

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 authentic faith, Jesus who wept.

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

As you breathe out, pray, "Jesus who wept."

* Opening Praise:

One: Then Jesus traveled

Many: With purpose and intention.

One: Then Jesus testified

Many: With truth and boldness.

One: Then Jesus wept

Many: With realness and vulnerability.

One: Today Jesus calls

Many: With purpose and intention.

One: Today Jesus calls

Many: With truth and boldness.

One: Today Jesus calls

Many: With realness and vulnerability.

ALL: And today, we come to answer that call.

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.

2nd Sunday of Lent: One Pivotal Moment

Sacred Space: **Think of a moment when God was with you – holding you up, guiding you, encouraging 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):

Lord God, we come here with longing, with hearts full of things we feel we cannot share with others – hearts full of things we fear we cannot share with others. And we know that you meet us here with reverence and with love. In this time of worship, may we know a sharing with you deeper than any we have known before. May we know an emptying – of all those burdens that we carry, of all those regrets that we cling to, of all those mistakes that we play over and over again in our minds. And may we know your love and forgiveness. May we know a peace that passes understanding as you meet us here. With you, O Lord, it is never too late. You always offer up one more opportunity for us to find our way back to you. So today, may we be healed, restored, forgiven, and renewed as we worship you here. (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 11:1-44 (from the *Common English Bible*, © 2011)

¹ A certain man, Lazarus, was ill. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. (² This was the Mary who anointed the Lord with fragrant oil and wiped his feet with her hair. Her brother Lazarus was ill.) ³ So the sisters sent word to Jesus, saying, "Lord, the one whom you love is ill." ⁴ When he heard this, Jesus said, "This illness isn't fatal. It's for the glory of God so that God's Son can be glorified through it." ⁵ Jesus loved Martha, her sister, and Lazarus. ⁶ When he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed where he was. After two days, ⁷ he said to his disciples, "Let's return to Judea again." ⁸ The disciples replied, "Rabbi, the Jewish opposition wants to stone you, but you want to go back?" ⁹ Jesus answered, "Aren't there twelve hours in the day? Whoever walks in the day doesn't stumble because they see the light of the world. ¹⁰ But whoever walks in the night does stumble because the light isn't in them." ¹¹ He continued, "Our friend Lazarus is sleeping, but I am going in order to wake him up." ¹² The disciples said, "Lord, if he's sleeping, he will get well." ¹³ They thought Jesus meant that Lazarus was in a deep sleep, but Jesus had spoken about Lazarus' death. ¹⁴ Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus has died. ¹⁵ For your sakes, I'm glad I wasn't there so that you can believe. Let's go to him." ¹⁶ Then Thomas (the one called Didymus) said to the other disciples, "Let us go too so that we may die with Jesus." ¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. ¹⁸ Bethany was a little less than two miles from Jerusalem. ¹⁹ Many Jews had come to comfort Martha and Mary after their brother's death. ²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary remained in the house. ²¹ Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died. ²² Even now I know that whatever you ask God, God will give you." ²³ Jesus told her, "Your brother will rise again." ²⁴ Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the last day." ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even though they die. ²⁶ Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" ²⁷ She replied, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, God's Son, the one who is coming into the world." ²⁸ After she said this, she went and spoke privately to her sister Mary, "The teacher is here and he's calling for you." ²⁹ When Mary heard this, she got up quickly and went to Jesus. ³⁰ He hadn't entered the village but was still in the place where Martha had met him. ³¹ When the Jews who were comforting Mary in the house saw her get up quickly and leave, they followed her. They assumed she was going to mourn at the tomb. ³² When Mary arrived where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother wouldn't have died." ³³ When Jesus saw her crying and the Jews who had come with her crying also, he was deeply disturbed and troubled. ³⁴ He asked, "Where have you laid him?" They replied, "Lord, come and see." ³⁵ Jesus began to cry. ³⁶ The Jews said, "See how much he loved him!" ³⁷ But some of them said, "He healed the eyes of the man born blind. Couldn't he have kept Lazarus from dying?" ³⁸ Jesus was deeply disturbed again when he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone covered the entrance. ³⁹ Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said, "Lord, the smell will be awful! He's been

dead four days." ⁴⁰ Jesus replied, "Didn't I tell you that if you believe, you will see God's glory?" ⁴¹ So they removed the stone. Jesus looked up and said, "Father, thank you for hearing me. ⁴² I know you always hear me. I say this for the benefit of the crowd standing here so that they will believe that you sent me." ⁴³ Having said this, Jesus shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his feet bound and his hands tied, and his face covered with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Sermon: "Testimony is Personal" – Rev. Lisa Johnson

Hymn #829 – My Faith Looks Up to Thee
Glory to God, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press)

My faith looks up to thee,
Thou Lamb of Calvary,
Savior divine!
Now hear me while I pray;
Take all my guilt away;
O let me from this day be wholly thine!

May thy rich grace impart
Strength to my fainting heart,
My deal inspire;
As thou hast died for me,
O may my love to thee,
Pure, warm, and changeless be, a living fire!

While life's dark maze I tread
And griefs around me spread,
Be thou my guide;
Bid darkness turn to day;
Wipe sorrow's tears away;
Nor let me ever stray from thee aside.

When ends life's transient dream,
When death's cold, sullen stream
Shall o'er me roll;
Blest Savior, then, in love,
Fear and distrust remove;
O bear me safe above, a ransomed soul!

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 #501 – Feed Us, Lord

Feed us, Lord. Feed us, Lord.

In the broken bread

Be revealed again.

Come and feed our hearts, O Lord.

Quench us, Lord. Quench us, Lord.

On this thirsty ground,

May your love flow down.

Come and quench our hearts, O Lord.

Fill us, Lord. Fill us, Lord,

With the bread and wine

Of the risen Christ.

Come and fill our hearts, O Lord.

Lead us, Lord. Lead us, Lord,

Nourished here by Christ,

Given strength for life.

Come and lead our hearts, O Lord.

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*