

Lenten Service
March 14, 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 384

O Love That Wilt Not Let Me Go

St. Margaret

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 Genesis 45:1-9

Then Joseph could no longer control himself before all those who stood by him, and he cried out, "Send everyone away from me." So no one stayed with him when Joseph made himself known to his brothers. And he wept so loudly that the Egyptians heard it, and the household of Pharaoh heard it. Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph. Is my father still alive?" But his brothers could not answer him, so dismayed were they at his presence. Then Joseph said to his brothers, "Come closer to me." And they came closer. He said, "I am your brother, Joseph, whom you sold into Egypt. And now do not be distressed, or angry with yourselves, because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life. For the famine has been in the land these two years; and there are five more years in which there will be neither plowing nor harvest. God sent me before you to preserve for you a remnant on earth, and to keep alive for you many survivors. So it was not you who sent me here, but God;

Leader: The Word of the Lord

People: Thanks Be To God

Meditation

The Cross, The Tomb, The Empty Grave

Prayer of Confession

Merciful God, you pardon all who truly repent and turn to you. We humbly confess our sins and ask your mercy. We have not loved you with a pure heart, nor have we loved our neighbor as ourselves. We have not done justice, loved kindness, or walked humbly with you, our God. Have mercy on us, O God, in your loving-kindness. In your great compassion, cleanse us from our sin. Create in us a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within us. Do not cast us from your presence, or take your Holy Spirit from us. Restore to us the joy of your salvation and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.

Hymn 388

O Jesus, I Have Promised

Angel's Story

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. And now God of grace, sustain our bodies with the food we are about to receive. Sustain 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.