

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
March 5, 2023
Second Sunday of Lent

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

One: Our eyes are heavy.
Our hope is soaring.
We wait in the marketplace.

All: Our God is gracious.

One: Our feet are tired.
Our expectations rise.
We are hired first.

All: Our God is merciful.

One: Our backs are sore.
Our spirits are low.
We are paid last.

All: Our God is slow to anger.

One: Our tempers flare.
Our anger rages.
We take what belongs to us.

All: Our God abounds in steadfast love

***HYMN**

Spirit, Open My Heart

692

***CALL TO CONFESSION**

This is the proof of God's great love: that while we were sinners, Christ died for us. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

***PRAYER OF CONFESSION**

God of mercy, you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost. We confess that we have strayed from you and turned aside from your way. We are misled by pride, for we see ourselves pure when we are stained, and great when we are small. We have failed in love, neglected justice, and ignored your truth.

Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin. Return us to paths of righteousness through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

We reflect silently on the ways we have fallen short.

***ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

Amen. God's love has been poured into your hearts through the gift of the Holy Spirit. In the name of Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. **Amen, and thanks be to God.**

***CONGREGATIONAL RESPONSE**

O Lord, Have Mercy

578

O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.

O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy; O Christ, have mercy, have mercy on us.

O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy; O Lord, have mercy, have mercy on us.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, our way in the wilderness, guide us, by your Word, through these forty days, and minister to us with your Holy Spirit, so that we may be reformed, restored, and renewed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FIRST READING

Matthew 20:1-8

"For the kingdom of heaven is like a landowner who went out early in the morning to hire laborers for his vineyard. After agreeing with the laborers for a denarius for the day, he sent them into his vineyard. When he went out about nine o'clock, he saw others standing idle in the marketplace, and he said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard, and I will pay you whatever is right.' So they went. When he went out again about noon and about three o'clock, he did the same. And about five o'clock he went out and found others standing around, and he said to them, 'Why are you standing here idle all day?' They said to him, 'Because no one has hired us.' He said to them, 'You also go into the vineyard.' When evening came, the owner of the vineyard said to his manager, 'Call the laborers and give them their pay, beginning with the last and then going to the first.'

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Lamb of God

MPC Choir
Carol Venn, flute

SECOND READING

Matthew 20:9-16

When those hired about five o'clock came, each of them received a denarius. Now when the first came, they thought they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius. And when they received it, they grumbled against the landowner, saying, 'These last worked only one hour, and you have made them equal to us who have borne the burden of the day and the scorching heat.' But he replied to one of them, 'Friend, I am doing you no wrong; did you not agree with me for a denarius? Take what belongs to you and go; I choose to give to

this last the same as I give to you. Am I not allowed to do what I choose with what belongs to me? Or are you envious because I am generous?' So the last will be first, and the first will be last." This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Ben Shaw

***HYMN**

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

509

***AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

from the Confession of 1967

God's reconciling act in Jesus Christ is a mystery which the Scriptures describe in various ways. It is called the sacrifice of a lamb, a shepherd's life given for his sheep, atonement by a priest; again it is ransom of a slave, payment of debt, vicarious satisfaction of a legal penalty, and victory over the powers of evil. These are expressions of a truth which remains beyond the reach of all theory in the depths of God's love for humanity. They reveal the gravity, cost, and sure achievement of God's reconciling work.

***THE CALL TO OFFERING**

OFFERTORY

***DOXOLOGY**

607

*Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise Christ, all people here below;
praise Holy Spirit evermore; praise Triune God, whom we adore. Amen.*

***PRAYER OF DEDICATION**

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

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.

SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER

INVITATION TO TABLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

It is truly right...to the glory of your name:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy...the One crucified and risen.

Great is the mystery of faith: **Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Gracious God...now and forever. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

COMMUNION OF THE PEOPLE

As you are able, please wait to consume the bread and juice, that we might partake together.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

*HYMN

For the Fruit of All Creation

36

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

POSTLUDE