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MARCH 17, 2024 • 8:30 AM FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Welcome! We're excited you're here. In our service, we gather before Almighty God to offer Him our worship and praise. We come together to be strengthened by His Word to be His witnesses.

Families, if you brought your children with you today, we want you to know that the spiritual well-being of your child is very important to us. Many families wish to teach and encourage their younger child(ren) to be in church and get what they can out of it. If you feel that you need to take your child out for whatever reason; there is a cry room near the back of the sanctuary and a restroom with a baby changing station is located by the elevator (to the left as you exit the sanctuary). **Guests**, we welcome you. If you will, please help us to get to know you by filling out the Guest side of the Welcome Card found in the pews/ chair backs and place it in the offering plates.

As We Gather In the Early Church, when new Christians were baptized, fragrant oil was often placed upon them to remind them of their new life of joy in Christ Jesus, who Himself rose from His spiced tomb as the Anointed One of God. This oil set them apart as ones who had been chosen by God, sanctified by His Spirit, and called to spread the sweet aroma of Jesus' love in the world He died to save. In this week's service, we, too, will receive the oil of joy and gladness, reminding us that we have been buried with Christ by our Baptism and covered in the fragrance of His resurrection victory. As we await the coming Easter morning, we do so with joyful expectation, knowing that Jesus is the God of new life and new beginnings.

PRESERVICE/ ANOINTING WITH OIL (if desired)

WELCOME/ VIDEO

Seeing Jesus (Luke 1), The Skit Guys

Please Stand

CALL TO WORSHIP

- P In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

OPENING HYMN

453 Upon the Cross Extended

- 1 Upon the cross extended See, world, your Lord suspended. Your Savior yields His breath. The Prince of Life from heaven Himself has freely given To shame and blows and bitter death.
- 2 Come, see these things and ponder, Your soul will fill with wonder As blood streams from each pore. Through grief beyond all knowing From His great heart came flowing Sighs welling from its deepest core.
- 4 I caused Your grief and sighing By evils multiplying
 As countless as the sands. I caused the woes unnumbered
 With which Your soul is cumbered, Your sorrows raised by wicked hands.

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OPENING SENTENCES

- P For our sake God made Jesus to be sin who knew no sin,
- C so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.
- P But He was wounded for our transgressions;
- C He was crushed for our iniquities;

2 Corinthians 5:21, alt.; Isaiah 53:5

OPENING SENTENCES (cont.)

- P upon Him was the chastisement that brought us peace,
- C and with His stripes we are healed.

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Based on Philippians 2:1-11

[We observe a moment of silence for personal prayers of confession.]

- P With humble hearts, let us pray together:
- C Lord Jesus, the Father's only Son, the King of kings and Lord of lords, hear us as we pray.
- P Having borne our sins in Your body on Calvary's tree, You were buried in the tomb.
- C Make our lives as like fragrant sacrifices, lovely and pleasing to You—
- P As we live for Jesus who forgave our sins, redeemed our lives, and canceled our debts.
- C With hearts that are humble and lives ever grateful, help us to receive Your grace, come before You in worship, and confess that You alone are Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Amen.
- P Almighty God our heavenly Father shows His mercy to us in the sending of His Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who bathes us in Baptism and clothes us with the joy and gladness of new life in Him. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

GREETING

HYMN 453 Upon the Cross Extended

- Your soul in griefs unbounded, Your head with thorns surrounded, You died to ransom me. The cross for me enduring, The crown for me securing, You healed my wounds and set me free.
- 6 Your cords of love, my Savior, Bind me to You forever, I am no longer mine. To You I gladly tender All that my life can render, And all I have to You resign.
- 7 Your cross I place before me; Its saving pow'r restore me, Sustain me in the test. It will, when life is ending, Be guiding and attending, My way to Your eternal rest.

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SALUTATION AND PRAYER OF THE DAY

- P The Lord be with you.
- C And also with you.
- P Let us pray. O God, You made this journey of Lent to shine with the glory of our Lord's resurrection.
- C Preserve in us the spirit of our adoption as Your children
- P so that, anointed with the oil of joy and gladness,
- C we may rejoice in the new life we have been given;
- P through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Isaiah 55:1-11

(Salvation Offered Freely to All.)

55 "Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and he who has no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live; and I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴ Behold, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵ Behold, you shall call a nation that you do not know, and a nation that did not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, and of the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶ "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near; ⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD. ⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. ¹⁰ "For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, ¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

930 All You Works of God, Bless the Lord

1 All you works of God, bless the Lord! All you angels, now bless the Lord; Come, you heavens and pow'rs that be, Praise the Lord and His majesty: *Refrain*

Refrain Raise your voices high, praise and magnify, All you works of God, bless the Lord!
Raise your voices high, praise and magnify, All you works of God, bless the Lord!

- 2 Sing, you sun and you moon above, Stars of heaven, now sing His love; Dew and showers, you winds that blow, Heat and fire, you ice and snow: *Refrain*
- Frost of winter with song so cold, Dews of summer, your song unfold; Light and darkness, you day and night, Clouds of thunder, you lightnings bright: *Refrain*

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EPISTLE

2 Corinthians 2:12-3:3 (The fragrance of life.)

¹² When I came to Troas to preach the gospel of Christ, even though a door was opened for me in the Lord, ¹³ my spirit was not at rest because I did not find my brother Titus there. So I took leave of them and went on to Macedonia. ¹⁴ But thanks be to God, who in Christ always leads us in triumphal procession, and through us spreads the fragrance of the knowledge of him everywhere. ¹⁵ For we are the aroma of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing, ¹⁶ to one a fragrance from death to death, to the other a fragrance from life to life. Who is sufficient for these things? ¹⁷ For we are not, like so many, peddlers of God's word, but as men of sincerity, as commissioned by God, in the sight of God we speak in Christ.3 Are we beginning to commend ourselves again? Or do we need, as some do, letters of recommendation to you, or from you? ² You yourselves are our letter of recommendation, written on our hearts, to be known and read by all. ³ And you show that you are a letter from Christ delivered by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God, not on tablets of stone but on tablets of human hearts.

- L This is the Word of the Lord.
- C Thanks be to God.

VERSE Psalm 23:5

P [Lord], You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies; you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

C Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 6:1-13

(Jesus sends out the Twelve Apostles.)

- P The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark, the sixth chapter.
- C Glory to You, O Lord.

6 He went away from there and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. ² And on the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things? What is the wisdom given to him? How are such mighty works done by his hands? ³ Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. ⁴ And Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household." ⁵ And he could do no mighty work there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and healed them. ⁶ And he marveled because of their unbelief. And he went about among the villages teaching. ⁷ And he called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. ⁸ He charged them to take nothing for their journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts— ⁹ but to wear sandals and not put on two tunics. ¹⁰ And he said to them, "Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you depart from there. ¹¹ And if any place will not receive you and they will not listen to you, when you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." ¹² So they went out and proclaimed that people should repent. ¹³ And they cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and healed them.

- P This is the Gospel of the Lord.
- C Praise to You, O Christ.

Be Seated - Children are dismissed for Children's Church (CC).

MESSAGE HYMN

930 All You Works of God, Bless the Lord

4 Hills and mountains, now sing His worth, All you green things that grow on earth; Seas and rivers, you springs and wells, Beasts and cattle, you birds and whales: *Refrain*

Refrain

Raise your voices high, praise and magnify, All you works of God, bless the Lord! Raise your voices high, praise and magnify, All you works of God, bless the Lord!

- Come, humanity, sing along, Sing, you people of God, a song;
 Priests and servants, your Lord now bless, Join, you spirits and souls at rest: *Refrain*
- 6 Bless the Lord, all you pure of heart; All you humble, His praise impart; God the Father and Son adore, Bless the Spirit forevermore! *Refrain*

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MESSAGE

Please Stand

THE APOSTLES' CREED

C I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life + everlasting. Amen.

Be Seated

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS

Please Stand

OFFERING (Thanks for your ongoing stewardship and support of God's mission here!)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH (*Prayer response after each petition...*)

- P For what a priest we have in Jesus,
- C who became our Healer and sacrifice.

LORD'S PRAYER

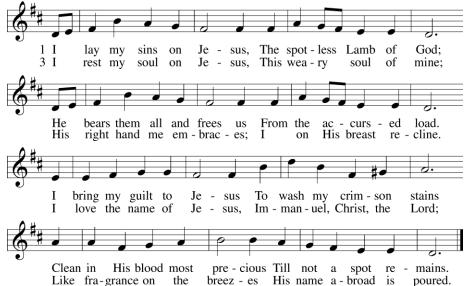
+ SACRAMENT +

PRAYER OF PREPARATION

P Everlasting Father, holy Lord, it is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to You. And most especially are we bound to praise You on this day for the glorious resurrection of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. By His dying He has destroyed death, and by His rising again He has restored to us everlasting life. Therefore, with all the saints of heaven and earth we lift up the name of Jesus, evermore praising You and saying:

HYMN

606 I Lay My Sins on Jesus



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THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matt. 26:26-28; Mk. 14:22-24; Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor. 11:23-25

PAX DOMINI

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- C And also with you.

619 Thy Body, Given for Me, O Savior 611 Chief of Sinners Though I Be

Please Stand

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

- P O God the Father, who in love and mercy sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that You have given us pardon and peace in this Supper. Renew our hearts and minds with reminders of Your fragrant love for us
- C that we may always know Your joy and gladness;
- P through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
- C Amen.

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24–26

- P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.
- C Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

602 The Gifts Christ Freely Gives



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DISMISSAL

Into the world as the very aroma of Christ our Healer and sacrifice...

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