

## Antecommunion Service: March 17, 2024 Lent 5B

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **Amen.**

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us open our hearts and minds to the truth of our lives, and let us offer that truth to God.  
*A moment of silence for self-reflection and confession.*

**Gracious God, source of all life, Lord of mercy and grace, hear our prayer.  
You call us to a reconciled life, to a wholeness with each other, with you, and with your creation.  
We come before you in love and trust, seeking healing of all that keeps us distant from you.  
We pray that you will guide us in the footsteps of Christ, strengthen us, heal us,  
and that you will heal our world, so that we will be freed to serve and love and dream and be,  
as Christ calls us. Amen.**

Sisters and brothers in Christ, let us proclaim the Good News: In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven, reconciled, loved, and healed. **Amen.**

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

**Kyrie:** *said together 3 times*      **Lord have mercy, Christ have mercy, Lord have mercy.**

Let us pray together: **Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

**First Reading**                      **Jeremiah 31:31-34**

The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, “Know the Lord,” for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 51:1-13**

*Miserere mei, Deus*

1 Have mercy on me, O God, according to your loving-kindness; \*

**in your great compassion blot out my offenses.**

2 Wash me through and through from my wickedness \*

**and cleanse me from my sin.**

3 For I know my transgressions, \*

**and my sin is ever before me.**

4 Against you only have I sinned \*

**and done what is evil in your sight.**

5 And so you are justified when you speak \*

**and upright in your judgment.**

6 Indeed, I have been wicked from my birth, \*

**a sinner from my mother's womb.**

7 For behold, you look for truth deep within me, \*

**and will make me understand wisdom secretly.**

8 Purge me from my sin, and I shall be pure; \*

**wash me, and I shall be clean indeed.**

9 Make me hear of joy and gladness, \*

**that the body you have broken may rejoice.**

10 Hide your face from my sins \*

**and blot out all my iniquities.**

11 Create in me a clean heart, O God, \*

**and renew a right spirit within me.**

12 Cast me not away from your presence \*

**and take not your holy Spirit from me.**

13 Give me the joy of your saving help again \*

**and sustain me with your bountiful Spirit.**

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**

**Hebrews 5:5-10**

Christ did not glorify himself in becoming a high priest, but was appointed by the one who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you";

as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek."

In the days of his flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications, with loud cries and tears, to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverent submission. Although he was a Son, he learned obedience through what he suffered; and having been made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him, having been designated by God a high priest according to the order of Melchizedek.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel**

**John 12:20-33**

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

**Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**Sermon**

**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.**

**Prayers of the People**

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.

For this community, the nation, and the world;

**For the victims of hunger, fear, injustice, and oppression.**

For the peace and unity of the world;

**That a spirit of respect may grow among nations and peoples.**

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 the just and proper use of your creation;

**That we may treat your creation with the love of the Creator.**

We honor and pray for our Indigenous neighbors.

**That we may dwell together in respectful harmony.**

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 the special needs and concerns of this congregation. *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 rest in your peace eternally.**

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 sin, as we forgive those who sin 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**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with love and give you peace. Amen.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Thanks be to God.**