***Mid-week Lenten Service***

**2nd Wednesday of Lent March 9, 2022**

**Greeting** *1 Peter 1*

*So prepare your minds for service. With complete self-control put all your hope in the grace*

*that will be yours when Jesus Christ comes. In the past you did not have the understanding*

*you have now, so you did the evil things you wanted to do. But now you are children of God,*

*so you should obey him and not live the way you did before. Be holy in everything you do,*

*just as God is holy. He is the one who chose you. In the Scriptures God says,*

*“Be holy, because I am holy.”*

**Hymn** *“Take Time to Be Holy”*

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord; abide in him always, and feed on his word.  
 Make friends of God's children, help those who are weak, forgetting in nothing his blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on; spend much time in secret with Jesus alone.  
 By looking to Jesus, like him thou shalt be; thy friends in thy conduct his likeness shall see.

Take time to be holy, let him be thy guide, and run not before him, whatever betide.  
 In joy or in sorrow, still follow the Lord, and, looking to Jesus, still trust in his word.

Take time to be holy, be calm in thy soul, each thought and each motive beneath his control.  
 Thus led by his spirit to fountains of love, thou soon shalt be fitted for service above.

**Prayer of Confession**

**Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed,**

**by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You**

**with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.**

**We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of Your Son Jesus Christ,**

**have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in Your will, and walk in Your ways,**

**to the glory of Your name. Amen.**

**Words of Forgiveness**

**Hymn of Thanks** *“Ask Ye What Great Thing I Know”*

Ask ye what great thing I know, that delights and stirs me so?

What the high reward I win? Whose the name I glory in? Jesus Christ, the crucified.

This is that great thing I know; this delights and stirs me so:  
faith in him who died to save, him who triumphed o'er the grave: Jesus Christ, the crucified.

**Psalter** *Psalm 103*

*Let my whole being bless the Lord! Let everything inside me bless God’s holy name!*

*Let my whole being bless the Lord and never forget all his good deeds: how God forgives all your sins,  
    heals all your sickness, saves your life from the pit, crowns you with faithful love and compassion,*

*and satisfies you with plenty of good things so that your youth is made fresh like an eagle’s.*

*The Lord works righteousness; does justice for all who are oppressed. God made his ways known*

*to Moses; made his deeds known to the Israelites. The Lord is compassionate and merciful,*

*very patient, and full of faithful love. God won’t always play the judge; he won’t be angry forever.*

*He doesn’t deal with us according to our sin or repay us according to our wrongdoing, because as high*

*as heaven is above the earth, that’s how large God’s faithful love is for those who honor him.*

*As far as east is from west—that’s how far God has removed our sin from us. Like a parent*

*feels compassion for their children—that’s how the Lord feels compassion for those who honor him.*

*Because God knows how we’re made, God remembers we’re just dust. The days of a human life*

*are like grass: they bloom like a wildflower; but when the wind blows through it, it’s gone;*

*even the ground where it stood doesn’t remember it. But the Lord’s faithful love is from forever ago*

*to forever from now for those who honor him. And God’s righteousness reaches to the grandchildren*

*of those who keep his covenant and remember to keep his commands. The Lord has established*

*his throne in heaven, and his kingdom rules over all. You divine messengers, bless the Lord!*

*You who are mighty in power and keep his word, who obey everything he says, bless him!*

*All you heavenly forces, bless the Lord! All you who serve him and do his will, bless him!*

*All God’s creatures, bless the Lord!*

*Everywhere, throughout his kingdom, let my whole being bless the Lord!*

**Chorus** *“Bless the Lord, O My Soul”*

Bless the Lord, O my soul; Bless the Lord, O my soul; And all that is within me bless His holy name.

**Gospel Lesson** *St. John 16:17-33*

Some of Jesus’ disciples said to each other, “What does he mean: ‘Soon you won’t see me,

and soon after that you will see me’ and ‘Because I’m going to the Father’? **18**What does he mean

by ‘soon’? We don’t understand what he’s talking about.”

**19**Jesus knew they wanted to ask him, so he said, “Are you trying to find out from each other what I meant

when I said, ‘Soon you won’t see me, and soon after that you will see me’? **20**I assure you

that you will cry and lament, and the world will be happy. You will be sorrowful, but your sorrow

will turn into joy. **21**When a woman gives birth, she has pain because her time has come. But when

the child is born, she no longer remembers her distress because of her joy that a child has been born

into the world. **22**In the same way, you have sorrow now; but I will see you again, and you will

be overjoyed. No one takes away your joy. **23**In that day, you won’t ask me anything. I assure you

that the Father will give you whatever you ask in my name. **24**Up to now, you have asked nothing

in my name. Ask and you will receive so that your joy will be complete.

**25**“I’ve been using figures of speech with you. The time is coming when I will no longer speak to you

in such analogies. Instead, I will tell you plainly about the Father. **26**In that day you will ask in my name.

I’m not saying that I will ask the Father on your behalf. **27**The Father himself loves you, because

you have loved me and believed that I came from God. **28**I left the Father and came into the world.

I tell you again: I am leaving the world and returning to the Father.”

**29**His disciples said, “See! Now you speak plainly; you aren’t using figures of speech.

**30**Now we know that you know everything and you don’t need anyone to ask you.

Because of this we believe you have come from God.”

**31**Jesus replied, “Now you believe? **32**Look! A time is coming—and is here!—when each of you

will be scattered to your own homes and you will leave me alone. I’m not really alone,

for the Father is with me. **33**I’ve said these things to you so that you will have peace in me.

In the world you have distress. But be encouraged! I have conquered the world.”

**Reflections**

**Prayer**

**Hymn** *“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”*

Beneath the cross of Jesus I fain would take my stand, the shadow of a mighty rock  
 within a weary land; a home within the wilderness, a rest upon the way,  
 from the burning of the noontide heat, and the burden of the day.

Upon that cross of Jesus mine eye at times can see the very dying form of One  
 who suffered there for me; and from my stricken heart with tears two wonders I confess:  
 the wonders of His glorious love and my unworthiness.

I take, O cross, thy shadow for my abiding place; I ask no other sunshine than  
 the sunshine of his face; content to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,  
 my sinful self my only shame, my glory all the cross.

**Benediction**

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*We are glad that you are with us tonight.*

*Please be reminded that each Wednesday during this season of Lent*

*we will gather, via Zoom, at 7 PM.*