

# Service of Word and Prayer

## Thursday, March 11, 2021

### Week 3 in Lent

#### INTRODUCTION

God's word, proclaimed and reflected upon, and the prayer it calls forth from those gathered, are the heart of this service, which is prepared especially for contemplative settings. The Holy Spirit, who knows our needs, prays with and through us, and when we have no words, for us. Silence makes room to breathe deeply, time to still the heart and quiet restless thoughts, and, a place to listen and rest in the presence of God, "like a child upon its mother's breast" (Psalm 131:2). Some times of silence will last no longer than a deep breath; some will be more spacious. A handbell or singing bowl may be rung to mark them. Before worship begins, keeping silence or listening to meditative music invites the community into the unhurried pace of prayer.

#### GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.

#### GREETING

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

#### OPENING PRAYER

O God, rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love, you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together with Christ. Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ, through whom we pray. **Amen.**

#### SILENCE

#### SONG

### Come, My Way, My Truth, My Life



1 Come, my way, my truth, my life: such a  
2 Come, my light, my feast, my strength: such a  
3 Come, my joy, my love, my heart: such a



way as gives us breath; such a truth as ends all  
light as shows a feast; such a feast as mends in  
joy as none can move; such a love as none can



strife; such a life as con - quers death.  
length; such a strength as makes his guest.  
part; such a heart as joys in love.

## WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, silence, reflection, and song.

### READING: Mark 11:11-19

11 Then he entered Jerusalem and went into the temple; and when he had looked around at everything, as it was already late, he went out to Bethany with the twelve.

12 On the following day, when they came from Bethany, he was hungry.<sup>13</sup> Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to see whether perhaps he would find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. <sup>14</sup>He said to it, 'May no one ever eat fruit from you again.' And his disciples heard it.

15 Then they came to Jerusalem. And he entered the temple and began to drive out those who were selling and those who were buying in the temple, and he overturned the tables of the money-changers and the seats of those who sold doves; <sup>16</sup>and he would not allow anyone to carry anything through the temple. <sup>17</sup>He was teaching and saying, 'Is it not written,

"My house shall be called a house of prayer for all the nations"?

But you have made it a den of robbers.'

<sup>18</sup>And when the chief priests and the scribes heard it, they kept looking for a way to kill him; for they were afraid of him, because the whole crowd was spellbound by his teaching. <sup>19</sup>And when evening came, Jesus and his disciples went out of the city.

## REFLECTION

### PRAYER

The Holy Spirit prays with us and through us.

### INVITATION TO PRAYER

*The leader invites the community into prayer.*

In Christ Jesus we meet the God who knows our weakness and bears the wounds of the world.

Therefore, let us be bold as we pray, trusting that God draws near to those in any kind of need.

### CONCLUDING PRAYER

Gathering our many prayers into one, let us pray.

God of all compassion, gather our prayers in your mercy and grant to us what you know we need, that we may walk in the life and peace of your Spirit, through Jesus Christ, our hope and our salvation.

**Amen.**

### LORD'S PRAYER

*The Lord's Prayer may be prayed. The leader may introduce the prayer.*

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**Our Father...**

## SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

## SILENCE

## SONG

### Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,  
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.  
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,  
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.  
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.  
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.  
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, since you are our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, pil - grims here, our home a - bove,  
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:  
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;  
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Fa - ther's bid - ding.  
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.  
then by grace we all may win un - told fruits of his cre - a - tion.  
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.  
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.  
Je - sus, un - to you I die, there to live with you on high.  
Je - sus, if I faith - ful be, life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, 1978  
Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

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## **BLESSING**

Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in love, strengthened by the Spirit, and filled with all the fullness of God.

**Amen.**

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