

9 Nicodemus said to him, “How can these things be?” ¹⁰ Jesus answered him, “Are you the teacher of Israel, and yet you do not understand these things?”¹¹ “Very truly, I tell you, we speak of what we know and testify to what we have seen, yet you do not receive our testimony. ¹² If I have told you about earthly things and you do not believe, how can you believe if I tell you about heavenly things? ¹³ No one has ascended into heaven except the one who descended from heaven, the Son of Man. ¹⁴ And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, ¹⁵ that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. ¹⁶ “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.¹⁷ “Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him.

Hymn: “Blessed Assurance” NCH#473

Sermon: “The Bold Blessing”

Silent, Pastoral, and 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 debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

Invitation to Generosity: The season of Lent invites us to consider what it means for us to live life sacrificially, to lean into Jesus’ call to costly discipleship. How might God be calling you to a new way of sharing your resources to build care and equity in our communities and world? Let us offer whatever gifts we have to love the world like God did in giving God’s Son.

Offertory: Alain- Choral Dorian (Augsburg Lent)

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Dedication: **For the loving of the world, these gifts. For the flowing of the water, these hearts. For the coming of the kingdom, these lives. May it be so. Amen.**

Communion Prayer: In this body, water. **In these bodies, water.** In this bread, these grapes, water. **In this flesh, these bones, water.** Under this floor, water. **Above this roof, water.** All water is a part of all water everywhere. **As a part of one another, of this earth, of the Living Water that brings new life, all are welcome at this table.**

For the bread and the cup, for the quenching of communion, **thanks be to God.** For the flow of liberation which the world cannot destroy, **thanks be to God.** For the hope of water and Spirit and kingdom come, **thanks be to God.**

Serving of Communion

Closing Hymn: "O God, How We Have Wandered" NCH#202

Benediction: As you go out from this wilderness into another, hold close to your heart this promise: there will be wellsprings to quench and cleanse and lead you to new life. You are already born of water and the Spirit. Beloved and blessed. Like the river that always finds its way to the sea, there is a way to be made toward the kingdom that we can only make together. So may God's blessings flow in, among and through us. Amen.

Postlude:

Music reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-743893. All rights reserved
"Of Water and Spirit: Service Prayers for the Lent 2A" was written by Dr. Sharon R. Fennema