



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

*Second Sunday in Lent*  
February 28, 2021

## ***Thought for the Day before Worship***

*“Paid in Full”*

*We love to see those three words, particularly at the end of a long string of payments on a mortgage or a car loan. Paid in full. Jesus paid in full on the cross. Now he asks us not to pay back, but to offer ourselves to others, even as Jesus offered himself for us all.*

### **Welcome**

### **Prelude**

*“He Leadeth Me! O Blessed Thought” (Mark Hayes)  
(Dobin Park ~ Piano)*

### **Introit**

### **Tower Bell**

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

*based on Psalm 22:23-31, RSV*

L: You who fear the Lord, praise him! All sons of Jacob glorify him,  
and stand in awe of him, all you sons of Israel!

**M: For he has not despised or abhorred the affliction of the afflicted:  
and he had not hid his face from him, but has heard, when he cried to  
him.**

L: From thee comes my praise in the great congregation: my vows I will pay  
before those who fear him.

**M: The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him shall praise the  
Lord! May your hearts live forever!**

L: All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord;  
and all the families of the nations shall worship before him.

**M: For dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations.**

L: Yea, to him shall all the proud of the earth bow down: before him shall bow  
all who go down to the dust and even he who cannot keep himself alive.

**M: Posterity shall serve him; men shall tell of the Lord to the coming generations, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, that he has wrought it.**

L: Let us Worship our God!!

**\*Litany Prayer of Invocation (done responsively)**

L: Almighty and exalted Lord God, whose majesty exceeds our dreams, and whose mercy is of far greater depth than our imaginings; we have longed to see your glory, and to know you face to face.

**M: Help us to accept your wisdom: that we are to live by faith and trust, until the day you make all things new.**

L: All knowing and all-seeing Lord, whose understanding is complete, and whose wisdom is perfect; we have longed to know the way and wherefore of our lives, of your creation, and of yourself.

**M: Help us to be content with your will: That we are to strive to discover; reason, and plan, and try; and ever grow in our limited knowledge, until we see you face to face.**

L: Universal and ever-present God; unlimited by physical body, time, or space; we have longed to extend the time of our days, and to be in several places at one time, and to do more than we are capable of doing.

**M: Help and challenge us to find meaning: In living out our own appointed time, living wisely; in being who we are, living responsibly; and in doing what we are able to do, living creatively.**

L: Gracious and good Father, who is love; we have longed to end all problems and make a perfect existence.

**M: Help us to see your help; In bringing heaven into our earthly existence as we love one another, and overcome evil with good; that with you working through us, we may gain a glimpse now of your perfect kingdom to come.**

L: Glory be to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

**M: Amen and 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 Lesson**

From the Law of the Old Testament: Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

**17** When Abram was ninety-nine years old, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said to him, "I am God Almighty;<sup>[a]</sup> walk before me, and be blameless. **2** And I will make my covenant between me and you, and will make you exceedingly numerous." **3** Then Abram fell on his face; and God said to him, **4** "As for me, this is my covenant with you: You shall be the ancestor of a multitude of nations. **5** No longer shall your name be Abram,<sup>[b]</sup> but your name shall be Abraham;<sup>[c]</sup> for I have made you the ancestor of a multitude of nations. **6** I will make you exceedingly fruitful; and I will make nations of you, and kings shall come from you. **7** I will establish my covenant between me and you, and your offspring after you throughout their generations, for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your offspring<sup>[d]</sup> after you.

**15** God said to Abraham, "As for Sarai your wife, you shall not call her Sarai, but Sarah shall be her name. **16** I will bless her, and moreover I will give you a son by her. I will bless her, and she shall give rise to nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

## **Anthem**

*"Come into God's Embrace"*

*(Mary McDonald)*

The table of love, prepared for you; come to the feast of grace.  
Come, eat the bread; come, drink the wine; come into God's embrace.

Lamb of God, Lamb of love, You took away our sin.

Here we remember Your sacrifice, God's plan for all: forgive!

His body, His blood are given for you; come to the feast of grace.

Come, taste the bread; come, taste the wine; come into God's embrace.

## Scripture Lesson

From the Letters of Paul: Romans 4:13-25

<sup>13</sup> For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. <sup>14</sup> If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. <sup>15</sup> For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

<sup>16</sup> For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, <sup>17</sup> as it is written, "I have made you the father of many nations")—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist. <sup>18</sup> Hoping against hope, he believed that he would become "the father of many nations," according to what was said, "So numerous shall your descendants be." <sup>19</sup> He did not weaken in faith when he considered his own body, which was already<sup>[a]</sup> as good as dead (for he was about a hundred years old), or when he considered the barrenness of Sarah's womb. <sup>20</sup> No distrust made him waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, <sup>21</sup> being fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. <sup>22</sup> Therefore his faith<sup>[b]</sup> "was reckoned to him as righteousness." <sup>23</sup> Now the words, "it was reckoned to him," were written not for his sake alone, <sup>24</sup> but for ours also. It will be reckoned to us who believe in him who raised Jesus our Lord from the dead, <sup>25</sup> who was handed over to death for our trespasses and was raised for our justification.

## 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

God has given us the gift of life and surrounded us with abundant resources. Again and again, we have been blessed beyond our deserving. God has bridged the gap between Creator and creatures in Jesus Christ, overcoming our unfaithfulness, overpowering death, and heralding the reign of love. Will we express our thanks in token offerings or in an outpouring of our best?

## Offertory

*“As Long As I Have Breath”*

*(Sue Farrar)*

As long as I have breath, I will praise You, Lord.  
As long as I have life, let my soul rejoice.  
In times of sore distress; in times of loneliness;

As long as I have breath, I will bless You, Lord.  
As long as life is mine, I will sing your song.  
Your joy brings forth my praise; Your peace fills all my days,

Let me know Your loving kindness every day,  
As you walk beside me pointing out the way.  
As long as I have being, I will trust in You;  
You are my God; I lift my soul to You.

As long as I have breath, I will serve You, Lord.  
As long as life is mine, I'll exalt Your word.  
And when this life shall pass, And I'm at home at last;  
Thru all eternity, I will praise You, Lord.

## Scripture Lesson

From the Gospels: Mark 8:31-38

<sup>31</sup> Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. <sup>32</sup> He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. <sup>33</sup> But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”



# Hymn

## My Jesus, I Love Thee

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1 My Je - sus, I love thee, I know thou art mine,  
2 I love thee be - cause thou hast first lov - ed me,  
3 In man - sions of glo - ry and end - less de - light,

for thee all the fol - lies of sin I re - sign;  
and pur - chased my par - don on Cal - va - ry's tree;  
I'll ev - er a - dore thee in heav - en so bright;

my gra - cious Re - deem - er, my Sav - ior art thou;  
I love thee for wear - ing the thorns on thy brow;  
I'll sing with the glit - ter - ing crown on my brow;

if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.  
if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.  
if ev - er I loved thee, my Je - sus, 'tis now.

WORDS: William R. Featherstone (1846-1873)  
MUSIC: Adoniram J. Gordon (1836-1895)

GORDON  
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