

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE:

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

TEMPE SPECIAL MUSIC: Reflections on Be Thou My Vision, Ringing Praise (*Sunday only*)

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS:

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
who forgives all our sin,
whose mercy endures forever.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin to God and one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

**We confess to you, most loving God,
Our sin that both binds and scatters us.
We have questioned your gracious power again and again.
We have given into temptation.
We have acted out of fear.
In our disbelief and confusion,
we have hurt our neighbors and ourselves.
Gather us back to you.
Forgive us, free us, and make us whole
for the sake of your son Jesus Christ. Amen.**

Beloved friends of God,
Jesus came not to condemn the world
but that all might be saved through him.
In the name of + Christ your sin is forgiven.
May God unbind your guilt and shame,
lead you by the Spirit,
and bring you to wholeness in abundant life.

Amen.

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GATHERING SONG: ELW 742 What a Friend We Have in Jesus

1 What a friend we have in Jesus,
all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit;
oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry
ev'rything to God in prayer!

2 Have we trials and temptations?
Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful

who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--
take it to the Lord in prayer.

3 Are we weak and heavy-laden,
cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--
take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you?
Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you;
you will find a solace there.

Text: Joseph Scriven, 1820-1886

GREETING:

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

And also with you.

LENT KYRIE: *Unbound (Longing for Wholeness)*

Chorus

We're bound by fear and bound by pain,
Lord, have mercy.

Lord, make us whole and break our chains,
Christ, have mercy.

Please bring us back
and give us clean hearts, O God.

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Verse: (Leader Only)

We chase lives that promise gain,
and follow paths that leave us worn and
strained;

Meet us, Lord, come to our aid,
Restore our hearts, this in Your Name we pray:

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PRAYER OF THE DAY:

Living God,

we come looking for signs of your heavenly kingdom.

When certainty binds our spirits, surprise us with your grace.

Help us to trust your Word

And give us faith in your gift of eternal life for all people.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE: He's Got the Whole World in His Hands (*Sunday Tempe/Gilbert*)

Verse 1

He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

Verse 3/4/5

He's got you and me brother in His hands
He's got you and me sister in His hands
He's got ev'rybody here in His hands
He's got the whole world in His hands

Sat 5pm Tempe: **NO** Children's Message
Sunday Tempe & Gilbert: *Sing at all services*

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

FIRST LESSON: Genesis 12:1-4a

¹ The LORD said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. ² I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

^{4a} So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Refrain:

In this time of ache and pain,
we seek your light to guide our way
Christ who calls us to the cross,

only You bring peace through loss,
O Word of life, revealed to us.

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GOSPEL: John 3:1-17

¹ Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ² 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 unless God is with that person." ³ Jesus answered him, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above." ⁴ 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?" ⁵ Jesus answered, "Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶ What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷ Do not be astonished that I said to you, 'You must be born from above.' ⁸ 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." ⁹ Nicodemus said to him, "How can these things be?" ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, "Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?"

¹¹ "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. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

¹⁶ "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.

¹⁷ "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."

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

SERMON:

"John 3:1-17"

Rev. Jacqueline Pagel, Bishop's Associate
for Candidacy & Faith Formation
(Sat 5pm/Sunday Tempe)

"Strangers in the Night"

Pastor Thaddeus Book
(Gilbert)

SONG OF THE DAY: Goodness of God

Verse 1

I love You Lord
Oh Your mercy never fails me
All my days
I've been held in Your hands
From the moment that I wake up
Until I lay my head
I will sing of the goodness of God

Chorus

All my life You have been faithful
All my life You have been so so good
With every breath that I am able
I will sing of the goodness of God

Verse 2

I love Your voice
You have led me through the fire
In darkest night
You are close like no other

I've known You as a father
I've known You as a friend
I have lived in the goodness of God

Bridge

Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me
With my life laid down
I'm surrendered now
I give You everything
Your goodness is running after
It's running after me

Ben Fielding, Brian Johnson, Ed Cash, Jason Ingram, Jenn Johnson
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APOSTLES' CREED:

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting.**

Amen

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:

Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

A brief silence.

Grant faith to your church. Help us worship and serve you. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Preserve us from trouble and surround those in violence with love. Strengthen peacemakers. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Heal the sick, bring peace to the grieving, and send support to the lonely (especially ...). Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Gracious God, as we reflect on the promise of new birth in John 3, we give thanks for the saints who have gone before us. Grant us faith in your promise of everlasting life. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation.

Amen.

PEACE:

May the peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

We share a word of peace with our neighbors.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING:

The grace of Christ calls us to lives of gratitude and generosity. In Jesus Christ we are given new life. Let us celebrate this life by giving generously to the work of God's redeeming love.

The Hunger Jar is a love offering and is designated in Tempe for Hygiene Products for Kyrene Resource Center and in Gilbert for ELCA World Hunger.

You are invited to share your gifts in worship while others give electronically at www.desertcross.org with the giving button, text giving, or by QR code. We give thanks for all the ways you support God's mission of outreach through Desert Cross that changes lives for the sake of the gospel

OFFERING SONG: Abide

Verse 1

For my waking breath
For my daily bread
I depend on You
I depend on You
For the sun to rise

For my sleep at night
I depend on You
I depend on You

Chorus 1

You're the way the truth and the life
 You're the well that never runs dry
 I'm the branch and You are the vine
 Draw me close and teach me to abide

Verse 2

Where the Spirit leads
 As I'm following
 I depend on You
 I depend on You
 For the victories
 Still in front of me
 I depend on You
 I depend on You

Chorus 2

You're the way the truth and the life
 You're the well that never runs dry
 I'm the branch and You are the vine
 Draw me close and teach me to abide
 Be my strength my song in the night
 Be my all my treasure my prize
 I am Yours forever You're mine
 Draw me close and teach me to abide

Aaron Keyes, Aaron Williams, Jake Fauber
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OFFERING PRAYER:

Gracious God,
 in this season of Lent, we bring our offerings to you.
 Receive these gifts as signs of our desire for wholeness and renewal,
 trusting that you make us complete by your love.
 May all we give and all we do
 reflect your healing presence in our lives and in the world.
Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION:**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE:**

God of our weary years and silent tears,
 you guide us into the path of love and light.
 You sent your chosen servant
 to preach good news,
 to break bread with all people,
 and to make us free in Christ.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION:

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink saying, this cup is the new covenant in my blood shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER:

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever.
Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION:

This is Christ's table. There is a place for you.
All are welcome.

COMMUNION DISTRIBUTION:

Come forward to receive the bread and a cup of wine/juice. Alert an usher for communion in your seat. All are welcome.

LAMB OF GOD: ELW p.208 - Lamb of God (Setting 10)



1 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
2 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;
3 O Lamb of God, you bear the sin of all the world a - way;



you suf-fered death our lives to save: have mer-cy now, we pray.
you set us free from guilt and grave: have mer-cy now, we pray.
e - ter-nal peace with God you made: give us your peace, we pray.

DISTRIBUTION SONGS: ELW 335 Jesus Keep Me Near the Cross

1 Jesus, keep me near the cross,
there's a precious fountain;
free to all, a healing stream
flows from Calv'ry's mountain.

Refrain

In the cross, in the cross
be my glory ever;
till my ransomed soul shall find
rest beyond the river.

2 Near the cross, a trembling soul,
love and mercy found me;

there the bright and morning star
sheds its beams around me. *Refrain*

3 Near the cross! O Lamb of God,
bring its scenes before me;
help me walk from day to day
with its shadow o'er me. *Refrain*

4 Near the cross I'll watch and wait,
hoping, trusting ever,
till I reach the golden strand
just beyond the river. *Refrain*

Text: Fanny J. Crosby, 1820-1915

I Will Trust My Saviour Jesus

Verse 1

I will trust my Saviour Jesus
When my darkest doubts befall
Trust him when to simply trust him
Seems the hardest thing of all

Verse 2

I will trust my Saviour Jesus
Trust him when my strength is small

For I know the shield of Jesus
Is the safest place of all

Chorus

Jesus only Jesus
Help me trust you more and more
Jesus only Jesus
May my heart be ever yours

Verse 3

I will trust my Saviour Jesus
He has said his way is best
And I know the path he's chosen
Leads to everlasting rest

I can go now ever trusting
In the one who died for me
What could I bring for your gift is complete
So I trust you simply trust you Lord
With every part of me

Bridge

Oh on that cross how it was seen

Jaywan Maxwell, Jonny Robinson, Lucy Ann Bennett, Rich Thompson, Tiarne Tranter
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POST-COMMUNION BLESSING & PRAYER:

May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

Heavenly Father,
You have met us at this table with Christ's body and blood.
Send us now into the world as signs of your unbound presence,
seeking the wholeness of the kingdom of God,
and inviting all who hunger to come and see your glory.
In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

BENEDICTION:

Almighty God,
Father, ✚ Son, and Holy Spirit,
Bless you now and forever.
Amen.

SENDING SONG: ELW 857 Lord, I Lift Your Name on High

Verse

Lord I lift Your name on high
Lord I love to sing Your praises
I'm so glad You're in my life
I'm so glad You came to save us

From the earth to the cross
My debt to pay
From the cross to the grave
From the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high

Chorus

You came from heaven to earth
To show the way

Rick Founds
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DISMISSAL:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE:

Thank you for supporting the Desert Cross mission. Here are the ways you can donate today:		
ONLINE GIVING:  Get your smart phone and scan the QR-code with your phone camera	SECURE TEXT GIVING: Text "GIVE" to 833-636-1502	USPS: 8600 S. McClintock Drive Tempe, AZ 85284