

Insert for Wednesday, March 24th, 2021

A Service of Compline for
THE SENT: God's Church Deployed

First Reading NUMBERS 21:4-9

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF NUMBERS

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

THE WORD OF THE LORD. THANKS BE TO GOD.

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

A SELECTION FROM PSALM 107.

- 1 Give thanks to the Lord who is good, and whose mercy endures for ever.
- 2 Let all those whom the Lord has redeemed proclaim that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe.
- 3 The Lord gathered them out of the lands; from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.
- 17 Some were fools and took to rebellious ways; they were afflicted because of their sins.
- 18 They abhorred all manner of food and drew near to death's door.
- 19 Then they cried to you, O Lord, in their trouble, and you delivered them from their distress.
- 20 You sent forth your word and healed them and saved them from the grave.
- 21 Let them give thanks to you, O Lord, for your mercy and the wonders you do for your children.
- 22 Let them offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving and tell of your acts with shouts of joy.

One Glory to God,

All source of all being, eternal Word and Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now and will be forever. Amen.

Second Reading EPHESIANS 2:1-10

A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS

You were dead through the trespasses and sins in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ – by grace you have been saved – and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God – not the result of works, so that no one may boast. For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

THE WORD OF THE LORD. THANKS BE TO GOD.

Ash Wednesday Collect

Almighty and everlasting God, you despise nothing you have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, may obtain of you, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Weekly Collect

Steadfast God, you reach out to us in mercy. When we rebel against your holy call and walk in disobedience, soften our hearts with the warmth of your love, so that we may know your Son alive within us, redeeming us, and raising us up into your eternal presence. Amen.

Hymns

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CP465 Here In This Place

1. Here in this place new light is streaming;
now is the darkness vanished away.
See in this space our fears and our dreamings,
brought here to you in the light of this day.
Gather us in--the lost and forsaken;
gather us in--the blind and the lame;
call to us now and we shall awaken;
we shall arise at the sound of our name
2. We are the young--our lives are a mystery;
we are the old--who yearn for your face.
We have been sung throughout all of history,
called to be light to the whole human race.
Gather us in--the rich and the haughty;
gather us in--the proud and the strong;
give us a heart so meek and so lowly;
give us the courage to enter the song.
3. Here we will take the wine and the water;
here we will take the bread of new birth.
Here you shall call your sons and your daughters,
call us anew to be salt for the earth.
Give us to drink the wine of

compassion;
give us to eat the bread that is you;
nourish us well and teach us to fashion
lives that are holy and hearts that are true.

4. Not in the dark of buildings confining,
not in some heaven, light years away,
but here in this place the new light is shining;
now is the kingdom, now is the day.
Gather us in and hold us forever;
gather us in and make us your own;
gather us in--all peoples together,
fire of love in our flesh and our bone.

CP533 Jesus, Lover of My Soul

1. Jesus, lover of my soul,
let me to thy bosom fly,
while the nearer waters roll,
while the tempest still is high.
Hide me, O my Saviour, hide,
till the storm of life is past;
safe into the haven guide,
O receive my soul at last.
2. Other refuge have I none;
hangs my helpless soul on thee.
Leave, ah! leave me not alone;
still support and comfort me.
All my trust on thee is stayed,
all my help from thee I bring;
cover my defenseless head
with the shadow of thy wing.
3. Thou, O Christ, art all I want;
more than all in thee I find!
Raise the fallen, cheer the faint,
heal the sick, and lead the blind.

Just and holy is thy name;
I am all unrighteousness:
false and full of sin I am;
thou art full of truth and grace.

4. Plenteous grace with thee is found,
grace to cover all my sin;
let the healing streams abound;
make and keep me pure within.
Thou of life the fountain art;
freely let me take of thee;
spring thou up within my heart,
rise to all eternity.

CP606 There's a Wideness

1. There's a wideness in God's mercy
like the wideness of the sea;
there's a kindness in God's justice
which is more than liberty.
2. There is no place where earth's sorrows
are more felt than up in heaven;
there is no place where earth's failings
have such kindly judgement given.
3. There is plentiful redemption
in the blood that has been shed;
there is joy for all the members
in the sorrows of the Head.
4. Foolish hearts, why will you scatter
like a crowd of frightened sheep?
Fainting souls, why will you wander
from a love so true and deep?
5. For the love of God is broader
than the measures of our mind,
and the heart of the Eternal
is most wonderfully kind.

CP438 (tune CP468)

O Jesus I Have Promised

1. O Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end;
be thou forever near me,
my Master and my Friend.
I shall not fear the battle
if thou art by my side,
not wander from the pathway
if thou wilt be my guide.
2. O let me feel thee near me:
the world is ever near;
I see the sights that dazzle,
the tempting sounds I hear;
my foes are ever near me,
around me and within;
but, Jesus, draw thou nearer
and shield my soul from sin.
3. O Jesus, thou hast promised
to all who follow thee,
that where thou art in glory
there shall thy servant be;
and, Jesus, I have promised
to serve thee to the end!
O give me grace to follow,
my Master and my Friend.
4. O let me see thy footmarks
and in them plant mine own:
my hope to follow duly
is in thy strength alone.
O guide me, call me, draw me,
uphold me to the end;
and then in heaven receive me,
my Saviour and my Friend.