

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday in Lent



Cleansing of the Temple, Rossano Gospel, Italy, 6th Century

We are filled with joy at your presence and hope you experience God's Spirit as you worship and meet with those around you. If you would like more information about RPC, please talk with any Session member or the Pastor.

ORDER FOR THE WORSHIP OF GOD

Bold Letters -- Indicate congregational response

GATHERING

Invocation

Spirit of the Living God

#288

**Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**

**Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**

**Melt me; mold me;
fill me; use me.**

**Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.**

Welcome

Prayer of Confession and Assurance of Pardon

Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God

#423 (v.1)

**¹ Create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God;
create in me a clean heart, O God,
and renew a right spirit within me.**

Silence is kept for personal confession

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, God in your Kindness
In your compassion blot out my offense
O wash me more and more from my guilt
and cleanse me from my sin

My offenses truly I know them
my sin is always before me
against you, you alone, have I sinned
what is evil in your sight I have done

A pure heart create for me, O God,
put a steadfast spirit within me.
Do not cast me away from your presence,
nor deprive me of your holy spirit

Give me again the joy of your help;
with a spirit of fervor sustain me.
O Lord, open my lips
and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Silence is kept for personal confession

Lo I am with You

Lo, I am with you til the end of the world

THE WORD

A Time with the Children

First Reading

Exodus 20:1-17

Lay Leader: Phil Ruxton

¹Then God spoke all these words:

²I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery; ³you shall have no other gods before me.

⁴You shall not make for yourself an idol, whether in the form of anything that is in heaven above, or that is on the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or worship them; for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, punishing children for the iniquity of parents, to the third and the fourth generation of those who reject me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

⁷You shall not make wrongful use of the name of the LORD your God, for the LORD will not acquit anyone who misuses his name.

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹For six days you shall labor and do all your work. ¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

¹²Honor your father and your mother, so that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you.

¹³You shall not murder.

¹⁴You shall not commit adultery.

¹⁵You shall not steal.

¹⁶You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

¹⁷You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or male or female slave, or ox, or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel

John 2:13-22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making 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. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, "Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, "Zeal for your house will consume me." ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" ¹⁹Jesus answered them, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up." ²⁰The Jews then said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?" ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After 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.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Wait, What Did Jesus Just Do?

Lenten Response

Stay with Me

#204

**Stay with me; remain here with me;
watch and pray.
Watch and pray.**

RESPONDING

Invitation to Present Our Tithes and Offerings

Offertory

Doxology

Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow

#606

Prayer of Thanksgiving

God of compassion,
we praise you that you look upon our delicate lives
with love and understanding,
and that you desire for us all

new life in Jesus Christ.
We are overwhelmed by your love,
which goes to the cross,
endures the grave,
and leads us to new life.
By your Spirit,
strengthen our souls
to be brave and bold in Christ's service.
Take our offerings,
and use them and us for your purposes,
in the name of Jesus Christ,
our crucified and risen Lord.
Amen.

Communion Hymn

You Satisfy the Hungry Heart

#523

Refrain:

**You satisfy the hungry heart
with gift of finest wheat;
come give to us, O saving Lord,
the bread of life to eat.**

**1 As when the shepherd calls his sheep,
they know and heed his voice,
so when you call your family, Lord,
we follow and rejoice. (*Refrain*)**

**2 With joyful lips we sing to you
our praise and gratitude
that you should count us worthy, Lord,
to share this heavenly food. (*Refrain*)**

**3 Is not the cup we bless and share
the blood of Christ outpoured?
Do not one cup, one loaf, declare
our oneness in the Lord? (*Refrain*)**

**4 The mystery of your presence, Lord,
no mortal tongue can tell:
whom all the world cannot contain
comes in our hearts to dwell. (*Refrain*)**

**5 You give yourself to us, O Lord;
then selfless let us be,
to serve each other in your name
in truth and charity. (*Refrain*)**

Invitation to The Lord's Table

Prayer of Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.
It is truly right and our greatest joy
to give you thanks and praise,
O God our creator and redeemer.
In your wisdom, you made all things
and sustain them by your power.
You formed us in your image to love and serve you.
When we were slaves in Egypt you freed us
and led us through the waters of the sea.
You fed us with heavenly food in the wilderness,
and satisfied our thirst from desert springs.
On a holy mountain you gave us your law
to guide us in your way.
Through the waters of Jordan
you led us into the land of your promise,
and you sustained us in times of trial.
You spoke through prophets
calling us to turn from our willful ways
to new obedience and righteousness.
You sent your only Son
to be the way to eternal life.
Therefore we praise you,
joining our voices with choirs of angels
and with all the faithful of every time and place,
who forever sing to the glory of your name:

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Hosanna in the highest.**

You are holy, O God of majesty,
and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.
He took upon himself the weight of our sin
and carried the burden of our guilt.
He shared our life in every way,
and though tempted, was sinless to the end.
Baptized as your own, he went willingly to his death
and by your power was raised to new life.
In his dying and rising,
you gave birth to your church,
delivered us from slavery to sin and death,
and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts,
we take this bread and this wine
from the gifts you have given us,
and celebrate with joy
the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ.
Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving
as a living and holy offering of ourselves,
that our lives may proclaim the One crucified and risen.

**Christ has died.
Christ is risen,
Christ will come again**

Gracious God,
pour out your Holy Spirit upon us
and upon these your gifts of bread and wine,
that the bread we break
and the cup we bless
may be the communion of the body and blood of Christ.
By your Spirit unite us with the living Christ,
and with all who are baptized in his name,
that we may be one in ministry in every place.

As this bread is Christ's body for us,
send us out to be the body of Christ in the world.

Help us, O God, to be obedient to your call
to love all your children,
to do justice and show mercy,
and to live in peace with your whole creation.
Guide us through the desert of life,
quench our thirst with the living waters,
satisfy our hunger with the bread of heaven.
Give us strength to serve you faithfully
until the promised day of resurrection,
when with the redeemed of all the ages
we will feast with you at your table in glory.

Through Christ,
all glory and honor are yours, almighty God,
with the Holy Spirit in the holy church,
now and forever.

Amen.

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 sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, the
power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

Breaking the Bread

Communion

*Please partake of the communion elements at home as the participants in the
sanctuary partake.*

Prayer after Communion

Prayers of the People

Come, Bring Your Burdens to God

#851

**Come, bring your burdens to God;
come, bring your burdens to God;**

come, bring your burdens to God,
for Jesus will never say no.

SENDING

Opportunities for Service and Fellowship

Sending Hymn

Spirit of the Living God

#288

Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

Melt me; mold me;
fill me; use me.

Spirit of the living God,
fall afresh on me.

Blessing and Charge

May the Spirit of the triune God
strengthen and sustain you,
all throughout these forty days
and into the life that is to come.

Go in peace,
proclaiming the message of reconciliation
God has entrusted to us.

Thanks be to God, Amen.

Response

Be Still and Know That I Am God

#414

Be still and know that I am God.

Be still and know that I am God.

Postlude