

St. Andrew Worship

Sunday, March 3, 2024 @ 10:30 AM

3rd Sunday in Lent

** Please stand in body or in spirit.*

Welcome and Announcements

Threshold

"Woman, Weeping in the Garden" (vs. 3)

No. 241

*Woman, walking in the garden,
Jesus takes you by surprise;
when the gardener calls you, "Mary!"
faith and joy meet in your eyes.*

*Call to Worship (*Responsive*) by Thom Shuman

We have gathered in God's holy presence,
the One who etches grace on our hearts.

This is the place where God will transform us into disciples.

We glorify our God, who yearns for justice,
not just for a favored few, but for the least of our world.

This is the place where God will write compassion on our souls.

We give thanks to God for unceasing grace;
we remember God's persistence in saving us.

This is the place where God will breathe the Word into our lives.

*Hymn 324

"For All the Faithful Women"

*For all the faithful women who served in days of old,
to you shall thanks be given; to all, their story told.*

*They served with strength and gladness in tasks your wisdom gave.
To you their lives bore witness, proclaimed your power to save.*

*We praise your name for Miriam, who sang triumphantly
while Pharaoh's vaunted army lay drowned beneath the sea;
For Ruth, who left her homeland and ventured forth in faith,
who pledged to serve and worship Naomi's God till death.*

*We sing of busy Martha, who toiled with pot and pan
while Mary sat in silence to hear the word again.*

*We praise the other Mary, who hastened to the tomb
and found her Lord arisen, dispelling doubt and gloom.*

*Lord, hear our praise of Dorcas, who served the sick and poor.
Her hands were cups of kindness, her heart an open door.
O God, for saints and servants, our fervent prayer we raise,
that, faithful in your service, our lives may sing your praise.*

Prayer of Confession (*Unison*)

In the mirror we call scripture, Revealing God, we see ourselves for who we are and are not. We whine about those who are not doing what we think they should, and ignore our failings. We speak words which nibble away at the life in our family and friends. We step over the poor on our way to get more and more, ignoring their needs.

Forgive us, Reconciling Love. Sit us down at Jesus' feet, so we may learn the balanced life you intend for us. Then, and only then, we can set aside our grudges, to offer our gifts to our neighbors; we can stop licking at our hurts, to bring healing to others; we can reach out and welcome our sisters and brothers, even as we have been welcomed into your heart through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

Assurance of Grace (*Responsive*)

Christ Jesus comes to reconcile us to God,
so we can be reconciled to one another.
Recreated in God's image, we are made whole.

When we are in Christ, everything becomes new.

Our past is just that - our past!

Do you really believe this—
that your past is done, and you are a new person?
If so, go out and reflect it in your life.

Thanks be to God!

We will go forth and live as reconciled people. Amen.

Response: *Gloria Patri* (*Unison*)

Prayers of the People

Sharing Joys and Concerns

Song of prayer

Come and Fill

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace. You a-lone, O Lord, are ho-ly." The second staff contains the melody for the second line of lyrics: "Come and fill our hearts with your peace, al-le-lu-ia!" The melody is simple and melodic, with a final cadence at the end of the second staff.

Prayers lifted to God

*Hymn 495

"Thee We Adore, O Hidden Savior, Thee"

*Thee we adore, O hidden Savior, thee,
who at this blessed feast art pleased to be;
Both flesh and spirit in thy presence fail,
yet here thy presence we devoutly hail.*

*O blest memorial of our dying Lord,
who living bread to all doth here afford!
O may our souls forever feed on thee,
and thou, O Christ, forever precious be!*

*Fountain of goodness, Jesus, Lord and God,
cleanse us, unclean, with thy most cleansing blood;
Increase our faith and love, that we may know
the hope and peace which from thy presence flow.*

*O Christ, whom now beneath a veil we see,
may what we thirst for soon our portion be,
To gaze on thee unveiled, and see thy face,
the vision of thy glory and thy grace.*

Prayer for Illumination (*Unison*)

*God of extravagant grace,
may your Spirit refresh our hearts
through the reading of the scriptures
that we may perceive all the good we can do for Christ
and so grow in our faith toward our Lord Jesus. Amen.*

First Lesson:

Luke 8:1-3

Soon afterwards he went on through cities and villages, proclaiming and bringing the good news of the kingdom of God. The twelve were with him, ²as well as some women who had been cured of evil spirits and infirmities: Mary, called Magdalene, from whom seven demons had gone out, ³and Joanna, the wife of Herod's steward Chuza, and Susanna, and many others, who provided for them out of their resources.

Second Lesson:

Luke 10:38-42

Now as they went on their way, he entered a certain village, where a woman named Martha welcomed him into her home. ³⁸She had a sister named Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to what he was saying. ⁴⁰But Martha was distracted by her many tasks; so she came to him and asked, "Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself? Tell her then to help me." ⁴¹But the Lord answered her, "Martha, Martha, you are worried and distracted by many things; ⁴²there is need of only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, which will not be taken away from her."

Offertory Music

"The Bread of Love Is Broken"

St. Andrew Choir

Don Adkins, Piano

Doxology

Offering Prayer (*Unison*)

All things have their origin with you, Lord, and from these riches we freely give, that your church might grow in this place and throughout the world. Amen.

Communion (*Responsive*)

(See Insert)

*Hymn 201

"A Prophet-Woman Broke a Jar"

A prophet-woman broke a jar, by Love's divine appointing.

With rare perfume she filled the room, presiding and anointing.

A prophet-woman broke a jar, the sneers of scorn defying.

With rare perfume she filled the room, preparing Christ for dying.

A faithful woman left a tomb by Love's divine commission.

She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, arising from submission.

A faithful woman left a tomb, with resurrection gospel.

She saw; she heard; she preached the Word, apostle to apostles.

Though woman-wisdom, woman-truth, for centuries were hidden,

unsung, unwritten, and unheard, derided and forbidden,

The Spirit's breath, the Spirit's fire, on free and slave descending,

can tumble our dividing walls, our shame and sadness mending.

The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, by Love's divine ordaining,

the friends we need, to serve and lead, their powers and gifts unchaining.

The Spirit knows; the Spirit calls, from women, men and children,

the friends we need, to serve and lead. Rejoice, and make them welcome!

Benediction

The service of worship ends, the service of neighbor and world begins!