

Spirit of Grace

3rd SUNDAY IN LENT

March 7, 2021

The congregation's part is in **bold**.

THE WORD OF GOD

WELCOME

GATHERING SONG

ANCIENT WORDS

Holy words long preserved
For our walk in this world
They resound with God's own heart
O let the ancient words impart

Words of life words of hope
Give us strength help us cope
In this world where'er we roam
Ancient words will guide us home

*Ancient words ever true
Changing me changing you
We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart*

Holy words of our faith
Handed down to this age
Came to us through sacrifice
O heed the faithful words of Christ

We have come with open hearts
O let the ancient words impart
O let the ancient words impart

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the keeper of the covenant, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

God hears us when we cry, and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water, pour out your mercy over us. Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free. Rebuild what we have ruined and mend what we have torn. Wash us in your cleansing flood. Make us alive in the Spirit to follow in the way of Jesus, as healers and restorers of the world you so love. Amen.

Beloved, God's word never fails. The promise rests on grace: by the saving love of Jesus Christ, the wisdom and power of God, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

GREETING

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God and the communion with the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray, 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.**

THE PSALM

Psalm 19

¹The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky proclaims its maker's handiwork.

²One day tells its tale to another, and one night imparts knowledge to another.

³Although they have no words or language, and their voices are not heard,

⁴their sound has gone out into all lands, and their message to the ends of the world,
where God has pitched a tent for the sun.

⁵It comes forth like a bridegroom out of his chamber; it rejoices like a champion to run
its course.

⁶It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens and runs about to the end of it
again; nothing is hidden from its burning heat.

⁷The teaching of the LORD is perfect and revives the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom to the simple.

⁸The statutes of the LORD are just and rejoice the heart;
the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light to the eyes.

⁹The fear of the LORD is clean and endures forever;
the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous altogether.

¹⁰More to be desired are they than gold, more than much fine gold,
sweeter far than honey, than honey in the comb.

¹¹By them also is your servant enlightened,
and in keeping them there is great reward.

¹²Who can detect one's own offenses?
Cleanse me from my secret faults.

¹³Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins; let them not get dominion over
me; then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a great offense.

¹⁴Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight,
O LORD, my strength and my redeemer.

THE GOSPEL

John 2:13-22

The Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SEQUENCE HYMN Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

Text: Ken Medema, b. 1943

Music: CHILDREN PRAYING, Ken Medema

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MESSAGE

Pastor Peggy Rose

CREATION GLORIFIES GOD

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY Psalm 19:1-6

The heavens are telling the glory of God
and the firmament proclaims his handiwork.

Day to day pours forth speech
and night to night declares knowledge.

There is no speech, nor are there words, their voice is not heard
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, which comes out like a bridegroom from his wedding canopy
and like a strong man runs its course with joy.

Its rising is from the end of the heavens, and its circuit to the end of them
and nothing is hid from its heat.

THE TEACHING FROM GOD'S WORD Psalm 19:1-6

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE Psalm 19:1-6

SUNG RESPONSE Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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THE INTEGRITY AND TRUTH OF GOD'S WORD

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY Psalm 19:7-12

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul,
the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart;
the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes;

The fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever;
the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.

More to be desired are they than gold, even much finer gold;
sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb.

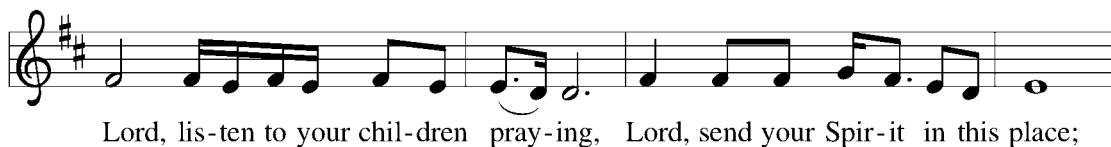
Moreover by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward.

But who can detect their errors?
Clear me from hidden faults.

THE TEACHING FROM GOD'S WORD Psalm 19:7-12

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE Psalm 19:7-12

SUNG RESPONSE Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



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PRAYER FOR PERSONAL GUIDANCE

GOD'S WORD FOR TODAY (Psalm 19:13-14)

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.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer.

THE TEACHING FROM GOD'S WORD Psalm 19:13-14

PRAYING THE SCRIPTURE Psalm 19:13-14

SUNG RESPONSE Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, Lord, send your Spir-it in this place;



Lord, lis-ten to your chil-dren pray-ing, send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

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APOSTLE'S CREED

**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.**

THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you.
And also with you.

MUSICAL OFFERING TO GOD

REFINER'S FIRE

Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
And precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
Pure gold

*Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You my Master
Ready to do Your will*

Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy
Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin
Deep within

CCLI Song #426298

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Brian Doerksen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response for today's prayer is "your mercy is great" after hearing "Hear us, O God."

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

A brief silence.

Your gift of grace is for all people. Give confident faith to all the baptized, that they may follow you wholeheartedly. Give new believers joy in your promises; give hope and courage to those who suffer for their faith.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All the ends of the earth worship you. From galaxies to microorganisms, preserve your creation. Teach humanity to wonder at your works and to join you in tending to creation's well-being.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You rule over the nations. Raise up advocates for peace and justice within and between nations. Give life where hope seems dead; call into existence new realities we cannot even imagine.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

In Jesus you joined humanity in suffering and death. Reveal to all the depth of your love shown on the cross. Accompany all who suffer in body, mind, and spirit. Restore all who are sick or grieving. Bring vindication for victims of injustice, exploitation, and oppression. We ask for your care for Bugs, Leonard, Greg, Raymond, Wilma, Cryss and all those we lift up in prayer.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You made Abraham and Sarah the ancestors of a multitude of nations. Bless grandparents, parents, and foster parents, and the children who look to them for care and guidance. Console those who deal with infertility, parents who have entrusted their children to adoption, and children longing to be adopted. Equip ministries and services to families. Especially our Blessing Box, the Bloomfield on the River Food Pantry and the Easter Food Basket collection.

Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We await the day of Christ's coming in glory. Lead us by the example of all the saints whom you have called to take up their cross and follow you, that together we may find our lives in you.

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.**

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

O God of justice and love, we give thanks to you that you illumine our way through life with the words of your Son. Give us the light we need, awaken us to the needs of others, and at the end bring all the world to your feast; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever. **Amen.**

LORD'S PRAYER

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BENEDICTION

Go and join all creation in praising God. Go and live in the truth of the living word of God, Jesus Christ. Go and serve others through words and actions empowered by the Holy Spirit. Go in peace and serve the Lord. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG

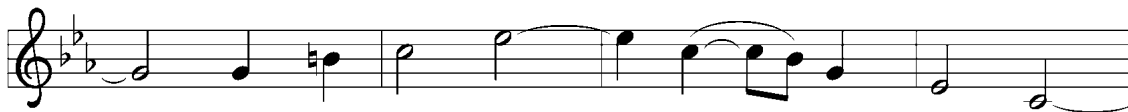
I Want Jesus to Walk with Me



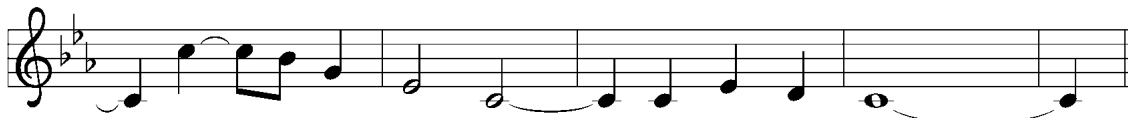
1 I want Je - sus to walk with me;
2 In my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
3 When I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



I want Je - sus to walk with me;
in my tri - als, Lord, walk with me;
when I'm in trou - ble, Lord, walk with me;



all a - long my pil - grim jour - ney,
when my heart is al - most break - ing,
when my head is bowed in sor - row,



Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.
Lord, I want Je - sus to walk with me.

Text: African American spiritual
Music: SOJOURNER, African American spiritual

DISMISSAL

Acolyte Go in peace. Share the good news.

People **THANKS BE TO GOD!**