

Lenten Service
March 7, 2012

Sentences of Scripture

(See 2 Cor. 6:2; Ps. 85:4; 80:3; 51:17)

Leader: Behold, now is the acceptable time;

People: now is the day of salvation.

Leader: Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

People: that the light of your face may shine on us.

Leader: May your justice shine like the sun;

People: and may the poor be lifted up.

Leader: The sacrifice acceptable to God is a humble spirit;

People: A broken and contrite heart God will not despise.

Hymn 78

Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed

Martyrdom

Psalm 51:1, 9-12 NRSV

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.... Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities. Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Scripture Reading 1 Corinthians 5:9-6:8 NRSV

I wrote to you in my letter not to associate with sexually immoral persons-- not at all meaning the immoral of this world, or the greedy and robbers, or idolaters, since you would then need to go out of the world. But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone who bears the name of brother or sister who is sexually immoral or greedy, or is an idolater, reviler, drunkard, or robber. Do not even eat with such a one. For what have I to do with judging those outside? Is it not those who are inside that you are to judge? God will judge those outside. "Drive out the wicked person from among you." When any of you has a grievance against another, do you dare to take it to court before the unrighteous, instead of taking it before the saints? Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if the world is to be judged by you, are you incompetent to try trivial cases? Do you not know that we are to judge angels--to say nothing of ordinary matters? If you have ordinary cases, then, do you appoint as judges those who have no standing in the church? I say this to your shame. Can it be that there is no one among you wise enough to decide between one believer and another, but a believer goes to court against a believer--and before unbelievers at that? In fact, to have lawsuits at all with one another is already a defeat for you. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? But you yourselves wrong and defraud--and believers at that.

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks Be To God

Meditation

Rules of Discipline

Prayer

God of compassion,
through your Son Jesus Christ
you reconciled your people to yourself.
Following his example of prayer and fasting,
may we obey you with willing hearts
and serve one another in holy love;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Hymn 397

O, For a Closer Walk with God

Dalehurst

Prayer

Let us pray. God of compassion, through your Son Jesus Christ you reconciled your people to yourself. Following his example of prayer and fasting, may we obey you with willing hearts and serve one another in holy love. And now God of grace, sustain our bodies with this food, our hearts with true friendship, and our souls with your truth, for Christ's sake. **Amen.**

Benediction and Charge:

Leader: May the God of peace
Make you holy in every way
And keep your whole being—
Spirit, soul, and body—
Free from every fault,
At the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

People: Amen.

Leader: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.