

STORIES



Prince of Peace

# **“Stories”**

*Third Sunday in Lent*

## **Prelude Welcome**

**Vessels, holy and whole, broken, needing the One. Open, body and soul.  
Healer, come. (Sung twice, on the second time, all sing)**

*Leader:* Those who collect beach glass often become “archeologists”—seeking out any markings or clues to the story of the original piece. It often takes much time to bring out the truth behind it. This week we acknowledge the power of truth-telling as a healing property. There are stories that have shaped our lives, leaving us without the ability to see who we truly are in the eyes of God and leaving us without the ability to speak the depth of our stories of struggle. We focus on the importance of recovery of mental health, reclaiming our sense of who we are and being able to proclaim new redemptive stories of divine worth.

**Vessels, holy and whole, Broken, needing the One.  
Open, body and soul. Healer, come.**

## **Prayer of Confession**

*Leader:* Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew your Holy Vessels: ourselves and our health: physical, emotional, and spiritual; the health of our communities, and the health of the beautiful planet on which we live.

Let us pray:

Merciful God,  
**we have lived a year of Lent.  
In the midst of it all, we have seen love shine through at times.  
But as we look back,  
it feels like a year of shattered dreams and shattered peace.  
We have gotten discouraged.  
Even with so much that was out of our control,  
we also see the ways our own faults  
and failures to love each other fully, to care for the least,  
to honor your creation, to stand for what is right and good,  
have all contributed to the shattering.**

**And so we come to you in pieces,  
fragments, broken pieces of our past selves.  
As we walk along the shores of Uncertainty and Pain,  
we ask that you meet us here.**

Help us, Healer.

Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia.

Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for others and for the world you so love.

In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

*Silence*

**Vessels, holy and whole, Broken, needing the One.**

**Open, body and soul. Healer, come.**

### **Word of Assurance and Forgiveness:**

Throughout the season of Lent, we are contemplating the symbol of broken glass—sea (or beach) glass to be specific. Time and adversity make something beautiful out of what was once seen as ordinary and broken.

It becomes a transformed and precious piece.

Jesus attended to those considered ordinary, broken, even those deemed unworthy.

Jesus attends to us.

Know this: God's love and grace surround you.

No. Matter. What.

You are a precious and holy vessel right now.

Christ's light is a treasure given freely.

For you, for me, for all.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

**In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.**

**Glory to God. Amen.**

### **Prayer of the day**

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

**Amen.**

### **Children's Moment**

### **The Word**

## **First Reading: Exodus 20.1-17** *(New Revised Standard Edition)*

**20** Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup> I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; <sup>3</sup> you shall have no other gods before me.

<sup>4</sup> You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. <sup>5</sup> You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, <sup>6</sup> but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

<sup>7</sup> You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

<sup>8</sup> Remember the sabbath day and keep it holy. <sup>9</sup> Six days you shall labor and do all your work. <sup>10</sup> But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. <sup>11</sup> For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

<sup>12</sup> Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

<sup>13</sup> You shall not murder.

<sup>14</sup> You shall not commit adultery.

<sup>15</sup> You shall not steal.

<sup>16</sup> You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

<sup>17</sup> You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

## Psalm 19

- <sup>1</sup> The heavens are telling the glory of God;  
**and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.**
- <sup>2</sup> Day to day pours forth speech,  
**and night to night declares knowledge.**
- <sup>3</sup> There is no speech, nor are there words;  
**their voice is not heard;**
- <sup>4</sup> yet their voice goes out through all the earth,  
**and their words to the end of the world.**  
**In the heavens he has set a tent for the sun,**
- <sup>5</sup> which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy,  
**and like a strong man runs its course with joy.**
- <sup>6</sup> Its rising is from the end of the heavens,  
**and its circuit to the end of them;**  
**and nothing is hid from its heat.**
- <sup>7</sup> The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;  
**the decrees of the LORD are sure,**  
**making wise the simple;**
- <sup>8</sup> the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;  
**the commandment of the LORD is clear,**  
**enlightening the eyes;**
- <sup>9</sup> the fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever;  
**the ordinances of the LORD are true**  
**and righteous altogether.**
- <sup>10</sup> More to be desired are they than gold,  
even much fine gold;  
**sweeter also than honey,**  
**and drippings of the honeycomb.**
- <sup>11</sup> Moreover by them is your servant warned;  
**in keeping them there is great reward.**
- <sup>12</sup> But who can detect their errors?  
**Clear me from hidden faults.**
- <sup>13</sup> Keep back your servant also from the insolent;  
do not let them have dominion over me.  
**Then I shall be blameless,**  
**and innocent of great transgression.**
- <sup>14</sup> Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable to you,  
**O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.**

## **Gospel Matthew 9.27-33**

*As Jesus went on from there, two blind men followed him, crying loudly, "Have mercy on us, Son of David!" When he entered the house, the blind men came to him; and Jesus said to them, "Do you believe that I am able to do this?" They said to him, "Yes, Lord." Then he touched their eyes and said, "According to your faith let it be done to you." And their eyes were opened. Then Jesus sternly ordered them, "See that no one knows of this." But they went away and spread the news about him throughout that district. After they had gone away, a demoniac who was mute was brought to him. And when the demon had been cast out, the one who had been mute spoke; and the crowds were amazed and said, "Never has anything like this been seen in Israel." -Matt 9: 27-33*

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

### **Message**

**Hymn of the Day "Be Still My Soul" inserted on next page**

## Be Still, My Soul

FINLANDIA

KATHARINA VON SCHLEGEL, 1697-?

Trans. by Jane L. Borthwick, 1813-1897

JEAN SIBELIUS, 1865-1957

1. Be still, my soul—the Lord is on thy side! Bear pa-tient-ly the  
 2. Be still, my soul—thy God doth un-der-take To guide the fu-ture  
 3. Be still, my soul—the hour is has-t'ning on When we shall be for-

cross of grief or pain; Leave to thy God to or-der and pro-vide-  
 as He has the past; Thy hope, thy con-fi-dence let noth-ing shake-  
 ev-er with the Lord, When dis-ap-point-ment, grief, and fear are gone,

In ev-'ry change He faith-ful will re-main. Be still, my soul—thy  
 All now mys-te-rious shall be bright at last. Be still, my soul—the  
 Sor-row for-got, love's pur-est joys re-stored. Be still, my soul—when

best, thy heav'n-ly Friend Thru thorny ways leads to a joy-ful end.  
 waves and winds still know His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be-low.  
 change and tears are past, All safe and bless-ed we shall meet at last.

*This tune in a lower key: 525*

## **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**

## **This Lent**

### **A season of recovery and restoration**

Throughout the season of Lent, we will be contemplating the symbol of broken glass—sea (or beach) glass to be specific. Sea glass comes from vessels that have broken, been discarded, and yet time and adversity have transformed into something beautiful.

Time and adversity... making something beautiful out of that which, once seen as ordinary and broken. Broken pieces transformed and precious. This is the journey we are on..

Jesus attended to those considered ordinary, broken, even those deemed unworthy.

Jesus attends to us. We are giving out Lenten bags please let us know if you would like to receive one. Thank you!

## **Fun Night**

**It's cold and wet and there's nowhere to go... Must be time for some group fun! We are working on a Zoom fun hour, it might be trivia, it might be a scavenger hunt--but it WILL be a time to see old friends and laugh a little, and in these times that's everything! Ideas? Interested?**



## Prayers of the Church

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world and all in need.

*A brief silence.*

There is no God before you. Purify the faith of your church, that your people place their trust in nothing beside you. Your name is holy. Guide your church, that in every situation your people's words and actions honor your name.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water, protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort.

Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

The cross of Christ is your power for all who are being saved. Thank you for all the martyrs whose witness reveals the power of the cross. Give us the same trust in life and in death.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

### Blessing

Now go with confidence that, though shattered, we are held.

Remember you are what God made you to be:

created in Christ Jesus for good works,

chosen as holy and beloved,

freed to serve your neighbor.

May God bless you to be a blessing.

In the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

## Closing Hymn: “Canticle of the Turning” 723 Text: Rory Cooney 1952; Music Irish traditional; 1990 GIA Publications; Star of County Down irregular

1. My soul cries out with a joyful shout that the God of my heart is great,  
and my spirit sings of the wondrous things that you bring to the ones who wait.  
You fixed your sight on your servant’s plight and my weakness you did not spurn  
so from east to west shall my name be blest. Could the world be about to turn? **Ref.**

2. Though I am small, my ... God, my all you... work great ... things in me,  
and your mercy will last from the depths of the past to the end of the age to be.  
Your very name puts the proud to shame, and to those who would for you yearn,  
you will show your might, put the strong to flight, for the world is about to turn. **Ref.**

3. From the halls of power to the fortress tower, not a stone will be left on stone.  
Let the king beware for your justice tears, every tyrant ... from his throne.  
The hungry poor shall weep no more, for the food they can never earn;  
There are tables spread every mouth be fed, for the world is about to turn. **Ref.**

4. Though the nations rage from... age to age, we remember who holds us fast  
God’s mercy must deliver us from the conqueror’s crushing grasp.  
This saving word that our forebears heard is the promise which holds us bound,  
till the spear and rod can be crushed by God, who is turning the world around. **Ref.**

### **Refrain:**

My heart shall sing of the day you bring. Let the fires of your justice burn.  
Wipe away all tears, for the dawn draws near, and the world is about to turn.

**The Dismissal:** Go in peace. Share the good news.  
**Thanks be to God!**

### **Postlude**

### **Thanks for joining us!**

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