

# The Worship of God

DRIVEN INTO THE WILDERNESS

March 25, 2012

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Eleven O'Clock

The worship of God begins with the music of the organ. We encourage you to use this time for meditation and reflection. Please refrain from conversation which would disturb others. Following the service, greet our visitors and share your friendship with those around you. Wireless hearing aids are available in the narthex.

## PREPARATION AND PRAISE

ORGAN PRELUDE: Fugue in c

J.S. Bach

WORDS OF WELCOME AND CONCERNS OF THE CHURCH

ORGAN MEDITATION: Now, Christ, Thou Sun of Righteousness

Gerald Near

CHORAL INTROIT

Carl Mueller

Create in me a clean heart, O God.

\* PROCESSIONAL HYMN 202: "O Sacred Head, Now Wounded"

PASSION CHORALE

*(The congregation rises as the organist begins the hymn.)*

\* CALL TO WORSHIP

Minister: The church embraces the season of Lent, a time for reflection.

**People: We are busy people with places to go and things to do. We haven't the time to stop.**

Minister: The church embraces the season of Lent, a time for prayer.

**People: Our lives are filled with noise and confusion. We haven't the space for the silence of prayer.**

Minister: The church embraces the season of Lent, a time for confession and repentance.

**People: Too much talk of sin makes us uncomfortable. We would rather not examine our choices too closely or take responsibility for our actions.**

Minister: The church gathers for the season of Lent. And in our gathering we are met by the grace of God that forgives our sin, transforms our lives, and gives to us the promise of a life without end.

**People: The church gathers for the season of Lent, and all are welcome.**

\* THE GLORIA PATRI 35

GREATORIX

\* THE INVOCATION AND LORD'S PRAYER

CHORAL ADORATION

John Ireland

My song is love unknown, my Savior's love to me, love to the loveless shown that they might lovely be. O who am I, that for my sake my Lord should take, frail flesh and die? Here might I stay and sing, no story so divine: Never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine. This is my Friend, in whose sweet praise I all my days could gladly spend.

## MEDITATION

THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: Jeremiah 31:31-34

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING AND INTERCESSION

\* HYMN 594: "Dear Lord, and Father of Mankind"

REST

*Children in grades K-5 will leave for Children's Church.*

\* OFFERTORY PRAYER

ORGAN OFFERTORY: Jesus, Still Lead On

Paul Manz

\* THE DOXOLOGY

OLD HUNDRETH

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow; Praise God all creatures here below;  
Praise God above ye heavenly host; Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

## PROCLAMATION

YOUTH ANTHEM: "Who At My Door Is Standing?"

arr. K. Lee Scott

Who at my door is standing, there patiently drawing near, who entrance is demanding? Whose is the voice I hear? *Sweetly the tones are falling: "Now open the door for me! If thou wilt heed my calling, I will abide with thee."* Within the rooms are darken'd, all filled with dust and sin; how shameful, how unworthy for Christ to enter in. Door of my heart, I hasten! Thee will I open wide. Though he rebuke and chasten, he shall with me abide. *Sweetly the tones are falling: "Now open the door for me!" Lord God, I hear thee calling, Come now, abide with me. Dear Lord, abide with me!*

THE GOSPEL LESSON:

Luke 15:2-10

SERMON:

"Driven Into the Wilderness: Repentance"

Dr. Wright

## CONFESSION AND ASSURANCE

LITANY OF CONFESSION

Psalm 51

Minister: Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

**People: O God, you know us better than we know ourselves. Forgive us our sin and enable us to forgive ourselves.**

*Silent confession.*

Minister: Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me.

**People: Do not only forgive, O God, but also change me. Refocus my heart, my mind, my hands, and my spirit.**

Minister: Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your Holy Spirit from me.

**People: Hold me close in your loving arms and protect me from temptation's power by the strength of your Spirit.**

Minister: Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**People: Bring joy into my life, O God, the joy of your love and grace. Amen.**

THE ASSURANCE OF PARDON

ANTHEM: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

arr. Gilbert Martin

When I survey the wondrous cross on which the Prince of glory died, my richest gain I count but loss, and pour contempt on all my pride. Forbid it, Lord, that I should boast, save in the death of Christ my God! All the vain things that charm me most, I sacrifice them to his blood. See from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down! Did e'er such love and sorrow meet, or thorns compose so rich a crown? Were the whole realm of nature mine, that were a present far too small; love so amazing, so divine, demands my soul, my life, my all! Amen!

text by Isaac Watts

AN AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

**Eternal God, we believe that you are the light of the minds that know you,  
the joy of the hearts that love you,  
and the strength of the wills that serve you.**

**As we walk through this wilderness of resurrection hope,  
grant us so to know you that we may truly love you,  
and so to love you that we may fully serve you,  
whom to serve is perfect freedom and life everlasting. Amen.**

Augustine of Hippo (adapted)

THE CALL TO CHRISTIAN DISCIPLESHIP

