

March 13, 2022 – 2nd Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Ringing of the Bell

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 277 - Set to the tune Nicea, “Holy, Holy, Holy” celebrates the Trinity and was written by Reginald Heber in 1826.

Welcome and Announcements

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Put away your hesitation to come before God; quiet your fears and anxieties, for God welcomes us.

Congregation: God is our light and our salvation; whom shall we fear?

Liturgist: Look to the heavens for inspiration and assurance; look around you, for God’s presence is everywhere.

Congregation: God is the stronghold of our lives; of whom shall we be afraid?

Liturgist: Let us watch and wait with our Creator; let us trust in the one who gives life and hope.

Congregation: Teach us your ways, O God, and lead us on a level path.

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH - 184 - This hymn is linked to both Lent and the Transfiguration. “O Wondrous Sight, O Vision Fair” was written in the 15th Century.

Confession of Sin

God of all people, we confess that we would like to claim your majesty and power for our exclusive benefit. We relish the good things of life and are reluctant to share with those who seem less deserving. We resist the prophets who point out our greed, even when we feel we are being generous. We resent persons in positions of authority over us who seem not to have our best interests at heart. O God, how can we receive your mercy when we are so reluctant to pass it on? Help us to center our lives in your love more than on our own desires. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri

Old Testament Lesson – Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 – God enters into covenant with Abram, who is concerned that a slave born in his household will become his heir. God takes him outside and points up to the night sky and said that Abram would have as many descendants as there were stars in the sky.

Hymn of Praise (Recorded) “Shchedryk” (the original “Carol of the Bells”) with lyrics translated from Ukrainian into English, as well as with original lyrics in Ukrainian.

Children’s Sermon

Epistle Lesson – Philippians 3:17-4:1 – Paul implores the Philippians to stand firm in their Christian faith by imitating him and observing the example of other Christians. People not aligned with God live only for today but Christians live for the promise of eternal life.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory - "What Would Jesus Do?"

Gospel Lesson – Luke 13:31-35 – The Pharisees tell Jesus to get away from Jerusalem before King Herod kills him, but he was not intimidated and said he had important ministry to do. This dialogue foreshadows the Holy Week drama.

Sermon

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 212 - Our closing hymn connects to both the 2nd Sunday of Lent and today's Gospel. Jesus refused to listen to the Pharisees and entered Jerusalem. "O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns" closes with "Seeking to gather all in love and pity, and healing those who touch your garment's hem."

Benediction

Postlude

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