**Worship Plan for Sunday, March 4, 2018 Early service**

**PSALM 19 (will be done by Pastor)**

A screenshot of a cell phone

Description generated with very high confidence

1The heavens declare the glo- | ry of God,

and the sky proclaims its | maker's handiwork.

2**One day tells its tale | to another,**

**and one night imparts knowledge | to another.**

3Although they have no | words or language,

and their voices | are not heard,

4**their sound has gone out into all lands,**

**and their message to the ends | of the world,**

**where God has pitched a tent | for the sun.**

5It comes forth like a bridegroom out | of his chamber;

it rejoices like a champion to | run its course.

6**It goes forth from the uttermost edge of the heavens**

**and runs about to the end of | it again;**

**nothing is hidden from its | burning heat. R**

7The teaching of the LORD is perfect and re- | vives the soul;

the testimony of the LORD is sure and gives wisdom | to the simple.

8**The statutes of the LORD are just and re- | joice the heart;**

**the commandment of the LORD is clear and gives light | to the eyes.**

9The fear of the LORD is clean and en- | dures forever;

the judgments of the LORD are true and righteous | altogether.

10**More to be desired are they than gold, more than | much fine gold,**

**sweeter far than honey, than honey | in the comb. R**

11By them also is your ser- | vant enlightened,

and in keeping them there is | great reward.

12**Who can detect one's | own offenses?**

**Cleanse me from my | secret faults.**

13Above all, keep your servant from presumptuous sins;

let them not get dominion | over me;

then shall I be whole and sound, and innocent of a | great offense.

14**Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart**

**be acceptable | in your sight,**

**O LORD, my strength and | my redeemer. R**

**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.**

**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.**

**GATHERING SONG** *Lord Christ, When First You Came to Earth (ELW 727)*

Vs 1, 3, 4

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen**

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

**THE FIRST READING**:  Nehemiah 1:1-9

A reading from Nehemiah.

**1** The words of Nehemiah son of Hacaliah. In the month of Chislev, in the twentieth year, while I was in Susa the capital,

2one of my brothers, Hanani, came with certain men from Judah; and I asked them about the Jews that survived, those who had escaped the captivity, and about Jerusalem.

3They replied, “The survivors there in the province who escaped captivity are in great trouble and shame; the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, and its gates have been destroyed by fire.”

4When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven.

5I said, “O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments;

6let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel, confessing the sins of the people of Israel, which we have sinned against you. Both I and my family have sinned.

7We have offended you deeply, failing to keep the commandments, the statutes, and the ordinances that you commanded your servant Moses.

8Remember the word that you commanded your servant Moses, ‘If you are unfaithful, I will scatter you among the peoples;

9but if you return to me and keep my commandments and do them, though your outcasts are under the farthest skies, I will gather them from there and bring them to the place at which I have chosen to establish my name.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.*

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)*

**GOSPEL: John 2:13-22**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *God so Loved the World (ELW 323)*

Vs 1, 2, 5

**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 the petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Renewed in the promises of baptism, let us pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

We pray for the church. Direct and guide us in following your will. Grant us clarity in the midst of confusion, and give us courage in the face of challenge. Make us passionate to share the gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the world you so deeply love. For wilderness places. For deserts and mountains, fruit trees and gardens. For places devastated by flooding or drought, by wind, fire, or earthquake. Restore damaged habitats and protect fragile environments. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for the nations. Grant wisdom to our leaders. Teach us to resolve conflicts without violence. strengthen those who protect human rights, civil rights, and civil liberties. Bring an end to warfare, famine, and hunger. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in need. For those who lack meaningful employment or stable housing. For those who live with mental illness. For those who have chronic pain, and for all who are grieving, sick, or injured *(especially….)*. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

We pray for this assembly. For those preparing for baptism. For parish nurses and all who provide health care in our community. For those who make quilts and gather supplies for local relief ministries. For ministries of prayer and visitation. Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving we remember with gratitude those who have died in faith, especially those whom we have known and loved. Bring us with them to the fulfillment of your promise of 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.**

**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**

All who thirst, all who hunger,

come and be filled

with the goodness of God.

**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** Lift High the Cross(ELW 660)

Vs 1, 3, 4

*(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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