**Worship Plan for Sunday, March 11, 2018**

**PSALM 107: 1-3, 17-22**

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 picture containing antenna, object

Description generated with high confidence

1Give thanks to the LORD, for the | LORD is good,

for God's mercy en- | dures forever.

2**Let the redeemed of the | LORD proclaim**

**that God redeemed them from the hand | of the foe,**

3gathering them in | from the lands;

from the east and from the west, from the north and | from the south.

17**Some were fools and took re- | bellious paths;**

**through their sins they | were afflicted.**

18They loathed all man- | ner of food

and drew near | to death's door.

19**Then in their trouble they cried | to the LORD**

**and you delivered them from | their distress. R**

20You sent forth your | word and healed them

and rescued them | from the grave.

21**Let them give thanks to you, LORD, for your | steadfast love**

**and your wonderful works | for all people.**

22Let them offer sacrifices | of thanksgiving

and tell of your deeds with | shouts of joy. **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** *What Wondrous Love is This (ELW 666)*

Vs. 1, 3, 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, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Blest Are They, David Haas*

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

**THE FIRST READING**:  Isaiah 60:1-5

A reading from Isaiah.

**60** Arise, shine; for your light has come, and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

2 For darkness shall cover the earth, and thick darkness the peoples; but the Lord will arise upon you, and his glory will appear over you.

3 Nations shall come to your light, and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

4 Lift up your eyes and look around; they all gather together, they come to you; your sons shall come from far away, and your daughters shall be carried on their nurses’ arms.

5 Then you shall see and be radiant; your heart shall thrill and rejoice, because the abundance of the sea shall be brought to you, the wealth of the nations shall come to you.

*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: John 1:1-14**

*The gospel is announced.*

The holy gospel according to John.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

**1** In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2He was in the beginning with God.

3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being

4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people.

5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it.

6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.

8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light.

9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world.

10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him.

11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him.

12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God,

13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God.

14And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

*The gospel concludes:*

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDREN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *God 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 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. 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 t 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 insured (*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 global relief ministries. For ministries of prayer and visitation.

Lord, in your mercy,

**Hear our prayer.**

With thanksgiving, we remember 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.**

**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  *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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