

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY

THEME: God empowers us to have compassion

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

OPENING BLESSING

TIME TO REFLECT ON OURSELVES

P: As we gather for worship, it is good for us to acknowledge our sin, especially the moments when we are influenced by our hardened hearts. God wants us to be tender-hearted, people who reflect His love and mercy to others.

C: We admit, Lord.....we're sinners, in our thoughts, words, and actions. We have to admit that we cannot see clearly your way and your will for our lives. Too often it has been our hardened hearts that have kept us from seeing your way and doing your will. Give us your Spirit to see more clearly the way you want us to go, and how we can live in your love more wisely.

A SONG OF CONFESSION

White as snow, white as snow,
Though my sins were as scarlet,
Lord, I know, Lord I know,
That I'm clean and forgiven.
Through the power of your blood,
Through the wonder of your love,
Through faith in you, I know that I can be
White as snow.

P: "If we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive us of our sins." Through this forgiveness you are also receiving new hearts, hearts filled with compassion. As a servant of the great Shepherd Jesus and by his command, I forgive you all of your sins—in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

SONG OF PRAISE "Green Book" 315 vs. 1,2, 4 Love Divine, All Love Excelling

*Love divine, all loves excelling, Joy of heav'n to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling, All thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion, Pure, unbounded love thou are;
Visit us with thy salvation, Enter ev'ry trembling heart.*

*Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit Into ev'ry troubled breast;
Let us all in thee inherit; Let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning; Alpha and Omega be;
End of faith, as its beginning, Set our hearts at liberty.*

*Finish them thy new creation, Pure and spotless let us be;
Let us see thy great salvation Perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory, Till in heav'n we take our place,
Till we cast our crowns before thee, Lost in wonder, love, and praise!*

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: We pray.....

C: Almighty and everlasting God, You sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience. Give us a heart like his...

Filled with compassion.....

Willing to serve.....

Ready to suffer with.....

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

HEARING FROM GOD'S WORD

Old Testament Reading: I Samuel 1:21-28

Hannah offers her first-born son, Samuel, to the Lord

The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow. But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever." Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD."

And he worshiped the LORD there.

New Testament Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

Jesus, our High Priest, has made the proper sacrifice for us by his sacrificial death

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2: 22-32

Mary and Joseph bring two turtledoves, the offering of the poor. The real offering, however, was Jesus

And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

*“Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel.”*

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SERMON SONG “Green Book” 341 vs. 1,3 and 4 Jesus, Still Lead On

*Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won; and, although the
Way be cheerless, we will follow, calm and fearless;
Guide us by your hand to our Father’s land.*

*When we seek relief from a long-felt grief, when temptations
Come alluring make us patient and enduring;
Show us that bright shore where we weep no more.*

*Jesus, still lead on, till our rest be won; Heav’nly leader,
Still direct us, still support, console, protect us,
Till we safely stand in our Father’s land.*

SERMON “In the trenches”

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**C: 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 into hell.
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.**

OFFERING (We give our offerings as a sign of our lives offered to God.)

PRAYER OF GOD’S PEOPLE

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

WORDS OF CONSECRATION

LORD'S PRAYER

THE AGNUS DEI "Green Book" pg. 92

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;

Grant us peace, grant us peace.

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION SONGS

"Green Book" 296

Just as I am, without One Plea

*Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, and waiting not
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
Sight, riches, healing of the mind,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

*Just as I am; thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.*

"Red Book" 14

Bind us Together

(Refrain)

*Bind us together Lord, Bind us together with cords that cannot be broken,
Bind us together Lord, Bind us together
Bind us together with love.*

(Verse)

*There is only one God.
There is only one King.
There is only one body.
That is why I sing.
(repeat refrain above)*

A CLOSING BLESSING

CHOIR ANTHEM Go Now in Peace By Don Besig

DISMISSAL

P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!