

First Sunday in Lent

February 21, 2021 10:30 a.m.



Watch our Chapel Service on CHANNEL 102

Order of Worship

Bells of Taizé

Taizé
Music of Unity & Peace

Down in the River To Pray

Rhonda R.

As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the starry crown
Good Lord, show me the way.

O sisters, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sisters, let's go down
Down in the river to pray

Refrain:

**As I went down in the river to pray
Studying about that good ol' way
And who shall wear the robe and crown
Good Lord, show me the way**

O brothers, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
Come on, brothers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray. **Refrain:**

O fathers, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O fathers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray. **Refrain:**

O mothers, let's go down
Come on down, don't you wanna go down?
Come on, mothers, let's go down
Down in the river to pray. **Refrain:**

O sinners, let's go down
Let's go down, come on down
O sinners, let's go down
Down in the river to pray. **Refrain:**

Text: Slave Songs of the United States; **Music:** Traditional

Welcome and Opening Words

Prayer of the Day

Gracious God, out of your love and mercy you breathed into dust the breath of life, creating us to serve you and our neighbors. Call forth our prayers and acts of kindness, and strengthen us to face our mortality with confidence in the mercy of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Confessional Psalm 51:1-17

Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.

(Turn page)

For I know my transgressions, and my sin is ever before me. Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done what is evil in your sight, so that you are justified in your sentence and blameless when you pass judgment. Indeed, I was born guilty, a sinner when my mother conceived me.

You desire truth in the inward being; therefore teach me wisdom in my secret heart. Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean; wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow. Let me hear joy and gladness; let the bones that you have crushed rejoice. Hide your face from my sins, and blot out all my iniquities.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me. Cast me not away from your presence, and take not your holy spirit from me. Restore unto me the joy of your salvation and uphold me with your free spirit.

Then I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you. Deliver me from bloodshed, O God, O God of my salvation, and my tongue will sing aloud of your deliverance.

O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise. For you have no delight in sacrifice; if I were to give a burnt offering, you would not be pleased.

The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit, a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise. Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion. Build thou the walls of Jerusalem. Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering.

Just As I Am, Without One Plea

ELW 592

Just as I am, without one plea,
But that thy blood was shed for me,
And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, though tossed about
With many a conflict, many a doubt,
Fighting and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
Wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
Because thy promise I believe,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Just as I am; thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down;
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott; **Music:** William B. Bradbury.

Instruction Concerning the Imposition of the Cross

God Be in My Head

Anonymous
1506 Sarum Book of Hours

God be in my head
And in my understanding;
God be in mine eyes
And in my looking;
God be in my mouth
And in my speaking;
God be in my heart
And in my thinking;
God be at mine end,
And at my departing.

Gospel of Mark 1:9-15

The Book of God
Walter Wangerin

In the midst of the multitudes that came daily to the Jordan for baptism, there appeared one figure separated from the rest. John turned and saw the man standing upriver, among some reeds, waiting. Reflected sunlight played up from the water on his face, trilling the flesh below his eyebrows and cheekbones, below his nose and his chin.

He had amber eyes, gazing directly at John.

He was clean-shaven, like a Roman—or it occurred to John, like one of the prophets mournful for the future, for they would shave their beards.

Amber eyes! John recognized those golden corneas, polished, laconic, and nearly translucent. No one else had such a fathomless gaze. This must be the cousin John had not seen since the Passover when his father had died. Eighteen years ago! Eighteen years, and still those eyes had that lidded rich regard. This was the one of whom his mother had said once, "He is my Lord."

The man in the reeds lifted his hand in greeting.

John nodded. Jesus, then! This was Jesus!

Jesus began to wade downriver, to the deeper water where John was standing.

When they stood face-to-face, John saw copper flecks in the iris of his cousin's eye.

Jesus said, "John, baptize me."

For a moment, John hesitated.

"John," said Jesus, "baptize me." Without waiting for an assent, he closed his eyes, sank down and slipped under the water. His long hair lingered on the surface for a short while, then it, too, was pulled down into darkness and disappeared.

These were swift, breathless events for John. So much raced through his mind: his family, his past, his fierce convictions, the future of his people, Israel.

The day and the weather and all events now tightened down to one small focus: this round air, this round patch of river, flat and calm in the sunlight, and this sudden, preternatural silence.

(Turn page)

Time seemed to collapse—and when John came to himself he could not remember how long Jesus had been lying on the riverbed.

In a quick panic, he slapped the water with the flat of his hand and cried: “Child of the light and the kingdom to come, rise up!”

There was a continued, shining silence—then Jesus, like a great fish, heaved from the water, and immediately the heavens above them split asunder and there flew down a dove, a white dove, a blinding white dove which alighted on the shoulder of Jesus—white fire beside his face—and in the same instant a voice broke from heaven, saying:

This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.

Immediately Jesus began to move from John toward the eastern shore of the river. His expression was intense but unreadable. His manner seemed so nearly wolfish—like a predator following an invisible scent—that the people on the land backed away and made a path for him.

Jesus was withdrawing from the public with some fierce purpose.

And then John saw that the white dove was flying in spirals ahead of Jesus, leading the way.

Oh, that was no common dove! That was none other than the Holy Spirit who had brooded over the wild waters of creation and then again the waters of the flood!

John folded his huge hands at his throat and whispered, “You, Jesus—greater than me—your life shall be more

terrible than mine. Wherever the Holy Spirit is driving you now, may God help you there! God help you, cousin!”

Jesus is in the wide, dry spaces of the wilderness. Except for the savage beast that paw the spoor where he has wandered, he is solitary....

He draws lines with his finger in the dust. In Hebrew he writes the words: *The devil departs for a season.*

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Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news.*

***To Keep a True Lent***

Robert Herrick  
Page 12

**Reflection**

Pr. Kristine

***Thy Holy Wings***

WOV 741

Thy holy wings O Savior,  
Spread gently over me  
And let me rest securely  
Through good and ill in thee.  
Oh, be my strength and portion,  
My rock and hiding place,  
And let my ev'ry mement  
Be lived within thy grace.

**(Turn page)**

## 9

Oh, let me nestle near thee,  
Within thy downy breast  
Where I will find sweet comfort  
And peace within thy nest.  
Oh, close thy wings around me  
And keep me safely there,  
For I am but a newborn  
And need thy tender care.

Oh, wash me in the waters  
Of Noah's cleansing flood.  
Give me a willing spirit,  
A heart both clean and good.  
Oh, take into thy keeping  
Thy children great and small,  
And while we sweetly slumber,  
Enfold us one and all.

**Text:** Carolina Sandell-Berg, st.1,3; Gracia Grindal, st. 2 and tr.,1,3; **Music:** Swedish folk tune,  
arr. *With One Voice*. English text © 1983 Gracia Grindal; Arr. © 1995 Augsburg Fortress

## Prayers of the Church

Ronan Scully  
The Rev. Gayle M. Marsh

## Offering/Offertory

*Create in Me*

ELW 188

Create in me a clean heart, O God,  
And renew a right spirit within me.  
Cast me not away from your presence,  
And take not your Holy Spirit from me.  
Restore unto me the joy of your salvation,  
And uphold me with your free Spirit.

**Music:** J. A. Freylinghausen

## Closing Words

Announcements

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### *Nunc Dimittis*

Lord, let your servant go in peace:

**according to your word;**

For my eyes have seen your salvation;

**which you have prepared before**

**the face of all people;**

A light to lighten the Gentiles:

**and the glory of your people, Israel.**

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,

and to the Holy Spirit;

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and**

**ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

**Postlude**

*There Is a Balm in Gilead*

Rhonda R.

With thanks to:

**God:**

**Creator and Father**

**Savior and Son**

**Holy Spirit: Comforter and Advocate**

**NRC Residents, Families, and Staff**

**Mark Heiman**

**Rhonda Reece**

**Christiana Adams**

**and**

**All Saints Episcopal Church**

## Lent 2021

**Due to Covid-19, the NRC Chapel won't be used for holding services on Wednesdays. Channel 105 will be "open" for you to look and listen, pray and meditate—using the cross, candles, and the small altar covered with Lenten paraments.**

**We will play recorded music appropriate for Lent in the Chapel on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30 to 4:30 PM.**

**Pr. Kristine will pray silently in the Chapel for our residents, our staff, and their families.**

**Sunday services in Lent will incorporate Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, and Holy Week in their proper order and week.**

I have been asked how one might give a monetary offering to the NRC Chapel. Please make your check payable to the NRC Chapel. You may send it through the USPS, addressing your envelope as follows:

***NRC Chapel  
c/o Pr. Kristine  
900 Cannon Valley Drive East  
Northfield, MN 55057***

(or entrust its delivery to the Chapel via Susan Roberts, Chris Adams, or Deborah Ward)

## To Keep a True Lent

~ Robert Herrick

IS this a fast,—to keep  
The larder lean,  
And clean  
From fat of veals and sheep?

Is it to quit the dish  
Of flesh, yet  
Still to fill  
The platter high with fish?

Is it to fast an hour,  
Or ragg'd to go,  
Or show  
A downcast look, and sour?

No! 'tis a fast to dole  
Thy sheaf of wheat,  
And meat,  
Unto the hungry soul.

It is to fast from strife,  
From old debate  
And hate,—  
To circumcise thy life.

To show a heart grief-rent;  
To starve thy sin,  
Not bin,—  
And that's to keep thy Lent.



CELEBRATING *50 years*

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