

**A morning service during the Covid-19 restrictions  
Fourth Sunday of Lent - March 14, 2021**

**The sacrifice of God is a broken spirit: a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise. *Psalm 51.18***

**Dear friends in Christ, as we prepare to worship almighty God, let us with penitent and obedient hearts confess our sins, that we may obtain forgiveness by his infinite goodness and mercy.**

**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 neighbours 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**

**Almighty God have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in eternal life;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

**The Lord is full of compassion and mercy: O come let us worship.**

**To God Be the Glory**

**To God be the glory, who great things has done!  
God so loved the world, freely sending the Son,  
who yielded his life an atonement for sin,  
and opened the life gate that all may go in. Chorus**

***Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the earth hear God's voice.  
Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! Let the people rejoice!  
O come to the Father through Jesus the Son,  
and give God the glory, who great things has done!***

**O perfect redemption, the purchase of blood,  
to every believer the promise of God;  
that when the offender, repenting, believes,  
through Jesus' atonement, God's pardon receives. Chorus**

**Great things God has taught us, great things God has done,  
and great our rejoicing through Jesus the Son;  
but purer and higher and greater will be  
our wonder, our gladness when Jesus we see! Chorus**

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**The Proclamation of the Word  
Numbers 21:4-9**

***Psalm 107:1-3;17-22***

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good, \*  
and his mercy endures for ever.**
- 2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim \*  
that he redeemed them from the hand of the foe.**
- 3 He gathered them out of the lands; \*  
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.**

**17** Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; \*  
they were afflicted because of their sins.  
**18** They abhorred all manner of food \*  
and drew near to death's door.  
**19** Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, \*  
and he delivered them from their distress.  
**20** He sent forth his word and healed them \*  
and saved them from the grave.  
**21** Let them give thanks to the Lord for his mercy \*  
and the wonders he does for his children.  
**22** Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving \*  
and tell of his acts with shouts of joy.  
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.  
As it was in the beginning is now and will be for ever. Amen.

**Ephesians 2:1-10**

**John 3:14-21**

**A reflection on the readings (written by the Ven. Glen Miller)**

### **Affirmation of Faith**

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:

Love your neighbour as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.

### **Amazing Grace**

**Amazing grace! How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!**

**I once was lost, but now am found: was blind, but now I see.**

**'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear, and grace my fears relieved;  
how precious did that grace appear the hour I first believed.**

**The Lord has promised good to me, his word my hope secures;  
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.**

**Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;  
'tis grace that brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.**

**When we've been there ten thousand years, bright shining as the sun,  
we've no less days to sing God's praise than when we'd first begun.**

John Newton (1725-1807)

**Prayers (see litany below)**

**Our prayers have been requested for: Thelma, Joanne, Wendy, Vivian, Spruce, front line workers who continue to serve in the midst of this pandemic, the homeless and those who care for them, our sister congregations in the Deanery of Thunder Bay and the North Shore and our Archbishop Anne as we walk this difficult road together.**

**Prayers the People on the occasion of the anniversary of the declaration of the Pandemic.**

*The Leader or another individual leads the Prayers of the People.*

Let us join our voices with the One who is gentle and humble, lifting our hearts to God, praying, "Hear us as we pray, God of grace and mercy."

**"Hear us as we pray, God of grace and mercy."**

For the sick and suffering, particularly those afflicted by the COVID-19 virus; that God will bring them to wholeness, and restore them to those who love them, let us lift our hearts to God: **/Hear us as we pray, God of grace and mercy/**

For all who care for patients and their loved ones; that God will give them strength for their service, and wisdom to seek help when they are in need, let us lift our hearts to God: **/R/**

For the fragile elderly, those struggling with fear, people vulnerable in health, and all enduring isolation in this time of pandemic; that they may know the warm embrace of God's compassion, let us lift our hearts to God: **/R/**

For decision-makers at all levels of government and community health care; that they will be gifted with wisdom and courage for the wellbeing of those whom they are called to serve, let us lift our hearts to God: **/R/**

For all those who have died, and for mourners who must grieve their loss apart from loved ones; that the time will come when we may gather once again to sing "Alleluia" over the graves our beloved, let us lift our hearts to God: **/R/**

For whom or what else do we pray this day?

*After a period of silence for biddings to be voiced, the Intercessor continues,*

Let us lift our hearts to God: **/R/**

### **The Collect of the day**

God of grace and compassion, you shoulder our burdens and ease our heavy hearts.

As we mark the first anniversary of the declaration of the pandemic by the World Health Organization,

be comfort for those who grieve,

strength for those who falter,

and eternal rest for those who have died.

Buttress our hearts and wills,

spark our imaginations,

and kindle hope in our depths,

that we may trust, follow, and love you,

for our well-being and the sake of the world.

This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,

one God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### **The Collect for Ash Wednesday**

**Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.**

### **The Lord's prayer**

**There's a Wideness in God's Mercy**

**There's a wideness in God's mercy like the wideness of the sea;**

**there's a kindness in God's justice which is more than liberty.**

**There is no place where earth's sorrows are more felt than up in heaven;**

**there is no place where earth's failings have such kindly judgement given.**

**There is plentiful redemption in the blood that has been shed;**

**there is joy for all the members in the sorrows of the Head.**

**Foolish hearts, why will you scatter like a crowd of frightened sheep?  
Fainting souls, why will you wander from a love so true and deep?**

**For the love of God is broader than the measure of our mind,  
and the heart of the Eternal is most wonderfully kind.**

Frederick William Faber (1814-1863)

**A Lenten Blessing**

**May the God of mercy transform you by his grace, and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always.**

**Dismissal**

***Then may be said or sung,***

***Officiant* Let us bless the Lord. *People* Thanks be to God!**

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