

## WORSHIP SERVICE

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

### WE GATHER FOR WORSHIP

Prelude

Welcome

- \* God's Greeting
- \* We Greet One Another
- \* Call to Worship

*Come to the Lord, who is rich in grace;  
Approach our God, who is full of mercy.*

**We will praise God with all our heart  
and glorify the name of the Most High forever. Alleluia!**

- \* Opening Song: "Praise To The Lord The Almighty" *Lift Up Your Hearts #575*

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty the King of creation! O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation! Come, all who hear; brothers and sisters draw near, join me in glad adoration!

Praise to the Lord, who o'er all things is wondrously reigning, sheltering you under his wings, oh, so gently sustaining. Have you not seen all that is needful has been sent by his gracious ordaining?

Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you; surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you. Ponder anew what the Almighty can do as with his love he befriends you.

Praise to the Lord! O, let all that is in me adore him! All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him! Let the amen sound from his people again. Gladly forever adore him!

- \* Opening Prayer

### WE ARE RECONCILED TO GOD

Unison Prayer of Confession

**Almighty God, in Jesus Christ you love us,  
but we have not loved you.**

**You have opened your heart to us,  
and in our pride we have spurned your care.**

**You have given us all things and we have squandered your gifts.**

**We have grieved you and caused hurt to others.**

**Cleanse us from our sin that we might never stray from your love  
but always remain with you. Amen.**

Assurance of Pardon

*The Lord God said: I will give you a new heart  
and put a new spirit within you; I will remove from you your heart of stone  
and give you a heart of flesh. (Ezekiel 36:26)*

**Hear the good news: Through Christ,  
our minds and hearts are cleansed, healed and renewed!**

Song of Response: "Here I Am Lord" *Lift Up Your Hearts #869*

I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright.

Who will bear my light to them? whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.

I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone.

I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feast for them. My hand will  
save. Finest bread I will provide Till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them.

Whom shall I send?

Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night.  
I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

Congregational Prayer

## **WE HEAR GOD'S WORD**

Children's Message

Scripture Reading: Matthew 27:15-26

### **Jesus Before Pilate**

**11** Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "You have said so," Jesus replied. **12** When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. **13** Then Pilate asked him, "Don't you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?" **14** But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor. **15** Now it was the governor's custom at the festival to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. **16** At that time they had a well-known prisoner whose name was Jesus[a] Barabbas. **17** So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "Which one do you want me to release to you: Jesus Barabbas, or Jesus who is called the Messiah?" **18** For he knew it was out of self-interest that they had handed Jesus over to him. **19** While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message: "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him." **20** But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed. **21** "Which of the two do you want me to release to you?" asked the governor. "Barabbas," they answered. **22** "What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called the Messiah?" Pilate asked. They all answered, "Crucify him!" **23** "Why? What crime has he committed?" asked Pilate. But they shouted all the louder, "Crucify him!" **24** When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. "I am innocent of this man's blood," he said. "It is your responsibility!" **25** All the people answered, "His blood is on us and on our children!" **26** Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

Message: "What Shall I Do, Then, With This Jesus?"

## **WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

Prayer of Application

\* Song of Response: "As The Deer"

*Lift Up Your Hearts #503*

As the deer pants for the water, so my soul longs after you;  
you alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you.  
you alone are my strength, my shield; to you alone may my spirit yield;  
you alone are my heart's desire, and I long to worship you!

## **WE DEPART TO SERVE**

\* Blessing

\* Postlude

\*Please stand if you are able.

Message: Rev. Randy Raak

Musicians: Andrew Friend, Laura Hufford, Tara Tilstra