

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 19, 2023 Worship Bulletin**

Gathering for God's Word

Prelude

*Welcome & Passing the Peace of Christ

*Song of Praise

"Father of Lights"

Father of lights, You delight in Your children
Father of lights, You delight in Your children
Every good and perfect gift comes from You
Every good and perfect gift comes from You
Every good and perfect gift comes from You

Father of lights, You never change, You have no turning
Father of lights, You never change, You have no turning
Every good and perfect gift comes from You
Every good and perfect gift comes from You
Every good and perfect gift comes from You
Father of lights

Words & Music: John Barnett
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Announcements

Minute for Mission: Good News Rising

Time of Silence & Ringing of the Bell

Preparing for God's Word

A Minute with Psalm 145

*Call to Worship

[based on Psalm 145: 13-16]

Leader: I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever.

People: Your kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and your dominion endures through all generations.

Leader: The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made.

People: You uphold all who fall and lift up all who are bowed down.

Leader: All eyes are on you and you give food to those who need it in due season.

You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.

People: Let every creature praise his holy name for ever and ever.

*Hymn of Adoration

#667, "When Morning Gilds the Sky"

When morning gilds the skies,
My heart awaking cries:
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Alike at work and prayer
To Jesus I repair:
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Does sadness fill my mind?
A solace here I find,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Or fades my earthly bliss?
My comfort still is this,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

When earth's wide circle round
In joyful notes resound
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Let air and sea and sky
From depth to height reply
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Be this, while life is mine,
My canticle divine,
May Jesus Christ be praised!
Be this th' eternal song
Through all the ages long,
May Jesus Christ be praised!

Text: German hymn., c. 1800, trans. Edward Caswall, 1853, 1858, alt

Music: Joseph Barnby, 1868

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Prayer of Confession

All: Loving God, we gather today, rich in blessing. And yet too often we find ourselves believing that we somehow merit these gifts and comforts we enjoy. Lord we thank you for everything you have given us, but confess that sometimes we love those gifts more than we love you. We confess that we are not always satisfied with what you have given us as we strive for more. Forgive us for not being content and thankful. Forgive our selfishness. Help us to cling more to you than to the many blessings you have given us. Help us love you more than everything else. We ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

[based on Joel 2: 13, 2 Corinthians 9:15]

Leader: Hear the Good News! Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

People: In Christ, we are forgiven! Thanks be to God for his indescribable gift!

Hearing God's Word

Children's Message

Ages 12 and under gather up front as congregation sings, #188, "Jesus Loves Me."
After the Children's Message, the children may return to sit with their families.

Hymn of Preparation

#2162, "Grace Alone," Sing the Faith Hymnal

Every promise we can make
Every prayer and step of faith
Every difference we can make
Is only by His grace
Every mountain we will climb
Every ray of hope we shine
Every blessing left behind
Is only by His grace

Refrain:

Grace alone
Which God supplies
Strength unknown
He will provide
Christ in us
Our cornerstone
We will go forth in grace alone

Every soul we long to reach
Every heart we hope to teach
Everywhere we share His peace
Is only by His grace

Every loving word we say
Every tear we wipe away
Every sorrow turned to praise
Is only by His grace

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Prayer of Illumination

New Testament Reading: 1 Kings 17: 1-16

17:1 Now Elijah the Tishbite, from Tishbe in Gilead, said to Ahab, “As the LORD, the God of Israel, lives, whom I serve, there will be neither dew nor rain in the next few years except at my word.”

2 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah: 3 “Leave here, turn eastward and hide in the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan. 4 You will drink from the brook, and I have ordered the ravens to feed you there.”

5 So he did what the LORD had told him. He went to the Kerith Ravine, east of the Jordan, and stayed there. 6 The ravens brought him bread and meat in the morning and bread and meat in the evening, and he drank from the brook.

7 Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 8 Then the word of the LORD came to him: 9 “Go at once to Zarephath of Sidon and stay there. I have commanded a widow in that place to supply you with food.” 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” 11 As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

12 “As surely as the LORD your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread — only a handful of flour in a jar and a little oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it — and die.”

13 Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small cake of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: “The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the LORD gives rain on the land.”

15 She went away and did as Elijah had told her. So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the LORD spoken by Elijah.

Sermon

“Be-Wildered... What Will You Share? (For a Gift without a Giver is Bare)”

Responding to God’s Word

*Affirmation of Faith

[from the Westminster Confession, Chapter 5]

Leader: What do we believe about God's work in the world and in us?

All: God—the great creator of all things— upholds, directs, disposes, and governs all creatures, actions, and things, from the greatest even to the least. He exercises this most wise and holy providence according to his infallible foreknowledge and the free and unchangeable counsel of his own will, to the praise of the glory of his wisdom, power, justice, goodness, and mercy.

Offering

Offertory

Anthem

“It is Well (oh my soul),” Joelle Perez, David Quimba, Mark Rasmussen

*Response

#606, The Doxology, “Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow”

*Prayer of Dedication

Prayers of the People

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right for us to give thanks and praise.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy,

People: Hear our prayer.

The Lord's Prayer

All: 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. Forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

*Hymn of Response

#611, “Joyful, Joyful, We Adore Thee”

Joyful, joyful, we adore Thee,

God of glory, Lord of love;

Hearts unfold like flow'rs before Thee,

Op'ning to the sun above.

Melt the clouds of sin and sadness;

Drive the dark of doubt away;

Giver of immortal gladness,

Fill us with the light of day!

All Thy works with joy surround Thee,
Earth and heav'n reflect Thy rays,
Stars and angels sing around Thee,
Center of unbroken praise;
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
Flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
Chanting bird and flowing fountain
Call us to rejoice in Thee!

Mortals, join the happy chorus,
Which the morning stars began;
Love divine is reigning o'er us,
Joining all in Heaven's plan
Ever singing, march we onward,
Victors in the midst of strife;
Joyful music leads us sunward
In the triumph song of life.

Text: Henry Van Dyke, 1907, alt.

Music: Ludwig Van Beethoven, 1824, adapt. Edward Hodges, 1842, alt.
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*Benediction

*Benediction Response

#2070, "He is Exalted," Sing the Faith Hymnal

He is exalted the King is exalted on High
I will praise Him
He is exalted forever exalted
And I will praise His name
He is the Lord
Forever His truth shall reign
Heaven and Earth
Rejoice in His holy name
He is exalted the King is exalted on high

Words & Music: Twila Paris

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*Postlude

*Please Stand if Able