



LENT 2020
IN SEVEN WORDS

MARCH 29, 2020 | FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*“Angels don’t discuss theology, they sing praises to God.”
- St. Chrysostom (paraphrased)*

VOLUNTARY

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CALL TO WORSHIP *(from Psalm 130)*

“My soul waits upon the Lord, more than they that watch for morning.

“More eagerly than they that watch for the morning, does my soul wait for the Lord.

“I wait for the Lord, my soul does wait, and his Word is my hope.

“Let Israel hope in the Lord. For with the Lord there is mercy, and with the Lord there is plenteous redemption.”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Watchmen on the city’s walls watch the horizon for the rising sun. As night is chased away by sunrise, so are their fears dispelled. The walls of our souls are more easily breached than any fortification. We are aware of our vulnerability, and we know how fragile we are. Our minds float upon the wind, and our bodies are as frail as dust. We trust you, O God, in a place and at a time when we know there is no one sure but you. For if the city is not under the protection of the Lord, the watchmen watch in vain. But they who trust in the Lord will never be ashamed. Amen.

CALL TO CONFESSION *(from Psalm 130)*

“If thou, O Lord, should mark our iniquities, who could stand? But there is forgiveness with thee, that thou should be revered.”

In the confidence that God’s forgiveness erases all our sins and sets us free to live as his children, let us confess our sin together.

CONFESSION OF SIN

Merciful God, in these Lenten days, we have stepped, but tentatively, into the wilderness in which Jesus was tested. From a distance, we have observed his resistance to temptations of power, selfishness, and safety. But we have succumbed to all three. We stand in wonder at his dependence upon you. He does not fall into the trap of pride, but boasts only in your power. In light of his life, we see that our failures are rooted in our unwillingness to admit our absolute need for you. Share with us, we pray, that Holy Spirit that animated Christ; create within us hearts ready to yield to you. Amen.

SILENT REFLECTION

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

That which we cannot do for ourselves, God has fully accomplished in and through Jesus Christ. In him and through him, by the power of the Holy Spirit, God has completed all parts of our salvation. Trust in God alone, for he is your strength and redemption. You are forgiven. Amen.

HYMN 97

“Watchman, Tell Us of the Night”

ABERYSTWYTH

(1) Watchman, tell us of the night,
What its sign of promise are.
Traveler o’er yon mountain’s height,
See that glory, beaming star.
Watchman, does its beauteous ray
Aught of joy or hope foretell?
Traveler, yes; it brings the day,
Promised day of Israel.

(2) Watchman, tell us of the night,
Higher yet that star ascends,
Traveler, blessedness and light,
Peace and truth its course portends.
Watchman, will its beams alone
Gild the spot that gave them birth?
Traveler, ages are its own;
See it bursts o’er all the earth.

(3) Watchman, tell us of the night,
For the morning seems to dawn.
Traveler, darkness takes its flight,
Doubt and terror are withdrawn.
Watchman, let your wanderings cease;
Hasten to your quiet home.
Traveler, lo, the Prince of Peace,
Lo, the Son of God is come!

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

We thirst for your Word, O God, as a deer pants for fresh waters. We come to your Word, eager to be refreshed, enlivened, strengthened. Fill us, we pray, with that living water, the sweetness of which no earthly water can compare, the efficacy with which no earthly water can compete. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Ezekiel 37:1-14

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

Gillian Egan

NEW TESTAMENT LESSON

St. Luke 23:44-46

SERMON

"Into Your Hands"

Michael Jinkins

GLORIA PATRI

"Glory Be to the Father"

GLORIA PATRI

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, it is now and every shall be. World without end! Amen.

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

INVITATION TO DISCIPLESHIP

PASTORAL PRAYER AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, let our minds be set on the Spirit so that we might know peace. Set our minds on the Spirit so that we might be fully present to the enfleshed needs within and around us. Set our minds on the Spirit so that we might remember all that Jesus taught us. Set our minds on the Spirit so that we might be given the right words to say in this trying time on earth.

Lord, hear us when we send word to you that our brothers and our sisters are ill. Come quickly to bring comfort and healing and, yes Lord resurrection. Lord, do not delay because we know if you are here we can endure. We believe you are the Messiah, the one who brings life abundant and grants life eternal. Do not delay, but hurry and bring your glory, full of grace and truth.

Lord, we are bold to call out to you for the sake of God's beloved world. We lift up to you and ask mercy for those who do not think they can endure another moment of grief or loss or pain. We cry out for divine discernment for our leaders seeking to stem the scourge of this pandemic. We run to you, Lord, and fall at your feet on behalf of those too sick or too weak or too afraid to cry out for themselves.

Lord, we hear you weeping with us. We know you, too, love those we love. We thank you for hearing our pleas for help and coming to our aid. We are grateful for your compassion and your care, for the gift of family and community, for the beauty of nature and the glimpses of Easter even deep in the season of Lent. Call us forth from the tombs in which we've too long been trapped, unbind us and set us free so that others will see and come to believe. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ, the one who taught us to say when we pray,

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 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.

THE OFFERING Please [click here](#) for instructions on how to submit a pledge payment or other donation.

Offertory Anthem

SCAPC Chancel Choir

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow. Praise him all creatures here below. Praise him above ye heavenly host. Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost Amen.

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

HYMN 816

"If Thou but Trust in God to Guide Thee"

WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT

(1) If thou but trust in God to guide thee,
with hopeful heart through all thy ways,
God will give strength, whate'er betide thee,
To bear thee through the evil days.
Who trusts in God's unchanging love
builds on the rock that nought can move.

(2) Only be still, and wait God's leisure
In cheerful hope, with heart content
to take whate'er thy Keeper's pleasure,
And all-discerning love hath sent;
No doubt our inmost wants are clear,
To One who holds us always dear.

(3) Sing, pray, and swerve not from God's ways;
But do thine own part faithfully:
Trust the rich promises of grace,
So shall they be fulfilled in thee.
God never yet forsook at need
The soul secured by trust indeed.

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

VOLUNTARY