

Second Sunday of Lent – February 25, 2024

“Guided to the Cross – Guided To Love”

Theme verse: *I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus. 1 Timothy 1:13-14*

Prelude - Lillian Pinkston

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer Concerns

Sharing of the Peace

P: Reaching out in love we share Christ's peace.

C: The love of Christ be with you all.

Invocation and Call to Worship

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

C: Amen.

L: As the hour of his death drew near, Jesus said, “Now is my soul troubled. And what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? But for this purpose I have come to this hour” (John 12:27)

Throughout his earthly ministry, the cross stood before Jesus. It was his purpose in coming to the earth. Guided by love and in obedience to his Father's will, Jesus came to lay down his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world.

C: The cross of Jesus guides us in the way of sacrifice.

L: On the night before he died, Jesus told his disciples, “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.” (John 13:34)

C: The cross of Jesus guides us in the way of love. Amen.

Opening Hymn – “God Loved the World” ELW #323 vss. 1-4

https://youtu.be/-QhO_xyHHDQ

by SHLC

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Let us confess our sins to God and ask his forgiveness.

A time of silence for reflection

Almighty God, you have called us to walk in love as Jesus did.

C: Yet we often turn away from showing love to others and choose to walk in our own selfish ways. We listen to the temptations of the world around us instead of following your Word. We fail to share with others the blessings that you have given to us. Have mercy on us, and forgive our sins. Lead us to share your love with others.

P: God has had mercy on us. This is how he loved the world – he sent his Son to be the Savior. Jesus, the Lamb of God, suffered and died on the cross to take away the sins of the world. He suffered and died to take away your sins. By the gift in Christ Jesus, your sins are forgiven.

C: Amen.

Hymn of response – “Restore in Us O God” ELW #328

<https://youtu.be/xXT-yVRNcJ8>

by Resurrection Lutheran

Prayer of the Day

L: Almighty God, in your love for the world you sent your Son to be our Savior. The Lord Jesus came to give his life for us, to suffer and die on the cross for us.

C: By your grace, through faith in Jesus, we have forgiveness for our sins and the gift of eternal life. As we follow our Lord through this season of Lent, help us to walk in love as he did and to forgive others as we have been forgiven.

L: Let the cross of our Lord always go before us to guide us in the way of love. Hear our prayer and accept our praise in Jesus' name.

C: Amen.

Preparing for the Word

L: The God whom we worship calls us to discipleship:

C: To follow where Christ leads;

L: and obey what Christ commands;

C: To follow when it is not easy;

L: To follow when others think us foolish;

C: To follow where justice leads;

L: To follow where love guides us;

C: To follow even when it leads to the cross.

The Word

Old Testament reading – Isaiah 63:7-8

I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord.

I will recount the steadfast love of the Lord, the praises of the Lord, according to all that the Lord has granted us, and the great goodness to the house of Israel that he has granted them according to his compassion, according to the abundance of his steadfast love. For he said, “Surely they are my people, children who will not deal falsely.” And he became their Savior.

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

Epistle reading – 1 Timothy 1:12-14

The grace of our Lord overflowed for me with faith and love.

I thank him who has given me strength, Christ Jesus our Lord, because he judged me faithful, appointing me to his service, though formerly I was a blasphemer, persecutor, and insolent opponent. But I received mercy because I had acted ignorantly in unbelief, and the grace of our Lord overflowed for me with the faith and love that are in Christ Jesus.

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

Holy Gospel – John 19:25-27

<https://youtu.be/O8mMbxDnvgg?si=Q2oNX7OWBIJFBg8x>

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

The love of family.

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, “Woman, behold, your son!” Then he said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

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

Children of God Time

https://youtu.be/KHELavLqyrI?si=tdFFEvjikOMJd1_K

Message – “Guided by Love”

<https://youtu.be/DjgV8czP4fl?si=n5VgXMuRclOCgY37>

Hymn of the Day – “Chief of Sinners Though I Be” ELW #609

<https://youtu.be/xzbTc8A7sRI>

by Koine

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: Heavenly Father, you loved the world in this way—you sent your Son as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the world. Throughout his earthly ministry, Jesus was guided by the cross that was set before him. During this season of Lent, lead us in true repentance. Father of our Lord,

C: Set Jesus’ cross before us to guide us in the way of love.

L: Heavenly Father, in obedience to your will and out of love for us, Jesus laid

down his life for us. He bore our sins in his body on the tree of the cross, suffering the penalty of death that we deserve for our sins. Help us by your Spirit to look to Jesus alone for salvation. Father of our Lord,

C: Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love.

L: Heavenly Father, there are people among us who must bear the heavy cross of suffering, grief or pain. We especially ask your mercy for *[mention known names of those who are sick or injured or grieving the loss of a loved one]* and for all of those we name in our hearts. We pray that, according to your will, you would bring them help and healing. Lead us to serve them in love, and bring to them the comfort and hope found in the promises of your Word. Father of our Lord,

C: Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love.

L: Heavenly Father, send your Spirit to guide us and lead us to walk in love as Jesus walked. Help us to put the needs of others ahead of our own interests. Guide us in the study of your holy Word so that we are prepared to defend the hope that we have in Jesus. Lead us to serve as his witnesses in the world so that, through the power of the Holy Spirit, others will come to know and worship Jesus as Lord. Father of our Lord,

C: Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love.

P: Heavenly Father, your unfailing steadfast love, your covenant love, never fails. It is the love that sent Jesus to be our Savior, to suffer, die and rise for us. It is the love that guides us now through this earthly life until we live forever in your presence. Lead us to reflect your love in the world so that others will see our good works and glorify you. Father of our Lord,

C: Set Jesus' cross before us to guide us in the way of love.

Amen.

Offering/Offertory Music – “Take My Life, That I May Be” ELW #685 VS 1&2

Offertory Prayer

L: Heavenly Father, you have given us life in love.

C: What can we give in return?

L: We return them to you.

C: Accept the gifts of love and life we give.

L: Through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

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 Let us give thanks to the Lord or God.

C: 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 – Lillian Pinkston

Post Communion Blessing – Pastor

Post Communion Prayer

L: Lord Jesus Christ, you shouldered the cross...

C: ...our cross...

L: ...and offered yourself, a living sacrifice in our place. Lead us, O Christ.

C: We shoulder our crosses. We follow.

L: You are the Lord forevermore.

C: Amen.

Benediction from Numbers 6

Sending Hymn – “Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us with Your Love” ELW #708

<https://youtu.be/UvQz513JI8M>

by First-Plymouth Church Lincoln Neb.

Dismissal

L: In Christ’s love let us go to serve one another.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude – Lillian Pinkston