

Worship Guide March 21, 2021

Needing forgiveness and needing to forgive—both are a daily part of life, and both are essential to us as we seek to reflect Christ's love, live in good health and in peaceful community with others.



Pastor: We call on the name of our Triune God to be present in our worship. So we begin in the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Thank our Lord for his enduring love and for the marvelous things he has done for us.

Congregation: Amen

HYMN

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

CW 106

♪ **Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain, sinners ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain flows to you, to me, to all.
On a full perpetual tide, opened when our Savior died.**

**Come in sorrow and contrition, wounded, paralyzed and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission, here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore, he that drinks shall thirst no more.**

**He that drinks shall live forever; 'tis a soul renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never break his covenant of blood.
Signed when our Redeemer died, sealed when he was glorified.**



CONFESSION OF SINS

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have let the conflicts of this life cloud our vision of your sure promises. Saints and sinners at the same time, we have let the sin before us affect our trust in our Lord. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

P: God declares us to be his righteous saints, blessed for Jesus' sake and destined to enter the eternal Eden that is heaven. For the sake of His own Son who lived, died and rose again for us, the almighty God forgives all our sins. I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father and of the Son (†) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Thanks be to God!

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen



OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Genesis 18:1-19

The LORD appeared to Abraham by the oaks of Mamre, as he was sitting by the door to his tent during the heat of the day. ² Abraham looked up, and he saw three men standing in front of him. When he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them, and he bowed down to the ground. ³ He said, "My lord, if I have now found favor in your sight, please do not pass your servant by. ⁴ Now let me get a little water so that all of you can wash your feet and rest under the tree. ⁵ Let me get some bread so that you can refresh yourselves. After that you may go your way. That is why you have come to your servant." They said, "Yes, do as you have said." ⁶ Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah and said, "Quickly prepare twenty quarts of fine flour, knead it, and make some loaves of bread." ⁷ Abraham ran to the herd, brought a good, tender calf, and gave it to the servant. He hurried to prepare it. ⁸ He took cheese curds, milk, and the calf that he had prepared and set it before them. He stood beside them under the tree while they ate. ⁹ They asked him, "Where is Sarah, your wife?" He said, "She is over there in the tent." ¹⁰ One of the men said, "I will certainly return to you when this season comes around next year. Then Sarah your wife will have a son." Sarah was listening to this from the tent door, which was behind him. ¹¹ Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well into old age. Sarah was past the age for childbearing. ¹² Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, will I have pleasure, since my lord is also old?" ¹³ The LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really give birth to a child though I am old?' ¹⁴ Is anything impossible for the LORD? At the set time next year I will return to you, and Sarah will have a son." ¹⁵ Then Sarah denied it and said, "I did not laugh," because she was afraid. The LORD said, "Yes, you did laugh." ¹⁶ The men got up from there and looked down toward Sodom. Abraham went with them to see them on their way. ¹⁷ The LORD said, "Should I hide from Abraham what I am about to do, ¹⁸ since Abraham will surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth will be blessed in him? ¹⁹ For I have chosen him so that he may command his children and his household who follow after him to keep the way of the LORD by carrying out righteousness and justice, so that the LORD may deliver to Abraham what he has promised him."

EPISTLE LESSON: Hebrews 9:11-15

¹¹ But when Christ appeared as the high priest of the good things that were coming, he went through the greater and more complete tent, which was not made by human hands (that is, it is not part of this creation). ¹² He entered once into the Most Holy Place and obtained eternal redemption, not by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood. ¹³ Now if the blood of

goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkled on those who were unclean, sanctifies them so that their flesh is clean. ¹⁴ how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works, so that we worship the living God? ¹⁵ For this reason, he is the mediator of a new covenant. A death took place as payment for the trespasses committed under the first covenant, so that those who are called would receive the promised eternal inheritance.

SUNG RESPONSE:

(Glory Be to Jesus CW 103)

**♪ Glory be to Jesus, who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood from his sacred veins.**

**Grace and life eternal in that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion, infinitely kind.**

GOSPEL LESSONS AND SERMON TEXTS:

Matthew 18:21-35

²¹ Then Peter came up and asked Jesus, “Lord, how many times must I forgive my brother when he sins against me? As many as seven times?” ²² Jesus said to him, “Not seven times, but I tell you as many as seventy-seven times. ²³ For this reason the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle them, a man who owed him ten thousand talents was brought to him. ²⁵ Because the man was not able to pay the debt, his master ordered that he be sold, along with his wife, children, and all that he owned to repay the debt. ²⁶ “Then the servant fell down on his knees in front of him, saying, ‘Master, be patient with me, and I will pay you everything!’ ²⁷ The master of that servant had pity on him, released him, and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ “But when that servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him one hundred denarii. He grabbed him and began choking him, saying, ‘Pay me what you owe!’ ²⁹ “So his fellow servant fell down and begged him, saying, ‘Be patient with me, and I will pay you back!’ ³⁰ But he refused. Instead he went off and threw the man into prison until he could pay back what he owed. ³¹ “When his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were very distressed. They went and reported to their master everything that had taken place. ³² “Then his master called him in and said to him, ‘You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt when you begged me to. ³³ Should you not have had mercy on your fellow servant just as I had mercy on you?’ ³⁴ His master was angry and handed him over to the jailers until he could pay back everything he owed. ³⁵ “This is what my heavenly Father will also do to you unless each one of you forgives his brother from his heart.”

Luke 23:33-34

³³ When they came to the place called The Skull, they crucified him there with the criminals, one on his right and the other on his left. ³⁴ Jesus said, “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.” They cast lots to divide his garments among them.

“FORGIVE THEM”



NICENE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation, he came down from heaven, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became fully human. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate. He suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who in unity with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.



***Close Communion:** Guided by God's word we believe that the Lord's Supper is an expression of faith and confession. We therefore ask that only members of the WELS or her sister synods would commune with us. If you have any questions please talk to the pastor.*

THE PREPARATION

P: So that we would more confidently believe and be strengthened in cheerful obedience to his holy will, Jesus has instituted the Sacrament of his Holy Supper, in which he feeds us with his body and blood.

C: We should do this also in remembrance of him, showing his death, that he was delivered for our offenses and raised again for our justification; and, giving him our most heartfelt thanks, love one another as he has loved us.

CONSECRATION

SUNG RESPONSE:

(tune: CW 372)

**♪ I lay my sins on Jesus, the spotless Lamb of God;
He bears them all and frees us from the accursed load.
I bring my guilt to Jesus to wash my crimson stains,
White in his blood most precious till not a spot remains**

DISTRIBUTION

SONG OF SIMEON (after Distribution)

(tune: CW 372)

**♪ I rest my soul on Jesus, this weary soul of mine.
His right hand me embraces; I in his arms recline.
I love the name of Jesus, my Savior and my Lord
He from my sin releases and all God's love restores.**

LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name; your kingdom come; your will be done on earth as in heaven; give us today our daily bread; forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us; lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil; for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen**

BLESSING

HYMN

Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

CW 127

**♪ Stricken, smitten, and afflicted, see him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected; yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.
'Tis the long expected Prophet, David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it: "This the true and faithful word.**

**Here we have a firm foundation, here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation, His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded, sacrifice to cancel guilt -
None shall ever be confounded who on him their hope have built.**

SPECIAL PRAYERS/ANNOUNCEMENTS