



The Second Sunday of Lent

Again & Again, We are Called to Listen

Holy Eucharist, Rite II
February 28
10:15 AM

Welcome

Silent Entrance

Opening Hymn

Return to God

Gather 410, v. 1 & 2

Refrain

Re - turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and
mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith - ful - ness of God.

Verses

1. Now the time of grace has come,
the day of salvation;
come and learn now the way of our God.
2. I will take your heart of stone
and place a heart within you,
a heart of compassion and love.
3. If you break the chains of oppression,
if you set the pris'ner free;
if you share your bread with the hungry,
give protection to the lost;
give a shelter to the homeless,
clothe the naked in your midst,
then your light shall break forth like the dawn.

Text: Marty Haugen, b.1950
Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950
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Liturgical Greeting

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins.
His mercy endures for ever. Amen.

Call to Worship

God meets us in the night—
**Before the sun rises,
Before the wound heals,
Before there are answers,
Before there is closure.**

God meets us in the light—

**Where joy is effervescent,
Where laughter is contagious,
Where flowers bloom from cracks in the sidewalk,
And where people gather around the table.**

God meets us at the threshold—

**At the edge of the water,
At the beginning of the wilderness,
At the start of something new,
On the edge of faith.**

And if God meets us in all those places,
Then surely God meets us in between—

Staying with us through the wilderness.

We are not alone. God is all around.

Let us worship the God of the here and now.

Call to Confession

Again and again, God meets us where we are. God's love knows no bounds, which is hard for us to understand and easy for us to forget. Therefore, in confession we remember together that we are not alone.

And in a unified voice, we once again ask for God's grace in that holy reminder. Family of faith, please pray with me.

God who meets us where we are—

There is nowhere we can go that you are not.

**You were with Jesus at his baptism.
You were with him in the wilderness,
And even in between, you were there,
Saying aloud, "This is my beloved."**

We know that you are with us too—

In the good, the bad, and everything in between—

But so often we act like we are alone.

**Instead of coming to you with our hurt,
We hold it in or cast it onto others.
Instead of coming to you with our joy,
We credit ourselves and offer you nothing.**

How can we long for a deeper relationship with you

While living like you are nowhere to be found?

**Forgive our self-centered ways.
Remind us that in every breath, in every step, you are there.**

You are the God who meets us where we are.

Before and behind, above and below, within and around. Amen.

Words of Forgiveness

Family of faith, if you hear nothing else today, hear this:

God is here. God sees you. God knows you. God meets you at the edge of every new beginning,

And God calls you beloved.

**We are washed by the water.
We are called beloved.
Thanks be to God for a love like that.**

Prayer of Illumination

Holy God, If I am honest, faith often feels like water in my hands.
No matter how hard I try to hold onto it, some of it always slips through—
Like droplets of truth running down my wrists, back toward my heart.
This human inability to hold onto you leaves me thirsty for more.
So as we prepare to read scripture,
I pray that once again, you would meet us here.
Meet us in our hope and our heartache.
Meet us in our fear and our joy,
Meet us in our cupped hands and clenched fists.
And even if the water keeps running,
And we do not have a sky-parting moment of clarity,
Or a tangible sense that you are near;
Even if we do not hear the words, “This is my beloved,”
Ringing in our ears,
We will trust that you are near,
Always and forever meeting us here, running toward our hearts.
Gratefully we pray, **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

A Reading from the Hebrew Bible

Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

When Abram was ninety-nine years old, God came to him and said, “I am God Almighty. Come with me. Be holy. I will promise to always be your God, and I will make sure you have many children, and your children will have many children.”

Abram was so surprised that he fell on his face when he heard this. God said, “Here’s the agreement I’m making with you. You will be the ancestor of many, many different kinds of people. I’m going to call you Abraham, not Abram anymore. You will be blessed. Some of your children and grandchildren will be kings. And my promise will live on in all of them. I will always be your God and their God.”

God said to Abraham, “And your wife, Sarai, I’m going to call her Sarah from now on. I will bless her, and she will have a son. She will be the mother of many people and kings as well.”

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

The Response

Psalm 22:22-30

If you say you love God,
then you should start singing songs to God.
Because I think God is awesome
and you should too, all of you who’ve ever known God.
Everyone drop what you’re doing and sing praises to God.

God does awesome things.
God pays attention to poor people when we don’t.
And doesn’t hide from poor people like we do.
God always hears them when they pray.
**If you say you love God join me in singing praises loud
and long whether you sing well or not.**

God doesn’t care if you can’t sing or even if you can.
You also praise God when you make sure everyone has enough to eat.
Make sure everyone knows how good God has been to you.
If you say you love God, sing God’s praises with me, God loves it when we sing.

Everyone, everywhere, has God in their heart.
 Sometimes they don't even know.
 God is everywhere, and for everyone.
 Everyone who has ever lived owes their life to God.
 Deep in my heart I give myself to God
 and hope my kids and their kids do too.
Sing praises with me; God loves to hear us sing.

Gospel Hymn

Take up your cross

Hymnal 675, v. 1-3

1 Take up your cross, the Sa - vior said, if
 2 Take up your cross, let not its weight fill
 3 Take up your cross, heed not the shame, and
 4 Take up your cross, then, in his strength, and
 5 Take up your cross, and fol - low Christ, nor

1 you would my dis - ci - ple be; take up your cross with
 2 your weak spi - rit with a - larm; his strength shall bear your
 3 let your fool - ish heart be still; the Lord for you ac -
 4 calm - ly ev - ery dan - ger brave: it guides you to a -
 5 think till death to lay it down; for on - ly those who

1 will - ing heart, and hum - bly fol - low af - ter me.
 2 spi - rit up, and brace your heart, and nerve your arm.
 3 cept - ed death up - on a cross, on Cal - vary's hill.
 4 bun - dant life and leads to vic - tory o'er the grave.
 5 bear the cross may hope to wear the glo - rious crown.

Words: Charles William Everest (1814-1877), alt. Music: *Bourbon*, melody att. Freeman Lewis (1780-1859);
 harm. John Leon Hooker (b. 1944) Copyright ©1984, John Hooker. All rights reserved. Used with permission.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 8:31-38

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ According to Mark. **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Jesus told his followers that soon he would suffer under the hand of the people in charge, that he would be rejected by them all and then killed. But that after three days he would come to life again. He didn't try to keep it a secret. Peter took him aside and jumped all over him for saying this. Jesus looked them all right in the eye and turned to Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan! We're not talking about the same thing. Your thinking is about what humans want. My thinking is about what God wants."

Then Jesus gathered the crowd around him and his followers, "If any of you really want to follow me, you have to put your own wants aside, and walk with me carrying your cross. If you mainly want to save your life, you'll end up losing it. Those who lose the life they're living on account of me and God's message of love, will save it. After all, what's the point of having everything in the world you could want, but then losing your life? Don't be ashamed of me and what I've taught you, and I won't be ashamed of you when I return in glory with the angels at the end."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Homily

Rev. Pat Genereux

A Creed

We believe in God the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named. We believe in God the Son, who lives in our hearts through faith, and fills us with his love. We believe in God the Holy Spirit, who strengthens us with power from on high. We believe in one God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Litany of Penitence

God of mercy and love, we confess to you and to each other that we have not lived the way you want us to live. We are truly sorry, and we ask you to forgive us. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

We have not loved you with our whole heart and mind and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others, as you have forgiven us.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

We are proud, impatient, angry. We envy others who have more than we do. We do not share what we have.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

We turn away when others need our help. We are not kind. We do not care.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Wash us from our wrongdoing, and make us clean from sin.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me.

Priest

Almighty God, to whom our need are known before we ask: Help us to ask only what accords with your will; and those good things which we dare not, or in our blindness cannot ask, grant us for the sake of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Minute for Mission

Offertory Sentence

Let us with gladness present the offering and oblations of our life and labor unto the Lord.

Liturgy of the Table

The Offertory

The Doxology

Bless the Lord My Soul

Community of Taize

*Bless the Lord my soul, And bless God's holy name
Bless the Lord, my soul, Who leads me into life*

The Great Thanksgiving

Priest The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Priest Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them to the Lord.

Priest Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give God thanks and praise.

It is right and a good and joyful thing to give thanks to you always, Creator God, because you have made the world in all its complexity. You have given humanity abundant good things. Yet you have also given us the capacity for dark choices and anxiety. You have provided us with paths leading to wisdom through deprivation and suffering. And you have shown us, through the incarnation of your love in Jesus Christ, the way of reconciliation through letting go of self and material concerns, seeking first the compassionate realm of God.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with angels and archangels, with all the company of the heavens, and with all the creatures of the earth, who forever sing their hymns to proclaim the glory of your name:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might, heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Ever Living God, you have created the world out of nothingness. You are present in both the darkness and the light. You have created humanity from the dust of the earth, and have given us the ability to choose between good and evil. You have called your prophets and champions from among the lowly. You have formed your people through wanderings in the desert and through exile in foreign lands.

In your creative thirst to be known to us, you have entered into our struggles, coming among us in the human person of Jesus, the Christ. He was conceived amid scandal, born in want, raised in obscurity. With us he embraces hunger and thirst, temptation, rejection, doubt, grief, suffering and death.

On the night before he died, he took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his friends saying, "Take, eat: This is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

Now in this sacred rite of thanksgiving and praise we celebrate the saving work of Jesus. For in him the cross, the instrument of torture and death, has been transformed into the sign of reconciliation and abundant life. Recalling his life, his teaching, his death and resurrection, we offer these gifts of bread and wine. Spirit of Compassion, breathe upon them now, making them for us the very body and blood of your incarnate love, the Christ. And breathe your Spirit into us so that, having partaken of this sacramental meal in faith, we may serve you in unity, constancy and peace, and may dwell forever in the joy of communion with you.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ.

By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of your Holy Spirit all honor and glory are yours, Creator God, now and forever. AMEN.

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

We are one bread, one body.

We will love one another as Christ loves us.

Invitation to Communion

The Table is set. Come you seekers and you holy ones. Come you lost and you lonely ones. Come you faithful and you doubtful ones. Come take your place and receive God's hospitality. Come receive the goodness of our Lord, then share it with your neighbors, family, friends, and strangers.

We come to the Table to share in God's gifts for us.

Communion of the Faithful

Join us, you who are near and you who are far away, in this communion of thanksgiving in your home - or come to the church between 11 – 11:30 am to receive contactless communion in the circle drive.

Refrain

Taste and see, taste and see the good - ness of the
 Lord. O taste and see, taste and see the
 good - ness of the Lord, of the Lord.

Verses

1. I will bless the Lord at all times.
 2. Glo - ri - fy the Lord with me.
 3. Wor - ship the Lord, all you peo - ple.

Praise shall al - ways be on my lips;
 To - geth - er let us all praise God's name.
 You'll want for noth - ing if you ask.

my soul shall glo - ry in the Lord
 I called the Lord who an - swered me;
 Taste and see that the Lord is good;

for God has been so good to me.
 from all my trou - bles I was set free.
 in God we need put all our trust.

D.C.

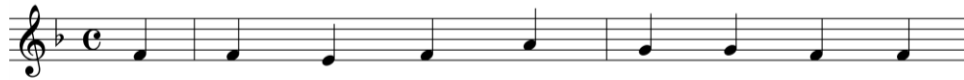
Text: Psalm 34; James E. Moore, Jr., b.1951
 Tune: James E. Moore, Jr., b.1951
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Prayer of Thanksgiving

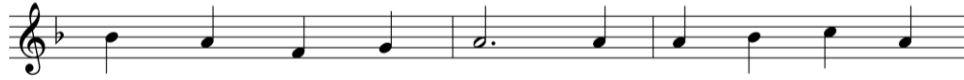
God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world. Amen.

Blessing

As you leave this space,
 May your mouth speak of God's goodness.
 May your arms hold those in need.
 May your feet walk toward justice.
 May your heart trust its worth.
 May your soul dance in God's grace.
 And may this be your rhythm—
 Again and again and again,
 Until God's promised day.
 Go with courage, go with heart, go in peace.
 And may the blessing of God Almighty, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier be with you, now and forever.
Amen.



1. Lord, who through - out these for - ty days, For
 2. As you with Sa - tan did con - tend, And
 3. As you did hun - ger and did thirst, So
 4. And through these days of pen - i - tence, And
 5. A - bide with us, that through this life Of



us did fast and pray, Teach us to o - ver -
 did the vic - t'ry win, O give us strength in
 teach us, gra - cious Lord, To die to self, and
 through your Pas - sion - tide, For ev - er - more, in
 doubts and hope and pain, An East - er of un -



come our sins, And close by you to stay.
 you to fight, In you to con - quer sin.
 so to live By your most ho - ly word.
 life and death, O Lord! with us a - bide.
 end - ing joy We may at last at - tain!

Text: Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898, alt.
 Tune: ST. FLAVIAN, CM; *John's Day Psalter*, 1562; harm. based on the original *faux-bourdon* setting

Dismissal / The Peace

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**
 Before we go our separate ways, let share God's peace with one another.
 The peace of the Lord be always with you. **And also with you.**

AROUND ST. TIMOTHY'S

THIS WEEKEND

Today, we will be celebrating online with others from our diocese this morning. Welcome to all! We are glad to have you with us!

THE COMING WEEK

Thursday, March 4

4:30 pm Faith in Action
Virtual Formation

Friday, March 5

10 am Virtual Books, Brew &
Banter

Sunday, March 7

9:45 am Children Living the
Word Bible Stories
10:15 am Holy Eucharist
11 am Contactless
Communion
11:15 am 4th & 5th Grade
Virtual Bible Class

See your weekly e-news
for more details for these events

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

For or those in service to our country: Scott, Jack, Zach, Marshall & Reece;

For those seeking ordination: Abigail Livingood;

For those who are sick or in need of healing: Rosemary, Marty, Jovan, Kris, Troy, Lu, and Millie;

For those celebrating a birthday: Jeff Thomas, Peggy George, Tom Sheldahl, Beth Bice & Chris Rech;

For those awaiting the birth of a baby: Katy & Nik Pappas, Selby & Rob Waskom, and Nasa & Uzo Okpokiri;

For those to be married: Sarah (Larson) & Alex, Dana & Zach (Slocum), and Molly & Joe (Brennan), Vanessa & David (Rice);

For those celebrating an anniversary: Kris & John Kittrell and LeAnn & Chuck Phillips;

For our 2nd Offering Partner in February: Simpson Youth Academy; **and**

For the Episcopal Church in Sudan & South Sudan especially Archbishop Samuel and Bishop Richard and their families

SYA

SIMPSON YOUTH ACADEMY

For more information,
contact Deacon Jeanie at
515.225.2020 or
deacon@sttimothyhsiowa.org

2nd Offering Partner for February

Simpson Youth Academy

The Simpson Youth Academy is a unique program on campus that allows rising high school juniors and seniors to explore their faith and prepare for college.

Hear more in February from participants from St. Timothy's & program director, Eric Rucker.



LENT AT ST. TIMOTHY'S

WORSHIP + FORMATION

Wednesday Mornings

March 3, 10, 17, 24, 31

+ 7 am Zoom Morning Prayer + Study

Weekends

+ Sundays

9:45 am Children Living the Word
on Zoom

10:15 am Livestream Holy Eucharist
Service followed by
contactless communion
in the circle drive



LENTEN STUDY & CONVERSATION

WEDNESDAY MORNINGS IN LENT

7 am on Zoom

Starting with Ash Wednesday, you are invited to Morning Prayer + Study every Wednesday through Lent. Bring your beverage of choice to Zoom each week as we experiment with different group and individual spiritual practices suggested by the Litany of Penitence from the Ash Wednesday service (BCP 267-268).

Lent is a season of hope because the invitation from God to reflect is transforming us to live as new creations. For more details or to answer any questions contact Abigail Livingood at discovery@sttimothyiowa.org or 515-501-2500.

Link to the Wednesday Gatherings beginning 2/24:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89998272268>

st. timothy's church / 24th + ashworth / west des moines

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Making & Praying with Anglican Prayer Beads

During this Season of Lent, we are exploring different spiritual disciplines and practices. Some of you have asked about Anglican prayer beads, its history, its use in prayer, and crafting one.

We are in touch with an artist who creates rosaries and is willing to teach us via Zoom how to make one (kit included) along with walking us through the history and practice of praying with Anglican prayer beads.



HELP US TO PLAN.
IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN
PARTICIPATING IN A WORKSHOP IN LATE MARCH,
WOULD YOU PLEASE REPLY TO THIS EMAIL?
RECTOR@STTIMOTHYSIOWA.ORG

About the again & again theme

In Lent, we're reminded that, again and again, suffering and brokenness find us. We doubt again, we lament again, we mess up again. Again and again, the story of Jesus on the cross repeats—every time lives are taken unjustly, every time the powerful choose corruption and violence, every time individuals forget how to love. With exacerbatation we exclaim, "Again?! How long, O God?" And yet, in the midst of the motion blur chaos of our lives, God offers a sacred refrain: "I choose you, I love you, I will lead you to repair." Again and again, God breaks the cycle and offers us a new way forward.

This theme provides a clear invitation in a time when much is unclear. Even if worshipping apart, we come to God again and again with our prayers, our dreams, our hopes, and our doubts. Even if from a distance, we will continue to be community to one another—especially when it's hard—by choosing each other over and over again. We will continue to love God with the same persistence God chooses and claims us. Our sub-theme, A Lenten Refrain, speaks to the ways God can make music of our lives. "Refrain" also reminds us that Lent is a season of abstaining from certain practices in order to take on new rhythms and habits.

In this season, we need rituals—both old and new—to remember and be transformed. Embodied practice builds muscle memory. Repetition helps retrain our neural pathways. We need the 46 days of Lent because this season shapes us into more faithful disciples. Join us this Lent as again and again, we bring all of who we are to God and trust that God will meet us, time and again, along the way.

- Rev. T. Denise Anderson | Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity | A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

Why the Ampersand?

"As we began working on Again & Again, our brainstorming led us to hone in on the ampersand, an ancient symbol with thousands of visual iterations. No matter how the ampersand appears, its meaning still translates. After some quick research, we learned that the ampersand was first used in graffiti in Pompeii—a city buried in volcanic ash, and yet whose story lives on. This changed how we looked at the theme; the ampersand began to represent God's holy 'and.' When we feel helpless and hopeless, 'and' encourages us to lift our weary eyes to search for more. In a culture overrun by extremes, either/or thinking, and polarizing politics, this holy 'and' reminds me that we are always more—that there is always more. We are broken and beautiful. Joy and grief can coexist. Historical, systemic oppression persists and God is guiding us closer to liberation and wholeness. The future feels bleakly uncertain and we are granted sacred moments that sustain us in the present. This Lent, let us practice the power of 'and'—especially when 'again?!' feels like our never-ending cry of lament."

- Rev. Lisle Gwynn Garrity, Founder, Creative Director





YOU ARE WELCOME HERE

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, gay, filthy rich, or dirt poor.

We extend a special welcome to crying newborns, those who are skinny as a rail, or those who could afford to lose a few pounds.

We welcome you if you can sing like an angel or can't carry a note in a bucket.

You're welcome here if you're just browsing, just woke up, or just got out of jail.

You're welcome here if you're Protestant, Catholic, Evangelical, Liberal, Conservative, or whatever else.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast.

We welcome soccer moms, NASCAR dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, or junk-food eaters.

We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted.

We welcome you if you're having problems or you're down in the dumps or if you don't like "organized religion," we've been there, too.

If you blew all your offering money at the casino, you're welcome here.

We offer a special welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or because grandma is in town and wanted to go to church.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced or both.

We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down your throat as a kid or got lost in traffic and wound up here by mistake.

We welcome tourists, seekers and doubters, bleeding hearts ... and we welcome you!

~borrowed from Petosky Church of Christ



WE ARE CHRIST'S HANDS • FEET • VOICE IN THE WORLD

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