

THE LORD'S PRAYER

All: 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 debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Liturgist: People of God, we have been called to speak and to live out the radical, abiding love of Christ in the world. We do so by offering all that we are, all that we do, and all that we have, knowing that God will use us and our gifts to bring the beloved community ever closer to being realized in this world. So, let us offer ourselves and give of our time, talent, and financial resources. Let us offer it all with a prayer: God of the wilderness, we give these offerings in gratitude,

All: rejoicing in the abundance of your gifts to us.

Liturgist: We give these offerings in faith,

All: trusting that you will provide for our needs.

Liturgist: We give these offerings in hope,

All: knowing you can use them to spread your love in this world.

Liturgist: And with these offerings, we give ourselves.

All: May we live with generous hearts, with open hands. Amen

Liturgist: Please stand with me, to sing our final hymn together:

HYMN *Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah* **Hymnal, #80**

BENEDICTION

Pastor: As you depart this sacred space and time of worship and enter the wilderness of the world, know that God is with you! Whatever may come, let God be your safe place to rest and your soft place to land.

All: Amen.

POSTLUDE

February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

GREETINGS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: God of the Sahara and the Amazon,
Maker of dry places and wetlands.

**Congregation: We come before you with parched hearts
for living in this world has made them so.**

Pastor: Holy One, your ability to renew us is unmatched.

Congregation: You renew us from within and without.

Pastor: Ancient of Days, you held us in the beginning,
and you are holding us now.

Congregation: We reach out to you and draw as close as we can.

PRAYER OF INVOCATION

All: Lord, on this first Sunday in Lent, we remember the trials and temptations of your son, Jesus Christ, in his journey through the wilderness, and how he triumphed overall. In our prayers, we think of the difficult journeys in life encountered by so many people in the world, including ourselves. We pray that in the different times of need, all may find discernment to see the way you are making, and the strength to overcome whatever problems are faced. We pray that faith may deepen in this season of Lent, and all may walk in the light of the Lord. Amen.

HYMN *As the Deer* **Bulletin Insert**

PRAYER of CONFESSION

Pastor: We keep silent before you, Lord -

Congregation: we are afraid to confront our transgressions.

Pastor: We are terrified to face the reality of our sin.

Congregation: We feel as if the weight of the world were upon our shoulders.

Pastor: We no longer recognize ourselves -

Congregation: or what we have become as we keep our failings and fears inside.

Pastor: Help us admit our sins and accept our imperfections.

Congregation: Why is that simple act of confession so difficult for us?

**Why do we hesitate, knowing that you, O Lord,
stand ready to wash away our guilt?**

Pastor: You are the sanctuary where distress cannot reach us.

All: *In your steadfast love, forgive us.
In your healing caress, cleanse us.
In your Holy Spirit, restore us.
In the name of our Savior, we pray. Amen.*

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS (Based on Psalm 32)

Pastor: We worship the One who forgives our transgressions and covers our sin. Rejoice and be glad, for God's mercy is greater than our failings; God's grace is greater than our sin.

All: *Amen! Thanks, be to God!*

PASSING THE PEACE OF CHRIST

Pastor: Even Christ was tempted in the wilderness. Turn to your neighbor, who suffers as you do from daily temptation, and offer signs of Christ's peace.

A SPECIAL TIME WITH OUR CHILDREN

SPECIAL MUSIC

I Need Thee, Every Hour

Chimes Choir

OLD TESTAMENT READING – Joshua 3:1-17

EPISTLE READING – Romans 5:12-19

GOSPEL READING – Matthew 4:1-11

SERMON & PASTORAL PRAYER

Pastor Laura Baker

SPECIAL MUSIC

Break Thou, The Bread of Life

Chimes Choir

SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor: The Lord is with us.

All: *God's Spirit is with us.*

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

All: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: *It is right and good to give God thanks and praise.*

Pastor: God of mercy and grace, in these forty days you lead us into a desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people again. Through fasting, prayer, and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your Holy Word, you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of your inclusive love. As we prepare to celebrate Easter with joyful hearts and

minds, we bless you for your mercy and join the saints and angels, forever praising you and singing:

All sing:

SERAPHIC HYMN

#522

Pastor: We remember that on the night of betrayal and desertion, Jesus took bread, gave you thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to his disciples saying:

All: *“This is my body, which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”*

Pastor: In the same way, after supper, Jesus took the cup, gave you thanks, and gave it to his friends, saying:

All: *“Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”*

Pastor: Calling to mind, Jesus' death on the cross and his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world, and rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming glory, we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.

All: *As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup and we thank you for counting us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you.*

Pastor: Bless therefore, by your Holy Spirit, these gifts, and bless us that as we receive them, we may be united with Christ and with one another, and we may continue faithful in all things. Amen.

All: *Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and blessed are those who are called to share in his supper. Amen.*

PARTAKING OF THE ELEMENTS

PRAYER OF PRAISE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Almighty God, you have given your only Son to be both a sacrifice of sin and also, an example of godly life: give us grace to thankfully follow in the footsteps of his holy life.

All: *God of our pilgrimage, you have fed us with the bread of heaven and refreshed us with the cup of blessing. Sustain us as we go forward on our Lenten journey in the name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ who walks with us, and taught us to pray, saying:*