

Morning Prayer for Lent – The Emmaus Community Retreat

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Introductory Responses

God, open our lips.

And our mouths shall proclaim your praise

We cast our burdens upon you, O God,
and you will sustain us.

Create in us clean hearts, O God,
and renew a right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence
and take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Give us the joy of your saving help again
and sustain us by your bountiful Spirit.

Blessed are you, O Holy One,
the God of our salvation who bears our burdens.

Blessed be God: Source of all being, Incarnate Word and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever. Amen.

Reflection Song and/or Poem

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

The Gospel Acclamation

Celtic Mass
Christopher Walker



Praise and hon-or, hon-or and glo-ry, glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

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The Gospel (Luke 15, selected verses):

A reading from the holy gospel according to Saint Luke:

Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus]. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, “This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So he told them this parable: Then Jesus said, “There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.’ So he divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. But when he came to himself he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.”’ So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son

said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.'"

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Celtic Mass
Christopher Walker



Praise and hon-or, hon-or and glo-ry, glo-ry to you, Lord Je-sus Christ!

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Bell. Silence. Bell

The Canticle: A Song of Humility (Hosea 6.1-6)

Come let us return to the Lord *
who has torn us and will heal us.
God has stricken us *
and will bind up our wounds.
After two days, God will revive us, *
and on the third day will raise us up,
so that we may live in the presence of the Lord.
Let us strive to know the Lord, *
whose appearing is as sure as the sunrise.
God will come to us like the showers, *
like the spring rains that water the earth.
'O Ephraim, how shall I deal with you? *
How shall I deal with you, O Judah?
'Your love for me is like the morning mist, *
like the dew that goes early away.
Therefore, I have hewn them by the prophets, *
and my judgement goes forth as the light.
For loyalty is my desire and not sacrifice, *
and the knowledge of God rather than burnt offerings.'
At the end of the Canticle one of the following may be said or sung.
Glory to God, Source of all being, Incarnate Word and Holy Spirit:
as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever. **Amen.**

Affirmation of Faith (United Church)

We are not alone,
we live in God's world.

We believe in God:
who has created and is creating,
who has come in Jesus,
the Word made flesh,
to reconcile and make new,
who works in us and others
by the Spirit.

We trust in God.

We are called to be the Church:
to celebrate God's presence,
to live with respect in Creation,
to love and serve others,
to seek justice and resist evil,
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,
our judge and our hope.

In life, in death, in life beyond death,

God is with us.

We are not alone.

Thanks be to God.

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Let us offer our intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings... saying,

'God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world... saying

God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.

For the mission of the Church,

that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth... saying

God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.

For those preparing for baptism and for their teachers and sponsors... saying

God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.

For peace in the world, that a spirit of respect and reconciliation

may grow among communities and peoples... saying

God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.

For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer; for refugees, prisoners and all in danger; that they may be relieved and protected... saying

God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.

For all whom we have injured or offended... saying

God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.

For grace to amend our lives and to further your reign... saying

God of our ancestors, hear our prayer...

Collect for The Week of the Second Sunday in Lent

Artist of souls, you sculpted a people for yourself out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting. Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer, presence and simplicity, so that the discipline of these forty days may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship and whet our thirst for the living water you offer through Jesus Christ.

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer (feel free to un-mute yourself!)

Trusting in the compassion of God

and gathering our prayers and praises into one,

let us pray – in a language, paraphrase or translation of your choice

as our Saviour taught us...

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

The Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love. **Amen.**

Bell x 3