A CELEBRATION OF WORSHIP
The Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2023
*All who are able may stand.

**Bold type spoken by the congregation**

GATHERING . . .

The Prelude

Cantilene

Leo Delibes, arr. G. Blake

The Welcome and Announcements

The Introit

I Danced in the Morning

The Call To Worship

Come, let us bow down in worship,
let us kneel before the Lord our maker;
for he is our God
and we are the people of his pasture,
the flock under his care.
O magnify the Lord with me.
Let us exalt God’s name together!

Prayer of Adoration

You, O God, are mighty forever. You cause the wind to blow and the rain to fall. You sustain the living, give life to the dead, support the falling, loose those who are bound, and keep your faith with those who sleep in the dust. Who is like you, O God of mighty acts? Praise be to you forever. Amen.

*The Hymn 409

God is Here

God is here! As we your people meet to offer praise and prayer;
may we find in fuller measure what it is in Christ we share.
Here, as in the world around us, all our varied skills and arts
wait the coming of the Spirit into open minds and hearts.

Here are symbols to remind us of our lifelong need of grace;
here are table, font, and pulpit; here the cross has central place.

Here in honesty of preaching, here in silence, as in speech,
here, in newness and renewal, God the Spirit comes to each.

Here our children find a welcome in the Shepherd’s flock and fold;
here as bread and wine are taken, Christ sustains us as of old.
Here the servants of the Servant seek in worship to explore
what it means in daily living to believe and to adore.

Lord of all, of church and kingdom, in an age of change and doubt
keep us faithful to the gospel; help us work your purpose out.
Here, in this day’s dedication, all we have to give, receive:
we, who cannot live without you, we adore you! We believe.

*Prayer of Confession

Forgive us our sins, O Lord. Forgive us the sins of our youth and the sins of our age, the sins of our soul and the sins of our body, our secret and our whispering sins, our presumptuous and our careless sins, the sins we have done to please ourselves, and the sins we have done to please others. Forgive us the sins that we know, and the sins that we know not. Forgive them, O Lord, all because of your great goodness. Through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Silent prayer

*Assurance of Pardon

God accepts, God forgives, and God sets free.
Receive the forgiving love of God
Thanks be to God!
*The Gloria Patri

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be: World without end. Amen

*The Peace and Greeting

The peace of Christ be with you all. And also with you!
(Please stand to greet one another in the name of Christ. For those worshiping at home, please share Christ’s peace with someone outside Your home this week.)

HEARING THE WORD OF GOD . . .

The Prayer for Illumination

The Epistle Lesson: Romans 8:6-14

The Psalter Lesson: Psalm 130

The Anthem

My Jesus I Love Thee

Featherstone/Forrest

My Jesus, I love Thee, I know thou art mine. For Thee all the follies of sin I resign.
My gracious Redeemer, my Savior art Thou, If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
I'll love Thee in life, I will love Thee in death, And praise Thee as long as Thou lendest me breath.
And say when the death dew lies cold on my brow, If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.
In mansions of glory, and endless delight, I'll ever adore Thee in heaven so bright.
I'll sing with the glittering crown on my brow, If ever I loved Thee, my Jesus, 'tis now.

A Moment with the Children

*The Hymn 450

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision, O Lord of my heart; Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art;
Thou my best thought, by day or by night, Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.
Be Thou my wisdom, and thou my true Word; I ever with thee and thou with me, Lord;
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tower; raise thou me heavenward, O Power of my power.
Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise, Thou mine inheritance, now and always;
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.
High King of Heaven, my victory won, may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall, still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

The Old Testament Lesson: Ezekiel 37:1-14

The Sermon

Forward Focus and Faith

Bruce Smith

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD . . .

*Affirmation of Faith

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Maker of heaven and earth,
And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord; who was conceived by
the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell; the third day
he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the
Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy
Ghost; the holy catholic church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection
of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

The 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not
into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.
Tithes and Offerings Presented

*The Doxology and Prayer of Dedication

_Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him all creatures here below; praise him above, ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen_

GOING FORTH AND SERVING IN GOD’S NAME . . .

*The Hymn 686

_God of Our Life_

_Day of our life, through all the circling years, we trust in thee. In all the past, through all our hopes and fears, thy hand we see. With each new day, when morning lifts the veil, we own they mercies, Lord, which never fail._

_God of the past, our times are in thy hand. With us abide. Lead us by faith to hope’s true promised land._

_Be thou our guide. With thee to bless, the darkness shines as light, and faith’s fair vision changes into sight._

_God of the coming years, through paths unknown we follow thee. When we are strong, Lord, leave us not alone._

_Our refuge be. Be thou for us in life our daily bread, our heart’s true home when all our years have sped._

*The Charge & Benediction

The Postlude

_Short Postlude_    Gilbert M. Martin

_Today’s Worship Leaders:_

_Preacher: Bruce Smith_

_Liturgists: Mike Gibson, Eric Snader_

_Choir Masters: Mary Ann and Larry Casey_

_Organist: Amy Shirk_

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