

SERVICE OF WORD AND SACRAMENT

February 25, 2023



*"For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.*

*~Matthew 6:21(NRSV)*



Sermon on the Mount by Laura James (2010)

# *Gathering as the Body of Christ.*

**CENTERING SONG**

**“HOLY SPIRIT”**

**AAHH 319**

**GREETING**

**PRESIDER**

**\*CALL TO WORSHIP**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John. On this day we come from many different places -to remember his story, to offer our worship and to give witness to our faith.

**Gather us in, O God.**

Leaving the security of home, family and daily work Jesus began a brave new journey; may we be willing to embrace new paths and new ways.

**Gather us in, and invite us to venture out, O God.**

**\*OPENING HYMN**

**“AGAIN WE KEEP THIS SOLEMN FAST”**

**NCH 187(v. 1-2)**

**\*CONFESSION & WORDS OF ASSURANCE**

[All are invited to turn toward the Baptismal Font.]

The baptismal font reminds us of God’s promise of cleansing and forgiveness. In that confidence, let us lift our voices in a prayer of confession.

God, we are busy people. We need reminders. We need help remembering what is important. In this time of silent confession, we will try to slow down our thoughts and be present with you. We will be still and be with our God.

God, silence is hard...

**Confession is hard. Faithful God, you stay with us through all the difficult parts of life. You have heard our confessions and have been with us in our silent prayers. For your faithfulness and love, we are grateful. Amen.**

Our good news is this-The steadfast love of God never ceases. God’s mercies never come to an end. They are new every morning.

**Great is God’s faithfulness. Amen.**

**\*SHARING THE PEACE OF CHRIST**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

You are invited to pass the peace to each other in a non-contact way that's comfortable to you and your neighbor.

In the hush, we hear more clearly. In tranquility, we breathe more deeply. In peace, we find ourselves anew.

Peace be with you.

**And also with you.**

Let us share this peace with one another.

*Service of the Word*

**POEM**

**“IF SOMEONE SPEAKS ILL OF YOU”**

**SWAMI SIVANANDA**

Jesus' message this week is unequivocal: repent or perish. In the poem "If someone speaks ill of you," Swami Sivananda eloquently advises of the rewards of humility and repentance.

Reader      If anyone speaks ill of you,  
Praise him always.  
If anyone injures you,  
Serve him nicely.  
If anyone persecutes you,  
Help him in all possible ways.  
You will attain immense strength.  
You will control anger and pride.  
You will enjoy peace, poise and serenity.  
You will become divine.

**PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION**

**STUDENT MINISTER**

God, source of all light, by your Word, you give light to the soul. Pour out on us the spirit of wisdom and understanding, that our hearts and minds may be opened to know your truth and your way. **Amen.**

**SCRIPTURE READING**

**MATTHEW 6:1-6, 16-21**

**NRSV**

**SERMON**

**JACK KASANDER**

**Almighty and ever living God,  
 you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent.  
 May this time be one of outward focus;  
 seeking you in those we often ignore.  
 Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity, and encounter.  
 Give us hearts hungry to serve you  
 and those who need what we have to give.  
 Amen.**

### *Service of the Table*

OFFERTORY SONG

INSTRUMENTAL

#### **\*THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION**

Presider Please rise, as able, as we enter the liturgy of Holy Communion.  
 The Lord be with you.

**And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts.

**We lift them to You, Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.

**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

How can we thank you, O God? for sun and moon and stars,  
 for breath and life and all things good, for your steadfast promise and your  
 faithful love, for the day that is surely coming when all things will be made  
 new, every breach, repaired. With saints, with angels, and with the whole  
 creation, we join the ancient and eternal hymn:

**Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,**

**Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.**

**Blessed is the one who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

We give you thanks, Holy God, for Jesus, who came to be your living Word,  
 to baptize us with Spirit and fire, to feed the hungry, to humble the  
 mighty, and to announce the good news of your coming realm.

With thanksgiving, we remember how, when the hour had come, Jesus took his place at the table with the apostles. He said to them, “I will not eat this Passover again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God.”

Then Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me. “

After supper, he took the cup, saying, “This cup that is poured out for you is the new covenant in my blood. I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes.” With thanks and praise we offer ourselves to you, Sharing this holy meal, remembering Christ’s dying and rising, and praying: Come Lord Jesus!

**Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.**

Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us— This bread, this cup, these people— Christ’s body and blood, given in love for the world.

Make us one in the Spirit, one in the church, and one with Christ.

**Make us gentle, joyful, thankful people, serving our neighbors, worshiping you alone. Keep us in the peace of Christ until you gather us at your table in glory. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, Now and forever. Amen.**

#### INVITATION TO THE TABLE

#### PRESIDER

We have a few COVID related options for those who wish to partake. If you wish to receive from the ministers, take an empty eco-friendly cup from the stack on the aisle table and approach the minister, who will place a piece of bread in your open hand. All bread is gluten free.

Or you may take one of the sealed celebration cups with the wafer on top and juice beneath; hold them out to the minister for a blessing. A minister will pour grape juice into your cup. Eat, drink, and dispose of the cup in the waste baskets at the side aisles as you return to your seat.

#### COMMUNION SONG

#### “GIVE ME A CLEAN HEART”

#### NCH 188

# Going Forth as the Body of Christ

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

PRESIDER

God, your bread and your cup renew our spirits. No matter the times we have failed to show up to your call, or to our own needs, or to the cries of our neighbors, you receive us again. **May your unending grace be our foundation as we journey with Christ towards justice. Amen.**

## \*CLOSING SONG

“AGAIN WE KEEP THIS SOLEMN FAST”

NCH 187 (v.4&5)

## \*BENEDICTION

## SENDING & POSTLUDE

*In the quiet, may I hear You.  
In the solitude, may I be never alone.*

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**Cover Art:** “Sermon On The Mount” by Laura James. 2010 <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=57891>

**Call to Worship:** Written by Ann Siddall. <https://thepastorsworkshop.com/calls-to-worship-on-ash-wednesday/>

**Confession and Words of Assurance:** <https://teaandtheology.comworship-words-prayer-of-confession-and-assurance-of-forgiveness/>

**Prayer for Illumination:** [http://www.valleypresct.org/uploads/8/0/1/6/80162/prayers\\_for\\_illumination.pdf](http://www.valleypresct.org/uploads/8/0/1/6/80162/prayers_for_illumination.pdf)

**Prayers of the Community:** “Lent Prayers,” author unknown. Accessed July 18, 2022, at <https://www.xavier.edu/jesuitresource/online-resources/prayer-index/lent-prayers>

**Poem:** <https://www.poetseers.org/spiritual-and-devotional-poets/india/swami-sivananda/swami-sivananda-poems/if-someone-speaks-ill-of-you/>

**Communion Liturgy:** “Communion Liturgies.” Enfleshed. <https://enfleshed.com/liturgy/communion-liturgies/>

**Altar Coverings:** In commemoration of Women’s History Month, our altar panels have been covered by the art work of Schirlyn Kamara - Schirlyn is a local self-taught African-American artist who works in a number of mediums. Her Santee Chapel installation “Sisters and Saints” consist of 6 wooden panels (acrylic) depicting black and brown women in various postures of prayer and praise. Painting is a spiritual discipline for Schirlyn and she hopes that her art inspires, causes people to pay closer attention to the world around them, and positively impacts their lives. We are grateful for her sharing her gifts with our community!

**\*The worship planning team creates all other parts of the liturgy except where noted.**

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### LANCASTER THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY WORSHIP TEAM

Chynaah Maryoung-Cooke '21, Equilla Curry, Rev. Liz Fulmer '20, Patty Hall, Cam Richesson, Stephanie Oelrich, Max Staley, Beth Taylor, Rev. Kellie Turner '18.

Rev. Dr. Catherine E. Williams, Advisor

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### THE WORSHIP TEAM SEEKS:

*To serve the universal church of our Creator.*

*To minister to the unique and diverse needs of the seminary community.*

*To foster an expansive culture of worship that values difference and challenges the normative.*