

Wednesday, March 8, 2023

Season in Lent

Six O'clock in the Evening

The Worship of God

The Prologue

Lent invites us to make our hearts ready for remembering Jesus' passion and celebrating Jesus' resurrection. As a period of preparation, Lent has historically included the instruction of persons for baptism and profession of faith on Easter Day, the calling back of those who have become estranged from the church, and efforts by all Christians to deepen their piety, devotion, and readiness to mark the death and resurrection of their Savior. As such, the primary focus of the season is to explore and deepen a "baptismal spirituality" that centers on our union with Christ rather than to function only as an extended meditation on Christ's suffering and death. The traditional color for the season is purple. The Christian year centers on the major events of salvation history, celebrating Jesus' birth, death, resurrection, and the sending of the Holy Spirit. Lent refers to the forty days leading up to Easter. The Lenten season is set aside for self-examination, spiritual renewal, and growth. In many churches, it is seen as a time for fasting and abstinence, for alms-giving and acts of mercy, for repentance and prayer.

Gathering Music

The Greeting

The Spirit of the still speaking God be with you.

And also with you.

The Call to Worship and Welcome.

The Music for Contemplation

The Opening Prayer

Let us pray to the Lord,

God of loving grace and peace and mercy and forgiveness, we have joined together for our common worship. Yet each of us has brought something different to this service. Some of us have come with happiness and gratitude and want to give thanks. Some have come with sadness and disappointment and need to be comforted and encouraged. Some have come with guilt or confusion and seek to be forgiven or redirected. Some have come with no particular feeling at all and need to be challenged and made to see the truth. Help us, Lord, that during the worship service that we might have our needs met. In silence, we would lift our personal prayers, but we would as well listen for your words to us. All this we pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The Opening Hymn, No. 419

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly

HOLY MANNA

The Litany

We have come together in the name of Christ!

We have gathered to offer our praise and thanksgiving!

In this sacred space, we seek forgiveness of our sins!

As beloved faith community we long to hear and receive a word from God!

Together as one body we offer our prayers for the world, longing for the power of the holy and still speaking Spirit to respond in kind!

We gladly and joyfully give ourselves to the service of God!

Open our lips, empowering our mouths to proclaim your praise and adoration!

We offer ourselves in worship before the One who creates, redeems, and sustains!

Let us worship the Holy One!

All praise to God's holy name!

(OVER)

The Confession

The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit! A broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Let us come before the Lord, who is full of compassion, and acknowledge our transgressions in penitence and faith.

Compassion and forgiveness belong to the Lord our God, even though we have rebelled against the Holy One.

Let us then renounce our willfulness and ask God's mercy by confessing our sins in penitence and faith.

Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, where for forty days it is told that he was tempted by the devil.

Let us confess our sins remembering before God the times when we have fallen from temptation into sin.

Wash me thoroughly, removing any evil or wickedness within me, cleansing me from my sin.

Make me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me!

Cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me! Wash away all my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!

Against you and my neighbors have I sinned, doing evil in your sight! Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

A Reading from Scripture

The Meditation

The Closing Hymn, No. 655

The Benediction

The Music for Reflection

Accompanist, Linda Brainard

PSALM 95

Dale Bishop

LEONI

Community of Christ

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