

ORDER OF WORSHIP

ALL SAINTS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

February 21, 2010

First Sunday of Lent

For Reflection and Preparation

The death and resurrection of Jesus Christ are at the heart of the Christian gospel, and Good Friday and Easter are two of the most significant celebrations of the Christian year. Lent is a season of preparation and repentance during which we anticipate Good Friday and Easter. Just as we carefully prepare for big events in our personal lives, such as a wedding or commencement, Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' passion and celebrating Jesus' resurrection.

The practice of a forty-day preparation period began in the Christian church during the third and fourth centuries. The number forty carries biblical significance based on the forty years Israel spent in the wilderness and Jesus' forty-day fast in the wilderness. The forty days of Lent begin on Ash Wednesday and continue through holy week, not counting Sundays (which are reserved for celebratory worship). In practice, many congregations choose to focus Sunday worship on the themes of repentance and renewal.

Holy and loving God, as we worship you today, we long for your Spirit to both comfort and challenge us, to help us become more holy and more loving. In a world that does not understand repentance, we pray for new understanding, humility, patience, and discipline that will help us die to sin and live for Jesus. Amen.

Call to Worship

from Ps 108:4

Minister: God's steadfast love reaches above the heavens;
his faithfulness to the highest clouds.
Give thanks to him and call upon his name.

Opening Hymn

from Psalm 111

GOD'S HOLY WAYS ARE JUST AND TRUE



1. God's ho - ly ways are just and true, his prom - i - ses are ev - er
2. Bring back to mind his grace and love, our needs pro - vi - ded from a -
3. Tell once a - gain his deeds of old, the sto - ry of our might-y



new: O — praise him, al - le - lu - ia! Let ev - 'ry heart with
bove: O — praise him, al - le - lu - ia! He kept his word and
God: O — praise him, al - le - lu - ia! For all his glo - rious



prais - es sing and make this house with voic - es ring:
Je - sus came to make a peo - ple for his name:
works and ways we shall re - joice through end - less days:

Refrain



O — praise him, O — praise him! Al - le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu

Prayers of Adoration

from Heb 12:2-3

Let us fix our eyes on Jesus,
the author and perfecter of our faith,¹
who for the joy set before him endured the cross,²
scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God.
Let us consider him who endured such opposition from sinful people,
so that we will not grow weary and lose heart.

¹ Through his atoning work, Christ's perfection leads to the perfection of his people (which will be realized fully on the last day).

² The cross of Christ represents the greatest suffering in history, for Jesus not only suffered physically but also experienced God's just wrath in taking upon himself the sin of the world. Still, the promise of future reward and joy gave Jesus strength to suffer.

Hymn of Praise

Charles Wesley, 1747

LOVE DIVINE, ALL LOVES EXCELLING

1. Love di - vine, all loves ex - cell - ing, joy of
2. Breathe, O breathe Your lov - ing Spir - it in - to
3. Come, Al - might - y to de - liv - er, let us
Unison 4. Fin - ish, then Your new cre - a - tion; pure and

heav'n to earth come down; fix in us Your hum - ble
ev - 'ry trou - bled breast; let us all in Thee in -
all Your life re - ceive; sud - den - ly re - turn, and
spot - less let us be; let us see Your great sal -

dwell - ing, all Your faith - ful mer - cies crown.
her - it; let us find Your prom - ised rest.
nev - er, nev - er - more Your tem - ples leave.
va - tion per - fect - ly re - stored in Thee:

Je - sus, Thou art all com - pas - sion, pure, un -
 Take a - way the love of sin - ning, Al - pha
 Thee we would be al - ways bless - ing, serve Thee
 changed from glo - ry in - to glo - ry, till in

bound - ed love Thou art; vis - it us with
 and O - me - ga be; end of faith, as
 with Your hosts a - bove, pray and praise Thee
 heav'n we take our place, till we cast our

Your sal - va - tion, en - ter ev - ery trem - bling heart.
 its be - gin - ning, set our hearts at lib - er - ty.
 with - out ceas - ing, glo - ry in Your per - fect love.
 crowns be - fore Thee, lost in won - der, love, and praise.

Lenten Readings

The seven candles at the front of the sanctuary denote the six Sundays of Lent, followed by Easter Sunday. This Lenten season, as we meditate on Jesus as our shepherd, the candles remind us how God has graciously illuminated our path, guiding us in Christ to himself.

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not be in want.

Phil 4:10-13, 19

Matt 6:25-34

Ps 73:25

Song of Response

SEEK YE FIRST

**Seek ye first the kingdom of God
And his righteousness
And all these things shall be added unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia.**

**Ask and it shall be given unto you,
Seek and you shall find;
knock and the door shall be opened unto you.
Allelu, Alleluia.**

**We do not live by bread alone,
But by every word
That proceeds from the mouth of God.
Allelu, Alleluia.**

Silent Confession and Meditation

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit;
a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.

-Ps 51:17

Hymn of Faith

Keith Getty, Kristyn Getty, Stuart Townend, 2006

MERCIFUL GOD



1. Mer - ci - ful God, O a - bound - ing in love, faith - ful to
2. Mer - ci - ful God, O a - bound - ing in love, faith - ful through
3. Mer - ci - ful God, O a - bound - ing in love, faith - ful to



all who draw near you; hear - ing the cries of the hum - ble in heart,
times we have failed you; self - ish in thought and un - car - ing in deed,
keep us from fall - ing; guid - ing our ways with your fa - ther - ly heart,



show - ing the cross they may cling to. Help - less I come,
fool - ish in word and un - grate - ful. Spir - it of God,
grow - ing our faith with each test - ing. God speed the day



bro - ken in sin, found at the feet of your mer - cy.
con - quer our hearts with love that flows from for - give - ness;
strug - gles will end, fault - less we'll gaze on your glo - ry.



Fa - ther, for - give may my sin be re - mem - bered no more.
cause us to yield and re - turn to the mer - cy of God.
Then we will stand o - ver - whelmed by the mer - cy of God.

Prayer for Grace

**All: God of compassion,
you are slow to anger and full of mercy,
welcoming sinners who return to you with penitent hearts.**

**Receive in your loving embrace
all who confess their sins to you.**

**Seat them at your bountiful table of grace,
that, with all your children,
they may feast with delight
on all that satisfies the hungry heart.**

**We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, forever and ever. Amen.**

Words of Pardoning Grace

Ezek 36:25-28

I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleanness, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you, and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors; and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

Benevolence Offering

Prayers for the Church and World

Reading of Scripture

Ex 34:1-9, 29-35

The LORD said to Moses, "Cut for yourself two tablets of stone like the first, and I will write on the tablets the words that were on the first tablets, which you broke. 2 Be ready by the morning, and come up in the morning to Mount Sinai, and present yourself there to me on the top of the mountain. 3 No one shall come up with you, and let no one be seen throughout all the mountain. Let no flocks or herds graze opposite that mountain." 4 So Moses cut two tablets of stone like the first. And he rose early in the morning and went up on Mount Sinai, as the LORD had commanded him, and took in his hand two tablets of stone. 5 The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. 6 The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, 7 keeping steadfast love for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation." 8 And Moses quickly bowed his head toward the earth and worshiped. 9 And he said, "If now I have found favor in your sight, O Lord, please let the Lord go in the midst of us, for it is a stiff-necked people, and pardon our iniquity and our sin, and take us for your inheritance."

29 When Moses came down from Mount Sinai, with the two tablets of the testimony in his hand as he came down from the mountain, Moses did not know that the skin of his face shone because he had been talking with God. 30 Aaron and all the people of Israel saw Moses, and behold, the skin of his face shone, and they were afraid to come near him. 31 But Moses called to them, and Aaron and all the leaders of the congregation returned to him, and Moses talked with them. 32 Afterward all the people of Israel came near, and he commanded them all that the LORD had spoken with him in Mount Sinai. 33 And when Moses had finished speaking with them, he put a veil over his face. 34 Whenever Moses went in before the LORD to speak with him, he would remove the veil, until he came out. And when he came out and told the people of Israel what he was commanded, 35 the people of Israel would see the face of Moses, that the skin of Moses' face was shining. And Moses would put the veil over his face again, until he went in to speak with him.

Sermon

"The LORD"

Song of Response

Mary Louise Bringle, 2006

WHAT STRANGE, NEW GLORY HERE



1. What strange, new glo - ry here on Mo - ses' face is shin - ing?
2. What stran - ger glo - ry yet in Je - sus Christ a - ris - es;
3. What glo - ry lifts our hearts in hymns of a - do - ra - tion



What bright con - sum - ing fire is stoked for God's re - fin - ing?
a Sov - reign crowned with thorns, whose peace our world des - pi - ses.
to learn through death and life the mys - t'ry of sal - va - tion.



The peo - ple shrink in fear and Mo - ses veils his face
His dy - ing rends the veil that shields our awe - struck eyes,
When our best ef - forts fail, be - set by grief and loss,



to dim the sear - ing light of right-eous-ness and grace.
and shines the blaz - ing light of lov - ing sac - ri - fice.
we share through Christ our Light the glo - ry of the cross!

Collection of Tithes and Offerings

Celebration of the Lord's Supper

Visiting With Us? If you are a baptized, believing Christian, and a faithful member of this or some other Christian congregation, you are invited to participate. If you are not a Christian, or if you choose not to share in this meal, we are glad that you are here and hope that you will use this time to reflect more deeply on Jesus Christ.

Prayer for Christians

from the Valley of Vision

Holy Lord, I have sinned times without number, and been guilty of pride and unbelief, of failure to find your mind in your Word, of neglect to see you in my daily life.

My transgressions and shortcomings present me with a list of accusations, but I bless you that they will not stand against me, for all have been laid on Jesus; subdue my corruptions, and grant me grace to live above them.

Let not the passions of the flesh nor lusts of the mind bring my spirit into slavery, but may you rule over me in liberty and power.

I thank you for your wisdom and your love, for all the acts of discipline to which I am subject, for sometimes putting me into the furnace to refine my gold and remove my dross.

Deliver me from every evil habit, every increase of former sins, everything that dims the brightness of your grace in me, everything that prevents me taking delight in you.

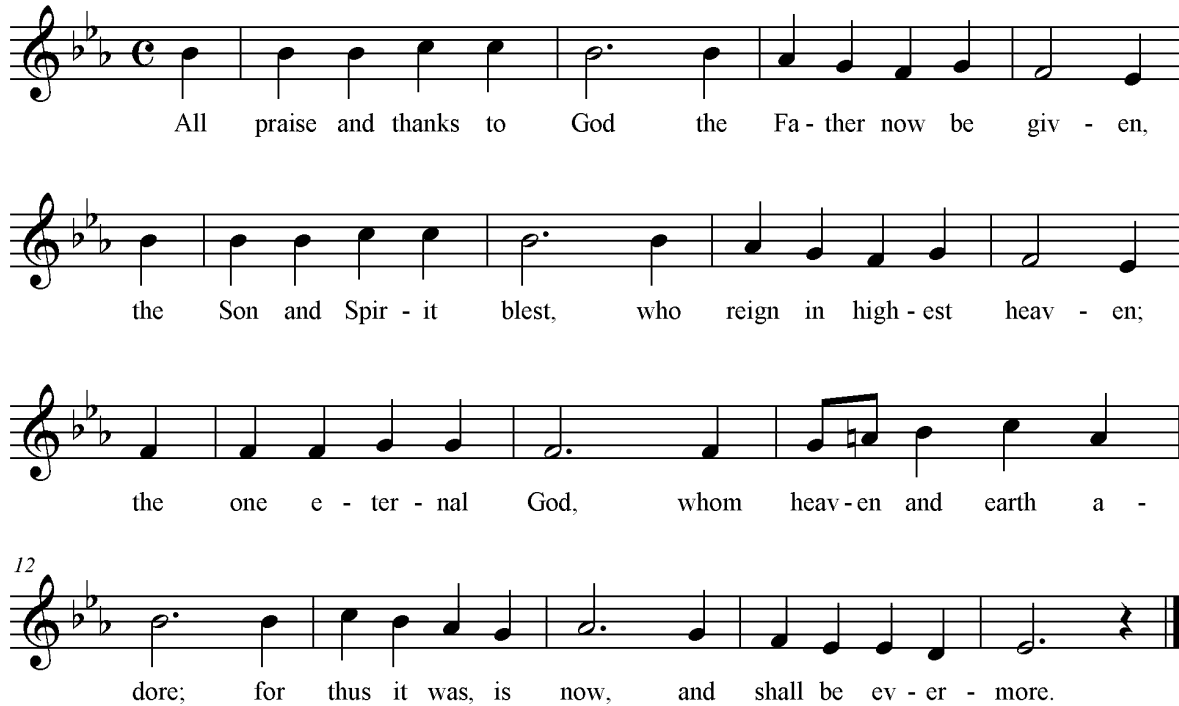
In the name of Jesus, our Savior, and our Lord. Amen.

The Distribution of the Elements

We use wine in the Lord's Supper. Wine is available in the inner two circles for those who desire it; grape juice is available in the outer ring.

Doxology

Martin Rinkart, 1636



All praise and thanks to God the Fa-ther now be giv - en,
the Son and Spir - it blest, who reign in high - est heav - en;
the one e - ter - nal God, whom heav-en and earth a -
12 dore; for thus it was, is now, and shall be ev - er - more.

Benediction

2 Cor 13:14

Minister: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit,
be with you all. Amen.