

Order Of Worship :: March 18, 2012 :: The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Lent is a 40-day period before Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday (this year, February 22). We don't count Sundays because they are always 'feast' days, commemorating Jesus' Resurrection. Lent is a season of soul-searching, repentance, and reflection. This tradition originated in the early Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when Christ's followers sought to rededicate themselves to obedience, sacrifice, and acts of service. By observing the 40 days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for 40 days.

GREETING

Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 34:1-4, 8

I will bless the LORD at all times;
his praise shall continually be in my mouth.
**My soul makes its boast in the LORD;
let the humble hear and be glad.**

O magnify the LORD with me,
and let us exalt his name together

**I sought the LORD, and he answered me,
and delivered me from all my fears.**

**O taste and see that the LORD is good;
happy are those who take refuge in him.**

PRAYER OF INVOCATION: based on Ephesians 3:18-19

Holy God, we come to worship in the gathering shadows of Jesus' suffering and death. We come with his friends, the men and women who have followed him in every place and generation, to live once again this story of service and betrayal, of weakness and courage. We come to witness your love in action. Be with us, we pray, in Jesus' name.
Amen.

SONG OF APPROACH: Brethren We Have Met to Worship

Words by George Atkins, 1819. Music by William Moore, 1825.

Brethren we have met to worship, And adore the Lord, our God
Will you pray with all your power, While our God reveals His Word
All is vain unless the Spirit, Of the Holy One comes down
Brethren, pray and holy manna, Will be showered all around

Sisters, will you join and help us? Moses' sister aided him
Will you help the trembling mourners, Who are struggling hard
with sin

Tell them all about the Savior, Tell them that He will be found,
Sisters, pray and holy manna, Will be showered all around

Let us love our God supremely, Let us love each other, too
Let us pray for all the nations, Till our God makes makes all things
new

He'll return to reign forever, At His table we'll sit down
Christ will gird Himself and serve us, With sweet manna all around

CONFESSION OF SIN based on Isaiah 55:6-7

Seek the Lord while he may be found, call upon him while he is near;
let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts;
let them return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on them,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.

Trusting ourselves to the grace of God, let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Eternal God, whose covenant with us is never broken: We confess that we have failed to fulfill your will for us. We betray our neighbors, desert our friends, and run in fear when we should be loyal.

Though you have bound yourself to us, we have not bound ourselves to you. God, have mercy on us weak and willful people. Lead us once again to your table, and unite us to Christ, who is the bread of life and the vine from which we grow in grace. To Christ be praise forever. Amen

Now is a time of silent confession for specific and personal sins.

ASSURANCE OF PARDON: Psalm 103:11-13

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him.

Thanks Be to God!

SONG OF CONFESSION: With Melting Heart and Weeping Eyes

Words by John Fawcett (1740 - 1817); Music by Clint Wells, 2005

With melting heart and weeping eyes,
my guilty soul for mercy cries;
What shall I do, or whither flee,
to rid the vengeance due of me?
To rid the vengeance due of me?

Till late I saw no danger nigh,
I lived at ease nor feared to die;
Wrapped up in self-conceit and pride,
"I shall have peace at last," I cried.
"I shall have peace at last," I cried.

But when great God thy light divine,
had shone on this dark soul of mine,
Then I beheld with trembling awe,
The terrors of Thy holy law.
The terrors of Thy holy law.

Should vengeance still my soul pursue,
death and destruction are my due;
Yet mercy can my guilt forgive,
And bid this dying sinner live.
And bid this dying sinner live.

Does not Thy sacred word proclaim,
salvation free in Jesus' name?
To him I look and humbly cry,
"Lord, save a wretch condemned to die!"
"Lord, save this wretch condemned to die!"
"Lord, save this wretch condemned to die!"

SONG OF PRAISE: Tender Mercy

Psalm 103; arr by Waterdeep

Praise the Lord Oh my soul and all my deepest parts
Give praise to the One who pulled you out of the darkness

Tender mercy You forgive

Slow to anger Quick to love

As high as the mountains try Your love falls all around me
As wide as the east to west My sins are taken from me

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles Creed

Christian what is it that you believe?

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

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

Who 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 hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there 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.

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Children, crawling - 5 years old, are dismissed to Sunday School at this time.

SONG OF REFLECTION: Give Reviving

Words by Albert Midlane 1873 alt. by Chelsey Scott; Music by Chelsey Scott and Aaron Sands 2007

Father for Thy promised blessing, Still we plead before Thy throne
For the times of, sweet refreshing, Which can come from Thee alone
Blessed earnest, Thou hast given, But in these we would not rest
Blessings still with Thee are hidden, Pour them forth and make us blest!

Prayer ascendeth to Thee ever, Answer! Father, answer prayer
Bless oh bless each weak endeavor, Blood-bought pardon to declare
Wake Thy slumbering children wake them,
Bid them to Thy harvest go
Blessings O our Father make, Round their steps let blessings flow

Let no people be forgotten, Let Thy showers on all descend
That in one loud blessed anthem, millions may in triumph blend
Give reviving, give refreshing, Give the looked-for Jubilee
To Thyself may crowds be pressing, Bringing glory unto Thee

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

OLD TESTAMENT READING: Isaiah 2:1-5

Page 567 in pew Bible.

NEW TESTAMENT READING: Acts 17:22-23

Page 927 in pew Bible.

Leader: The Word of God for the People of God.

People: Praise to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!

SERMON: The Gospel of Salvation and Sanctification

The Rev. Matthew Armstrong

Acts 10:23 - 43 (p. 919 in pew Bible)

Leader: The Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Notes

THE OFFERING

The offering is a part of our worship for those who consider Village Church their home. Visitors should not feel any obligation to give.

SONG OF PRAISE: Jesus the Lord My Savior Is

Words by William Gadsby ; Music by Sandra McCracken 2001

Jesus, the Lord, my Savior is,
My Shepherd, and my God;
My light, my strength, my joy, my bliss;
And I His grace record.

Whate'er I need in Jesus dwells,
And there it dwells for me;
'Tis Christ my earthen vessel fills
With treasures rich and free.

*Mercy and truth and righteousness,
And peace, most richly meet,
In Jesus Christ, the King of grace,
In Whom I stand complete.*

As through the wilderness I roam,
His mercies I'll proclaim;
And when I safely reach my home,
I'll still adore His name.

"Worthy the Lamb," shall be my song,
"For He for me was slain;"
And me with all the heavenly throng,
Shall join, and say, "Amen."

Chorus

COMMUNION

Invitation to the Table

Prayer of Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts!

We lift them up to the Lord!

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Words of Institution

Breaking Bread Together



DOXOLOGY

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

SONG OF THANKSGIVING: There is Power in the Name of Jesus

Words and Music By Will Reagan 2009

There is power in the name of Jesus

There is power in the name of Jesus

There is power in the name of Jesus

to break every chain.

Break every chain.

Break every chain.

All sufficient sacrifice

So freely given, such a price for

Our redemption, Heaven's gates

Swing wide

repeat Chorus

BENEDICTION:

May the God of love, who shared his love, strengthen us in our love for others. May the Son who shared his life grant us grace, that we might share our life. And may the Holy Spirit dwelling in us empower us to be only and always for others.

Amen.

SENDING:

Sisters and brothers, let us claim the freedom Christ gives us by his self-giving on the cross. May he enable us to serve together in faith, hope, and love. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Village Church Seder - Saturday March 31st 7:00 pm-10:00pm

Jesus instituted the sacrament of 'The Lord's Supper' or 'Communion' at a Passover Meal with his disciples (Matt 26:17-29).

The Passover Seder was/is the annual celebration of the Jew's deliverance from slavery in Egypt. Experiencing the meal as Christians puts Communion into its historical context and gives incredible insight into our own worship. You don't want to miss it!

Where: The Kids Club (Brownwood Park Rec. Center)

When: Saturday, March 31, 7:00-10:00pm

Cost: \$10 per person

This will be about a 3 hour service with a full dinner. The cost is \$10 per person. Please make checks payable to "Village Church of East Atlanta" with "Seder" written on the memo line. **Please RSVP to Ruthanne Burch at ruthanneclare@gmail.com by Sunday March 25th.** If you need childcare please let us know **as soon as possible** so that we can plan accordingly. We encourage children 6 and over to attend the service. However, if you feel that your child will be able to understand and be attentive, they are welcome to attend.

Stay Connected - Want to know about upcoming events and happenings at Village Church and the neighborhood? Sign up for our weekly emails on our website:

www.villagechurchofeastatlanta.org/connect.



VILLAGE CHURCH

of EAST ATLANTA

WELCOME TO VILLAGE CHURCH!

Our desire is to be a church that is *in, of, and for* East Atlanta Village and its surrounding neighborhoods. We believe that the church is not a place to go, or an event to attend, but *a community of people* who have been changed by the love and grace of God in Jesus Christ. As those who have been so loved, the church is called to love and bless whatever place it finds itself. That's why we hope to not only be a church that meets *in* the neighborhood, or is simply made up *of* people from the neighborhood, but we desire to be *for* the neighborhood, working for its care and welfare.

Village Church of East Atlanta

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Sundays at 10:00 am

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