

**Second Sunday in Lent**  
**February 28, 2021**  
**Cross of Glory Lutheran Church**  
**Brooklyn Center, MN**

*This Lenten season, we're using Holden Evening Prayer, a worship music setting that blends traditional and contemporary styles together in a contemplative liturgy. If you don't yet know these songs, we invite you to join in as soon as you're comfortable. If you already know it, please jump in, trusting that God raises our voices together in song, even while apart!*

## **WELCOME**

Welcome to worship at Cross of Glory! This Lenten season, we are exploring “separation”—not only lamenting the physical separation that the pandemic has caused, but also confessing the ways we further separate ourselves from God (which we’re focusing on today), from creation, from our neighbors. This act of separation is what theologian Paul Tillich calls “sin.” So each week in worship, we’re exploring a different Bible story that helps us think about sin-as-separation.

I want to say a brief word as we begin our worship today about *why* we’re talking about sin this Lent, why we’re talking about something that often feels like such a downer in a world that already probably has us feeling down, to put it lightly. Because sin can be so uncomfortable to talk about, many churches don't talk about it! They've cut the Confession, skipping over sin, and going right for the grace, because talking about that “s” word will only scare people away from church (which a shrinking institution can't afford!).

But “abandoning the language of sin will not make sin go away” (Taylor). Human beings will continue to face demons, desolation, suffering, separation. We will continue to experience cruelty, and to be responsible for it. Abandoning the language of sin will only make us unable to speak truthfully about those things, unable to name their very real presence in ourselves and in our world.

Paradoxically, limiting our language of sin also limits our ability to talk about grace. Or as one pastor puts it, “sin is our only hope” (Taylor). It sounds odd but I think it's true. It's only confessing our responsibility for the way things are that we can be opened to another way that things could be. It's only when we confront the weight of sin that we are confronted with the weight of grace. It's only in confessing our captivity to sin that we are freed by God's forgiveness.

In just a moment, we will confess our sins together, as we do at the start of every worship service. Today, let us remember that this ritual isn't guilt-inducing—it's liberating! There's great *hope* in confessing our sins because then we finally get to lay aside our sin management program and instead of playing this impossible game where we try to be God but always end up failing, we get allow God to be God for us. And that's really all any of us need when it comes down to it (Bolz-Weber).

So again, welcome. No matter who you are or where you are, no matter what you've done or left undone, we're glad you're with us. Let us turn now to the Confession and let God be God for us...

## **PRELUDE**

## **GREETING**

## **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the giver of life, the source of steadfast love, our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.**

Let us take a moment of silence to confess our sin and return to the one who is full of compassion.

*Silence for reflection.*

Merciful God, **we have rejected your gift of life in order to be our own gods, clinging to death-dealing idols of our own making. We have distanced ourselves from those who are different. We have turned away from the groans of creation and the cries of our neighbors in need. Mend what we have broken. Join together what we have torn apart. And make us alive to your love, that we may experience and share the life you offer us now.**

Beloved, nothing in all of creation can separate us from the love of God. So hear this good news: in the name of Jesus Christ, your sins are ✠ forgiven. Live now in the freedom of forgiveness and in the joy of life together. Amen.

## **OPENING SONG**

Joyous light of heavenly glory, loving glow of God's own face,  
you who sing creation's story, shine on every land and race.  
Now as morning breaks around us, we shall raise our songs to you,  
God of daybreak, God of shadows, come and light our hearts anew.

In the stars that grace the darkness, in the blazing sun of dawn,  
in the light of peace and wisdom, we can hear your quiet song.  
Love that fills the night with wonder, love that warms the weary soul,  
Love that bursts all chains asunder, set us free and make us whole.

You who made the heaven's splendor, every dancing star of night,  
make us shine with gentle justice, let us each reflect your light.  
Mighty God of all creation, gentle Christ who lights our way,  
loving spirit of salvation, lead us on to endless day.

## **THANKSGIVING**

**Leader:** May God be with you all,

**A: And also with you.**

**L:** Let us sing our thanks to God,

**A: It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

**L:** Blessed are you, Creator of the universe, from old you have led your people by night and day.  
May the light of your Christ make our darkness bright, for your Word and your presence are  
the light of our pathways, and you are the light and life of all creation.

**A: Amen**

## **PSALMODY**

*This song, drawing on the words of Psalm 144, begins in unison then breaks into two parts and is sung as a round. In our recorded worship service, there will be a leader for both parts. If you're last name begins with A-M, follow part I. If your last name begins with N-Z, follow part II.*

**Refrain** (begins in unison):

Let my prayer rise up as incense before you,  
the lifting up of my hands as an offering to you.

*Part I & II sung in round:*

O God, I call to you, come to me now;  
hear my voice when I cry to you. *Refrain.*

Keep watch within me, God;  
deep in my heart may the light of your love be burning bright. *Refrain*  
All praise to the God of all, Creator of life;  
all praise to the Christ and the Spirit of love. *Refrain*

### ***Silence for meditation***

### **PRAYER**

*Let us pray together . . .* **May our prayers come before you, O God, as incense, and may your presence surround and fill us, so that together with all creation, we might sing your praise and your love in our lives. Amen.**

### **READING: Genesis 3:1-13, 20-24**

<sup>1</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any other wild animal that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, 'Did God say, "You shall not eat from any tree in the garden"?' <sup>2</sup>The woman said to the serpent, 'We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden; <sup>3</sup>but God said, "You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the middle of the garden, nor shall you touch it, or you shall die." ' <sup>4</sup>But the serpent said to the woman, 'You will not die; <sup>5</sup>for God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.' <sup>6</sup>So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate; and she also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate. <sup>7</sup>Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made loincloths for themselves.

<sup>8</sup> They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. <sup>9</sup>But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, 'Where are you?' <sup>10</sup>He said, 'I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.' <sup>11</sup>He said, 'Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?' <sup>12</sup>The man said, 'The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate.' <sup>13</sup>Then the Lord God said to the woman, 'What is this that you have done?' The woman said, 'The serpent tricked me, and I ate.'

<sup>20</sup> The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all who live. <sup>21</sup>And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.

<sup>22</sup> Then the Lord God said, 'See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever'—

<sup>23</sup>therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. <sup>24</sup>He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **MUSIC      Come as You Are      Worship Team**

Come out of sadness from wherever you've been  
Come broken-hearted let rescue begin  
Come find your mercy. O sinner come kneel.  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.  
Lay down your burdens, lay down your shame.  
All who are broken lift up your face.

O wanderer, come home, .  
You're not too far  
So lay down your hurt,  
lay down your heart  
Come as you are.

There's hope for the hopeless and all those who've strayed.  
Come sit at the table. Come taste the grace.  
There's rest for the weary, Rest that endures.  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure.  
So lay down your burdens, lay down your shame.  
All who are broken lift up your face.

O wanderer come home.  
You're not too far.  
So lay down your hurt,  
lay down your heart.  
Come as you are.

Come as you are. Fall in His arms. Come as you are.

There's joy for the morning. O sinner, be still.  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.  
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal.  
So lay down your burdens, lay down your shame.  
All who are broken lift up your face.

O wanderer, come home.  
You're not too far.  
So lay down your hurt,  
lay down your heart.  
Come as you are.

Come as you are. Come as you are. Come as you are.

## REFLECTION I     Rev. Ali Tranvik

At the beginning of worship, I mentioned that the church tends to not talk much about sin, but if/when we *do*, it's usually portrayed as one of two things: 1) Sin is something to hit us over the head with to tell us that we've been bad. That we've broken the rules. We can be good, squeaky-clean Christians, but we're going to have to make better choices. In this view, sin = disobedience. Or 2) Sin is an old-fashioned, behind-the-times idea that just makes us feel bad. In this view, humans are good, or at least we can be "good *enough*" if only we buy this product or follow these steps. In this modern world hooked on the achievability of wellness, sin simply doesn't sell. In this view, sin = low self-esteem.

Now, I'm painting with pretty broad-brush strokes here, but you get the idea. Both of these views end up just making people feel bad about themselves. Because both of them make sin something we can control or manage, as opposed to something we're in bondage to (Bolz-Weber), as something we're captive to and don't even recognize as captivity (Hauerwas).

Take the Genesis story, for example. We usually read it through the lens of that first view (sin as disobedience). Adam and Eve *disobeyed* God (or as the traditional interpretation goes, *Eve* disobeyed God and brought her poor husband down with her). Now, a careful reading of Genesis suggests that Adam is just as culpable as Eve—not to mention the shame and violence that women across time and place have been subjected to as a result of that gendered interpretation—but that's a sermon for another today. Today, I want to suggest that if we reduce sin to disobedience, to breaking the rules, then faith is reduced to following them. Faith becomes a thing where if we are good enough, obedient enough, then we can be "like God."

*This* was exactly what Adam and Eve wanted. "When you eat this fruit," the serpent told them, "your eyes will be opened, will be *like God*, knowing good and evil" (3:5). It was a seductive idea, being like God. While the garden was nice, it wasn't *theirs*. Adam and Eve were still guests in garden. They wanted to make their own rules. They wanted to have their own garden. They wanted to be their own gods. They wanted the independence, the ownership, the control, the power, the knowledge of being [like] God.

So they ate the fruit. And as it turns out, they *did* gain the knowledge of good and evil—and also of which one they had chosen. It was a choice that separated them from the garden forever.

We too may know what it's like to feel separated from God, cut off from life, alone. Perhaps we know the feeling of seeing the light and turning away from it, either because it's too beautiful to behold or because it spoils the dank but familiar darkness. Maybe we know what it's like to push away loving arms, or to break something just to prove that we can. What it's like to reach for the

forbidden fruit, the illusion of mastery and control, only to be poisoned by it. Perhaps we've tried doing whatever is necessary to feed ourselves, because it seems there is no other God to follow. Or because the God we have isn't what we wanted. Or because, we figured, we'd just be God ourselves.

**CROSS MEDITATION:** PowerPoint Cross Images from the Cross of Glory Family

*Throughout the season of Lent, you are invited to take part in a communal spiritual practice of paying attention to the crosses or cross shapes that appear in the sanctuaries of your home or work. Take a picture of the crosses you notice and email them to Pastor Ali. A few of these crosses will be shown during this time of prayerful reflection in our recorded worship service each week.*

**REFLECTION II Rev. Ali Tranvik**

*Where are you?* It's a question we may have asked God more than once in the past eleven and half months since this pandemic began. When our internet goes out and our screen freezes, or we had to remind someone on Zoom that they're muted (again!) and we don't know much more of these virtual gatherings we can take; when a grandchild has been born or baptized, graduated or gotten married and we've missed it; when a parent or friend has died and we haven't been able to gather for a funeral; when we reflect on the fact that for nearly a year now, our hands have not been held or our bodies hugged; for a year now, we have not been able to sing with others, work with others, worship with others, eat with others; for a year now, we have been physically separated: *Where are you?* we ask God.

*Where are you,* we ask God, when we look around the world at the poverty, the injustice, the cruelty, the ways that neighbor is separated from neighbor.

*Where are you,* we ask God, when we look at ourselves and reflect on the ways that we are complicit in this separation—knowingly and unknowingly, by what we've done and what we've left undone.

But listen for the sound of God walking in the garden, amidst the evening breeze, as it says in Genesis (3:1). Do not be afraid. Do not be ashamed. Do not hide "from the presence of the Lord." For as much as Adam and Eve may try and distance themselves from God—and as much as we may try and do the same—God is never distant from us.

And listen to the first words that God speaks to Adam and Eve after they eat the fruit. For as much as we may ask God "*where are you,*" in today's text we find a God who draws near to us in our separation, who searches for us and seeks us, who finds us and forgives us. We find that it is *God* who asks *us*: "*Where are YOU*" (3:9)?

**Sources:**

- Nadia Bolz-Weber, "Why I Love Lent: Sin is One of my Favorite Things to Talk About," *Patheos*, Feb 22, 2012.
- Paul Tillich, "You are Accepted," sermon cited in Karl Menninger, *Whatever Became of Sin?* (New York: Hawthorn Books Inc., 1973).
- Stanley Hauerwas, interview by Rodney Clapp in *Books & Culture*, Nov/Dec 1998.
- Taylor, Barbara Brown. *Speaking of Sin* (Cambridge: Cowley Publications, 2000).

**MUSIC Waymaker Worship Team**

1 You are here moving in our midst  
I worship You I worship You  
You are here working in this place  
I worship You I worship You

**Chorus** (You are) Way Maker Miracle Worker Promise Keeper  
Light in the darkness my God that is who You are

**2** You are here touching ev'ry heart  
I worship You I worship You  
You are here healing ev'ry heart  
I worship You I worship You

That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are  
That is who You are

**3** You are here turning lives around  
I worship You I worship You  
You are here mending ev'ry heart  
I worship You yeah I worship You Lord

Even when I don't see it You're working  
Even when I don't feel it You're working  
You never stop You never stop working  
You never stop You never stop working

## **CONFESSION OF FAITH                  Apostles' Creed**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **THE ANNUNCIATION + MAGNIFICAT**

**Leader:** And angel went from God to a town called Nazareth to a woman whose name was Mary. The angel said to her, "Rejoice, O highly favored, for God is with you. You shall bear a child, and his name shall be Jesus, the Chosen One of God most high." And Mary said, "I am a servant of my God, I live to do your will."

**All:** My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here,  
and blessed me all my life through.  
Great and mighty are you, O Holy One,  
strong is your kindness evermore.  
How you favor the weak and lowly one,  
humbling the proud of heart.  
You have cast the mighty down from their thrones,  
and uplifted the humble of heart,  
you have filled the hungry with wondrous things,  
and left the wealthy no part.  
Great and mighty are you, O Faithful One,  
strong is your justice, strong your love,  
As you promised to Sarah and Abraham, kindness forevermore.  
My soul proclaims your greatness, O God,  
and my spirit rejoices in you,  
You have looked with love on your servant here,  
and blessed me all my life through.

## **PRAYERS of the PEOPLE**

**Refrain** *(sung by all after each verse):* **God of mercy, hold us in love.**

**Leader:**

1. In peace, in peace we pray to you.
2. For peace and salvation, we pray to you.

3. For peace between nations, peace between peoples.
4. For we who are gathered to worship and praise you.
5. For all of your servants who live out your gospel.
6. For all those who govern that justice might guide them.
7. For all those who labor in service to others.
8. Grant weather that nourishes all of creation.
9. Keep watch on our loved ones and keep us from danger.
- 10: For all the beloved who rest in your mercy.

Leader: Help us, comfort us, all of our days:

**All: Keep us, hold us, gracious God.**

L: Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live you Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

**A: Amen**

**LORD'S PRAYER**      *Lord, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:*

**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 trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

#### **FINAL BLESSING**

**Leader:** Let us bless our God.

**All: Praise and thanks to you.**

L: May God, Creator, bless us and keep us, may Christ be ever light for our lives, may the Spirit of love be our guide and path, for all of our days.

**A: Amen.**

#### **POSTLUDE**

#### **WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

Lead Pastor: Rev. Ali Tranvik

Pianist, vocalist, worship team director: Mark Trease

Vocalist, choir director: Keith Williams

Cantor: Kris Simon

Lector: Dawn Bailey

Technical directors: Ryan Bailey and Mike Edstrom

Ministers: The people of Cross of Glory

#### **MUSIC CREDITS:**

Holden Evening Prayer: Text and Music: Marty Haugen, b. 1950; © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

**WEEKLY PRAYER LIST:** *Given that our Prayers of the People are sung this season as part of the Holden liturgy, we will be printing the names of those requesting prayer each week.*

**Please keep these sisters and brothers in prayer:** Mavis Wold, Gil Hartlage, Vicky Jacobson, Jeannie Kuzmich, Eva and Josh, daughter and son-in-law of Kim and Gary Jacobson, Jennifer, granddaughter of Penny Lindblom, Suzanne, daughter of Penny Lindblom, and the loved ones of Terry Stejskal as they grieve his recent death.

## OFFERING

We invite you to make an offering by sending a check to the church or by visiting our secure online giving page which can be found at the bottom of our home page:

[www.crossofglory.us](http://www.crossofglory.us). Thanks for your generosity!

### Congregational Support as of 1/31/2021

Annual Budget: \$230,000.00

Year to Date Budgeted: \$19,533.37

Year to Date Received: \$26,450.72

Difference: \$6,917.35

### Community Announcements:

- Grab another cup of coffee and join us following Zoom worship for Virtual Coffee Hour, a weekly time of small-group fellowship.
- Immediately following Virtual Coffee Hour, Table Talks, our monthly Adult Sunday School series. This month, as we enter into the season of Lent, we're exploring the topic of Faith + Fasting. To "set the table" for our discussion, please read Isaiah 58:1-12 ahead of time. Email Pastor Ali with any questions.
- Following Table Talks, all are welcome to take part in a meeting with the Justice for All committee. Email Mike McClanahan ([mikemc5751@outlook.com](mailto:mikemc5751@outlook.com)) for more information or to be added to the Justice for All email list. Justice for All also invites you to take part in an upcoming conversation about payday lending in our community. The panel conversation will take place on Saturday, 3/6 from 10-11:30 am for Wildfire churches and other neighbors who may be interested in organizing against predatory lending practices in the West Metro Area. Email Mike for more information about how to register.
- Please see the included flyer for various ways you're invited to take part in our life together throughout the Lenten season.
- From 3/1-4/11, MN FoodShare will provide a proportional match for every pound of food and dollar donated to CEAP, our community's emergency assistance program. To make a special offering to CEAP, you can mark "CEAP" on your monthly offering envelope or send the church a check with "CEAP" on the memo line.
- Bible Study continues to meet on Tuesdays at 9:30am – join us if you are able!
- Positive Covid-19 case rates in Hennepin County continue to decrease; however, they are still high enough that Cross of Glory remains at Level 2 of our Preparedness & Response Plan. This means indoor groups of 10 or fewer people are welcome to gather on-site assuming all Building Entry Policy guidelines are maintained. Please schedule gatherings ahead of time by calling the church office. Worship services will continue to be virtual under this level. For more information, please consult Cross of Glory's Covid-19 Plan on our website or reach out to the Task Force.
- We're grateful for all the voices in our weekly worship services. If you're interested in being added to our list of readers, please email Linda Knudsen at [lindadknudsen@comcast.net](mailto:lindadknudsen@comcast.net).
- We've extended the deadline for the March Glory Banner. If you have any articles you'd like to submit for our monthly newsletter, please send them to Sue ([svukelich@crossofglory.us](mailto:svukelich@crossofglory.us)) by March 1.
- Please reach out to Pastor Ali with any other announcements or pastoral care concerns by email ([atranvik@crossofglory.us](mailto:atranvik@crossofglory.us)) or phone (763-533-8602).