Communal Reconciliation Service: April 7, 2020

Gathering Hymn: Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved and set me free!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind but now I see.

’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
’Tis grace has brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. And with your spirit.

Celebrant:

Brothers and sisters, we are now close to the celebration of Easter. We lived the forty days of Lent in a very special way, experiencing a new exodus in the isolation of our homes, through which we are called to not be self-centered and to open our hearts to others, to fight the temptation of selfishness and rediscover once again the people of the covenant who want to live in communion and experience the joy of taking care of each other. Now, at the end of this Lenten season, in which we accompanied each other in thought and prayer and reached out to the sick and dying, we are called to throw away the old leaven of sin once again and to follow the pillar of fire that guides us to a promised land of communion with God and love. To prepare ourselves to live the Resurrection of Christ, who calls us from death to life, from guilt to salvation, from pain for the evil committed to the redemption that is his gift, we now turn in prayer to the Father, so that he may give us the grace of conversion and new life in the Savior.

Let us pray. Lord, our God and our Father, you are patient with sinners and accept our desire to make amends. We acknowledge our sins and are resolved to change our lives. Help us to celebrate this sacrament of your mercy so that we may reform our lives and receive from you the gift of everlasting joy. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Scripture Reading:

A Reading from the Prophet Joel.

“Yet even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart,
with fasting, and weeping, and mourning; Rend your hearts, not your garments,
and return to the Lord, your God. For gracious and merciful is he,
slow to anger, rich in kindness, and relenting in punishment.
Perhaps he will again relent and leave behind him a blessing,
Offerings and libations for the Lord, your God.”

The word of the Lord. Response: Thanks be to God.
Responsorial Psalm:  Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

Reader:  Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned

For I acknowledge my offense, and my sin is before me always. Against you only have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your holy spirit take not from me.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned

Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. O Lord, open my lips and my mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned

Gospel Acclamation:

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory

The Kingdom of God is at hand; Repent, and believe in the Gospel!

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ, King of Endless Glory


After arresting him they led him away and took him into the house of the high priest; Peter was following at a distance. They lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and sat around it, and Peter sat down with them. When a maid saw him seated in the light, she looked intently at him and said, “This man too was with him.” But he denied it saying, “Woman, I do not know him.” A short while later someone else saw him and said, “You too are one of them”; but Peter answered, “My friend, I am not.” About an hour later, still another insisted, “Assuredly, this man too was with him, for he also is a Galilean.” But Peter said, “My friend, I do not know what you are talking about.” Just as he was saying this, the cock crowed, and the Lord turned and looked at Peter; and Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said to him, “Before the cock crows today, you will deny me three times.” He went out and began to weep bitterly.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ

Homily

Adoration of the Cross:  (Cross is placed on the altar, between two candles). Below is the Litany of the Sacred Passion that is written by William G. Storey, a professor emeritus of Liturgy and Church History at the University of Notre Dame.

Lord Jesus, at the Last Supper you knew that Judas, one of the Twelve, would betray you. Good Lord, deliver us from false friends and treachery.

Lord Jesus, during the supper, you humbly washed the feet of your disciples. Good Lord, make us meek and humble of heart.
Lord Jesus, at the Last Supper, you gave us the sacrament of your broken body and out-poured blood.  
**Good Lord, we worship the seal of the new and eternal covenant.**

Lord Jesus, you asked your disciples to watch and pray with you in the Garden of Gethsemane.  
**Good Lord, keep us awake and watchful with you.**

Lord Jesus, at your betrayal and arrest all your friends fled in fear and deserted you.  
**Good Lord, give us courage in time of trial.**

Lord Jesus, you were falsely accused and condemned for speaking the truth before Caiaphas, the high priest.  
**Good Lord, may we speak truth in the face of injustice.**

Lord Jesus, in the courtyard of the high priest, Simon Peter swore three times that he did not know you.  
**Good Lord, make us faithful in time of temptation.**

Lord Jesus, Pilate traded you for a murderer and handed you over to crucifixion.  
**Good Lord, have mercy on us sinners.**

Lord Jesus, you were beaten, mocked, and humiliated by Pilate’s soldiers.  
**Good Lord, may we suffer gladly for your sake.**

Lord Jesus, on the cross you were taunted and derided as King of the Jews.  
**Good Lord, may we always live in obedience to you.**

Lord Jesus, on the cross you forgave your enemies.  
**Good Lord, give us the grace to forgive others.**

Lord Jesus, from the cross you promised paradise to a repentant criminal.  
**Good Lord, make us long for paradise and eternal bliss.**

Lord Jesus, from the cross you confided your Blessed Mother to your beloved disciple.  
**Good Lord, make us children of Mary.**

Lord Jesus, you cried out in agony to your Father and died with a loud cry.  
**Good Lord, have mercy on us, now and at the hour of our death.**

Lord Jesus, the Roman centurion recognized you as the Son of God.  
**Good Lord, may we always praise and exalt you as our blessed savior.**

Lord Jesus, you were taken down from the cross and laid in the arms of your sorrowful Mother.  
**Good Lord, entrust us to the care of your Blessed Mother.**

Lord Jesus, Joseph of Arimathea wrapped your body in a linen shroud and laid you in his rock-hewn tomb.  
**Good Lord, grant us the gift of tears at the moment of your suffering, death, and burial.**

Lord Jesus, the women who had followed you from Galilee watched as you were put to rest in the tomb.  
**Good Lord, we await with joy your glorious resurrection on the third day.**

We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you.  **For by your holy cross, you have redeemed the world.**

Lord Jesus Christ, you were fastened with nails to the wood of the cross and raised on high for all to see. As the sun grew dark and the earth quaked, you surrendered your spirit to your Father, descended among the dead, broke open the gates of hell, and freed those bound in darkness. As angel choirs rejoiced, you were raised to life again on the third day, destroying death by your own death and canceling the power of sin. By these mighty deeds on our behalf, rescue us from our blindness and indifference, inspire us anew by your Holy Spirit, and lead us into a life of prayer and service worthy of your awesome sacrifice, O Savior of the world, living and reigning with the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.
May the glorious passion of our Lord Jesus Christ bring us the joys of paradise. Amen.

**Examination of Conscience:** Participants are encouraged to take a moment to examine their conscience and consider the sins that need to be forgiven.

**Presider:**

Dear brothers and sisters, in this particular time it not possible to approach the sacrament of Reconciliation and receive sacramental absolution, by confessing one's sins.

However, having acknowledged our guilt we turn our gaze to Christ crucified, who has made us with his Blood and we make our request to him for the forgiveness for all our sins; Let us show him sorrow for our sins, repentance for the wrong done, the will to never offend him again and express the desire to receive, as soon as possible, Grace, which flows as a gift from the sacrament of Reconciliation.

Let us pause for a moment in a prayerful dialogue asking for forgiveness.

*After a reasonable time, the celebrant resumes:*

**All:** I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault and I ask blessed Mary, ever virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Joining all our prayers into one, let us pray to God our Father in the words that Jesus taught us: **Our Father. . .**

**Celebrant:** Loving God, always assist and protect us, your family, who have placed all hope in you. Freed from sin, help us to remain faithful to the commitment of our Baptism and therefore obtain eternal inheritance as a reward. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**BLESSING**

The Lord be with you. **R. And with your spirit.**

**Celebrant:** Through your mercy, O God, free from the pitfalls of ancient sin the people faithful to you and make them capable of the sanctity of a new life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

And may the blessing of Almighty God, Father and Son ☥ and Holy Spirit, descend upon you, and always remain with you. Amen

Go in peace. **Thanks be to God.**

**Final song:** **Hosea** by Weston Priory, Gregory Norbet, OSB

Come back to me with all your heart, Don’t let fear keep us apart. Trees do bend, though straight and tall; so must we to others call.

R. Long have I waited for your coming home to me and living deeply our new life.

The wilderness will lead you to your heart where I will speak. Integrity and justice with tenderness you shall know. R.

You shall sleep secure with peace; faithfulness will be your joy. R.

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