

Service of Word and Prayer

Thursday, March 4, 2021

Week 2 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

God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven



1 God, who made the earth and heav-en, dark - ness and light:
2 And when morn a - gain shall call us to run life's way,
3 Guard us wak-ing, guard us sleep-ing, and, when we die,
4 Ho - ly Fa - ther, throned in heav-en, all - ho - ly Son,



you the day for work have giv - en, for rest the night.
may we still, what - e'er be - fall us, your will o - bey.
may we in your might - y keep-ing all peace - ful lie.
Ho - ly Spir - it, free - ly giv - en, blest Three in One:



May your an - gel guards de - fend us, slum-ber sweet your mer - cy send us,
From the pow'r of e - vil hide us, in the nar - row path - way guide us,
When the last dread call shall wake us, then, O Lord, do not for - sake us,
grant us grace, we now im - plore you, till we lay our crowns be - fore you



ho - ly dreams and hopes at - tend us all through the night.
nev - er be your smile de - nied us all through the day.
but to reign in glo - ry take us with you on high.
and in wor - thier strains a - dore you while a - ges run.

Text: Reginald Heber, 1783–1826, st. 1, alt.; William Mercer, 1811–1873, sts. 2, 4, alt.; Richard Whately, 1787–1863, st. 3, alt.
Music: AR HYD Y NOS, Welsh traditional

WORD

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

READING: Psalm 22

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?

²**O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer; and by night, but find no rest.**

³Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴**In you our ancestors trusted; they trusted, and you delivered them.**

⁵To you they cried, and were saved; in you they trusted, and were not put to shame.

⁶**But I am a worm, and not human; scorned by others, and despised by the people.**

⁷All who see me mock at me; they make mouths at me, they shake their heads;

8“Commit your cause to the Lord; let him deliver— let him rescue the one in whom he delights!”

⁹Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother’s breast.

¹⁰On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.

¹¹Do not be far from me, for trouble is near and there is no one to help.

¹²Many bulls encircle me, strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³they open wide their mouths at me, like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵my mouth is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue sticks to my jaws; you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs are all around me; a company of evildoers encircles me. My hands and feet have shriveled;

¹⁷I can count all my bones. They stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸they divide my clothes among themselves, and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O Lord, do not be far away! O my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword, my life from the power of the dog!

²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion! From the horns of the wild oxen you have rescued me.

²²I will tell of your name to my brothers and sisters; in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

²³You who fear the Lord, praise him! All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him; stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For he did not despise or abhor the affliction of the afflicted; he did not hide his face from me, but heard when I cried to him.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation; my vows I will pay before those who fear him.

²⁶The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the Lord. May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

²⁸For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.

²⁹To him, indeed, shall all who sleep in the earth bow down; before him shall bow all who go down to the dust, and I shall live for him.

³⁰Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord,

³¹and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it.

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

The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Has Ended



1 The day you gave us, Lord, has end - ed;
2 We thank you that your church, un - sleep - ing
3 As to each con - ti - nent and is - land
4 The sun, here hav - ing set, is wak - ing
5 So be it, Lord; your realm shall nev - er,



the dark - ness falls at your be - hest.
while earth rolls on - ward in - to light,
the dawn leads on an - oth - er day,
your chil - dren un - der west - ern skies,
like earth's proud em - pires, pass a - way;



To you our morn - ing hymns as - cend - ed;
through all the world its watch is keep - ing,
the voice of prayer is nev - er si - lent,
and hour by hour, as day is break - ing,
but stand and grow and rule for - ev - er,



your praise shall hal - low now our rest.
and nev - er rests by day or night.
nor dies the strain of praise a - way.
fresh hymns of thank - ful praise a - rise.
till all your crea - tures own your sway.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826–1893, alt.

Music: ST. CLEMENT, Clement C. Scholefield, 1839–1904

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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