



ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE

Wednesday, February 17, 2021

Organ Prelude: "I call to thee Lord Jesus Christ"

J. S. Bach

Welcome

*Call to Worship

Create in me a clean heart, O God,

and put a new and right spirit within me.

For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit; a broken and contrite heart, you will not despise. (Based on Psalm 51)

*Hymn: According to Thy Steadfast Love

No. 33

soloist Erin Stone with organist Bruce Nasmith

1. According to thy steadfast love
have mercy, Lord, on me;
in thy compassion great, blot out
all my iniquity.

thy wisdom, Lord, then may I learn;
oh teach my secret heart.

2. Wash me from sin;
completely cleanse
me from iniquity,
for my transgressions I confess;
my sin I ever see.

4. Purge me with hyssop;
make me clean
and whiter than the snow;
thy joy and gladness let me hear:
thy healing let me know.

3. For thou desirest truth, O Lord,
within the inward part;

5. Blot out all my iniquities;
thy face hide from my sin;
create in me a clean heart, Lord,
a spirit right within.

Prayer of Approach

First Scripture Reading: Mark 1: 1:1-5

The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

As it is written in the prophet Isaiah,

‘See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you,

who will prepare your way;

the voice of one crying out in the wilderness:

“Prepare the way of the Lord,

make his paths straight” ’,

John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins.

Meditation

Prayer:

Lord God, I want you to have a greater presence in my life. I confess that either willfully or out of ignorance, there are things about me that keep you at a distance.... Help me to be cleansed and ready within so that you will be more welcome. Amen.

*Hymn: Just As I Am, Without One Plea

No. 682

soloist Erin Stone with organist Bruce Nasmith

1. Just as I am, without one plea,
but that thy blood was shed for me,
and that thou biddest me come to
thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

3. Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need in thee I find,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

2. Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

4. Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Second Scripture Reading: Mark 1: 6-11

Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. He proclaimed, ‘The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.’

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the

Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, 'You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.'

Meditation

Prayer:

Lord God, teach me to submit to your authority even when it is inconvenient or demanding of me. Please illuminate me as to your will in particular areas of my life and in the different relationships in my life. Give me the courage to surrender them to you. Amen.

Marking with Ashes

Prayer for the Lenten Journey & the Lord's Prayer

**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, the power and the glory, forever. Amen.**

*Hymn: Take Up Your Cross

No. 211

soloist Erin Stone with organist Bruce Nasmith

1. Take up your cross, the Saviour said,
if my disciple you would be;
deny yourself, the world forsake,
and humbly follow after me.

for you the Saviour bore the cross,
to save your soul from death and hell.

2. Take up your cross; let not its weight
fill frightened spirit with alarm;
his strength shall bear your spirit up,
and brace your heart,
and nerve your arm.

4. Take up your cross, then, in Christ's
strength,
and every danger calmly brave;
'twill guide you to a heavenly home,
and lead to victory o'er the grave.

3. Take up your cross,
nor heed the shame,
nor let your foolish pride rebel:

5. Take up your cross and follow Christ,
nor think till death to lay it down,
for only those who bear the cross
may hope to wear the glorious crown.

Benediction

Threefold Amen

Organ Postlude: "Come down O Love divine"

arr. by Bruce Nasmith