

**A morning service during the Covid-19 restrictions  
First Sunday of Lent - February 21, 2021**

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. *Psalms 51.18*

Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us,  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your name. Amen

Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come let us worship.

**Now Let Us All With One Accord**

Now let us all with one accord, in company with ages past,  
keep vigil with our heavenly Lord in his temptation and his fast.

The covenant, so long revealed to those of faith in former time,  
Christ by his own example sealed, the Lord of love, in love sublime.

Your love, O Lord, our sinful race has not returned, but falsified.  
Author of mercy, turn your face and grant repentance for our pride.

Remember, Lord, though frail we be, in your own image were we made;  
help us, lest in anxiety, we cause your name to be betrayed.

Therefore, we pray you, Lord forgive; so when our wandering here shall cease,  
we may with you forever live in love and unity and peace.

Text attributed to Gregory the Great (540-604) translated by James Quinn, SJ used by permission granted under ONE LICENSE

**The Proclamation of the Word  
Genesis 9:8-17**

*Psalms 25:1-9*

- 1** To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; my God, I put my trust in you; \*  
let me not be humiliated, nor let my enemies triumph over me.
- 2** Let none who look to you be put to shame; \*  
let the treacherous be disappointed in their schemes.
- 3** Show me your ways, O Lord, \*  
and teach me your paths.
- 4** Lead me in your truth and teach me, \*  
for you are the God of my salvation; in you have I trusted all the day long.
- 5** Remember, O Lord, your compassion and love, \*  
for they are from everlasting.
- 6** Remember not the sins of my youth and my transgressions; \*  
remember me according to your love and for the sake of your goodness, O Lord.

**7 Gracious and upright is the Lord; \*  
therefore he teaches sinners in his way.  
8 He guides the humble in doing right \*  
and teaches his way to the lowly.  
9 All the paths of the Lord are love and faithfulness \*  
to those who keep his covenant and his testimonies.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning is now and will be for ever. Amen.**

**1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:9-15**

**A reflection on the readings (written by the Ven. Glen Miller)**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.  
Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:  
Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

### **#76 There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

**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.**

**There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;  
there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.**

**There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;  
there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.**

**Foolish hearts, why will you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep?  
Fainting souls, why will you wander from a love so true and deep?**

**For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.**

Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)

### **Prayers (see litany below)**

**Our prayers have been requested for: Thelma, Joanne, Wendy, Vivian, Spruce, front line workers who continue to serve in the midst of this pandemic, the homeless and those who care for them, our sister congregations in this Deanery and our Archbishop Anne as we walk this difficult road together.**

### **14 Lent**

**(With confidence and trust let us pray to the Lord, saying, "Lord, have mercy.")**

**For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world, we pray to you, Lord.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**For the mission of the Church, that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth, we pray to you, Lord.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**For those preparing for baptism and for their teachers and sponsors, we pray to you, Lord.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples, we pray to you, Lord.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**For the poor, the persecuted, the sick, and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners, and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected, we pray to you, Lord.  
Lord, have mercy.**

**For all whom we have injured or offended, we pray to you, Lord.  
Lord, have mercy.**

For grace to amend our lives and to further the reign of God, we pray to you, Lord.  
Lord, have mercy.

**The Collect of the day**

Almighty God, whose Son fasted forty days in the wilderness, and was tempted as we are but did not sin, give us grace to discipline ourselves in submission to your Spirit, that as you know our weakness, so we may know your power to save; through Jesus Christ our Lord who with you and the Holy Spirit one God, now and for ever. Amen.

**The Collect for Ash Wednesday**

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**The Lord's prayer**

**#118 Jesus Thy Blood and Righteousness**

Jesus, thy blood and righteousness my beauty are, my glorious dress;  
midst flaming worlds, in these arrayed, with joy shall I lift up my head.

Bold shall I stand in thy great day; for who aught to my charge shall lay?  
Fully absolved through these I am from sin and fear, from guilt and shame.

Jesus, be endless praise to thee, whose boundless mercy hath for me -  
for me a full atonement made, and everlasting ransom paid.

O let the dead now hear thy voice; now bid thy banished ones rejoice;  
their beauty this, their glorious dress, Jesus, thy blood and righteousness.

Nikolaus Ludwig von Zinzendorf (1700-1760) translated by John Wesley (1703-1791)

**A Lenten Blessing**

May the God of mercy transform you by his grace, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.

**Dismissal**

*Then may be said or sung,*

*Officiant* Let us bless the Lord. *People* Thanks be to God!

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