

St Martin's Church, North Nibley
7th March 2021
A Service of the Word for the Third Sunday of Lent

Gathering as the People of God

Welcome in the name of Christ!
God's grace, mercy and peace be with you!

The priest introduces the service.

Hymn :

Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou bidst me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, 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.

3. 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.

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

5. Just as I am, of that free love
the breadth, length, depth, and height to prove,
here for a season, then above:
O Lamb of God, I come.

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Preparing for the Word

We worship with Christians near and far, living and departed, old and young.
God's word is for all of us.
May it be a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path.

You may like to open a Bible and place a candle lit near it.

News and Notices

Opening Prayer

Lord, speak to us
that we may hear your word.
Move among us
that we may behold your glory.
Receive our prayers
that we may learn to trust you. Amen.

The Collect, the prayer for the day:

Eternal God,
give us insight
to discern your will for us,
to give up what harms us,
and to seek the perfection we are promised
in Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Proclaiming the Word of the Lord

Epistle

Corinthians 1:18-31. **Christ the Power and the Wisdom of God**

18 For the message about Christ's death on the cross is nonsense to those who are being lost; but for us who are being saved it is God's power. **19** The scripture says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise and set aside the understanding of the scholars."

20 So then, where does that leave the wise? or the scholars? or the skillful debaters of this world? God has shown that this world's wisdom is foolishness!

21 For God in his wisdom made it impossible for people to know him by means of their own wisdom. Instead, by means of the so-called "foolish" message we preach, God decided to save those who believe. **22** Jews want miracles for proof, and Greeks look for wisdom. **23** As for us, we proclaim the crucified Christ, a message that is offensive to the Jews and nonsense to the Gentiles; **24** but for those whom God has called, both Jews and Gentiles, this message is Christ, who is the power of God and the wisdom of God. **25** For what seems to be God's foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and what seems to be God's weakness is stronger than human strength.

Gospel Reading

John 2:13-22

Jesus Goes to the Temple

13 It was almost time for the Passover Festival, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. **14** There in the Temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and pigeons, and also the moneychangers sitting at their tables.

15 So he made a whip from cords and drove all the animals out of the Temple, both the sheep and the cattle; he overturned the tables of the moneychangers and scattered their coins; 16 and he ordered those who sold the pigeons, "Take them out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" 17 His disciples remembered that the scripture says, "My devotion to your house, O God, burns in me like a fire." 18 The Jewish authorities came back at him with a question, "What miracle can you perform to show us that you have the right to do this?" 19 Jesus answered, "Tear down this Temple, and in three days I will build it again." 20 "Are you going to build it again in three days?" they asked him. "It has taken forty-six years to build this Temple!" 21 But the temple Jesus was speaking about was his body. 22 So when he was raised from death, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they believed the scripture and what Jesus had said.

Sermon

Anthem Lead Me Lord by S S Wesley

Lead me Lord, lead me in Thy righteousness, Make Thy way plain before my face.

For it is Thou, Lord, Thou Lord only, that makest me dwell in safety.

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Creed [Priest] Let us declare our faith in God.

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.

We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.

We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.

We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

Praying for Ourselves: for Forgiveness:

Lord God,
we have sinned against you;
we have done evil in your sight.
We are sorry and repent.
Have mercy on us according to your love.
Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.

Renew a right spirit within us
and restore to us the joy of your salvation,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The priest declares God's forgiveness

May God who loved the world so much
that he sent his Son to be our Saviour
forgive our sins and make us holy to serve him in the world,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Praying for Others : our Intercessions

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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

Hymn:

Through all the changing scenes of life,
in trouble and in joy,
the praises of my God shall still
my heart and tongue employ.

2.O magnify the Lord with me;
with me exalt his name;
when in distress to him I called,
he to my rescue came.

3.O make but trial of his love,
experience will decide
how blest are they and only they,
who in his truth confide.

4.Fear him ye saints, and you will then
have nothing else to fear;
make you his service your delight,
your wants shall be his care.

5.To Father, Son and Holy Ghost,
the God whom we adore.
be glory as it was, is now
and shall be evermore.

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Our service draws to a conclusion

Merciful Lord,
grant your people grace to withstand the temptations
of the world, the flesh and the devil,
and with pure hearts and minds to follow you, the only God;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.Amen

The Blessing

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