

Introduction to the day: During Lent we journey with all those around the world who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil. In today's gospel Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be born of water and Spirit. At the font we are given a new birth as children of God. As God made a covenant with Abraham, in baptism God promises to raise us up with Christ to new life. From worship we are sent forth to proclaim God's love for all the world.

GATHERING

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

OPENING SONG/PRELUDE

40 Days

©Matt Maher

(sung by Wing & A Prayer only)

WELCOME

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able and to face the baptismal font.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
who journeys with us these forty days,
and sustains us with the gift of grace.

Amen.

Let us acknowledge before God and one another
our need for repentance and God's mercy.

Holy God,

we confess to you our faults and failings.

Too often we neglect and do not trust your holy word;

we take for ourselves instead of giving to others;

we spoil rather than steward your creation;

we cause hurt though you call us to heal;

we choose fear over compassion.

Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,

as we seek to follow in your way of life.

Amen.

Hear the good news:

God so loved the world that God gave the only Son,
so that all may receive life.

This promise is for you!

God embraces you with divine mercy,

✠ forgives you in Christ's name,

and revives you in the Spirit's power.

Amen.

Please remain standing and turn to face the altar as you are able.

GATHERING SONG *By Grace We Have Been Saved* (ACS 1006)

Refrain



By grace we have been saved— saved by grace through faith,



not be-cause of what we do; it is the gift of God.



1 On the days when you are weak, on the
2 Rest your bod - y, rest your mind, in the
3 You don't need to be a - fraid. You will



days when you are strong, rich or poor,
still - ness you will find you're a love - ly,
nev - er be a - lone. There is mer - cy,



Refrain

young or old, just lis - ten to the song.
pre - cious child, part of the great de - sign.
there is hope, and love will take you home.

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.

KYRIE

Kyrie

©Kent Alleluia Liturgy

Music & Lyrics on following page

Leader

In peace, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord. have mer cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

For the peace from above,
and for our salvation, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord_ have mer- cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

For peace in the world,
for the health of God's church,
and for all unity, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord_ have mer - cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

For this holy house,
and we who offer praise, let us pray
to the Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord_ have mer cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
Lord have mer - cy.

Leader

Help, save, comfort and defend us,
gracious Lord

CONGREGATION

Lord. have mer- cy,
Christ have mer - cy,
A - - - - - men

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, our leader and guide, in the waters of baptism you bring us to new birth to live as your children. Strengthen our faith in your promises, that by your Spirit we may lift up your life to all the world through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

WORD

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

FIRST READING: Genesis 12:1-4a (Bruce Seiler/Nancy Garman)

God's call of Abram and Sarai has a clear purpose—that through them all the families of the earth would gain a blessing. As they set out on their journey, they are accompanied by promises of land, nation, and a great reputation.

A reading from Genesis.

¹The LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. ³I 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 121 (Bruce Seiler/Nancy Garman)

¹I lift up my eyes to the hills; from where is my help to come?

²**My help comes from the LORD, the maker of heaven and earth.**

³The LORD will not let your foot be moved nor will the one who watches over you fall asleep.

⁴**Behold, the keeper of Israel will neither slumber nor sleep;**

⁵the LORD watches over you; the LORD is your shade at your right hand;

⁶**the sun will not strike you by day, nor the moon by night.**

⁷The LORD will preserve you from all evil and will keep your life.

⁸**The LORD will watch over your going out and your coming in,
from this time forth forevermore.**

SECOND READING: Romans 4:1-5, 13-17 (Bruce Seiler/Nancy Garman)

In the person and example of Abraham we discover that a right relationship with God does not involve earning a reward from God but entails trusting God's promises. Abraham is the forebear and model for both Jews and Gentiles, because we too trust that ours is a God who gives life to the dead.

A reading from Romans.

¹What then are we to say was gained by Abraham, our ancestor according to the flesh? ²For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. ³For what does the scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.”

⁴Now to one who works, wages are not reckoned as a gift but as something due. ⁵But to one who without works trusts him who justifies the ungodly, such faith is reckoned as righteousness.

¹³For the promise that he would inherit the world did not come to Abraham or to his descendants through the law but through the righteousness of faith. ¹⁴If it is the adherents of the law who are to be the heirs, faith is null and the promise is void. ¹⁵For the law brings wrath; but where there is no law, neither is there violation.

¹⁶For this reason it depends on faith, in order that the promise may rest on grace and be guaranteed to all his descendants, not only to the adherents of the law but also to those who share

the faith of Abraham (for he is the father of all of us, ¹⁷as it is written, “I have made you the father of many nations”)—in the presence of the God in whom he believed, who gives life to the dead and calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

KIDS' MESSAGE

(Jeri Wartena)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able to welcome the Gospel

GOSPEL: John 3:1-17 (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

A curious Pharisee visits Jesus by night to learn from the teacher his friends reject. Jesus speaks to him about life in the Spirit and the kingdom of God.

The holy gospel according to John.

Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Now there was a Pharisee named Nicodemus, a leader of the Jews. ²He 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 apart from the presence of God.” ³Jesus answered him, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above.” ⁴Nicodemus 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?” ⁵Jesus answered, “Very truly, I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God without being born of water and Spirit. ⁶What is born of the flesh is flesh, and what is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be astonished that I said to you, ‘You must be born from above.’ ⁸The 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.” ⁹Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰Jesus answered him, “Are you a 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. ¹²If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵that 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.”

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated

SERMON (Pr. Carolyn Brodt)

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able

HYMN OF THE DAY *Come to The Table*

©Ben McDonald, Dave Frey, Ben Glover

♩=81

VERSE 1

A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) A^{sus}/B A A^{sus}/B

1. We all start _ on the out - side, the out - side look - ing in. This is where grace _ be - gins.

4 D²(no3) A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) A^{sus}/B

We were hun - gry, we were thirst - y, with noth - ing left _ to give.

7 A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) F#m D

PRE-CHORUS

Oh, the shape that we _ were in. Just when all _ hope _ seemed lost, _

11 F#m E^{sus} E A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) E(4)

CHORUS

Love o - pened the _ door _ for us. _ He said: Come to the ta - ble. _

15 A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) E(4) A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) E(4)

Come join the sin - ners who have been re - deemed. _ Take your place be - side the Sav - ior. _

19 F#m A²/C# D²(no3) A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) A A^{sus}/B

2nd time to Coda ◊

INSTRUMENTAL

Sit down and be set _ free. _ Come to the ta - ble. _

24 D²(no3) A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) A^{sus}/B

VERSE 2

2. Come meet this mot - ley crew of mis - fits, these li - ars and these thieves. .

_ There's no one un - wel - come here. _ So that sin and shame _ that you've _brought with .

30 D²(no3) A^{sus}/B A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) D.S. al Coda

_ you, you can leave it at _ the door _ and let mer - cy draw _ you near. _

33 Coda TAG
 D²(no3) A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) A A^{sus}/B D²(no3)

Come to the ta - ble. _ Come to the ta - ble. _ To the thief _

BRIDGE

38 F#m D A/E

_ and to the doubt - er, to the he - ro and the cow - ard, to the pris - 'ner and the sol - dier, to the

41 E F#m D

young and to the old - er. All who hun - ger, all _ who thirst, _ all the last _ and all the first, all the pau -

44 A/E E F#m

- pers and the princ - es, all who've failed, _ you've been _ for-giv - en. All who dream and all _ who suf - fer, all who've loved .

47 D A E

_ and lost _ an-oth - er, _ all the chained _ and all the free, _ all _ who fol - low, all who lead. _ An - y - one .

50 F#m D A

_ who's been _ let down, _ all the lost, _ you have _ been found. _ All who've been la-bled right or wrong, _ to ev-'ry - one .

CHORUS

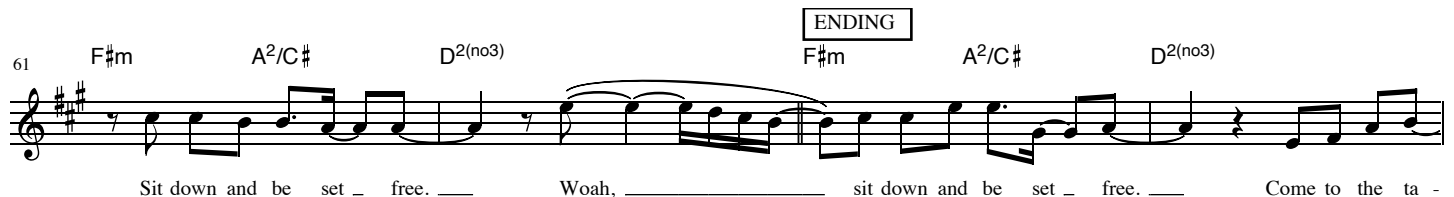
53 E^{sus} E N.C. A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) E⁽⁴⁾

_ who hears this song. _ Come to the ta - ble. _

57 A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) E⁽⁴⁾ A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) E⁽⁴⁾

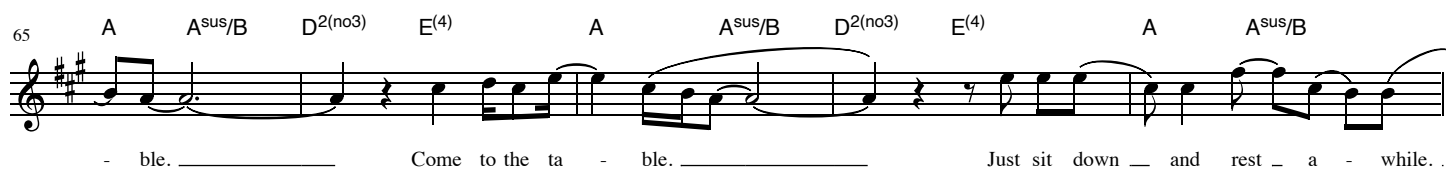
Come join the sin - ners, who have been re - deemed. _ Take your place be - side the Sav - ior. _

61 F#m A²/C# D²(no3) ENDING F#m A²/C# D²(no3)



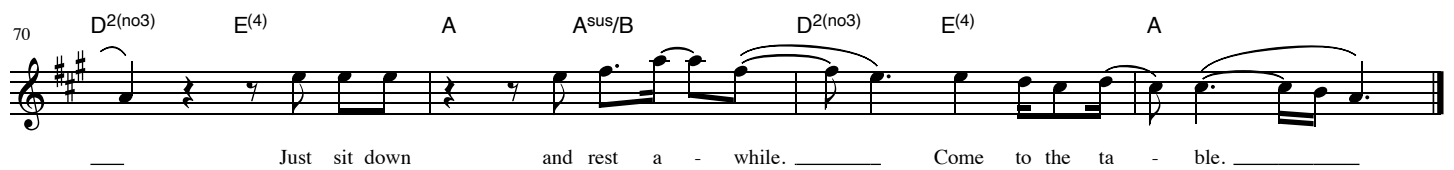
Sit down and be set _ free. ____ Woah, ____ sit down and be set _ free. ____ Come to the ta -

65 A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) E⁽⁴⁾ A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) E⁽⁴⁾ A A^{sus}/B



- ble. ____ Come to the ta - ble. ____ Just sit down _ and rest _ a - while. .

70 D²(no3) E⁽⁴⁾ A A^{sus}/B D²(no3) E⁽⁴⁾ A



____ Just sit down and rest a - while. ____ Come to the ta - ble. ____

CREED

Let us join with Christians throughout the world in this Epiphany Season and confess our shared faith using the words of the 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.

Please be seated

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION (Bruce Seiler/Nancy Garman)

Sustained by God's abundant mercy, let us pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

O God, you so love your church. Raise up leaders who care for your people. Bless lay theologians, seminary and college professors, and all who are called to the ministry of teaching, that they form and inspire us for the work of the gospel. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your creation. Breathe new life into our planetary home. Guide the work of researchers, scientists, and activists who love your earth and who inspire us to care for the natural world. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love the world. Uphold leaders who resist tyranny and oppression. Strengthen organizations that promote peace and harmony. Direct their work to alleviate human suffering and to address its root causes. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your people. Draw near to all who live with mental illness, depression, or addiction, and accompany them in healing and recovery. Hear the cries of those who look to you in their distress. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your children. Bless the young in our midst, and delight us with their joy, wonder, and curiosity. Revive our ministries with children and youth and equip us all for faithful discipleship. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

O God, you so love your saints. As our ancestors in the faith have been a blessing to us, so inspire us by their example of holy living to be a blessing to those who come after us. Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

(Prayer requests provided by congregation to be added here by Reader)

We lift our prayers to you, O God, trusting in your steadfast love and your promise to renew your whole creation; through Jesus Christ our Savior.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

OFFERING

*We acknowledge that all we have is a gift from God and in gratefulness we return to God a portion of the time, finances, and gifts that God has given us.
Thank you so much for your continued support.*

OFFERING PRAYER

God of good gifts,
receive these and all our offerings as we present them
in faithful service for the sake of your gospel.
Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal
as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus,
the wellspring of eternal life.
Amen.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

Holy God,
our living Water and our merciful Guide,
together with rivers and seas, wells and springs
we bless and magnify you.

You led your people Israel through the desert,
and provided them water from the rock.

We praise you for Christ, our Rock and our Water,
who joined us in our desert,
pouring out his life for the world.

In the night in which he was betrayed,
our Lord Jesus took bread, and 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.

Remembering, therefore,
his life, death, and resurrection,
we await your salvation for all this thirsty world.

Pour out your Spirit on this holy food
and on all the baptized gathered for this feast:
wash away our sin,
that we may be revived for our journey by the love of Christ.

Through him all glory and honor is yours,
Almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit,
in your holy Church,
both now and forever.

Amen

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us using the language of your heart.

**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

Come and receive Jesus, our strength in the wilderness.

*All are welcome to join in our communion celebration.
Please follow the directions of Pastor Carolyn and the ushers.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Embodied God,
at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus.
With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise,
empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors
and touch the world with your love.

Amen.

The congregation is invited to stand as they are able.

SENDING

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

BLESSING

God, the giver of love,
✝ Christ, the resurrection and the life,
and the Holy Spirit of rebirth
bless you in this Lenten journey.

Amen.

SENDING SONG

Beautiful Things (ACS 925)

Music & Lyrics on following page



1 All this pain; I won - der if I'll
 2 All this earth; . . . could all that is
 3 All a - round, . . . hope is spring - ing

ev - er find my way. I won - der if my
 lost ev - er be found? . . . Could a gar - den
 up from this old ground. . . . Out of cha - os,

life could real - ly change at all.
 come up from this ground at all?
 life is be - ing found in you.

Refrain

You make beau - ti - ful things, you make beau - ti - ful things out of the dust.

You make beau - ti - ful things, you make beau - ti -

ful things out of us.

Please be seated.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*After brief announcements related to the ministry of Bethel,
 the congregation is invited to stand and face the font.*

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve in love.

Thanks be to God and we will.