

SECOND SUNDAY IN LENT: February 28, 2021

RINGING OF THE BELL

SILENCE: Pray for open hearts & minds to Christ and his gifts of grace in Word & Sacrament.

OPENING SONG #319 “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days”

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

We begin with the words that were spoken and the sign that was marked upon us when we were washed with God’s love in our baptism. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Let us call to mind the need we all have for God’s mercy.

Lord Jesus, your light reveals our sins and weakness. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your living water washes us clean of our sin. Christ, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord Jesus, your bread gives us strength for the journey of love. Lord, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy

This is the good news. God is mercy and in the name of Jesus our sins are forgiven. Amen.

FORGIVENESS HYMN #338 v. 1 “Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

GATHERING

GREETING

Sisters and brothers in Christ, beloved children of God: grace, mercy, and peace be with you all. **And also with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. O God, by the passion of your blessed Son you turned the cross into a sign of love and life. Grant that we may be willing to take up our own cross and sacrifice ourselves for the love of others and this world created by you; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

GOSPEL HYMN #328 v. 1 “Restore In Us, O God”

“May I never boast of anything except the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by which the world is crucified to me, and I to the world.”

GOSPEL HYMN #328 v. 2 “Restore In Us, O God”

HOLY GOSPEL Mark 8:31-37

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

A reading from the holy gospel according to St. Mark. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life?”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

HOMILY

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Loving and gracious God, we continue our journey of Lent trusting that you are always with us.

Help us to respond to others with the love of Christ. Lord, in your mercy:

May we fast from bitter and hurtful words. Lord, in your mercy:

Increase our generosity toward those who are struggling to get by. Lord, in your mercy:

Give rest to the weary and peace to the anxious. Lord, in your mercy:

Reveal the depth of your love revealed on the cross for all people. Lord, in your mercy

Calm those who fear death knowing that you promise eternal life. Lord, in your mercy:

Sick . . .

Bishops . . .

May the peace of Christ in whose name we pray live in hearts now and forever. Amen.

SONG FOR THE GIFTS #735 “Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”

Blessed are you, Lord God, of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the bread we offer you: fruit of the earth and work of human hands, it will become for us the bread of life. **Blessed be God for ever.**

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation, for through your goodness we have received the wine we offer you: fruit of the vine and work of human hands, it will become our spiritual drink. **Blessed be God for ever.**

PRAYER FOR THE GIFTS

Let us pray (pause). Holy and generous host, you set a table where all are welcome to eat together as friends. May we witness to your goodness with every gift you have given us to share, that all people may know your love; through Jesus Christ, now and forever. **Amen.**

MEAL

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Blessed are you, O God of the universe. Your mercy is everlasting and your faithfulness endures from age to age. You sent us your Son Jesus, who gave his life for us and who came to save us. He healed sick people; he cared for those who were poor and wept with those who were sad. He forgave sinners and taught us to forgive each other. He fed the hungry and gave water to the thirsty. He took children in his arms and blessed them. God, we thank you that you bring us together for this meal of Christ’s love.

On the night before he was given up to death, a death he freely accepted, he took bread and gave you thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, take this all of you and eat it. This is my body which will be given up for you. Do this in memory of me.

When supper was ended Jesus took the cup. Again Father he gave you thanks and praise. Gave the cup to his disciples and said, take this all of you and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood, the blood of the new and everlasting covenant, it will be shed for you and for all people that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me.

With this bread and cup we remember the great love of Jesus that forgives all sins and opens the door to eternal life, and so, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

O God of resurrection and new life we name before those whose anniversary of death we commemorate this week: Thomas O'Neill, Bob White, Lyda Ericson, Pinky Umbaugh, Harold Davidsen, Robert Rolfes, Olive Reibsamen, Josephine White, and Glen Jervis. We rejoice in the life they now share with you and all the saints. Pour out your Holy Spirit on us and on these gifts of bread and wine. Bless this feast. Grace our table with your presence. Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ in the world. Breathe new life into us Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

Through him, with him, in him; in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, now and forever. **Amen.**

OUR FATHER & SIGN OF PEACE

LAMB OF GOD

Jesus, Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world. **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Strength of the weak, you take away the sins of the world. **Have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Bread of Life, you take away the sins of the world. **Grant us your peace. Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray (pause). We thank you, living God, for the body and blood of Jesus, which sustains us as we travel through the ups and downs of life. As Jesus loves us in this holy meal so send us to love our neighbors. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

PRAYERS FOR PARISH FAMILIES

Loving God, bless our families and fill our homes with respect, joy, laughter, and prayer. Especially send your blessing upon Casey & Stephanie Unruh & their family, Bill & Barb Vana & their family; Dean & Chris Vaughn & their family. Protect them, guide them, and deepen their love for you. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. Lord. **Amen.**

PRAYER IN RESPONSE TO THE CORONAVIRUS

O Saving Lord Jesus, hear our pleas as we come before you to pray for deliverance and protection from the Coronavirus. We pray for all who are sick and suffering, for those who have died and are dying, for families who are grieving, and for all of our health care workers. Give us each the determination to do all we can to stop the spread. Especially put a shield of protection around all our precious children. Help those working to deliver and administer the vaccine we need. We commend ourselves, our community, our country, and our world into your hands. Lord, we love you and adore you. **Amen.**

SENDING

BENEDICTION & DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Jesus, go forth to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE