

GATHERING IN GOD'S WORD

Prelude

Sharing Our Lives in Prayer

Prayer Requests

Silent Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Welcome

Letting God In

During this time, we invite you to prepare your heart and your mind for worship. We want you to be able to use this quiet time to settle your thoughts, set aside any distractions that may be troubling you, and focus your whole self on God. Open your heart, your mind, and your spirit, and let God into your life.

*Centering Prayer: **Teach me steadfast faith, Abiding Jesus.***

As you breathe in, pray, "Teach me steadfast faith."

As you breathe out, pray, "Abiding Jesus."

* Opening Praise:

One: In the midst of the distractions of the world,

Many: We come to God in worship and prayer.

One: In the face of the temptations of the world,

Many: We come to God in adoration and devotion.

One: In the throes of the demands placed on us by the world,

Many: We come to God in praise and dedication.

One: We come just as we are –

Many: With questions and doubts,

One: With joys and concerns,

Many: With hopes and dreams,

One: With fears and frustrations.

Many: We come not because we have to,

ALL: But because we hear God's call, and so we come.

Sacred Space for Sacred Story

Throughout Lent this year, we're focusing on Story: on God's story, our own stories, and the ways God's story lifts up and inspires our own. Each week, we're going to spend some time holding sacred space for each next question and phase of putting that story together. It's time you can spend thinking, praying, and writing on your testimony so far or on what may come next. You're also invited to share (if you so choose) what has developed with your story so far.

5th Sunday of Lent: God Breaks In

Sacred Space: **What were things like before that moment when you felt God with you?**

Prayer

Hymn #455 – Listen to the Word That God Has Spoken

Listen to the word that God has spoken;

Listen to the One who is close at hand;

Listen to the voice that began creation;

Listen even if you don't understand.

* Invitation to Confession

* Joining in Prayer (based on *Spill the Beans*, iss. 26, © 2018 Spill the Beans Resource Team):

Holy One, we see in every part of Jesus' life what authentic living really means. Never was he more real than in those last few weeks of his life – facing adoration and abuse, facing brutality from his enemies

and broken promises from his friends. Truly, God, Jesus' courage and integrity put us to shame. His inner strength is something we admire and long for. His self-composure was rooted in his relationship with you. Gracious God, we confess that it is not so with us. Forgive us our fearfulness and hesitation, we pray. Forgive us our inhibition and silence, we pray. Forgive us not only our honest mistakes, but also our reluctance to try in case we get it wrong. Fill us with your Spirit, O God, so that we may become more Christ-like, and at the same time, more fully ourselves. Help us to stand by him and to remember what he said: that anything we do or fail to do for others, we do or fail to do for him, too. (Please take a moment for silent reflection and confession.)

In the name of Jesus, the Christ, we pray.

Amen.

* God's Promise of Grace

* Song of Peace: "Come and Fill Our Hearts With Your Peace" (sing through 3 times) (insert)

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

You alone, O Lord, are holy.

Come and fill our hearts with your peace.

Ho - ly One!

HEARING GOD'S WORD

Prayer to Open Minds and Hearts

Scripture reading - John 18:28-40 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

²⁸ The Jewish leaders led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Roman governor's palace. It was early in the morning. So that they could eat the Passover, the Jewish leaders wouldn't enter the palace; entering the palace would have made them ritually impure. ²⁹ So Pilate went out to them and asked, "What charge do you bring against this man?" ³⁰ They answered, "If he had done nothing wrong, we wouldn't have handed him over to you." ³¹ Pilate responded, "Take him yourselves and judge him according to your Law." The Jewish leaders replied, "The Law doesn't allow us to kill anyone." (³² This was so that Jesus' word might be fulfilled when he indicated how he was going to die.) ³³ Pilate went back into the palace. He summoned Jesus and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?" ³⁴ Jesus answered, "Do you say this on your own or have others spoken to you about me?" ³⁵ Pilate responded, "I'm not a Jew, am I? Your nation and its chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?" ³⁶ Jesus replied, "My kingdom doesn't originate from this world. If it did, my guards would fight so that I wouldn't have been arrested by the Jewish leaders. My kingdom isn't from here." ³⁷ "So you are a king?" Pilate said. Jesus answered, "You say that I am a king. I was born and came into the world for this reason: to testify to the truth. Whoever accepts the truth listens to my voice." ³⁸ "What is truth?" Pilate asked. After Pilate said this, he returned to the Jewish leaders and said, "I find no grounds for any charge against him. ³⁹ You have a custom that I release one prisoner for you at Passover. Do you want me to release for you the king of the Jews?" ⁴⁰ They shouted, "Not this man! Give us Barabbas!" (Barabbas was an outlaw.)

Sermon: "Testimony is Insistent" - Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #227 - Jesus, Remember Me (sing through 3 times)

Jesus, remember me

When you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me

When you come into your kingdom.

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

Coming Together in Prayer

Pastoral Prayer

Celebrating the Lord's Supper

Our tradition in this congregation is to partake of the bread whenever you feel prepared to do so and to hold the wine/juice until all have been served so that we can all partake together. This gives us the chance to participate in this holy mystery as we participate in our faith – both as individuals and as a community.

Invitation to the Table

Great Thanksgiving

One: God be with you.

Many: And also with you.

One: Lift up your hearts.

Many: We lift them up to God.

One: Let us give thanks to God Most High.

Many: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Prayer for the Feast

Lord's Prayer: **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 sins 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 forever. Amen.**

Words of Institution

Sharing the Bread and the Cup

Prayer of Thanksgiving

Hymn #351 – All Who Love and Serve Your City

All who love and serve your city,
All who bear its daily stress,
All who cry for peace and justice,
All who curse and all who bless:

In your day of wealth and plenty,
Wasted work and wasted play,
Call to mind the word of Jesus,
"You must work while it is day."

For all days are days of judgment,
And the Lord is waiting still,
Drawing near a world that spurns him,
Offering peace from Calvary's hill.

Risen Lord, shall yet the city
Be the city of despair?
Come today, our judge, our glory.
Be its name "The Lord is there!"

Prayer of Gratitude and Blessing

Our offering plates are located at the entrance to the sanctuary. This offering allows us to continue our outreach and mission both here in the community of Oronoco and beyond – in the greater Rochester area, in Minnesota, and even around the world. We are grateful for your willingness to join us in this mission and thank you for your generosity.

Announcements

BEING SENT OUT IN GOD'S WORD

* Charge & Blessing

Postlude

** indicates please rise in body or spirit as you feel led*