

**“LET THE HEAVENS BE GLAD,
AND LET THE EARTH REJOICE; LET THE SEA ROAR,
AND ALL THAT FILLS IT; LET THE FIELD EXULT,
AND EVERYTHING IN IT!”
PSALM 96:11-12**



Claude Monet | Chrysanthemums | 1897 | Oil on Canvas



**Fifth Sunday in Lent
March 29, 2020**

AGAPE MEAL LITURGY

God calls us out of the world and welcomes us into his presence. Opening our hearts to him in love, we respond by confessing our sins, receiving his forgiveness, and fully devoting our lives to him in praise and adoration.

*Congregational responses are indicated in **boldface**.*

THE CALL TO WORSHIP

We gather in the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

May his name be praised forever more.

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

COLLECT OF THE DAY*

O God of unchangeable power and eternal light: Look favorably on your whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; by the effectual working of your providence, carry out in tranquility the plan of salvation; let the whole world see and know that things which were cast down are being raised up, and things which had grown old are being made new, and that all things are being brought to their perfection by him through whom all things were made, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Almighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people: Continue in our hospitals and research centers his gracious work among us especially those ministering to people affected by the novel coronavirus; console and heal the sick; grant to the researchers, physicians, nurses, and assisting staff

*A "collect" is a particular type of prayer that, in the context of a worship service, summarizes (or collects) all the parts of the worship service. Think of it as a prayer that focuses on the theme of this particular service.

wisdom and skill, diligence and patience; prosper their work, O Lord, and send down your blessing upon all who serve the suffering; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

OUR GOD SAVES

Paul Baloche, Brenton Brown; © 2007 Thankyou Music; CCLI# 11096120.

In the name of the Father, in the name of the Son
In the name of the Spirit, Lord we come
We're gathered together to lift up your name
To call on our Savior, to fall on your grace

Hear the joyful sound of our offering
As your saints bow down, as your people sing
We will rise with you, lifted on your wings
And the world will see that

Our God saves, our God saves
There is hope in your name
Mourning turns to songs of praise
Our God saves, our God saves

HEARING GOD'S WORD

We encounter our Risen Lord in Scripture. As a people defined by God's Word, we respond to God through confession of faith, corporate prayer, and a demonstration of our reconciliation with one another in passing the peace of Christ

THE LESSONS

A reading from **ISAIAH 43:1-3A**

¹ But now thus says the LORD, he who created you, O Jacob, he who formed you, O Israel: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine.

² When you pass through the waters, I will be with you; and through the rivers, they shall not overwhelm you; when you walk through fire you shall not be burned, and the flame shall not consume you.

³ For I am the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Savior...”

Here ends the reading.

*Our psalm is **PSALM 119:162-167**, and will be read responsively by whole verse.*

Psalm 119:162 I rejoice at your word like one who finds great spoils.

¹⁶³ ***I hate and abhor falsehood, but I love your law.***

¹⁶⁴ Seven times a day I praise you for your righteous rules.

¹⁶⁵ ***Great peace have those who love your law; nothing can make them stumble.***

¹⁶⁶ I hope for your salvation, O LORD, and I do your commandments.

¹⁶⁷ ***My soul keeps your testimonies; I love them exceedingly.***

*A reading from **MATTHEW 6:25-33***

²⁵ Jesus said, “I tell you, do not be anxious about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? ²⁶ Look at the birds of the air: they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? ²⁷ And which of you by being anxious can add a single hour to his span of life? ²⁸ And why are you anxious about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin, ²⁹ yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. ³⁰ But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is alive and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith?”

³¹ Therefore do not be anxious, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ ³² For the Gentiles seek after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them all. ³³ But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.”

Here ends the reading.

THE SERMON

THE APOSTLES’ CREED*

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

***He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.***

***He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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.***

*The Apostles’ Creed is a theological summary of Christian beliefs, which dates back to the 7th century. However, similar forms of this creed date back to the 3rd century. Today this creed serves as an ecumenical symbol of faith.

*“Catholic,” here means that every local church founded on the gospel is part of the one universal church founded by God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit.

*Since God first gathered a people to himself, a fundamental part of public worship has been that his people pray together. In the presence of God, we ask for ourselves and on behalf of others, those things that are necessary for our life and salvation.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

*Let us pray for the Church and for the world, saying, "hear our prayer."**

For the peace of the whole world, and for the well being and unity of the people of God...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For Foley, our Archbishop, and Clark, our Bishop, and for all the clergy and people of our Diocese and Congregation...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For all those who proclaim the Gospel at home and abroad; and for all who teach and disciple others...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For our brothers and sisters in Christ who are persecuted for their faith...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For our nation, for those in authority, and for all in public service especially for our President...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For family members serving in the armed forces: Andrew, Steve, Keith, Ryan, Chris, Joshua, Katy, Adam, Alex, and Zach...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For medical personnel working to care for the sick and for those searching to find a cure to this disease; protect their health and bless their work that many may be restored...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For all those who are in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness, or any other adversity...Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

For all those who have departed this life in the certain hope of the resurrection, in thanksgiving let us pray...
Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer.

Heavenly Father, grant these our prayers for the sake of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*When we confess our sins to God we are not groveling in guilt; we are dealing with our guilt. If we deny our sins, we will never get free of from them.

THE CONFESSION OF SIN*

Let us humbly confess our sins to Almighty God.

Almighty and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from your ways like lost sheep. We have followed the devices and desires of our own hearts. We have offended against your holy laws. We have left undone those things which we ought to have done, and we have done those things which we ought not to have done; and apart from your grace, there is no health in us.

O Lord, have mercy upon us. Spare all those who confess their faults. Restore all those who are penitent, according to your promises declared to all people in Christ Jesus our Lord. And grant, O most merciful Father, for his sake, that we may now live a godly, righteous, and sober life, to the glory of you holy Name. Amen.

*Only God can forgive sins. In announcing God's forgiveness, we are declaring the miraculous work of God to restore and unite us both to himself and one another.
(See 1 John 1:4-10).

THE ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS*

The Almighty and merciful Lord grant you absolution and remission of all your sins, true repentance, amendment of life, and the grace and consolation of his Holy Spirit.
Amen.

AGAPE MEAL BLESSING

God welcomes his people to feast with him at his table. The Agape Meal, while not the same as Eucharist, is a shared experience designed to highlight our connectedness as a body. With roots in early Church practice, this meal is intended to strengthen the fellowship and love among Christ's followers. In this time of physical separation, the agape meal is a great way for us to be one in the Spirit.

Blessed are you, O Lord God, King of the Universe, for you give us food and drink to sustain our lives and make our hearts glad; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Let us now share bread and wine and a time of silent prayer.

GENERAL THANKSGIVING

Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

COME THOU FOUNT

Robert Robinson, 1758; Public Domain

Come thou fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing thy praise
Streams of mercy never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount—I'm fixed upon it
Mount of thy redeeming love

*"Ebenezer" in Hebrew means "stone of help." The prophet Samuel marked God's faithful help in 1 Sam. 7:12 saying, "Till now the LORD has helped us."

Here I raise my Ebenezer*
Hither by thy help I'm come
And I hope by thy good measure
Safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He to rescue me from danger
Interposed his precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let thy goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, O take and seal it
Seal it for thy courts above

THE BLESSING AND DISMISSAL

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the Cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. Amen.

*More than 3,500 years ago God instructed the priests of Israel to bless his people (Number 6:22-27). The result is that God will put his name upon the people, and he will bless them.

The peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. Amen.*

CORNERSTONE

Edward Mote, Eric Liljero, Jonas Myrin, William Batchelder, Reuben Morgan; © 2011 Hillsong Publishing; CCLI# 11096120.

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus' blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But whole trust in Jesus name

Christ alone, Cornerstone
Weak made strong in the Savior's love
Through the storm he is Lord
Lord of all

When darkness seems to hide his face
I rest on his unchanging grace
In ever high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil

When he shall come with trumpet sound
Oh may I then in him be found
Dressed in his righteousness alone
Faultless stand before the throne

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God.