



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

*First Sunday in Lent*  
February 21, 2021

## **Prayer of Meditation before Worship**

In the wilderness, we seek you, O God,  
that we may be rescued from every temptation and, by your Spirit,  
may we emerge victorious in Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Welcome**

### **Prelude**

*“My Jesus I love Thee”* (arr. Lloyd Larson)  
(Dobin Park-Piano)

### **Introit**

### **Tower Bell**

### **\*Call to Worship**

(based on Psalm 25)

L: To you, O Lord, we lift our souls.

M: **In you, O Lord, we place our trust.**

L: From you, O Lord, we seek your mercy.

M: **From you, O Lord, we await salvation.**

L: Beside you, O Lord, we learn humility.

M: **To you, O Lord, we lift our souls.**

L: Let us Worship our God!!

### **\*Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

**Gracious God, at the beginning of Lent, as we follow your Son to Jerusalem and to his death, we thank you for the gift of unfailing presence with Jesus and with all who went before him in faith. After destroying the world with the primeval flood, you gave Noah the rainbow sign, promising you would never again so inundate the**

**earth. After driving Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted by Satan, you sent angels to wait upon him. For all times you have stood beside us, held us up, guided us forward, we give you our thanks and praise.**

**As we look into the wilderness, O God, we see your Son face-to-face with temptation. Watching him is far easier than facing temptation ourselves. Jesus has taken our sins, after all; why should he not take our temptations as well? We fail to see that we must tread the road of faith ourselves.**

**- Forgive us for leaving the hard work of faith to Jesus.**

**- Forgive us for all the times we have expected Jesus to stand in our place, dodging responsibility that is rightly ours.**

**Show us anew how to follow Jesus to Jerusalem, transforming our reluctance into faithful discipleship, we pray; under the mercy of him who died that we might live, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

**\*Assurance of Pardon**

P: Hear the Good News! In Jesus Christ, God established a new covenant with us, sealed with his blood, bringing forgiveness of sins and the promise to remember our iniquities no more, granting again the full benefits of restored relationship. Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!

**M: In Jesus Christ we are forgiven, now and forever. Amen.!**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*(Creatorex)*

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son  
and to the Holy Ghost**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,  
world without end. Amen. Amen.**

## Scripture

From the Law of the Old Testament: Genesis 9:8-17

<sup>8</sup> Then God said to Noah and to his sons with him, <sup>9</sup> "As for me, I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you, <sup>10</sup> and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark.<sup>[a]</sup> <sup>11</sup> I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." <sup>12</sup> God said, "This is the sign of the covenant that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: <sup>13</sup> I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. <sup>14</sup> When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, <sup>15</sup> I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. <sup>16</sup> When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." <sup>17</sup> God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."

## Anthem

*"Peace I Give to You"*

*(Craig Courtney)*

*(Lilyanne Thoroughma-violin)*

Peace I leave you. My peace I give you.  
Not as the world gives, I give to you.  
Peace I give to you.  
Let not your heart be troubled and fear not.  
In this world you shall have tribulations.  
Take heart! I have overcome the world!  
Peace I give to you. I give My peace to you.

**Scripture** From the Poetry of the Old Testament: Psalm 25:1-10

- <sup>1</sup> To you, O LORD, I lift up my soul.  
<sup>2</sup> O my God, in you I trust;  
do not let me be put to shame;  
do not let my enemies exult over me.
- <sup>3</sup> Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame;  
let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- <sup>4</sup> Make me to know your ways, O LORD;  
teach me your paths.
- <sup>5</sup> Lead me in your truth, and teach me,  
for you are the God of my salvation;  
for you I wait all day long.
- <sup>6</sup> Be mindful of your mercy, O LORD, and of your steadfast love,  
for they have been from of old.
- <sup>7</sup> Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions;  
according to your steadfast love remember me,  
for your goodness' sake, O LORD!
- <sup>8</sup> Good and upright is the LORD;  
therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- <sup>9</sup> He leads the humble in what is right,  
and teaches the humble his way.
- <sup>10</sup> All the paths of the LORD are steadfast love and faithfulness,  
for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.

## Pastoral Prayer

### Lord's Prayer

**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.**

### Offertory Invitation

We are stewards in God's garden, entrusted with the care of all the earth and of God's people, our sisters and brothers. Let us give account of our stewardship as we dedicate material offerings and as we rededicate ourselves to the tasks Christ sets before us.

### Offertory                    *"O Love That Will Not Let Me Go    (Molly Ijames)*

O Love that will not let me go, I rest my weary soul in Thee;  
I give Thee back the life I own, that in Thine ocean depths  
its flow may richer, fuller be.

O Light that followest all my way, I yield my flickering torch to Thee;  
My heart restores its borrowed ray, that in Thy sunshine's blaze  
its day may brighter, fairer be.

O Joy that seekest me through pain, I cannot close my heart to Thee;  
I trace the rainbow through the rain, and feel the promise is not vain,  
that morn shall ever tearless be.

O Cross that liftest up my head, I dare not ask to hide from Thee;  
I lay in dust life's glory dead,  
And from the ground there blossoms red, life that shall endless be.

## Scripture

From the Gospels: Mark 1:9-15

<sup>9</sup> In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. <sup>10</sup> And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. <sup>11</sup> And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved;<sup>[a]</sup> with you I am well pleased."

<sup>12</sup> And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. <sup>13</sup> He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him.

<sup>14</sup> Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news<sup>[b]</sup> of God,<sup>[c]</sup> <sup>15</sup> and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near;<sup>[d]</sup> repent, and believe in the good news."<sup>[e]</sup>

## Sermon

"Don't Tempt Me!" Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

## Hymn

*"Beneath the Cross of Jesus" (St. Christopher)*  
(see next page)

## Benediction

## Choral Response

## Postlude

*"Deo Gratias"* (Gordon Young)

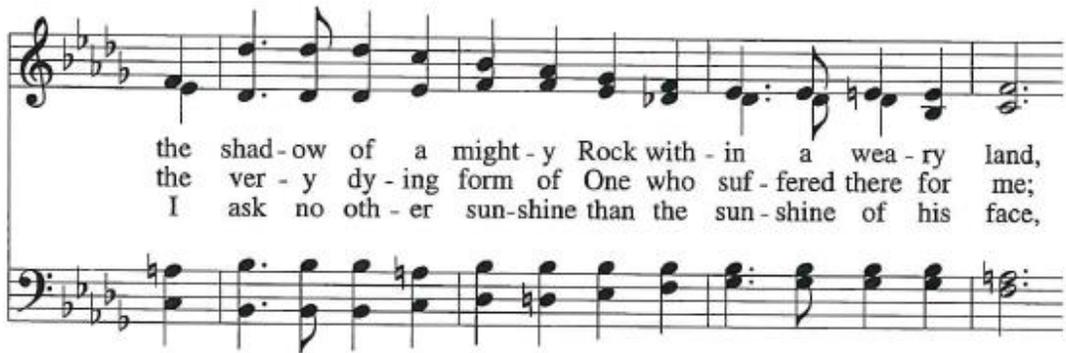
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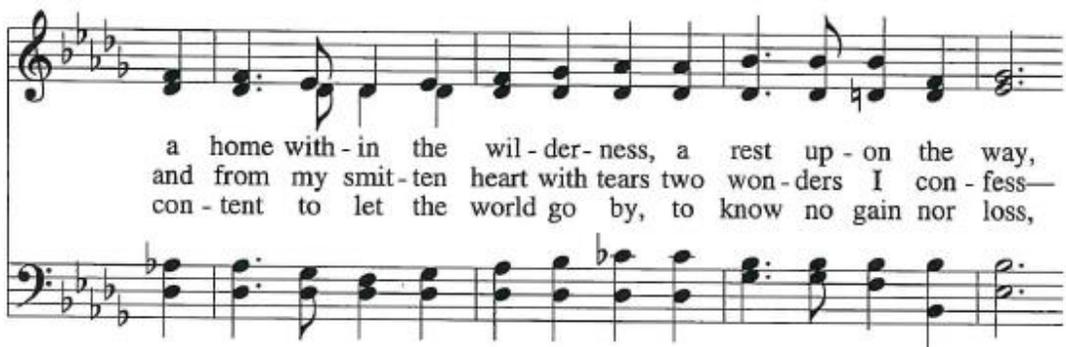
## Beneath the Cross of Jesus



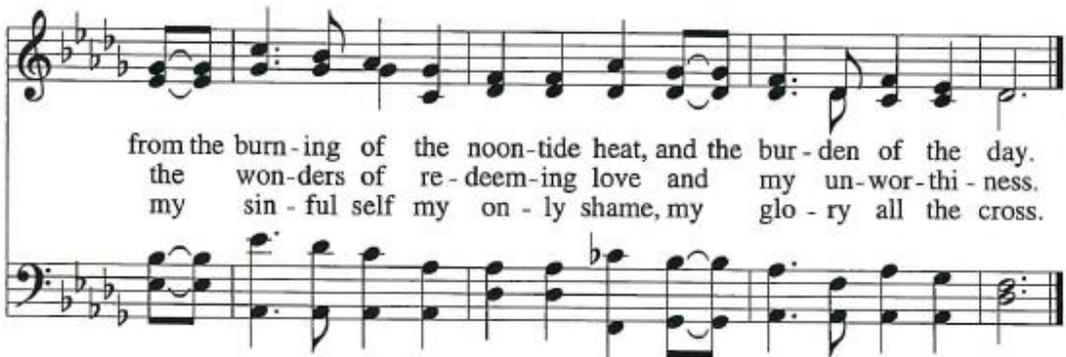
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I glad - ly take my stand—  
2 Up - on that cross of Je - sus my eye at times can see  
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y Rock with - in a wea - ry land,  
the ver - y dy - ing form of One who suf - fered there for me;  
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face,



a home with - in the wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,  
and from my smit - ten heart with tears two won - ders I con - fess—  
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat, and the bur - den of the day.  
the won - ders of re - deem - ing love and my un - wor - thi - ness.  
my sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all the cross.

**Today's Worship Leaders:**

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Diana Stamm

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting with filming and to Dobin Park for film editing.

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