

Growing Together through Faith, Love, and Fellowship.

4th Sunday of Lent

March 27, 2022

The asterisk () indicates to please rise in body or spirit.*

Silent Prayer of Preparation

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 come home 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.

Gathering Music

The Gathering of God's People

Prelude - a time to prayerfully prepare oneself for worship

"When God Restored Our Common Life"

arr. Hal H. Hopson

Welcome and Announcements

***Call to Worship**

Psalm 32

Leader: Happy are those whose sin is forgiven, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

People: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to the God of deliverance.

Leader: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go, as you trust in the Lord.

People: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous; shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

Leader: Let us worship God!

The Confession of Sin and Assurance of Pardon***Call to Confession*****Prayer of Confession** *(read in unison)*

O God, like the Prodigal Son, we too have journeyed to far places and lived as if you had no say over our lives. We have wasted the inheritance that you entrusted to us and used other people as if they were things. Then we complain to you as if our dilemmas are your fault rather than a result of our own actions. Even though we are not worthy, we come home to you today with penitent hearts, seeking forgiveness and acceptance. May your amazing grace wash over us once again, transforming us into new and obedient sons and daughters. Hear our prayer, O Lord. Amen.

(Silent prayer of confession.)

Assurance of Pardon**Response Hymn** “You Are the Lord, Giver of Mercy!”

#437

Ministry of the Word**Prayer for Illumination****First Scripture Reading**

2 Corinthians 5:16-21

Choir Anthem

“Consecration”

Frederick Chatfield, 2010

Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to thee.

Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of thy love.

Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for thee.

Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.

Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from thee.

Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.

Take my intellect, and use every power as thou shalt choose.

Take my will and make it thine; it shall be no longer mine.

Take my heart, it is thine own; it shall be thy royal throne.

Take my love, my Lord, I pour at thy feet its treasure store.

Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for thee.

Second Scripture Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon “Infused with Grace: Prodigal Joy” Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood

The Response to the Word

***Affirmation of Faith**

A Brief Statement of Faith (11.3)

We trust in God, whom Jesus called Abba, Father. In sovereign love God created the world good and makes everyone equally in God’s image, male and female, of every race and people, to live as one community. But we rebel against God; we hide from our Creator. Ignoring God’s commandments, we violate the image of God in others and ourselves, accept lies as truth, exploit neighbor and nature, and threaten death to the planet entrusted to our care. We deserve God’s condemnation. Yet God acts with justice and mercy to redeem creation. In everlasting love, the God of Abraham and Sarah chose a covenant people to bless all families of the earth. Hearing their cry, God delivered the children of Israel from the house of bondage. Loving us still, God makes us heirs with Christ of the covenant. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God is faithful still.

***Hymn**

“Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound”

#649

Prayers of the People and the Lord’s Prayer

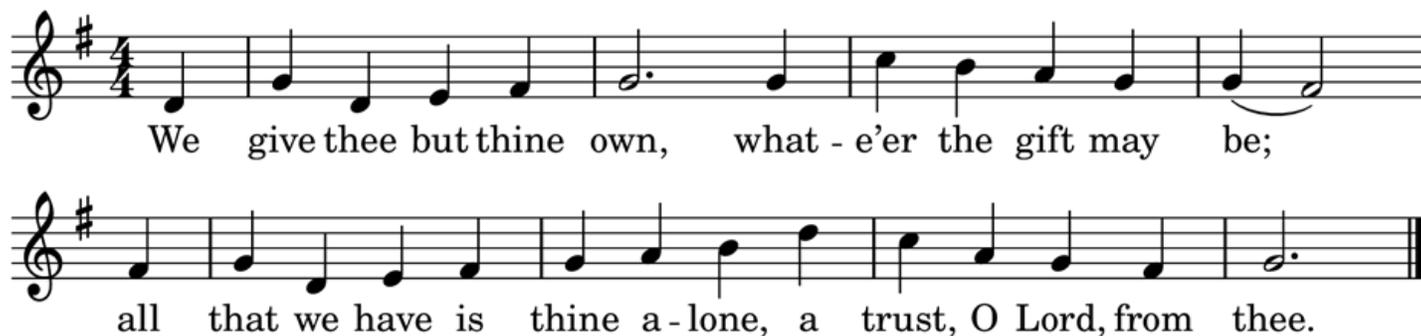
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

***Invitation to Offering**

***Response**

"We Give Thee but Thine Own" (v. 1)

#708



We give thee but thine own, what - e'er the gift may be;
all that we have is thine a-lone, a trust, O Lord, from thee.

Prayer of Dedication*The Sending of God's People*****Closing Hymn**

"Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee"

#611

Charge and Blessing**Congregational Response**

"Change My Heart, O God"

#695

***Postlude**

Improvisation on "Azmon"

arr. Douglas E. Wagner

Pastors: Rev. Désirée M. Youngblood
Dr. Mark A. Johnson

Music Director: Thomas Lloyd

Organist: Carol Welk

Liturgist: Paul Oswalt

Acolyte: Devin Griggs