**Service of Word and Table**

at

**Epworth Free Methodist Church**

6110 W. Northview Street, Boise, Idaho 83704

208-336-3951

[www.epworthfmc.org](http://www.epworthfmc.org)

The Rev. John Crow, Rector and Pastor

208-501-4037

**March 30, 2025, 10:00 a.m.**

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*

**So I turned to the Lord God**

**and pleaded with him in prayer and petition,**

**in fasting, and in** **sackcloth and ashes. Daniel 9:3 (NIV)**

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**“Through the deep current of the historical Wesleyan church we will collaboratively serve and reach the lost in order to make disciples who love Jesus.”**

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This service will be live streamed, and in the course of that any or all persons who attend may be filmed. Remaining in the service will constitute your consent to appear in the live-streamed, recorded, and published service.

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**Rector and Pastor:** The Rev. John Crow

**Cantors:** Bryan Vanshur, Shannon Nichols

**Organist:** Trina Moore

**Readers:**

 **Old Testament:** Donna Crow

 **Psalm:** Donna Crow

 **Epistle:** Adam Graham

**Acolytes:** Stephen Crow, Josiah Crow, Corbin Crosswhite, and Jessica Crosswhite

**Jr. Acolytes:** Asher Crow & Lizzie Crosswhite

**Usher:** Asher Crow

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**ACTS OF ENTRANCE**

**Prélude**

 **(The people enter and remain in prayer and meditation.)**

**Entrance canticle (cantor only):**

“There is a fountain filled with blood, drawn from Emmanuel’s veins, and sinners plunged beneath that flood lose all their guilty stains.

 The dying thief rejoiced to see that fountain in his day; and there have I, as vile as he, washed all my sins away.” (There is a Fountain Filled with Blood, vv. 1-2, William Cowper)

**Processional Hymn (all standing):**

 *Again We Keep This Solemn Fast*  (No. 112)

**Minister:** Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.

**People:** *His mercy endures forever.*

**Lord’s Prayer:**

**Minister:** Let us pray.

**(All standing):** *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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever.* *Amen.*

**The Collect for Purity:**

**Minister:** Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You, and worthily magnify your holy Name, through Christ our Lord.

**All:** *Amen.*

**The *Trisagion:***

**Minister:** Holy God, Holy and Mighty, Holy Immortal One,

**People:** *Have mercy upon us.*

**Mutual Invocation of the Grace of God for the Service of the Word:**

**Minister:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.* **(The people then be seated.)**

**The Ten Commandments (the people sitting):**

**Minister:** God spoke these words, and said, I am the Lord your God:

 You shall have no other gods but me.

 You shall not make to yourself any graven image, to bow down to them, or worship them.

 You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.

 Remember that you keep holy the Sabbath day.

 Honor your father and your mother.

 You shall not murder.

 You shall not commit adultery.

 You shall not steal.

 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet.

**The Great Commandments (the people sitting):**

**Minister:** Hear what our Lord Jesus Christ says. You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.

**Kyrie (the people sitting):**

**People:** *Lord have mercy upon us, and incline our hearts to keep this law.*

**SERVICE OF THE WORD**

**Old Testament Lesson (the people sitting):**

**Reader:** The Old Testament lesson is written in the ninth chapter of the book of Joshua, beginning at verse 9:

1. And the Lord said to Joshua, “Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.” And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.
2. While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho.
3. And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.
4. And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land. And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.
5. When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?”
6. And he said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?”
7. And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, “Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so. (ESV)

**Reader:** The Word of the Lord.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**The Psalm: (The people sit for the responsive reading, by half-verse, of Psalm 32, a praise for God who forgives our sins.)**

**Reader:** The Psalm is chapter 32, beginning at verse 1.

**Reader:** 1 Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven

**People:** *and whose sin is put away!*

**Reader:** 2 Happy are they to whom the Lord imputes no guilt,

**People:** *and in whose spirit there is no guile!*

**Reader:** 3 While I held my tongue, my bones withered away,

**People:** *because of my groaning all day long.*

**Reader:** 4 For your hand was heavy upon me day and night;

**People:** *my moisture was dried up as in the heat of summer.*

**Reader:** 5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you

**People:** *and did not conceal my guilt.*

**Reader:** 6 I said, “I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.”

**People:** *Then you forgave me the guilt of my sin.*

**Reader:** 7 Therefore all the faithful will make their prayers to you in time of trouble;

**People:** *when the great waters overflow, they shall not reach them.*

**Reader:** 8 You are my hiding-place; you preserve me from trouble;

**People:** *you surround me with shouts of deliverance.*

**Reader:** 9 “I will instruct you and teach you in the way that you should go;

**People:** *I will guide you with my eye.”*

**Reader:** 10 “Do not be like horse or mule, which have no understanding;

**People:** *who must be fitted with bit and bridle, or else they will not stay near you.”*

**Reader:** 11 Great are the tribulations of the wicked;

**People:** *but mercy embraces those who trust in the Lord.*

**Reader:** 12 Be glad, you righteous, and rejoice in the Lord;

**People:** *shout for joy, all who are true of heart.*  (BCP)

***Gloria Patri*:**

**Reader:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

**People:** *As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

**Collect for the Fourth Sunday in Lent (the people sitting):**

**Minister:** Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

**All:** *Amen.*

**The Epistle (the people sitting):**

**Reader:** The Epistle lesson is written in the fifth chapter of the second letter to the Corinthians beginning at verse 16:

1. From now on, therefore, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we once regarded Christ according to the flesh, we regard him thus no longer.
2. Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.
3. All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation;
4. that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.
5. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.
6. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God. (ESV)

**Reader:** Here ends the Epistle.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.*

**Sequence Hymn (all standing):**

 *Would Jesus Have the Sinner Die*, vv. 1-3 (No. 133)

**The Gospel (all standing, and turning toward the Gospel reading):**

**Minister:** The holy Gospel is written in the fifteenth chapter of the Gospel according to Luke, beginning at verse 1:

**Minister:**

1. Now the tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to hear him.
2. And the Pharisees and the scribes grumbled, saying, “This man receives sinners and eats with them.”
3. So he told them this parable:
4. And he said, “There was a man who had two sons.
5. And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of property that is coming to me.’ And he divided his property between them.
6. Not many days later, the younger son gathered all he had and took a journey into a far country, and there he squandered his property in reckless living.
7. And when he had spent everything, a severe famine arose in that country, and he began to be in need.
8. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him into his fields to feed pigs.
9. And he was longing to be fed with the pods that the pigs ate, and no one gave him anything.
10. “But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have more than enough bread, but I perish here with hunger!
11. I will arise and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you.
12. I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Treat me as one of your hired servants.”’
13. And he arose and came to his father. But while he was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.
14. And the son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son.’
15. But the father said to his servants, ‘Bring quickly the best robe, and put it on him, and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet.
16. And bring the fattened calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate.
17. For this my son was dead, and is alive again; he was lost, and is found.’ And they began to celebrate.
18. “Now his older son was in the field, and as he came and drew near to the house, he heard music and dancing.
19. And he called one of the servants and asked what these things meant.
20. And he said to him, ‘Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fattened calf, because he has received him back safe and sound.’
21. But he was angry and refused to go in. His father came out and entreated him,
22. but he answered his father, ‘Look, these many years I have served you, and I never disobeyed your command, yet you never gave me a young goat, that I might celebrate with my friends.
23. But when this son of yours came, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him!’
24. And he said to him, ‘Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours.
25. It was fitting to celebrate and be glad, for this your brother was dead, and is alive; he was lost, and is found.’” (ESV)

**Minister:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**People:** *Praise to You, Lord Christ*.

**Sequence Hymn (all standing):**

 *Would Jesus Have the Sinner Die*, vv. 4-5 (No. 133)

[Elementary age children may exit for Children's Worship in the Parish Hall.

They will return to the service at the Passing of the Peace.]

**Minister:** Grace be unto you, and peace, from our Lord Jesus Christ.

**All:** *Amen.* **(The people then be seated.)**

**The Sermon**

**Minister:** In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

**All:** *Amen.*

**Silence, for review of the sermon, and for meditative prayer**

**SERVICE OF THE TABLE: THE GREAT THANKSGIVING**

**The Nicene Creed (all standing):**

**Minister:** Let us confess our faith, saying:

**All:** *We believe in one God,*

 *the Father, the Almighty,*

 *maker of heaven and earth,*

 *of all that is, seen and unseen.*

 *We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,*

 *the only Son of God,*

 *eternally begotten of the Father,*

 *God from God, Light from Light,*

 *true God from true God,*

 *begotten, not made,*

 *of one Being with the Father.*

 *Through him all things were made.*

 *For us and for our salvation*

 *he came down from heaven:*

 *by the power of the Holy Spirit*

 *he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,*

 *and was made man.*

 *For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;*

 *he suffered death and was buried.*

 *On the third day he rose again*

 *in accordance with the Scriptures;*

 *he ascended into heaven*

 *and is seated at the right hand of the Father.*

 *He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,*

 *and his kingdom will have no end.*

 *We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,*

 *who proceeds from the Father and the Son.*

 *With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.*

 *He has spoken through the Prophets.*

 *We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.*

 *We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.*

 *We look for the resurrection of the dead,*

 *and the life of the world to come.* *Amen.*

**Minister: (The people sitting)** Let us with gladness present the offerings and oblations of our life and labor to the Lord.

**Offertory:**

**Offering Hymn (all standing):**

 *Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, vv. 3-4*  (No. 231)

**Minister:** All things come from You, O Lord.

**People:** *And of your own have we given You.*

 **(The people then be seated.)**

**The Prayers of the People (the people sitting):**

**Minister:** Let us pray for the Church and the world. For the unity of the Church throughout the world, that we might faithfully preach the Gospel to the ends of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For the persecuted church, and for its persecutors, that You would turn their hearts, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For our President and all who govern and hold authority in our nation and in the world, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For the good earth which You have given us, and for the wisdom and will to conserve it, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For all ministers of your Gospel, that they might faithfully preach your Word, administer your sacraments, and care for your people, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For the peace of the world, that a spirit of respect and forbearance may grow among all nations and peoples, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For all those who do not yet believe, and for those who have lost their faith, that in due time we may all stand reconciled before You, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For the poor and the oppressed, prisoners and captives, the unemployed, and all who are in need or trouble, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For our enemies and all who wish us harm, and for all whom we have injured or offended, let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** For this congregation, that we might show forth your glory in all that we do; and for those who have commended themselves to our prayers, including these: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

 [Nation: Burkina Faso

 Denomination: Pilgrim Holiness Churches

 Congregation: Oak Grove AME Church, Detroit, MI, and the Rev. Cindy Rudolph

 Ministry: Campus Crusade for Christ

 Parishioners: Those living on Northview Circle],

 Grant that all of these may be delivered from anxiety, and live in joy, peace, and health.

 *(Please add your own intentions, either silently or aloud.)*

**Minister:** Let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Minister:** We bless your holy Name for the thanksgivings of your people, including these: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; for those in every generation in whom Christ has been honored;Give us grace to follow their good examples, that with them we may be partakers of your heavenly kingdom.

*(Please add your intentions, either silently or aloud.)*

**Minister:** Let us pray to the Lord:

**People:** *Lord, hear our prayer.*

**Collect (the people kneeling or sitting):**

**Minister:** O Lord, please break through and open doors to new hopes, dreams and possibilities for our church and in our own lives; as we commit to surrender and faithfully follow the Spirit’s leading into the adventure of Your new and unknown future. May your will be done.

**All:** *Amen*.

**Preparation for Holy Communion (the people sitting):**

**Minister:** The Lord’s Supper was ordained by God to be a means of conveying grace according to the need of each person. Those for whom it was ordained are all those who know and feel that they want the grace of God, to restrain them from sin, or to forgive their sins, or to assure them of pardon, or to renew their souls in the image of God, or to enter into the holy presence of God in communion with him. No preparation is indispensably necessary, other than a desire to receive the grace God pleases to give. No fitness or church membership is required at the time of communicating, other than a sense of our state, of our utter sinfulness and helplessness apart from Christ. Therefore, if you want such grace as God pleases to give to you, draw near with faith, and as you prepare to receive this holy sacrament to your comfort and strength, make your sincere confession to Almighty God, kneeling if you wish and are able, or otherwise sitting.

**The Prayer of Confession, Petition and Thanksgiving:**

 **(The minister kneels, and the people kneel or sit.)**

**Minister:** Let us pray together:

**All:** *Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all persons: We have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts. You have shown us the way of life through your Son, Jesus Christ. Where there is sin or falling short of your will in our lives, or any spiritual pride, carelessness or presumption on our part, or any failure to see or know your good and righteous will, we earnestly repent and are heartily sorry for our misdoings. Forgive us all that is past, grant that we may ever serve and please You in newness of life, and accept our thanksgiving for the wondrous grace and forgiveness You extend to us, to the honor and glory of your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**Prayer for Absolution (the people kneeling or sitting):**

**Minister:** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of your great mercy has promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto You; Have mercy upon us; pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**All:** *Amen.*

**The Comforting Words of Forgiveness (the people sitting):**

**Minister:** Hear what comforting words our Savior Christ says to all who truly turn to him: Come to me, all you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. Hear also what St. Paul says: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Hear also what St. John says: If anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the atonement for our sins.

**The Passing of the Peace:**

**Minister:** The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Minister:** As the peace of Christ has been extended to you, extend the peace of the Lord to one another, and greet one another in the name of the Lord. **(The people rise and remain standing.)**

 *(The people greet those near to them, saying, “The peace of the Lord be with you,” or, “Peace be with you,” or simply, “Peace.” They respond to one another, “And also with you,” or simply, “Peace”.)*

**Hymn of Invitation to Communion (all standing):**

 *Lamb of God, Whose Bleeding Love* (No. 104)

**Preparation for the Table:**

**(Minister:** I wash my hands in innocence, and go about your altar, O LORD, proclaiming aloud your praise and telling of all your wonderful deeds.) [Psalm 26:6-7, NIV]

**The *Sursum Corda* (all standing):**

**Minister:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**Minister:** Lift up your hearts.

**People:** *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

**Minister:** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People:** *It is meet and right so to do.*

**The Salutation:**

**Minister:** It is very meet, right, and our gladsome duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto you, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God,

**The Preface:**

**Minister:** Through Jesus Christ our Lord. You bid your faithful people cleanse their hearts, and prepare with joy for the Paschal feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by your word and sacraments, they may come to the fullness of grace which You have prepared for those who love You.

**Minister:** Therefore, with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify your glorious Name, evermore praising You and saying,

**The *Sanctus* (all standing, saying):**

 *Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might; heaven and earth are full of your glory*; *hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the Name of the Lord; hosanna in the highest.*

**The Prayer of Humble Access and for Cleansing**

**(the people kneeling or sitting):**

**Minister:** Let us pray together:

**All:** *We do not presume to come to this your table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your many and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table. But You are the same Lord, whose nature is always to have mercy: Grant us, therefore, gracious Lord, so to experience the spiritual presence of your dear Son Jesus Christ at this your table, that we may be made clean by his body and blood, and that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Deliver us, gracious Lord, from the presumption of coming to this table for solace for ourselves only, and not for strength to serve You and others. Deliver us, gracious Lord, from the presumption of coming to this table for pardon of our sins only, and not for transformation of our lives in your holiness. Amen.*

***Epiclesis* Prayer (Invocation of the Holy Spirit upon the Bread and Wine)**

 **(the people kneeling or sitting):**

**Minister:** Holy Father, You formed us in your own image, giving the whole world into our care, so that in obedience to You, our Creator, we might rule and serve all your creatures. When our disobedience took us far from You, You did not abandon us to the power of death. Again and again You called us into covenant with You, and through the prophets You taught us to hope for salvation. In the fullness of time You sent your only Son to be our Savior. Incarnate by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, he lived as one of us, yet without sin. To the poor he proclaimed the good news of salvation; to prisoners, freedom; to the sorrowful, joy. To fulfull your purpose he gave himself up to death, and made the whole creation new. And that we might live no longer for ourselves, but for him who died and rose for us, he sent the Holy Spirit to complete his work in the world, and to bring to fulfillment the sanctification of all. Recalling Christ’s death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer You these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit, that they may be to us the bread of life and the cup of salvation, the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Grant that all who share this bread and cup may become one body and one spirit, a living sacrifice to Christ, to the praise of your holy Name. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord; through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory are yours, O Father Almighty, now and for ever.

**All:** *Amen.*

**The Words of Institution (the people kneeling or sitting):**

**Minister:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night that he was betrayed took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, Take, eat; this is my Body which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me.

 Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink this, all of you; for this is my blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins: Do this, as often as you shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

**All:** *Amen.*

**Minister:** Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

**People:** *Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.*

**The Fraction:**

**Minister:** Christ our passover is sacrificed for us.

**People:** *Therefore let us keep the feast.*

**Minister:** The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and rose again, and feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

**The Communion, Open to all:** *(After the minister(s) and acolyte(s) are served, the people come forward to receive, as space is available. The people kneel if they are able, or stand.* **Communion by intincture: The people receive the Bread in their open hands, continue to hold it, then dip the Bread in the cup, and then consume.**) *They return to their seats via the side aisles.*

**Renewal of the Mutual Invocation of God’s Grace for the Eucharist:**

**Minister:** The Lord be with you.

**People:** *And also with you.*

**The Prayer of Thanksgiving and Living Sacrifice:**

 **(The minister kneeling, the people kneeling or sitting):**

**Minister:** Let us pray together:

**All:** *O Lord and Heavenly Father, we heartily thank You because You feed us, in these holy mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; because by this You assure us of your favor and goodness toward us; because we are living members of the body of your Son and heirs of your eternal kingdom. We ask You to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and to grant that by the merits and death of your Son Jesus Christ and through faith in him, we and all your whole Church may obtain all of the benefits of his passion. And here we offer and present unto You, O Lord, ourselves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto You; humbly asking You that we may be filled with your grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord; by whom, and with whom, in the Unity of the Holy Spirit, all honor and glory be unto You, O Father Almighty, world without end. AMEN.*

**The Prayer of Lenten Dedication (all standing):**

**Minister:** Let us pray together:

**All:** *O Lord, inspire your Church to witness to her Lord at this season by following You in humility and simplicity of life. Give us wisdom to make good resolves and grace to maintain them. Grant that we may so deepen and purify our worship that we shall know more fully your holy will. Amen*.

 **ACTS OF DISMISSAL**

**Recessional Hymn (all standing):**

 *Jesus, Refuge of the Weary*  (No. 125)

**The Prayer of Benediction:**

**Minister:** Christ give you grace to grow in holiness, deny yourselves, take up your cross, and follow him; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.

**All:** *Amen.*

**Minister:** Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.

**People:** *Thanks be to God.* **(The people then be seated.)**

**Greetings and Announcements**

**Postlude:**

 **(The people sit and remain quiet until the candles are extinguished and the organ raises its voice.)**

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John Wesley’s *Order for the Administration of the Lord’s Supper*,

The 1662 and 1979 editions of *The Book of Common Prayer,* and

*Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England*

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**Scripture Lessons for April 6 (Lent 5)**

Isaiah 43:16-21; Psalm 126; Philippians 3:4-14; John 12:1-8

**Parish Prayer This Week and Next Sunday**

Those living on Northview Street

**Parish Notices**

**Today: Rejoicing in the Midst of Lent!**

Today is Laetare Sunday. Laetare, Latin for *Rejoice*, comes in the middle of Lent as a small celebration that the fast is half over and a reminder that, if you haven’t fulfilled your disciplines for the season, don’t give up hope—there’s still time to make good. Also known as Rose Sunday, purple paraments and vestments are replaced with the lighter, more cheerful rose. Flowers are permitted in the sanctuary and refreshments return to the menu. Indeed, some people call the day Refreshment Sunday. A fourth name given to this special day is Mothering Sunday, England’s Mother’s Day. It dates back to the 17th century when the practice developed for people to return to their “Mother Church” (The church in which they were baptized) on the 4th Sunday in Lent. Later, it became a day for domestic servants to be given the day off to return to their Mother Church—where most often their own mothers were still attending. From this practice came the tradition of cooks in the great houses helping serving girls make Simnel Cakes to take to their mothers on this day. Simnel Cake, which we will have for Epworth Edibles on Laetare Sunday, date from the Middle Ages (though our cake will be more recent). They are a light fruit cake that features 2 layers of marzipan and 11 marzipan balls on the top—one for each of the faithful disciples.

**Tuesday: Seder Meal Presentation**

On Tuesday, April 1st, we are cohosting a seder meal presentation by Chosen People Ministries at 7 pm. The event will take place at Grace Anglican Church (2490 N. Milwaukee St.). It is called Messiah in the Passover, demonstrating the messianic connection to the Jewish Passover meal. A love offering will be received. All are welcome!

**Coming Events at Epworth**

 Today, 10:00 am Word & Table Service

 Today, 11:40 Afterword (moderated

discussion)

 Today, 4:00 pm Renewing Worship Service

 Monday, 11 am Children’s Story Time (in the

library)

Tuesday, 7 pm Seder Meal Presentation at

Grace Anglican

Wednesday, 1:30 pm Learning to Read (in the

library)

Thursday, 7 pm Lenten Evening & Healing

Prayers

Sunday, 13 April Palm Sunday **(9:50**

**Procession)**

Sunday, 20 April Easter Sunday!

Saturday, 3 MAY Men’s Breakfast (8:30)

**Holy Week Services**

Maundy Thursday – April 17th, 7 pm

Good Friday – April 18th, 7 pm

Easter Vigil – April 19th, 8 pm

Easter Sunday – April 20st, 10 am

**April Birthdays & Anniversaries**

 05 – Jessica Crosswhite

 16 – Dorothy Millard

**Sermon Notes**

**Epworth Church Office Email**

epworthchapel.office@gmail.com

All correspondence for the office should be sent to this email address.

**Pastor Crow Contact Information**

***Healing prayer is provided every week upon request***

Rev. John Crow, Rector and Pastor

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