

Sunday, March 17, 2024,
We Gather to Celebrate God's Presence

Welcome
Family Life and Work
Family Celebrations
Lighting of the Christ Candle:
Acknowledgment of the Land:

Introit: Lord, Prepare Me to Be a Sanctuary

MV 18

**Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy tried and true ;
With thanksgiving, I'll be a loving sanctuary for you.**

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Call to Worship: (based on Psalm 51)

In this season of Lent, may we seek God's mercy according to His steadfast love.

We pray God to wash us clean, and to put His truth within us.

May God look away from our wrongdoing, and wash away all our sins.

May God cleanse us and put a righteous spirit within us.

Opening Hymn: Be Thou My Vision

VU 642 vs 1,2,4

**1 Be thou my vision, O joy of my heart;
naught be all else to me save that thou art,
thou my best thought, by day or by night,
waking or sleeping thy presence my light.**

**2 Be thou my wisdom, my calm in all strife;
I ever with thee, and thou in my life;
thou loving parent, thy child may I be,
thou in me dwelling, and I one with thee.**

**4 Riches I heed not, nor vain empty praise,
thou mine inheritance, now and always;
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.**

Prayer of Approach: (unison)

God of the covenant, in the glory of the cross your Son embraced the power of death and broke its hold over your people. In this time of repentance, draw all people to yourself, that we who confess Jesus as Lord may put aside the deeds of death and accept the life of your kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Now hear us as we say together the words that Jesus taught,

The Lord's Prayer (unison)

**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.**

First Reading: Jeremiah 31: 31-34

Children's Time: "All Washed Up"

Reading: John 12: 20 - 33

We Listen

Gradual Hymn: O Love, How Deep

VU 348 vs 1,3,4

- 1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high!
It fills the heart with ecstasy,
that God, in Jesus Christ, should take
our mortal form for mortals' sake.**
- 3 For us he was baptized, and bore
a holy fast, and hungered sore;
for us temptations sharply knew;
for us the tempter overthrew.**
- 4 For us he prayed, for us he taught,
for us great daily works were wrought,
by words and signs, and actions, thus
still seeking not himself, but us.**

Meditation: "We Wish to See Jesus"

Musical Offering: O Crux Ave - Palestrina

We Respond

Offertory: Give Thanks

**Give thanks, with a grateful heart,
Give thanks, to the Holy One,
Give thanks because He's given
Jesus Christ, His Son.**

**And now let the weak say, I am strong.
Let the poor say, I am rich because of what
The Lord has done for us.**

Offertory/Prayer of Dedication:

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession

Closing Hymn: We Shall Go Out with Hope of Resurrection

VU 586

**1 We shall go out with hope of resurrection;
we shall go out, from strength to strength go on;
we shall go out and tell our stories boldly;
tales of a love that will not let us go.**

**We'll sing our songs of wrongs that can be righted;
we'll dream our dreams of hurts that can be healed;
we'll weave a cloth of all the world united
within the vision of new life in Christ.**

**2 We'll give a voice to those who have not spoken;
we'll find the words for those whose lips are sealed;
we'll make the tunes for those who sing no longer,
expressive love alive in every heart.**

**We'll share our joy with those who still are weeping,
raise hymns of strength for hearts that break in grief,
we'll leap and dance the resurrection story,
including all in circles of our love.**

Benedictions and Commissioning

Choral Benediction: Be Thou My Vision

VU 642 vs 5

**5 Great God of heaven, after victory won,
may I reach heaven's joys, O bright heaven's sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
still be my vision, O ruler of all.**