

Order of Worship for Sunday, March 7, 2021

3rd Sunday of Lent – The Power of Sacrifice: The Destruction That Brings Life

*Not available on prerecorded services

Listen at 814-422-6238. Watch online at www.PennsValleyParish.info

CALL TO WORSHIP (Based on John 2)

One: The heavens declare the glory of God.

Many: The earth proclaims God's handiwork.

One: In speech without words, their voices are heard.

Many: In praise without language, their sounds extend throughout creation.

One: The law of God is perfect, reviving the soul.

Many: The teachings of God are sure, making wise the simple.

One: The precepts of God are right, rejoicing the heart.

Many: The ordinances of God are true, and are righteous altogether.

One: Come and proclaim with the heavens the glory and majesty of our God.

OPENING PRAYER (Based on Psalm 19, 1 Corinthians, John 2)

God of righteous fire, just as Jesus was consumed with passion as he cleared the Temple, may we be consumed with passion as we seek justice and righteousness in our world; just as Christ never flinched on his journey to the cross, may we never waver in our devotion to you and our defense of the poor. On this great journey of Lent, teach us the perfection of your ways, always present, as we keep our eyes fixed upon your Son. Amen.

HYMN Sweet, Sweet Spirit UMH 334

There's a sweet, sweet Spirit in this place, and I know that it's the Spirit of the Lord.

There are sweet expressions on each face, and I know they feel the presence of the Lord.

Sweet Holy Spirit, sweet heavenly dove, stay right here with us, filling us with your love.

And for these blessings we lift our hearts in praise; without a doubt we'll know that we have been revived when we shall leave this place.

BLESSING OF TITHES AND OFFERINGS – DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE Jesus Cleans the Temple

JOYS AND CONCERNS - (The Lord's Prayer "trespass")

SELECTED SCRIPTURE 1 Corinthians 1:18-25, John 2:13-22

MESSAGE The Destruction That Brings Life

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE

Insert

HYMN Surely the Presence of the Lord UMH 328

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place. I can feel his mighty power and his grace.

I can hear the brush of angels' wings, I see smiles on every face.

Surely the presence of the Lord is in this place.

COMMISSION & BLESSING

BIBLE STUDY: All These Words

Read Exodus 20:1-17

While these are often referred to as commandments, a more literal translation might be instructions. The Israelites did not view these instructions as restrictive but as a gift from God that marked them as God's special people. How does it change if we think of these as instructions for living instead of commandments?

Why are rules not only necessary, but helpful? *[Without rules, we end up in chaos. Imagine playing a game with no rules. Not only would we not know who wins, we are not likely to enjoy playing such a game.]*

These instructions for life enable the people of Israel to live in such a way that marks them as God's special people. Instead of constraining, how are these instructions freeing? *[By keeping these commandments or instructions, they were freed to be God's people and not enslaved by idols.]*

How is a wedding covenant an appropriate analogy for the instructions given in this passage?

How are the baptismal covenant and Communion liturgy invitations (and instructions) to live the life God would have for us? How might these invite us to love our neighborhood and creation more deeply?

CLOSING PRAYER

Giver of life, we are reminded that Jesus invited us to live in abundance – abundance of grace, mercy, truth, justice, and love. Help us to see that to love your ways is to love you and that to extend love to our neighbors is another way that we love you. Give us the grace to extend forgiveness and grace to all we encounter this coming week. Amen.

SERVICE OF WORD AND TABLE FOR EARLY LENT

[Note: The all-in-one cups have a clear plastic film you pull back to reveal the wafer on top and a foil cover under the wafer may be pulled back as far as you like for the juice.]

Christ our Lord invites to his table all who love him,
who earnestly repent of their sin
and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another.

CONFESSION AND PARDON.

Merciful God,

we confess that we have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have failed to be an obedient church.

We have not done your will,

we have broken your law,

we have rebelled against your love,

we have not loved our neighbors,

and we have not heard the cry of the needy.

Forgive us, we pray.

Free us for joyful obedience,

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

All pray in silence.

Leader to people:

Hear the good news:

Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;

that proves God's love toward us.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

People to leader:

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven!

Leader and people:

Glory to God. Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is right, and a good and joyful thing,..*

*..And so, with your people on earth and all the company of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,

heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus Christ...*

*..as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us,
as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

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

Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here,..*

*..all honor and glory is yours, almighty Father (God), now and for ever.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (*"trespass"*)

GIVING THE BREAD AND CUP

The body of Christ, broken for you. **Amen.**

The blood of Christ shed for you. **Amen.**