

## Ante Communion Service --- Lent 4B --- March 14, 2021

Hymn

The Church's One Foundation

Martin Luther College - New Ulm

*1 The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;  
She is His new creation by water and the Word.  
From heav'n He came and sought her, to be His holy bride;  
With His own blood He bought her, and for her life He died.*

*2 Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth,  
Her charter of salvation, one Lord, one faith, one birth.  
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,  
And to one hope she presses, with ev'ry grace endued.*

*3 The Church shall never perish! Her dear Lord, to defend,  
to guide, sustain, and cherish, is with her to the end.  
Though there be those that hate her, false sons within her pale,  
Against both foe and traitor, she ever shall prevail.*

*4 Though with a scornful wonder, men see her sore oppressed,  
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,  
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up, "How long?"  
And soon the night of weeping, shall be the morn of song.*

*5 Mid toil and tribulation and tumult of her war  
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore,  
Till with the vision glorious, her longing eyes are blest  
And the great Church victorious, shall be the Church at rest.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who forgives all our sin, and whose mercy endures forever. **Amen.**

God of mercy and consolation, come to the help of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that we may confess our sin, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

**Gracious God, have mercy on us. We confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry, and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your name. Amen.**

God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

**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 our holy house, and for all who offer their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mercy.**

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

**Amen.**

**Kyrie:** *Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy.*

*St. Patrick's Cathedral*

*Christ have mercy, Christ have mercy.*

*Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, Lord have mercy, have mercy.*

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **First Reading**

### **Numbers 21:4-9**

From Mount Hor the Israelites set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22**

### *Confitemini Domino*

1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*

**and his mercy endures for ever.**

2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim \*

**that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**

3 He gathered them out of the lands; \*

**from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \*

**they were afflicted because of their sins.**

18 They abhorred all manner of food \*

**and drew near to death's door.**

19 Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, \*

**and he delivered them from their distress.**

20 He sent forth his word and healed them \*

**and saved them from the grave.**

21 Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy \*

**and the wonders he does for his children.**

22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*

**and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

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

**Second Reading**

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ-- by grace you have been saved-- and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God-- not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel**

**John 3:14-21**

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John.

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

**Hymn**

**Come, thou fount of every blessing**

*Trinity Epis Cath Schola Little Rock*

*1 Come, thou fount of every blessing, tune my heart to sing thy grace!  
Streams of mercy never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise.  
Teach me some melodious sonnet, sung by flaming tongues above.  
Praise the mount! O fix me on it, mount of God's unchanging love.*

*2 Here I find my greatest treasure; hither by thy help, I've come;  
and I hope, by thy good pleasure, safely to arrive at home.  
Jesus sought me when a stranger, wandering from the fold of God;  
he, to rescue me from danger, interposed his precious blood.*

*3 Oh, to grace how great a debtor, daily I'm constrained to be!  
Let thy goodness, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to thee;  
prone to wander, Lord, I feel it, prone to leave the God I love;  
here's my heart, oh, take and seal it, seal it for thy courts above.*

**Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.**

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.**

**He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again 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.**

*Celebrant* With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church,  
those in need, and all of God's creation. In peace, we pray to you, Lord God.

*Silence*

For this community, the nation, and the world; **For all who work for justice, freedom, and peace.**

For the peace and unity of the world; **That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.**

For the just and proper use of your creation; **For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For all bishops and other ministers; **For all who serve God in his Church.**

For all who love and trust in God, that divisions may cease;  
**And that all may be one, as you and the Father are one.**

For all who are in danger, sorrow, or any kind of trouble;  
**For those who minister to the sick, the friendless, and the needy.**

For wisdom in this time of pandemic; **That our actions may protect the health of ourselves and others.**

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

*Silence. The People may add their own petitions.*

Hear us, Lord; **For your mercy is great.**

We thank you, Lord, for all the blessings of this life. *Silence.*

We will exalt you, O God our King; **And praise your Name for ever and ever.**

We pray for all who have died, that they may have a place in your eternal kingdom.

*Silence.* Lord, let your loving kindness be upon them.

**May they be filled with your peace.**

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we pray together:

**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, for ever and ever. Amen.**

We pray together for Christ's presence:

**My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the bread and wine.  
I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, come spiritually into my heart.  
I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you.  
Amen.**

*Celebrant:* While we long to receive the sacrament of Christ's Body,

*People:* **We become the sacrament of Christ's Body.**

*Celebrant:* Let your lives be manna to feed our hunger for communion.

*People:* **The love we share becomes bread for the world.**

### **Blessing**

Grant, Almighty God, that your people may recognize their weakness and put their whole trust in your strength, so that they may rejoice for ever in the protection of your loving providence; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Closing Hymn**

#### **Great is Thy Faithfulness**

*Acapeldridge*

*1 Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father. There is no shadow of turning with thee.  
Thou changest not, thy compassions, they fail not. As thou hast been thou forever wilt be.*

*Refrain: Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness! Morning by morning new mercies I see.  
All I have needed thy hand hath provided. Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

*2 Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest, sun, moon, and stars in their courses above,  
join with all nature in manifold witness to thy great faithfulness, mercy, and love. [Refrain]*

*3 Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth, thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide,  
strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow; blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]*

### **Dismissal**

*The Lord Bless You and Keep You*

*Acapeldridge*