

**MID-WEEK LENTEN SERVICE**  
**THE BODY OF CHRIST: THE HEART OF CHRIST**  
**MARCH 24, 2021**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Call to Worship:**

P: Lord, we have stubbornly followed our own evil hearts; we have rebelled against you, the Lord our God; we have not obeyed your voice.

**C: Create in us clean hearts, O God.**

P: According to your abundant mercy, blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity and cleanse me from my sin!

**C: Create in us clean hearts, O God.**

P: Your heart is a heart of love and compassion, O God. We wish to be motivated by your heart, O Lord.

**C: Create in us clean hearts, O God.**

P: You know the secrets of our hearts and all our hidden thoughts. Give us a thirst for your Spirit.

**C: We believe in your promise: Out of our hearts shall flow rivers of living water.**

**Opening Hymn:**

**Scripture Lessons:**

**First Lesson: Jeremiah 3:12-18**

Go, and proclaim these words toward the north, and say, “Return, faithless Israel, declares the Lord. I will not look on you in anger, for I am merciful, declares the Lord; I will not be angry forever. Only acknowledge your guilt, that you rebelled against the Lord your God and scattered your favors among foreigners under every green tree, and that you have not obeyed my voice, declares the Lord. Return, O faithless children, declares the Lord; for I am your master; I will take you, one from a city and two from a family, and I will bring you to Zion. And I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will feed you with knowledge and understanding. And when you have multiplied and been fruitful in the land, in those days, declares the Lord, they shall no more say, ‘The ark of the covenant of the Lord.’ It shall not come to mind or be remembered or missed; it shall not be made again. At that time Jerusalem shall be called the throne of the Lord, and all nations shall gather to it, to the presence of the Lord in Jerusalem, and they shall no more stubbornly follow their own evil heart. In those days the house of Judah shall join the house of Israel, and together they shall come from the land of the north to the land that I gave your fathers for a heritage.”

Here ends the first Lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 51 (with verses sung to the tune Martyrdom CM)**

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgression.

**C: Lord, look with mercy on my heart; There let your will be seen.**

Wash away the remnant of my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

**C: Lord, let me ne'er from you depart but be restored, made clean.**

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart.

**C: Lord, look with mercy on my heart; there let your will be seen.**

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

**C: Lord, let me ne'er from you depart but be restored, made clean.**

Here ends the Psalm. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Second Lesson: Hebrews 8:8-12**

For he finds fault with them when he says: "Behold, the days are coming, declares the Lord, when I will establish a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah, not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt. For they did not continue in my covenant, and so I showed no concern for them, declares the Lord. For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the Lord: I will put my laws into their minds, and write them on their hearts, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall not teach, each one his neighbor and each one his brother, saying, 'Know the Lord,' for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest. For I will be merciful toward their iniquities, and I will remember their sins no more."

Here ends the second Lesson. **C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Holy Gospel: John 11:17-44**

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days. Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off, and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to console them concerning their brother. So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met him, but Mary remained seated in the house. Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world." When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary, saying in private, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you." And when she heard it, she rose quickly and went to him. Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha had met him. When the Jews who were with her in the house, consoling her, saw Mary rise quickly and go out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there. Now when Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet, saying to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!" But some of them said, "Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man also have kept this man from dying?" Then Jesus, deeply moved again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay against it. Jesus said, "Take away the stone." Martha, the sister of the dead man, said to him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, for he has been dead four days." Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believed you would see the glory of God?" So they took away the stone. And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I

And Jesus lifted up his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. I knew that you always hear me, but I said this on account of the people standing around, that they may believe that you sent me." When he had said these things, he cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out." The man who had died came out, his hands and feet bound with linen strips, and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

### **Sermon: The Heart of Christ**

#### **Evening Hymn:**

#### **Prayers for the Body of Christ**

P: Let us pray for the whole body of Christ and for all people according to their needs. For all the nations of the world, that your heart of love and mercy will dwell in the midst of all people, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For your body, the church, that it will be the fulfillment of your love in the world, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For our congregation, that we may love one another as you have loved us, that we may be one with you as you are one with the Father, and that our pastor may be a shepherd after your own heart, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: For the sick (especially...), that your compassion will reach their need and give them health in body, mind and spirit, let us pray to the Lord.

**C: Lord, have mercy.**

P: Into your care, O Lord, we entrust all for whom we pray, believing in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

#### **Lord's Prayer**

#### **Benediction**

The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord have mercy and compassion on you. The Lord enfold you in his love and give you peace.

**C: Amen.**

#### **Sending Hymn:**

P: Go in peace, share the love of Christ.

**C: Thanks be to God.**