

Gathering

Words of Welcome

Prelude

* Call to Worship

We come to God with full and prayerful hearts.
We yearn to turn to God.
We mark on our foreheads our need for grace,
giving thanks and praise for mercy.
Hear our call to be in your will, O God.

* Prayer of the Day

* Hymn 415

Come, Ye Sinners, Poor and Needy

*1 Come, ye sinners, poor and needy,
weak and wounded, sick and sore;
Jesus ready stands to save you,
full of pity, love, and power.*

*Refrain:
I will arise and go to Jesus;
he will embrace me in his arms.
In the arms of my dear Savior,
O there are ten thousand charms.*

*2 Come, ye thirsty, come, and welcome;
God's free bounty glorify,
true belief and true repentance,
every grace that brings you nigh. (Refrain)*

*3 Come, ye weary, heavy laden,
lost and ruined by the fall;
if you tarry till you're better,
you will never come at all. (Refrain)*

*4 Let not conscience make you linger,
nor of fitness fondly dream;
all the fitness he requireth
is to feel your need of him. (Refrain)*

Word

Prayer for Illumination

First Reading

Joel 2:1–2, 12–17

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sound the alarm on my holy mountain!
Let all the inhabitants of the land tremble,
 for the day of the LORD is coming, it is near—

2

a day of darkness and gloom,
 a day of clouds and thick darkness!
Like blackness spread upon the mountains
 a great and powerful army comes;
their like has never been from of old,
 nor will be again after them
 in ages to come.

Yet even now, says the LORD,
 return to me with all your heart,
with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;

13

 rend your hearts and not your clothing.
Return to the LORD, your God,
 for he is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love,
 and relents from punishing.

14

Who knows whether he will not turn and relent,
 and leave a blessing behind him,
a grain offering and a drink offering
 for the LORD, your God?

15

Blow the trumpet in Zion;
 sanctify a fast;
call a solemn assembly;

16

 gather the people.
Sanctify the congregation;
 assemble the aged;
gather the children,
 even infants at the breast.
Let the bridegroom leave his room,
 and the bride her canopy.

17

Between the vestibule and the altar
 let the priests, the ministers of the LORD, weep.

Let them say, "Spare your people, O LORD,
and do not make your heritage a mockery,
a byword among the nations.
Why should it be said among the peoples,
'Where is their God?'

Epistle Reading

2 Corinthians 5:20b–6:10

20 we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. **21** For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

6 As we work together with him,^[a] we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. **2** For he says,

"At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you."

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! **3** We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, **4** but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, **5** beatings, imprisonments, riots, labors, sleepless nights, hunger; **6** by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, **7** truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; **8** in honor and dishonor, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; **9** as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; **10** as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Gospel Reading

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

6 "Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

2 "So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. **3** But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, **4** so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[a]

5 "And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. **6** But whenever you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[b]

16 "And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for

they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. **17** But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, **18** so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.^[a]

19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust^[b] consume and where thieves break in and steal; **20** but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust^[c] consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. **21** For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Homily

Rev. Daniel Ervin

Responding

Invitation to Observe a Holy Lent

Psalm 51

South African, traditional



Lord, have mer - cy, have mer-cy u - pon us.

Litany of Penitence

Holy and merciful God,
we confess to you and to one another, and to the whole communion
of saints in heaven and on earth,
that we have sinned by our own fault 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,
and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not listened to your call to serve as Christ served us. We
have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We confess to you, O God, all our past unfaithfulness.
For the pride, hypocrisy, and impatience in our lives,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our self-indulgent appetites and ways and our exploitation of other people,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our anger at our own frustration
and our envy of those more fortunate than ourselves,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our intemperate love of worldly goods and comforts, and our dishonesty in daily life and work,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to commend the faith that is in us,
have mercy on us, O God.

Accept our repentance, O God,
for the wrongs we have done.
For our neglect of human need and suffering and our indifference to injustice and cruelty,
have mercy on us, O God.

For all false judgments,
for uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and for our prejudice and contempt
toward those who differ from us,
have mercy on us, O God.

For our waste and pollution of your creation
and our lack of concern for those who come after us,
have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God of our salvation, and show us your steadfast love. **Turn to us in your mercy and redeem us.**

*Imposition of Ashes

Please proceed to the front of the church and form a large circle around the communion table. Ashes will be placed on your forehead. If you would rather ashes be placed on the back of your hand, please hold it out.

We will remain around the communion table for communion. Please be seated on the front pews if you are unable to remain standing.

*Hymn 227

Jesus, Remember Me

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

Table

*The Great Prayer of Thanksgiving

*The Lord's Prayer

**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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom, and the power,

and the glory, forever.

Amen.

*Communion

*Song

Open my Heart

*Prayer After Communion

God of compassion,

through your Son Jesus Christ

you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of

prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts

and serve one another in holy love;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sending

*Hymn 442

Just as I Am, without One Plea

1 Just as I am, without one plea

but that thy blood was shed for me,

and that thou biddest me come to thee,

O Lamb of God, I come; I come!

2 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!

*3 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!*

*4 Just as I am, thy love unknown
has broken every barrier down;
now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come; I come!*

*Charge & Benediction



**NEXT STEPS
& SIGNUPS**

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