

Created for Community: February 24, 2021

Overview

On Ash Wednesday, we began: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor. Repentance, fasting, prayer, and works of love—the discipline of Lent—help us to wage our spiritual warfare. I invite you, therefore, to commit yourselves to this struggle and confess your sins, asking our Father for strength to persevere in your Lenten discipline.

Tonight and the rest of our Wednesday's during this Lenten season, we will reflect on scripture, exploring what stands out to us in the texts, explore how God is speaking to you personally, and how God is speaking to us as a community.

Gathering Song

Jesus, We Are Gathered

Jesu, tawa pano



Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, Je - su, ta - wa pa - no,
Je - sus, we are gath-ered, Je - sus, we are gath-ered,



Je - su, ta - wa pa - no, ta - wa pa - no mu zi - ta re - nyu.
Je - sus, we are gath-ered, we are gath-ered, Lord Je - sus, for you.

Text: Patrick Matsikenyiri, Text © 1990, 1996 General Board of Global Ministries, GBG Musik, 475 Riverside Dr., New York, NY 10115. All rights reserved. Used by permission. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved

Prayer

Let us pray: Gracious Creator, you fashioned us in your image in the midst of a world beyond our knowledge and understanding. Continue to weave us together in community with all created things, and deepen our awareness of the ways you connect us to the earth. In Jesus' name we pray. **Amen.**

Scripture

Week 1 - In community with creation

Mark 4:35-41 *Jesus calms a storm*

While we often think of community as limited to *human* beings, our human existence is interdependent with all the created world. This theme is especially apparent in Mark 4:35-41, the account of the fishermen whose lives depend on the sea but who become afraid of its power in the storm.

Read text 3 times: Lectio Divino

Each time invite the assembly to listen in a different way.

- Reading the first time: Listen for a word or short phrase that stands out to you.
- Reading the second time: Listen for a way in which God is speaking to you personally.
- Reading the third time: Listen for a way in which God is speaking to the community/communities of which you are a part.

On that day, when evening had come, he said to them, ‘Let us go across to the other side.’ And leaving the crowd behind, they took him with them in the boat, just as he was. Other boats were with him. A great gale arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that the boat was already being swamped. But he was in the stern, asleep on the cushion; and they woke him up and said to him, ‘Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?’ He woke up and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, ‘Peace! Be still!’ Then the wind ceased, and there was a dead calm. He said to them, ‘Why are you afraid? Have you still no faith?’ And they were filled with great awe and said to one another, ‘Who then is this, that even the wind and the sea obey him?’

Many and Great, O God
Wakantanka taku nitawa

Wa - kan-tan - ka ta - ku ni - ta - wa tan - ka - ya
 1 Man - y and great, O God, are your works, mak - er of
 2 Grant un - to us com - mu - nion with you, O Star - a -

qa o - ta. Ma - hpi - ya kin e - ya - hna - ke ca,
 earth and sky. Your hands have set the heav'ns with stars;
 bid - ing One. Come un - to us and dwell with us;

ma - ka kin he du - o - wan - ca. Mni - o - wan
 your fin - gers spread the moun - tains and plains. Lo, at your
 with you are found the gifts of . . . life. Bless us with

ca - sbe - ya - wan - ke cin, he - na o - ya - ki - hi.
 word the wa - ters were formed; deep seas o - bey your voice.
 life that has no . . . end, e - ter - nal life with you.

Prayers

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

In Jesus your realm has come near to us in every place and time. Give your church throughout the world a spirit of humility and repentance; teach us to trust always in the good news of your salvation. In the covenant of baptism you claim us as beloved children. Nurture us in our baptismal identity and teach us to live within it for the sake of others. Strengthen this congregation's ministries of care and concern as we reach out to one another in these lonely and uncertain times. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

All your paths are steadfast love and faithfulness. Direct the words and actions of leaders in our community and throughout the world, that they may maintain justice for the lowly. You have made a covenant of mercy with every living creature. Protect all the earth's creatures from destruction, including all that rely on clean water and our great lakes. Enlighten us as we strive to be good stewards and partners with all of creation. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Even in the wilderness you are with us. Walk alongside migrants and refugees crossing dangerous lands. Tend to those whose lives feel desolate. Give healing and strength to all who suffer. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

In baptism you join us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. We praise you for all those who have died trusting in your faithfulness. Bring us with them to the fullness of your reign. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**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.**

Blessing

The Creator who fashions us together with all things, the Christ who leads us into a new beloved community, the Spirit who holds us in the communion of saints, one God, ✠ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Ubi caritas et amor *Where True Charity and Love Abide*

The musical score is written for voice and piano. It consists of two systems of music. The first system has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The lyrics are: "U - bi ca - ri - tas et a - mor, / Where true char - i - ty and love a - bide,". The piano accompaniment starts with a bass clef and a key signature of one flat. The second system also has a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The vocal line continues with: "u - bi ca - ri - tas, De - us i - bi est. / God is dwell - ing there; God is dwell - ing there." The piano accompaniment continues with the same bass clef and key signature. There are triplets indicated by a '3' over the notes for "i - bi" and "dwell - ing" in the second system.

Text: Latin antiphon, 9th cent.; Taizé Community; tr. *With One Voice*, Text © 1979 Les Presses de Taizé, GIA Publications, Inc., agent. 7404 S. Mason Ave., Chicago, IL 60638. www.giamusic.com. 800.442.3358. All rights reserved. Used by permission. English text © 1995 Augsburg Fortress. Reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE # A-715124. All rights reserved

Dismissal

Go in peace, joined together in Christ.

Thanks be to God.