

THIRD SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS

Pre-Service Music

THEME: New Life empowers us to speak the truth in love.

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

CONFESSION/FORGIVENESS

P: Ephesians 4 states, “put off your old self, and be renewed in the spirit of your minds to put on the new self”. As we gather this morning to praise and give thanks to God, we must begin by confessing our sins. Too often we have chosen to wear our “old selves” and not reflect the newness that God gives.

C: Lord, we confess that we are in bondage to our “old selves”. It is only by your mercy and forgiveness that we are able to break free from the bondage that weighs us down. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed. We have not loved you with our whole heart and we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your son, Jesus, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us and lead us so that we can live with the newness you offer. Thank you for your faithfulness.

P: Ephesians 4 also says that we were “created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness”. The good news is that through God’s forgiveness you are made new and have this true righteousness and holiness. God forgives you of your sin. I declare to you this forgiveness of all of your sins in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

OPENING SONG OF PRAISE “Red Book” 249

We Have Come Into His House

*We have come into His house gathered In His name to worship Him
We have come into His house gathered In His name to worship Him
We have come into His house gathered In His name to worship Christ the Lord,
Worship Him, Christ, the Lord*

*So Let’s lift up holy hands and magnify His Name and worship Him
So Let’s lift up holy hands and magnify His Name and worship Him
So Let’s lift up holy hands and magnify His Name and worship Him
And Worship Him, Christ, the Lord*

*So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him
So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him
So forget about yourself and concentrate on Him and worship Him
And Worship Him, Christ, the Lord*

*He is all my righteousness, I stand complete in Him,
He is all my righteousness, I stand complete in Him,
He is all my righteousness, I stand complete in Him,
And Worship Him, Christ, the Lord*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray. Lord, you ask us to use words that will build others up. You want the words that we speak to give grace to those who hear. Give us your Spirit's wisdom and guidance to say those words that will bring healing and health to those we speak. Slow us down when the words that we use could bring damage and harm. Speed us up to speak when someone is in need to listen to our words of encouragement. Through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen!

SCRIPTURE LESSONS

Old Testament Lesson: Isaiah 42:1-9 God promises to give a light for the nations

*Behold my servant, whom I uphold,
my chosen, in whom my soul delights;
I have put my Spirit upon him;
he will bring forth justice to the nations.
He will not cry aloud or lift up his voice,
or make it heard in the street;
a bruised reed he will not break,
and a faintly burning wick he will not quench;
he will faithfully bring forth justice.
He will not grow faint or be discouraged
till he has established justice in the earth;
and the coastlands wait for his law.
Thus says God, the LORD,
who created the heavens and stretched them out,
who spread out the earth and what comes from it,
who gives breath to the people on it
and spirit to those who walk in it:
"I am the LORD; I have called you in righteousness;
I will take you by the hand and keep you;
I will give you as a covenant for the people,
a light for the nations,
to open the eyes that are blind,
to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon,
from the prison those who sit in darkness.
I am the LORD; that is my name;
my glory I give to no other,
nor my praise to carved idols.
Behold, the former things have come to pass,
and new things I now declare;
before they spring forth
I tell you of them."*

Epistle Lesson: Romans 6:1-11 Jesus died so that we might walk in the newness of life

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it? Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his. We know that our old self was crucified with him in order that the body of sin might be brought to nothing, so that we would no longer be enslaved to sin. For one who has died has been set free from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we will also live with him. We know that Christ, being raised from the dead, will never die again; death no longer has dominion over him. For the death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God. So you also must consider yourselves dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

CHOIR ANTHEM **I Am Your Servant, O Lord by Don Besig**

Holy Gospel: Matthew 3:13-17 When Jesus is baptized, a voice cries out from the heavens

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

SERMON HYMN "Green Book" 333 **Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me**

*Lord, take my hand and lead me Upon life's way;
Direct, protect, and feed me From day to day,
Without your grace and favor I go astray;
So take my hand, O Savior, And lead the way.*

*Lord, when the tempest rages, I need not fear;
For you, the Rock of Ages, Are always near.
Close by your side abiding, I fear no foe,
For when your hand is guiding, In peace I go.*

*Lord, when the shadows lengthen And night has come,
I know that you will strengthen My steps toward home,
And nothing can impede me, O blessed Friend!
So, take my hand and lead me Unto the end.*

SERMON "Speaking the Truth with Love"

Ephesians 4:25

CONFESSING OUR FAITH

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit

And born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again,

He ascended into heaven,

And is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,

The holy catholic church,

The communion of saints,

The forgiveness of sins,

The resurrection of the body

And the life everlasting. Amen.

OFFERINGS GATHERED

(We give our offerings as a sign of our lives given to the Lord in humble service)

PRAYERS OF GOD'S PEOPLE

(after each petition the response is:

P: Lord in your mercy

C: Hear our prayer.)

LORD'S PRAYER

OUR GUEST SPEAKER: Carey Oien from June's Kids Kloset

CLOSING SONG "This Little Gospel Light of Mine"

1. *This little gospel light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine.....
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.*
2. *Don't you dare to blow it out.....
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.*
3. *Hide it under a bushel, No! I'm gonna let it shine.....
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.*
4. *All around the neighborhood, I'm gonna let it shine.....
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.*
5. *It will point the way to heav'n, I'm gonna let it shine.....
Let it shine, all the time, let it shine.*

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

POST-SERVICE MUSIC