

SERVICE FOR THE LORD'S DAY
Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 23, 2022

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

***CALL TO WORSHIP**

Great Triune God, we have gathered here in your name as an act of faith, believing that you are not only among us, but that you love us.

It is often hard to recognize your love, see your mercy, and feel your presence.

Help us today in our worship, that we might be transparent to your grace, as you reveal yourself to each one of us. Amen.

SPECIAL MUSIC

Morning Has Broken

CALL TO CONFESSION

The grace of God overflows for us through Jesus Christ, who came into the world to save sinners. Trusting in God's grace, let us confess our sin.

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

God, you loved this world so much
that you sent your own son, Jesus Christ
to live and die among us,
in order that we might have life.

Forgive us for keeping that abundant life to ourselves,
for jealously hoarding your generous gifts,
for choosing self-interest over compassion and justice.

Teach us what it means to live as children of the light,
generously sharing your abundance
with our brothers and sisters in need.

We reflect in silence on the ways we have fallen short.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

Amen. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Friends, believe the good news of the Gospel: **In Jesus Christ, we are forgiven. Thanks be to God!**

GLORIA PATRI

Gloria Patri

581

We encourage you to quietly reflect with joy on God's mercy as the music plays.

PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Gracious God, by the power of the Holy Spirit, quicken our understanding that we may receive the testimony of Scripture and believe in the signs that reveal your presence. We pray in Jesus' name. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

John 3:1-9

Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. He came to Jesus by night and said to him, "Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do apart from the presence of God." Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." Nicodemus said to him, "How can anyone be born after having grown old? Can one enter a second time into the mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' The wind blows where it chooses, and you hear the sound of it, but you do not know where it comes from or where it goes. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit." Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?"

The Word of God for the people of God!

Thanks be to God!

ANTHEM

Call Me Yours

Gay and Paul Piller

SECOND READING

John 3:10-21

Jesus answered him, "Are you a teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

"Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen; yet you do not receive our testimony. If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because

their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God.”

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

MESSAGE

Rev. Ben Shaw

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

CALL TO OFFERING

Per COVID-19 safety measures, we will not pass the offering plate for some time. As you feel called, you may leave your offering in the plate in the Gathering Room or donate online at MPChurch.net.

DOXOLOGY

In place of singing aloud, we encourage you to ponder God's blessings in your life as the music plays.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

... And now hear as we pray as Jesus taught us:

**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.

***HYMN**

Wash, O God, Your Sons and Daughters

490

CHARGE AND BENEDICTION

And now may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all this day, and unto your life eternal. Amen.

POSTLUDE