enough? What productivity expectations are holding you captive? Let us take a moment of silent reflection...

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One,
**we confess that we have wandered far from you:
we have not trusted your promises,
we have ignored your prophets in our own day,
we have squandered our inheritance of grace,
we have failed to recognize you in our midst,**

looking for more when you are already enough.
Have mercy on us!
Forgive us and turn us again to you.
Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love,
and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

Beloved in Christ, hear this compassionate word from Isaiah: "Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Know that already, God is offering us love enough
 no matter how much, no matter how little we attain or achieve.
 Help us release oppressive expectations of ourselves and others
 so that we might recognize true worth afforded to all.
 And know, that despite our sometimes faltering steps,
 in the name of Jesus Christ, you are being forgiven, even now.
In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.
Glory to God! Amen.

Restore in Us, O God



1 Re - store in us, O God, the splen - dor of your love; re -
 2 O Spir - it, wake in us the won - der of your pow'r; from
 3 Bring us, O Christ, to share the full - ness of your joy; bap -
 4 Three-per - soned God, ful - fill the prom - ise of your grace, that



new your im - age in our hearts, and all our sins re - move.
 fruit-less fear un - furl our lives like spring-time bud and flow'r.
 tize us in the ris - en life that death can - not de - stroy.
 we, when all our search-ing ends, may see you face to face.

Text: Carl P. Daw Jr., b. 1944

Music: BAYLOR, Hal H. Hopson, b. 1933

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May 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.**

Prayer of the day: Let us pray: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the living, dying and rising of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and may your saving love grow and bear fruit in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Word

Children's Moment

First Reading: Isaiah 55:1-9

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts,
come to the waters;
and you that have no money,
come, buy and eat!

Come, buy wine and milk
without money and without price.

²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.

³Incline your ear, and come to me;
listen, so that you may live.
I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David.

⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples,
a leader and commander for the peoples.

⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know,
and nations that do not know you shall run to you,
because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel,
for he has glorified you.

⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found,
call upon him while he is near;

⁷let the wicked forsake their way,
and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD.

⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 63:1-8

- ¹O God, you are my God; eagerly I seek you;
my soul thirsts for you, my flesh faints for you,
as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.
- ²**Therefore I have gazed upon you in your holy place,
that I might behold your power and your glory.**
- ³For your steadfast love is better than life itself;
my lips shall give you praise.
- ⁴**So will I bless you as long as I live
and lift up my hands in your name.**
- ⁵My spirit is content, as with the richest of foods,
and my mouth praises you with joyful lips,
- ⁶**when I remember you upon my bed,
and meditate on you in the night watches.**
- ⁷For you have been my helper,
and under the shadow of your wings I will rejoice.
- ⁸**My whole being clings to you;
your right hand holds me fast.**

Gospel Greeting for Lent:

**We do not live by bread alone, but by every word
that comes from the mouth of God. (*Deuteronomy 8:3*)**

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices.²[Jesus] asked them, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?”³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did.”

⁶Then he told this parable: “A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, ‘See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?’ ⁸He replied, ‘Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.’”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ!**

Gospel Greeting for Lent:

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Message

O God, Why Are You Silent

1 O God, why are you si - lent? I can - not hear your voice;
 2 My hope lies bruised and bat - tered, my wound-ed heart is torn;
 3 Through end-less nights of weep - ing, through wea - ry days of grief,
 4 May pain draw forth com - pas - sion, let wis - dom rise from loss;

the proud and strong and vio - lent all claim you and re - joice;
 my spir - it spent and shat - tered by life's re - lent - less storm;
 my heart is in your keep - ing, my com - fort, my re - lief.
 oh, take my heart and fash - ion the im - age of your cross;

you prom-ised you would hold me with ten - der - ness and care.
 will you not bend to hear me, my cries from deep with - in?
 Come, share my tears and sad - ness, come, suf - fer in my pain,
 then may I know your heal - ing through heal - ing that I share,

Draw near, O Love, en - fold me, and ease the pain I bear.
 Have you no word to cheer me when night is clos - ing in?
 oh, bring me home to glad - ness, re - store my hope a - gain.
 your grace and love re - veal - ing, your ten - der - ness and care.

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

Music: HERZLICH TUT MICH VERLANGEN, Hans Leo Hassler, 1564–1612; arr. Johann Sebastian Bach, 1685–1750

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Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.

The Peace

Announcements

--Thirsty Thursday theme: Happy Times! Pictures toprandall22@gmail.com

--Weds. Bible Study 10 AM-we will be on Facebook live

--Voices of Refugees-Lenten soup and prayer at Holy Trinity N. Easton, soup
begins 5:30, prayer at 6:45

--Lenten Lunches at First –Friday at noon

Offering Prayer

Extravagant God,

you have blessed us with more than enough, the fullness of creation.

Now we gather at your feast

where you offer us the food that satisfies.

Take and use what we offer here, come among us,

and feed us with the body and blood of Christ,

in whose name we pray.

Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and
all who are in need.

A brief silence.

We pray for the church around the world in all its forms: for pastors, deacons, bishops,
chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay
ministry leaders; for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future
of their ministry. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

For the advocacy efforts of this congregation: for those whose faith leads them to speak difficult truths and engage in difficult conversations with policymakers; for those who promote mercy over vengeance or retaliation. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Here other intercessions may be offered.

For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. With (*names* and) all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Words of Institution

The Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Holy Communion

**We, who are many, are one body, as we share this one bread.
The gifts of God for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!**

(Please come forward as you are able to the table of the Lord. We share in communion as household groups or individuals, one on each side of the communion table.)

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

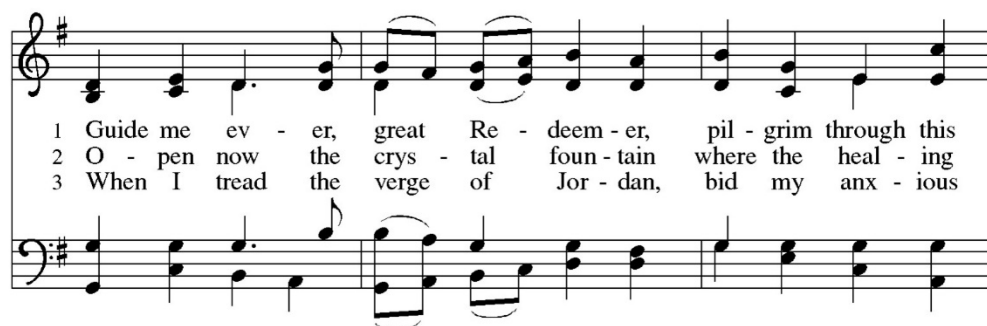
Prayer after Communion:

**Blessed Jesus,
in this meal of grace, you have fed us with your body,
the bread of life, may it be enough for us.
Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.
Amen**

Blessing:

And now, may the God who loves all of creation, and you—without price,
and Jesus, our companion along this crooked path called life,
and the Holy Spirit, who loves to improvise in surprising ways,
go with you, dwell among you, and give you joy. **Amen**

Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer



1 Guide me ev - er, great Re - deem - er, pil - grim through this
2 O - pen now the crys - tal foun - tain where the heal - ing
3 When I tread the verge of Jor - dan, bid my anx - ious



bar - ren land. I am weak, but you are might - y; hold me
wa - ters flow; let the fire and cloud - y pil - lar lead me
fears sub - side; death of death and hell's de - struc - tion, land me



with your pow'r - ful hand. Bread of heav - en, bread of heav - en,
all my jour - ney through. Strong de - liv - 'rer, strong de - liv - 'rer,
safe on Ca - naan's side. Songs and prais - es, songs and prais - es



feed me now and ev - er - more, ev - er - more, feed me now and ev - er - more.
shield me with your might - y arm, might - y arm, shield me with your might - y arm.
I will raise for - ev - er - more, ev - er - more, I will raise for - ev - er - more.

Text: William Williams, 1717–1791; tr. William Williams and Peter Williams, 1722–1796, alt.
Music: CWM RHONDDA, John Hughes, 1873–1932

Dismissal

Go in peace. Jesus meets you on the way and that is enough.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Thank you to Evelyn Reuben and our friends at First for printing this bulletin!

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