

A Lenten Service of the Word for Home Use

Opening Responsive Reading from Joel 2:12-13

L “Yet even now,” declares the Lord, “return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.”

C **Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.**

Confession & Declaration of Grace

L Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart, and confess our sin to God, our Father, imploring him, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, to grant us forgiveness.

Silence for personal confession.

L Our help is from the Lord.

C **Who made heaven and earth.**

L I said, I will confess my transgressions to the Lord.

C **and you forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

L Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that**

we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L The Almighty and merciful God grant to you, being penitent, pardon for your sins, time for amendment of life, and the grace and comfort of His Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Scripture Readings

See attached document

Hymn *In the Cross of Christ I Glory* Red Book 64

Spoken or sung

In the cross of Christ, I glory,
Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story
Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er take me,
Hopes deceive and fears annoy,
Never shall the Cross forsake me;
Lo! It glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming
Light and love upon my way,
From the Cross the radiance streaming
Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessings, pain and pleasure,
By the Cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure,
Joys that through all time abide.

The Prayers

L In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

Response: Lord, have mercy.

L For the unity, peace and welfare of the church and for all sisters and brothers in Christ, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For all ministers of the Gospel, who speak the truth in love, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For all prophets of justice, and those who bring mercy, for all who serve and defend human life. let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L For the destruction of demonic powers, for the elimination of slavery, human exploitation, and war, let us pray to the Lord:

C Lord, have mercy.

L Help, save, pity, and defend us, O God, by Your grace.

A brief silence is kept for additional prayers

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and the whole world to Christ our Lord.

C To You, O Lord.

The Lord's Prayer

L Let us pray with confidence the words our Savior gave us:

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.

Dismissal with Blessing

L Go forth to walk the way of the cross; may God bless and keep you in His mercy.

C We go in the Name of the Lord.

L Now to Him, who by the power at work within us is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think, to Him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever.

C Amen. Thanks be to God.