

March 20, 2022 – 3rd Sunday in Lent

Prelude

Ringling of the Bell

Introit – (Recorded by the First Choir) “Jesus, Remember Me” – Arranged by Rodino R. Mendoza

Opening Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 108 - “Isaiah, the Prophet Has Written of Old” speaks of how God’s new creation is coming and closes with “instead of the thorn tree, the fir tree shall grow; the wolf shall lie down with the lamb.”

Welcome and Announcements

Lenten Message “40 Acts of Kindness” - from our Stewardship Chair – Marcy Thurwachter

Call to Worship

Liturgist: Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters. You who have no money, come, buy, and eat!

Congregation: Our souls thirst for God in a dry and weary land. We seek God’s power and glory in the sanctuary.

Liturgist: Listen carefully to God and eat what is good; delight yourselves in the rich food God provides.

Congregation: Here our souls are satisfied as with a rich feast. Together our mouths praise God with joyful lips.

Liturgist: God offers us steadfast love and a covenant relationship. We are called to be faithful witnesses and leaders.

Congregation: We have come to meditate on the living God. We seek inspiration and empowerment to do what God asks.

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 258 - This hymn is connected to today’s Epistle reading. It says “You alone, our strong defender, now lift up your people’s head. Christ, our true and living Bread. Christ, our true and living Bread.”

Confession of Sin

We have been tempted, loving God, to go our own way without reference to eternal truths. We seek our own gratification rather than the well-being of all your children. We compare ourselves to others and find their failures but seldom discover our own shortcomings. We seek to build our lives by our own limited design rather than by your larger purposes. We engage in immorality in the name of freedom and become enslaved by our selfish ambitions. The ground on which we stand is crumbling under our feet. O God, forgive us and grant us a firmer foundation. Amen.

Assurance of Forgiveness

Gloria Patri

Old Testament Lesson – Isaiah 55:1-9 - The prophet opens this oracle by mimicking the cries of the vendors in the marketplace, "Ho,..come, buy, and eat!". God offers is not simply bread, wine, or milk, but an abundant life. The "rich food" is God's wisdom and salvation, and it is about to be realized.

Children's Sermon

Hymn of Praise (Recorded by the First Choir) "Lenten Worship Song" by R.G. Huff is set to the tune of "Near the Cross" by William H. Doane

Epistle Lesson – 1 Corinthians 10:1-13 - Falsely secure in their own knowledge, some Corinthian Christians had eaten food sacrificed to idols, committed fornication, and fostered division thinking that baptism and Holy Communion would magically protect them from punishment or sin.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Lord's Prayer

Offering

Offertory - NCH 586 - Today's Offertory is inspired by today's Gospel from Luke. The first verse says "Come to tend God's garden, seeds of hope to sow, planting fields of justice, watching mercy grow. In an arid wasteland, spread a verdant heath! In a land of tumult, cultivate God's peace!"

Doxology

Gospel Lesson – Luke 13:1-9 - A parable of warning - Jesus used the occasion to drive home his message: repent before it is too late.

Sermon

Hymn (Instrumental) - NCH 23 - Frederick William Faber wrote 150 hymns to correspond to the number of Psalms. "There's a Wideness in God's Mercy" and it opens with "There's a wideness in God's mercy, like the wideness of the sea; there's a kindness in God's justice, which is more than liberty." and closes with "If our love were but more faithful, we would gladly trust God's word; and our lives would show thanksgiving for the goodness of our God."

Benediction

Postlude

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