



**MARCH 7, 2021      THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT**

**Traditional Service**

**PRELUDE**

*Here, at Your Table, Lord*

Sherwin/Hayes

**THE WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRAISE AND ADORATION**

**CHORAL CALL TO WORSHIP**    *I Will Forever Sing*

Marcello/James

I will forever sing the wonders of Thy glory.  
Thy praise to all the nations, I'll sing forever.  
Thy name is glorious, rightly to be praised.

Justice and judgement, mercy and truth, go before you.  
Blessed the people who know the joyful sound.  
They shall be joyful.

**PRAYER OF ADORATION AND PRAISE** (in unison)

**Eternal God,  
your kingdom has broken into our troubled world  
through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son.  
Help us to hear your word and obey it,  
that we may become instruments of your saving love;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and forever. Amen.**

**HYMN**

*Sing Praise to God, Who Reigns Above*

Sing praise to God, who reigns above,  
The God of all creation,  
The God of power, the God of love,  
The God of our salvation;  
With healing balm my soul is filled,  
And every faithless murmur stilled:  
To God all praise and glory!

What God's almighty power hath made  
God's gracious mercy keepeth;

By morning glow or evening shade  
God's watchful eye ne'er sleepeth;  
Within the kingdom of God's might,  
Lo! all is just and all is right:  
To God all praise and glory!

The Lord is never far away,  
But through all grief distressing,  
An ever present help and stay,  
Our peace and joy and blessing;  
As with a mother's tender hand,  
God gently leads the chosen band:  
To God all praise and glory!

Thus, all my gladsome way along,  
I sing aloud Thy praises  
That all may hear the grateful song  
My voice unwearied raises.  
Be joyful in the Lord, my heart,  
Both soul and body bear your part:  
To God all praise and glory!

## **CONFESS OUR SINS**

**PRAYER OF CONFESSION** (in unison)

**God of mercy,  
you sent Jesus Christ to seek and save the lost.  
We confess that we have strayed from you  
and turned aside from your way.  
We are misled by pride,  
for we see ourselves pure when we are stained,  
and great when we are small.  
We have failed in love,  
neglected justice,  
and ignored your truth.  
Have mercy, O God, and forgive our sin.  
Return us to paths of righteousness  
through Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.**

**RESPONSE TO THE CONFESSION**

*Jesus Remember Me, When You Come into Your Kingdom.*

**ASSURANCE OF PARDON**

**RESPONSE TO FORGIVENESS**

*Gloria Patri*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Ghost;  
As it was in the beginning,  
is now, and ever shall be,*

*world without end. Amen, Amen.*

## **PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD OF GOD**

### **CHORAL ANTHEM**

*Lord, I Stretch My Hands to You*

Althouse

Lord I stretch my hands to You  
No other help I know  
If You should leave me all alone  
Where then shall I go Oh Lord

Lord I give my soul to You  
I seek Your care and love  
No other blessings do I need  
But those from You above  
Lord I ask You give me faith  
And help me understand  
And Lord when I this life shall leave  
Just hold me in Your hand

Lord I stretch my hands to You  
No other help I know  
If You should leave me all alone  
Where then shall I go  
Oh Lord I stretch my hands to You

### **CHILDREN'S MESSAGE**

### **READING OF GOD'S WORD**

John 2:13-22

### **THE SERMON**

*Difficult Decisions*

Rev. Jay Smith

### **SACRAMENT OF THE LORD'S SUPPER**

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*The Lord's Prayer*

### **HYMN OF DEDICATION**

*When Christ Went to the Temple*

When Christ went to the Temple to worship God one day,  
He entered through the courtyard where anyone could pray.  
That court was for the nations — and all could enter in.  
But Jesus found a market, a shameful robbers' den.

There, cattle, sheep and pigeons were sold for sacrifice,  
And moneychangers shouted of quality and price.  
Outsiders could not enter the inner courts for prayer.  
Their only place to worship was in the courtyard there.

When prayer gave way to profit, and pride closed many doors,  
The Lord cried out in anger and made a whip of cords.

He shooed the sheep and cattle and scattered pigeons, too.  
God's house was for all people — not for a chosen few.

O God, you love the nations and call us all to pray.  
Forgive us when our worship turns other folk away.  
As Christ, in loving protest, fought prejudice and pride,  
May we who follow Jesus now welcome all inside

**BENEDICTION**

**RESPONSE TO THE BENEDICTION**     *God Be with You 'til We Meet Again*

*God be with you 'til we meet again;  
'Neath His wings protecting hide you,  
Daily manna still provide you:  
God be with you 'til we meet again.*

**\*POSTLUDE**

*I will Sing of My Redeemer*

Prichard/Wilson