

Third Sunday in Lent *March 7th, 2021*

A candle may be lit, to set apart this time of prayer.

Prelude: *Be Still and Know that I am God*

Bell

Welcome

Opening Hymn #537 *In the Cross of Christ I Glory*

1 In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me: lo, it glows with peace and joy.

3 When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.

4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time abide.

5 In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
all the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.

Celebrant: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: And also with you.

Celebrant: Cast your burden upon the Lord,

All: And he will sustain you.

Celebrant: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

All: And renew a right spirit within me.

Celebrant: Cast me not away from your presence

All: And take not your Holy Spirit from me.

Celebrant: Give me the joy of your saving help again.

All: And sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.

Celebrant: Blessed be the Lord day by day,

All: The God of our salvation, who bears our burdens.

Kyrie: *Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison, Kyrie eleison.*

Children's Talk

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-25

The message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart." Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Stand or sit for the Gospel reading, as seems appropriate for your setting.

Gradual Hymn: *Inspired by Love and Anger (vs. 1-4)*

Bell

1 Inspired by love and anger, disturbed by need and pain,
Informed of God's own bias we ask him once again:
"How long must some folk suffer? How long can few folk mind?
How long dare vain self interest turn prayer and pity blind?"

2 From those forever victims of heartless human greed,
Their cruel plight composes a litany of need:
"Where are the fruits of justice? Where are the signs of peace?
When is the day when prisoners and dreams find their release?"

3 From those forever shackled to what their wealth can buy,
The fear of lost advantage provokes the bitter cry,
"Don't query our position! Don't criticise our wealth!
Don't mention those exploited by politics and stealth!"

4 To God, who through the prophets proclaimed a different age,
We offer earth's indifference, its agony and rage:
"When will the wronged be righted? When will the kingdom come?
When will the world be generous to all instead of some?"

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. John (2:13-22).

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking of the temple of his body. After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

The Gospel of Christ. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Gradual Hymn: *Inspired by Love and Anger (vs. 5)*

5 God asks, "Who will go for me? Who will extend my reach?
And who, when few will listen, will prophesy and preach?
And who, when few bid welcome, will offer all they know?
And who, when few dare follow, will walk the road I show?"

Sermon

Dr. Stephen Martin

Solo: *May the Anger of Christ be Mine*

Colin Gibson

May the anger of Christ be mine, when the world grows hard and greedy;
when the rich have no care for the poor, when the powerful take the needy.

Refrain In a world of restless change standing for love and faith and justice;
in a dark, confusing time bearing the light, the shining light of Christ

May the pity of Christ be mine, when the out-stretched hand's not taken,
when the jobless stand in line, when the lonely life forsaken. **Refrain**

May the love of Christ be mine for the anguished, for the ailing,
for the frail disabled life, for the fallen, for the failing. **Refrain**

May the actions of Christ be mine, bringing hope, bringing new direction;
making peace in a warring time, offering welcome, not rejection. **Refrain**

The Apostle's Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day, he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Intercessions and Thanksgivings

Prayer Response: *Remember Your Love*

Remember your love and your faithfulness, O Lord.

Remember your people, and have mercy on us, Lord

Dear friends in Christ, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by God's infinite goodness and mercy.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Collect

God of mercy, alone we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves. When we are discouraged by our weakness, strengthen us to follow Christ, our pattern and our hope; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

**Give us today our daily bread and forgive us our sins,
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil,
for the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen, forever, Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

May the Peace

May the peace of the Lord Christ go with you wherever God may send you.

May God guide you through the wilderness, protect you through the storm.

May God bring you home rejoicing at the wonders God has shown you.

May the peace of Christ be with you wher'ere God leads you on.

The Blessing

Closing Hymn: *Send Me Lord*

1 Send me Jesus, send me Jesus, send me Jesus, send me, Lord.

2 Lead me Jesus

3 Fill me Jesus

Postlude

If a candle was lit, it is extinguished now.

This service is assembled from resources found in the Book of Alternative Services, Published by the Anglican Church of Canada.

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