



March 20, 2022 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

### Praise to The Lord

Praise to the Lord the Almighty  
The King of creation  
O my soul praise Him  
For He is thy health and salvation  
All ye who hear now to His temple draw  
near  
Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord Who over all things  
So wondrously reigneth  
Shelters thee under His wings  
Yea so gently sustaineth  
Hast thou not seen how thy desires ever  
have been  
Granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord Who doth prosper Thy  
work and defend thee

Surely His goodness and mercy here  
daily attend thee  
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do  
If with His love He befriend thee

Joyful, joyful we adore thee  
God of Glory, Lord of Love  
Hearts unfold like flower before thee  
Opening to the sun above

Praise to the Lord O let all that is in me  
adore Him  
All that hath life and breath Come now  
with praises before Him  
Let the amen sound from His people  
again  
Gladly for all we adore Him

### The Acclamation

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins. *His mercy endures for ever.*

### Confession and Absolution

*Most merciful God we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways to the glory of your name; through Christ our Lord.*

### Invitation to Worship

O Lord, open our lips; *And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.*

O God, make speed to save us; *O Lord, make haste to help us.*

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; *As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.*

Praise the Lord. *The Lord's Name be praised.*

## Psalm 95

Oh come, let us sing to the Lord; *let us make a joyful noise to the rock of our salvation!*  
Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; *let us make a joyful noise to him with songs of praise!*

For the Lord is a great God, *and a great King above all gods.*

In his hand are the depths of the earth; *the heights of the mountains are his also.*

The sea is his, for he made it, *and his hands formed the dry land.*

Oh come, let us worship and bow down; *let us kneel before the LORD, our Maker!*

For he is our God, and we are the people of his pasture, *and the sheep of his hand.*

Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts, as at Meribah, *as on the day at Massah in the wilderness,*

when your fathers put me to the test *and put me to the proof,*  
*though they had seen my work.*

For forty years I loathed that generation and said, *"They are a people who go astray in their heart, and they have not known my ways."*

Therefore I swore in my wrath, *"They shall not enter my rest."*

## The Lesson

Galatians 3:25 - 4:20

The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

25 But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian, 26 for in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. 27 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave[**g**] nor free, there is no male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's offspring, heirs according to promise. 4 I mean that the heir, as long as he is a child, is no different from a slave,[**a**] though he is the owner of everything, 2 but he is under guardians and managers until the date set by his father. 3 In the same way we also, when we were children, were enslaved to the elementary principles[**b**] of the world. 4 But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. 6 And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" 7 So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God. 8 Formerly, when you did not know God, you were enslaved to those that by nature are not gods. 9 But now that you have come to know God, or rather to be known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and worthless elementary principles of the world, whose slaves you want to be once more? 10 You observe days and months and seasons and years! 11 I am afraid I may have labored over you in vain.

12 Brothers,[**c**] I entreat you, become as I am, for I also have become as you are. You did me no wrong. 13 You know it was because of a bodily ailment that I preached the gospel to you at first, 14 and though my condition was a trial to you, you did not scorn or despise me, but received me as an angel of God, as Christ Jesus. 15 What then has become of your blessedness? For I testify to you that, if possible, you would have gouged out your eyes and given them to me. 16 Have I then become your enemy by telling you the truth?[**d**] 17 They make much of you, but for no good purpose. They want to shut you out, that you may make much of them. 18 It is always good to be made much of for a good purpose, and not only when I am present with you, 19 my little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you! 20 I wish I could be present with you now and change my tone, for I am perplexed about you.

## **Sermon: “Not Slaves but Sons” – Pastor Steve Noll**

### **The Apostles’ Creed**

*I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.*

### **PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

#### **The Lord’s Prayer (together)**

##### **Prayer for Our Pastor–Elect**

*We thank you, O heavenly Father, for having guided our church in the search for a new pastor. We pray for Ethan and Natasha and Briar as they prepare to leave their home and congregation in Rwanda. We pray that you will open doors for them to travel to Pittsburgh and find a home. Above all, we pray that you will by your Spirit prepare our hearts to receive them with joy, thanksgiving and expectation, that together we may be a witness in our community and beyond. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

##### **Prayer for Our Annual Parish Meeting**

*Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel at our Annual Meeting for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor and glory. Guide us to perceive what is right, and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

##### **The Great Thanksgiving and Grace**

*Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; Through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.*

*The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. Amen.*

### **Peace, Announcements and Doxology**

#### **ANNUAL MEETING (See Agenda)**

## How Great Thou Art

O Lord my God  
When I in awesome wonder  
Consider all the worlds  
Thy hands have made  
I see the stars  
I hear the rolling thunder  
Thy pow'r thru'out  
The universe displayed

Then sings my soul  
My Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art  
How great Thou art  
Then sings my soul  
My Savior God to Thee  
How great Thou art  
How great Thou art

And when I think  
That God His Son not sparing  
Sent Him to die  
I scarce can take it in  
That on the cross  
My burden gladly bearing  
He bled and died  
To take away my sin

When Christ shall come  
With shouts of acclamation  
And take me home  
What joy shall fill my heart  
Then I shall bow  
In humble adoration  
And there proclaim  
My God how great Thou art

## The Blessing and Dismissal

All of our problems: *We send to the cross of Christ*  
All of our difficulties: *We send to the cross of Christ*  
All of the devil's works: *We send to the cross of Christ*  
And all of our hopes: *We set on the risen Lord!*

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face to shine upon us. The Lord lift up his countenance upon us and give us peace. And the blessing of God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore. *Amen.*  
Let us bless the Lord. *Thanks be to God!*