



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT FEBRUARY 26, 2023

ENTRY OF THE LIGHT

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRELUDE

“Refiner’s Fire”

**Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
And precious silver
Purify my heart
Let me be as gold
Pure gold**

**Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You my Master
Ready to do Your will**

**Purify my heart
Cleanse me from within
And make me holy**

**Purify my heart
Cleanse me from my sin
Deep within**

**Refiner's fire
My heart's one desire
Is to be holy
Set apart for You Lord
I choose to be holy
Set apart for You my Master
Ready to do Your will**

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CALL TO WORSHIP *Psalm 139:23, 24*

Lynne Moran

One: Search me, O God, and know my heart;

All: Try me and know my thoughts!

One: See if there is any wicked way in me,

All: And lead me in the way everlasting.

One: Let us worship God!

***HYMN**

"I Sing the Mighty Power of God"

#32

**I sing the mighty power of God
that made the mountains rise,
that spread the flowing seas abroad
and built the lofty skies.
I sing the wisdom that ordained
the sun to rule the day.
The moon shines full at God's command,
and all the stars obey.**

**I sing the goodness of the Lord
who filled the earth with food.
God formed the creatures through the Word,
and then pronounced them good.
Lord, how thy wonders are displayed,
where'er I turn my eye,
if I survey the ground I tread,
or gaze upon the sky!**

**There's not a plant or flower below
but makes thy glories known.
And clouds arise, and tempests blow,
by order from thy throne,
while all that borrows life from thee
is ever in thy care,
and everywhere that we can be,
thou, God, art present there.**

(Words & Music: I Sing the Mighty Power of God; by Isaac Watts, Public Domain.)

PRAYER OF CONFESSION

One: Let us pray:

All: 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.

(Time for Silent Confession)

KYRIE ELEISON

#437

Cantor: You are the Lord, giver of mercy! You are the Christ, giver of mercy! You are the Lord, giver of mercy!

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PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

Lynne Moran

Holy God, without the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, we cannot hear your Word. As the scriptures are opened, give us the grace of your presence, to hear, to know, to follow. In the name of Jesus Christ, we make our prayer. Amen.

FIRST SCRIPTURE READING

Lynne Moran

Genesis 2:15-17, 3:1-7

The LORD God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to till it and keep it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God say, 'You shall not eat from any tree in the garden'?" The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die.'" But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not die; for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***HYMN**

"The Glory of These Forty Days"

#165

**The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;**

**for Christ, by whom all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

**Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting, came
the steeds and chariots of flame.**

**So Daniel trained his mystic sight,
delivered from the lions' might;
and John, the Bridegroom's friend, became
the herald of Messiah's name.**

**Then grant that we like them be true,
consumed in fast and prayer with you;
our spirits strengthen with your grace,
and give us joy to see your face.**

*(Words & Music: The Glory of These Forty Days; by Gregory the Great
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SECOND SCRIPTURE READING

Matthew 4:1-11

Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished. The tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." But he answered, "It is written, 'One does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'" Then the devil took him to the holy city and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down; for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.'" Jesus said to him, "Again it is written, 'Do not put the Lord your God to the test.'" Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor; and he said to him, "All these I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Jesus said to him, "Away with you, Satan! for it is written, 'Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.'" Then the devil left him, and suddenly angels came and waited on him.

*This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.*

SERMON “Then the devil left him...” *Rev. Dr. Bill Pederson*

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

GIFTS OF TITHE AND OFFERING

OFFERTORY “Take My Life and Let It Be”

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***DOXOLOGY** “Praise God, from Whom All Blessings Flow” #609

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow.
Praise God, all creatures high and low.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise God, in Jesus fully known:
Creator, Word, and Spirit one.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

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***PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING** *Lynne Moran*

One: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

One: Let us pray:

**All: God of compassion, we thank you that you look upon our frail
lives with love and understanding, and that you desire for us all
new life in Jesus Christ. We are arrested by your love, which goes
to the cross for us, endures the grave, and leads us to new life. In
the newness of that life, we have given today. Take our offerings**

as signs of our commitment to follow Jesus Christ, our crucified and risen Lord. Amen.

***HYMN**

“Forty Days and Forty Nights”

#167

**Forty days and forty nights
you were fasting in the wild;
forty days and forty nights
tempted, and yet undefiled.**

**Shall not we your sorrow share
and from worldly joys abstain,
fasting with unceasing prayer,
strong with you to suffer pain?**

**Then if Satan on us press,
flesh or spirit to assail,
victor in the wilderness,
grant that we not faint nor fail!**

**So shall we have peace divine:
holier gladness ours shall be;
round us, too, shall angels shine,
such as served you faithfully.**

**Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
ever constant by your side,
that with you we may appear
at the eternal Eastertide.**

(Words & Music: Forty Days and Forty Nights; by George Hunt Smyttan, Public Domain.)

***CHARGE AND BLESSING**

One: Go out into the world in peace; have courage; hold on to what is good; return no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak, and help the suffering; honor all people; love and serve the Lord, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen!

One: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

All: Alleluia! Amen.

POSTLUDE

*“Deep Peace”
Gabriel’s Sounds*

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