**Worship Plan for Sunday, March 1, 2020**

**SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**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** *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days (ELW 319)*

**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**

LordGod, our strength, the struggle between good and evil rages within and around us, and the devil and all the forces that defy you tempt us with empty promises. Keep us steadfast in your word, and when we fall, raise us again and restore us through 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** *Return to God, Marty Haugen*

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

**THE FIRST READING**:  Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7

*Human beings were formed with great care, to be in relationship with the creator, creation, and one another. The serpent’s promise to the first couple that their eyes would be opened led, ironically, to the discovery only that they were naked.*

A reading from Genesis.

15The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it.

16And the Lord God commanded the man, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; 17but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

3Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God say, ‘You shall not eat from any tree in the garden’?” 2The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; 3but God said, ‘You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.’“ 4But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die; 5for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. 7Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**THE Second READING**:  Romans 5:12-19

*Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.*

A reading from Romans.

12Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death came through sin, and so death spread to all because all have sinned— 13sin was indeed in the world before the law, but sin is not reckoned when there is no law. 14Yet death exercised dominion from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sins were not like the transgression of Adam, who is a type of the one who was to come. 15But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if the many died through the one man’s trespass, much more surely have the grace of God and the free gift in the grace of the one man, Jesus Christ, abounded for the many. 16And the free gift is not like the effect of the one man’s sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brings justification. 17If, because of the one man’s trespass, death exercised dominion through that one, much more surely will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness exercise dominion in life through the one man, Jesus Christ. 18Therefore just as one man’s trespass led to condemnation for all, so one man’s act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all. 19For just as by the one man’s disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man’s obedience the many will be made righteous.

*The reading may be concluded:*

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

**PSALM 32**

We will read the Psalm for the day responsively.

I will read the plain font. The congregation will read the bold font.

1Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

**2Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.**

3While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

**4For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.**

5Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord,” and you forgave the guilt of my sin. Selah

**6Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.**

7You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

8I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

**9Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.**

10Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.

**11Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**

Lay Assistant announces:

Please stand for the reading of the Gospel.

Gospel Acclamation p. 151, ELW

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)*

**GOSPEL: Matthew 4:1-11**

Today’s gospel is found in the fourth chapter of Matthew

Through Adam’s disobedience, humanity came under bondage to sin and death, from which we cannot free ourselves. In Christ’s obedient death, God graciously showers on us the free gift of liberation and life.

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to Matthew.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

4Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. 3The tempter came and said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread.” 4But he answered, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’” 5Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” 7Jesus said to him, “Again it is written, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” 8Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; 9and he said to him, “All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me.” 10Jesus said to him, “Away with you, Satan! for it is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” 11Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *Lead Me, Guide Me (ELW 768)*

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

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

God of the wilderness, we pray for the church. Lead us in showing grace and hospitality to all who struggle with doubt or shame. Make your church holy ground where all people can be seen and loved for who you have created them to be. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for creation. Show your glory in deserts and on mountaintops. Nourish gardens and orchards and bless those who tend them. Forgive us for our desire to dominate creation instead of serving as faithful stewards and caretakers. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for the nations. Liberate leaders and governments from the temptation to exercise unjust dominion over those whom they are called to lead and serve. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We pray for those in need. Sustain those who are hungry and alone, those who are anxious, those facing difficult decisions, and those facing a recent diagnosis or new grief. *We pray especially for* … and for those we now name aloud or in our hearts…..

Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We thank you for putting new songs on our lips and in our hearts. Hear our voices as we join in songs of lament and praise. We give thanks for musicians, composers, and poets, and pray that you will bring just the right person to our congregation as music director. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

We praise you for bringing us through the desert into the promised land of your kingdom. We give thanks for saints who have guided us in times of trial and joy. Hear us, O God.

**Your mercy is great.**

According to you steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**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.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**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.  
Almighty God, Father, Son, + and Holy Spirit bless you, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**Sending Song** *My Life Flows on In Endless Song (ELW 763)*

*(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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