**Worship Plan for Sunday, March 18, 2018**

**PSALM 51:1-12**

We will sing the Psalm for the day.  
All of us will sing the refrain, then we will alternate verses as I sing a verse and you sing the next verse back to me using the same tune. The pitch changes are noted in the text by a vertical line.

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description generated with high confidence

1Have mercy on me, O God, according to your | steadfast love;

in your great compassion blot out | my offenses.

2**Wash me through and through | from my wickedness,**

**and cleanse me | from my sin.**

3For I know | my offenses,

and my sin is ev- | er before me.

4**Against you only have I sinned and done what is evil | in your sight;**

**so you are justified when you speak and right | in your judgment. R**

5Indeed, I was born | steeped in wickedness,

a sinner from my | mother's womb.

6**Indeed, you delight in truth | deep within me,**

**and would have me know wisdom | deep within.**

7Remove my sins with hyssop, and I | shall be clean;

wash me, and I shall be pur- | er than snow.

8**Let me hear | joy and gladness;**

**that the body you have broken | may rejoice. R**

9Hide your face | from my sins,

and blot out | all my wickedness.

10**Create in me a clean | heart, O God,**

**and renew a right spir- | it within me.**

11Cast me not away | from your presence,

and take not your Holy Spir- | it from me.

12**Restore to me the joy of | your salvation**

**and sustain me with your boun- | tiful Spirit. R**

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description generated with very high confidence

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open,   
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid;

Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,

That we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins  
and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Most merciful God,

**We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves.**

**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 neighbors as ourselves.**

**For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.**

**Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,  
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us,   
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.

As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority,   
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,   
in the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** *My Faith Looks Up to Thee (ELW 759)*

Vs. 1, 2, 4

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one god, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *In the Bread Broken*

*(The first reading is read by the lay assistant)*

**THE FIRST READING**:  1 Corinthians 13:1-7

A reading from First Corinthians.

**13** If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

2And if I have prophetic powers, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.

3If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

4Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant 5or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful;

6it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. 7It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.*

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)*

**GOSPEL: Mark 1:14-22**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

14Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God,

15and saying, “The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.”

16As Jesus passed along the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting a net into the sea—for they were fishermen.

17And Jesus said to them, “Follow me and I will make you fish for people.” 18And immediately they left their nets and followed him.

19As he went a little farther, he saw James son of Zebedee and his brother John, who were in their boat mending the nets.

20Immediately he called them; and they left their father Zebedee in the boat with the hired men, and followed him.

21They went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and taught.

22They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Will You Let Me Be Your Servant (ELW 659)*

Vs. 1, 2, 4

**CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,**

**creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ,**

**God’s 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 to the dead.**

**On the third day he rose again;**

**he ascended into heaven,**

**he is seated at**

**the right hand of the Father,**

**and he will come 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.**

*(The pastor reads the introduction and the ending, the lay assistant reads indented petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Renewed in the promises of baptism,

let us pray for the church, the earth, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Guide us into a deeper knowledge of your love and grace. Increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and service. We pray for evangelists, pastors, prophets, teachers, and all servants of the church. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world. For seeds planted in hope of an abundant harvest. For fertile soils and sufficient rains. For shepherds and ranchers, farmworkers and seafood harvesters. For flowers and berries. For orchards, vineyards, and citrus groves.

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. For countries embroiled in long-term conflicts, and for communities scarred by political unrest and upheaval. Grant wisdom to the world’s decision makers. Guide them to work for peace and the well-being of all people. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need. For all who suffer in any way. For those who are lonely or isolated. For those seeking employment. For those who approach the hour of their death, and all who are ill (*especially…).* Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For visitors, newcomers, and those who are returning after an extended absence. Deepen us in faith. Fill us with hope, and draw us all into your loving presence. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember those who have died, especially those who have been witnesses and examples to us. Bring us with them to the promise of resurrection and life eternal with you. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

Trusting in your covenant of mercy, O God, we lift our prayers to you, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**OFFERTORY** Beneath the Cross of Jesus (ELW 338)

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks,   
broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying;

“Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying;

“This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”

Remembering, therefore, his life lived for others, and his death and resurrection which renews the face of the earth, we await his coming in glory.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord; to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;**

**and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.**

**For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever.   
Amen.**

**INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Return to God with all your heart.   
 Receive bread for the journey, drink for the desert.

**Thanks be to God!**

**COMMUNION**

*(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)*

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Compassionate God,

You have fed us with the bread of heaven. Sustain us in our Lenten pilgrimage;   
may our fasting be hunger for justice, our alms, a making of peace,   
and our prayer, the song of grateful hearts; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**May God who has called us forth from the dust of the earth,  
and claimed us as children of the light,  
strengthen you on your journey into new life.  
The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord’s face shine upon you with grace and mercy.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace.  
**Amen.**

Sending Song  *Christ, the Life of All the Living* (ELW 339)

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)***DISMISSAL**

Marked with the cross of Christ,

Go forth to love and serve the Lord.  
**Thanks be to God!**

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