**First Free Methodist Church of Saginaw**

**First Sunday in Lent**

**March 6, 2022**



*“Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil.”*

*(Luke 4:1-2)*

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**Prelude**

**\*\*Greeting/Announcements**

**\*Call to Worship** (*spoken responsively*)

L: The Word became flesh and lived among us

**P: He was led by the Spirit into the wilderness**

L: We have seen the glory of the son of God

**P: He ate nothing and was starving**

L: Though he was God, he laid aside his divinity

**P: He emptied himself, taking the form of a slave**

L: Therefore, God exalted his name above every name

**P: We confess that Christ Jesus is Lord**

**\*Opening Hymn:** “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” #20 (vv.1-4)

**Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of creation**

**O my soul, praise him, for he is your health and salvation**

**Come, all who hear; now to his temple draw near**

**Join me in glad adoration**

**Praise to the Lord, above all things so wondrously reigning**

**Sheltering you under his wings, and so gently sustaining**

**Have you not seen all that is needful has been**

**Sent by his gracious ordaining**

**Praise to the Lord, who will prosper your work and defend you**

**Surely his goodness and mercy shall daily attend you**

**Ponder anew what the Almighty can do**

**If with his love he befriends you**

**Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him**

**All that has life and breath, come now with praises before him**

**Let the Amen sound from his people again**

**Gladly forever adore him**

**\*Invocation and Lord’s Prayer**

L: Almighty God, whose blessed Son was led by the Spirit to be tempted of Satan, make speed to help thy servants who are assaulted by manifold temptations. As thou know their several infirmities, let each one find you mighty to save. Let us lament our failures, but find perfect remission and forgiveness in our God of mercy, through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, and taught us to pray the prayer that Jesus taught His disciples…

**P: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Your name. Your kingdom come; your will be done in earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Yours is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**

**\*Gloria Patri**

**Glory be to the Father​**

**And to the Son and to the Holy Ghost.​**

**As it was in the beginning​**

**Is now and ever shall be.​**

**World without end. ​**

**Amen. Amen.​**

**First Scripture Lesson:** Deuteronomy 26:1-11

 When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name.

 You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us.”

 When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, you shall make this response before the LORD your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

 The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me.”

You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

**Prayer of Confession**

L: We confess to the Lord so we are reminded of that which is heavenly and that which is earthly. While all things around us pass away, we may hold fast those things which abide forever. May our spirits may grow calm, our vision be clear, and our purpose be unified...

**P: Lord, I believe in your life and your suffering. I worship you, I long for you as my last thought. I praise you as my constant helper, and call on you as my loving protector. Guide me by your wisdom, correct me with your justice, comfort me with your mercy, protect me with your power. I offer you my thoughts, that they may be fixed on you. I offer my words, to have you as their theme. I offer you my actions, to reflect my love for you. I offer you my sufferings, to be endured for your greater glory. Help me to repent of my past sins and to resist temptation in the future. Help me to rise above my human weakness and to grow stronger in Christ. Amen.**

**Affirmation of Faith:** Psalm 91

**P:** **You who live in the shelter of the Most High, who abide in the shadow of the Almighty, will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my fortress; my God, in whom I trust.” Because you have made the LORD your refuge, the Most High your dwelling place, no evil shall befall you, no scourge come near your tent. For he will command his angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways. On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone. Those who love me, I will deliver; I will protect those who know my name. When they call to me, I will answer them; I will be with them in trouble, I will rescue them and honor them. With long life I will satisfy them, and show them my salvation.**

**Hymn of Affirmation:** “Rejoice, the Lord is King” #276 (vv.1-4)

**Rejoice, the Lord is King**

**Your Lord and King adore**

**Rejoice, give thanks and sing**

**And triumph evermore**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**Jesus, the Savior, reigns**

**The God of truth and love**

**When He had purged our stains**

**He took his seat above**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**His kingdom cannot fail**

**He rules o'er earth and heav'n**

**The keys of death and hell**

**Are to our Jesus giv’n**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**Rejoice in glorious hope**

**Our Lord, the Judge, shall come**

**And take His servants up**

**To their eternal home**

**Lift up your heart**

**Lift up your voice, Rejoice**

**Again I say, rejoice**

**Second Scripture Lesson:** Romans 10:8-13

 “The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” that is, the word of faith that we proclaim; because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved.

 The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.”

 For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

**Communion**

**MINISTER: THE INVITATION**

You who truly and earnestly repent of your sins, who live in love and peace with

your neighbors and who intend to lead a new life, following the commandments

of God and walking in His holy ways, draw near with faith, and take this holy

sacrament to your comfort; and humbly kneeling, make your honest confession

to Almighty God.

**IN UNISON: THE GENERAL CONFESSION**

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, judge of all

people, we confess that we have sinned, and we are deeply grieved as we

remember the wickedness of our past lives. We have sinned against You, Your

holiness and Your love, and we deserve only Your indignation and anger.

We sincerely repent, and we are genuinely sorry for all wrongdoing and every

failure to do the things we should. Our hearts are grieved, and we acknowledge

that we are hopeless without Your grace.

Have mercy upon us.

Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for the sake of your son, our Savior, Jesus

Christ, who died for us.

Forgive us.

Cleanse us.

Give us strength to serve and please You in newness of life and to honor and praise

Your name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH**

O Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who with great mercy has promised

forgiveness to all who turn to You with hearty repentance and true faith, have

mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from our sins, make us strong and faithful in

all goodness and bring us to everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**CONGREGATION: THE COLLECT**Almighty God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom

no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts, by the inspiration of the

Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love You and worthily magnify Your holy name,

through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE SANCTUS**

It is always right and proper, and our moral duty, that we should at all times and

in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, Almighty and Everlasting God.

Therefore, with angels and archangels, and with all the inhabitants of heaven, we

honor and adore Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying,

**CONGREGATION: THE SANCTUS (CONTINUED)**

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts!

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord, most high. Amen

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION**

We do not come to this Your table, O merciful Lord, with self-confidence and

pride, trusting in our own righteousness, but we trust in Your great and many

mercies. We are not worthy to gather the crumbs from under Your table. But You,

O Lord, are unchanging in Your mercy and Your nature is love; grant us, therefore,

God of mercy, God of grace, so to eat at this Your table that we may receive in

spirit and in truth the body of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, and the merits of His

shed blood, so that we may live and grow in His likeness and, being washed and

cleansed through His most precious blood, we may evermore live in Him and He

in us. Amen.

**MINISTER: THE PRAYER OF CONSECRATION OF THE ELEMENTS**

Almighty God, our Heavenly Father, who gave in love Your only Son, Jesus Christ,

to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption, who by His sacrifice, offered

once for all, did provide a full, perfect, and sufficient atonement for the sins of the whole world,

we come now to Your table in obedience to Your Son, Jesus Christ, who in His holy gospel

commanded us to continue a perpetual memory of His precious death until He comes

again. Hear us, O merciful Father, we humbly ask, and grant that we, receiving this bread and this cup,

as He commanded and in the memory of His passion and death, may partake of His most blessed body and blood.

In the night of His betrayal, Jesus took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to

His disciples, saying, “Take, eat; this is My body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of Me.”

In like manner, after supper He took the cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of

this, all of you, for this is My blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you and for many, for the remission of

sins; do this as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.” Amen.

The body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting

life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed upon Him in your heart, by faith with

thanksgiving.

The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for you, preserve your soul and body unto everlasting life.

Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s blood was shed for you and be thankful.

**MINISTER: THE BENEDICTION**

May the peace of God, which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love

of God, and of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord; and may the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and

the Holy Spirit, be yours now and forever. Amen.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Passing of the Peace**

**Prayers of the People**

L: Lord in Your Mercy…

**P: Hear our prayer.**

**Gospel Lesson****:** Luke 4:1-13

 Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished.

 The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.”

 Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

 Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.”

 Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’”

 Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, "If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”

 Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

 When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

**Sermon:** “”

**Prayer of Response**

**Hymn of Response****:** “Tell Me the Story of Jesus” #205 (vv.1-3)

**Tell me the story of Jesus**

**Write on my heart every word**

**Tell me the story most precious**

**Sweetest that ever was heard**

**Tell how the angels, in chorus**

**Sang as they welcomed His birth**

**Glory to God in the highest**

**Peace and good tidings to earth**

**Tell me the story of Jesus**

**Write on my heart every word**

**Tell me the story most precious**

**Sweetest that ever was heard**

**Fasting alone in the desert**

**Tell of the days that are past**

**How for our sins He was tempted**

**Yet was triumphant at last**

**Tell of the years of His labor**

**Tell of the sorrow He bore**

**He was despised and afflicted**

**Homeless, rejected, and poor**

**Tell me the story of Jesus**

**Write on my heart every word**

**Tell me the story most precious**

**Sweetest that ever was heard**

**Tell of the cross where they nailed Him**

**Writhing in anguish and pain**

**Tell of the grave where they laid Him**

**Tell how He liveth again**

**Love in that story so tender**

**Clearer than ever I see**

**Stay, let me weep while you whisper**

**Love paid the ransom for me**

**Tell me the story of Jesus**

**Write on my heart every word**

**Tell me the story most precious**

**Sweetest that ever was heard**

**Invitation of Offering**

L:The strength of God can carry us through every temptation. We trust in God to provide, even when we see no way. We give, as a way to strengthen our faith. Give as you have been given, as we collect this morning’s tithes and offerings.

**\*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.**

**\*Prayer**

**\*Closing Hymn**: “Now Thank We All Our God” #766 (vv.1-3)

**Now thank we all our God**

**With heart and hands and voices**

**Who wondrous things has done**

**In whom his world rejoices**

**Who from our mothers’ arms**

**Has blessed us on our way**

**With countless gifts of love**

**And still is ours today**

**O may this bounteous God**

**Through all our life be near us**

**With ever joyful hearts**

**And blessed peace to cheer us**

**And keep us in his grace**

**And guide us when perplexed**

**And free us from all ills**

**In this world in the next**

**All praise and thanks to God**

**The Father now be given**

**The Son and Him who reigns**

**With them in highest heaven**

**The one eternal God**

**Whom earth and heaven adore**

**For thus it was, is now**

**And shall be evermore**

**\*Benediction**

L: May the God of grace go with you on this Lenten journey. May the strength of Christ dwell within you in your wilderness. May the Spirit of God carry you as you struggle. Confessing God in trial, go in peace to love and serve. Amen.