

February 26, 2023

First Sunday in Lent

Isaiah of Babylon – *And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”*
Isaiah 6:7

Prelude – Jill Rimington

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Installation of Congregational Council Members

Meri Arnold; Mary Sipka; Mary Sorenson; Leo Stiles; Mark McCarrell (president); Tim Leitner (vice president); Valerie Gettys (secretary); Sharon Eggemeyer (treasurer)***non council member

Sharing of the Peace

P: Transformed by grace, we live to share peace.
Peace be with you.

C: And also with you.

Gathering Hymn – “Christ, the Life of All the Living” ELW #339

<https://youtu.be/CedUaCR4xS8>

by MLC Chorale

Call to Worship

A: Blessed is the one whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: Blessed is the person against whom the Lord counts no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

A: For when I kept silent, my bones wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

A: I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not cover my iniquity;

C: I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord," and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.

Invocation and Confession

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son + and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: As we come together to worship in the presence of God, we confess our sins and seek God's grace and mercy. Isaiah was given a vision of God enthroned in the temple and the prophet was frightened by what he saw. He knew that he was a sinner in the presence of the holy God of Israel.

C: Almighty God, we know that we are sinners. We do not obey your holy law. We follow our sinful desires and listen to the temptations of the world around us. We have sinned against you in our thoughts, words and actions. Have mercy on us and forgive our sins.

P: An angel touched the prophet's lips with a coal from the altar of sacrifice and said, "Your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for." As God showed grace to the prophet, he has shown his grace to us through Jesus' atoning death. I announce to you that your sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

C: We too are forgiven and sent out to serve and to witness in Jesus' name. Here I am! Send me!

"Amazing Grace" ELW #779 vss. 1&2

<https://youtu.be/CaY5FjpLxLA>

by BYU Noteworthy

Kyrie

P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen and Amen.

Lenten Hymn – “Love Divine, All Loves Excelling” ELW #631 Vss. 1&2

<https://youtu.be/GenHMi5B7L4>

by First Plymouth Church, Lincoln Neb.

Prayer of the Day

A: Almighty God, your amazing grace was displayed in the life of the prophet Isaiah. His guilt was taken away and his sins forgiven. You have, in grace, forgiven us through the atoning sacrifice of Jesus our Lord.

C: You have called us to live in love and service toward others. As we go about our daily lives, help us by your Spirit to share with others the love of Jesus and the promise of salvation through faith in his name. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in the name of Jesus our Lord. Amen.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Isaiah 6:1-8

Your guilt is taken away

6 In the year that King Uzziah died, I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of His *robe* filled the temple. **2** Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one cried to another and said: “Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; The whole earth *is* full of His glory!”**4** And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke.**5** So I said: “Woe *is* me, for I am ^[a]undone! Because I *am* a man of unclean lips, And I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; For my eyes have seen the King, The LORD of hosts.”**6** Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar. **7** And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; Your iniquity is taken away, And your sin ^[b]purged.”**8** Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: “Whom shall I send, And who will go for Us? “Then I said, “Here *am* I! Send me.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 32

Mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord

1 Blessed *is he* whose transgression *is* forgiven, *Whose* sin *is* covered.

2 **Blessed *is* the man to whom the LORD does not ^[b]impute iniquity,
And in whose spirit *there is* no deceit.**

3 When I kept silent, my bones grew old Through my groaning all the day long.

4 **For day and night Your hand was heavy upon me; My vitality was turned into the drought of summer.**

⁵ I acknowledged my sin to You, and my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the LORD, “And You forgave the iniquity of my sin.

⁶ For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You In a time when You may be found; Surely in a flood of great waters They shall not come near him.

⁷ You *are* my hiding place; You shall preserve me from trouble; You shall surround me with songs of deliverance.

⁸ I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will guide you with My eye.

⁹ Do not be like the horse *or* like the mule, *Which* have no understanding, Which must be harnessed with bit and bridle, Else they will not come near you.

¹⁰ Many sorrows *shall be* to the wicked; But he who trusts in the LORD, mercy shall surround him.

¹¹ Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you righteous; And shout for joy, all *you* upright in heart!

Epistle reading – Romans 10:14-17

How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news

¹⁴ How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? ¹⁵ And how shall they preach unless they are sent? As it is written: “How beautiful are the feet of those who ^[a]preach the gospel of peace, Who bring glad tidings of good things!” ¹⁶ But they have not all obeyed the gospel. For Isaiah says, “LORD, who has believed our report?” ¹⁷ So then faith *comes* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Holy Gospel – Matthew 9:35-38
<https://youtu.be/vIUJS-ydEPQ>

The harvest is plentiful but the laborers are few

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew. **Glory to you O Lord.**

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the gospel of the kingdom, and healing every sickness and every disease ^[a]among the people. ³⁶ But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them, because they were ^[b]wearied and scattered, like sheep having no shepherd. ³⁷ Then He said to His disciples, “The harvest truly *is* plentiful, but the laborers *are* few. ³⁸ Therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

Children of God Time
<https://youtu.be/JBulOdxEnQU>

Homily – “Changing Grace”
<https://youtu.be/rGUz-TwahLs>

Hymn of the Day – “Beneath the Cross of Jesus” ELW #338

<https://youtu.be/g82KP4XXRRE>

by Grace Church

Apostles’ 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.

Prayers of Intercession

P: Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

A: You alone are God. Sustain your church in times of wilderness. Give vision and wisdom to bishops, their staff, and all entrusted with the ministry of administration (*especially*). Counsel all who faithfully lead your people into the future. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You create verdant gardens and expansive deserts. Tend to the needs of every living creature. Bless those who work in fields and orchards (*local sources of food and food distributors may be named*), that the world is nourished by the fruits of their labor. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You know our temptations. Sustain those who govern and legislate. Instill in them a sense of your justice and righteousness, that equity and peace would pervade all the regions and nations of the world. Merciful God,
C: receive our prayer.

A: You are a hiding place for all in distress. Draw near to exiles, and accompany all refugees and immigrants, especially children who travel alone. In times of trouble, trauma, or illness, surround your people with your steadfast love (*especially*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

A: You offer abundance to all. Bless the ministries of hospitality in this place. Care for those who tend to the needs of others, especially worship greeters, coffee hour hosts, and nursery attendants (*other ministries of care and hospitality may be named*). Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

A: You alone are God. We praise you for the faithful departed in every age. Unite our prayers with theirs, until our wilderness journey is complete, and we rest in you. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

Offertory Music – “O Lord, throughout These Forty Days” ELW #319

(Offering plates are brought forward)

Offertory Prayer

A: During this season of almsgiving, O Lord, open not only our pocketbooks -

C: but open our hearts to your presence -

A: open our arms to the needy -

C: open our lives to your service.

A: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Preface

P: Reveal yourself to us in the breaking of the bread. Raise us up as the body of Christ for the world. Breathe new life into us. Send us forth, burning with justice, peace, and love.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

Consecration

The 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.

Distribution

Communion Music

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

A: Lord Jesus Christ, at this table we meet you –

C: in body broken, in blood outpoured.

A: Nourish us with this holy food,

C: for by it we are made more than conquerors.

A: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction

P: God, the giver of love. +Christ, the resurrection and the life, and the Holy Spirit of rebirth bless you in this Lenten journey.

C: Amen.

Sending Hymn – “Here I Am, Lord” ELW #574

<https://youtu.be/Z4ATBa17ycY>

by Dan Schutte

Dismissal

A: Amazing Grace How Sweet the Sound!

C: I once was lost but now I am found; was blind, but now I see.

A: Go in peace serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude – Jill Rimmington