Morning Prayer
Sunday, March 22

You may participate by reading aloud the parts in bold.

Gathering Song

We are One in the Spirit
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
We are one in the Spirit, we are one in the Lord
And we pray that our unity will one day be restored
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah they'll know we are Christians by our love

We will work with each other, we will work side by side
We will work with each other, we will work side by side
And we'll guard each man's dignity and save each man's pride
And they'll know we are Christians by our love, by our love
Yeah, they'll know we are Christians by our love.

Participate by reading aloud the parts in bold.
Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

Priest: Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

Priest: Rend your hearts and not your garments. Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love, and repents of evil. Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence may be kept.

Officiant and People together (kneeling or standing as you are able).

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

The Priest stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. People: Amen.

All stand as you are able.

Officiant: Lord, open our lips.
People: And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Priest: The Lord is full of compassion and mercy:
People: Come let us adore him.

Psalm 23, Dominus regit me

The Lord is my shepherd; * I shall not be in want.
He makes me lie down in green pastures *and leads me beside still waters.
He revives my soul *and guides me along right pathways for his Name's sake.
Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death,I shall fear no evil;
  *for you are with me;your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the
beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

The Lessons

Reader: A Reading from First Samuel
The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him
from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to
Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.”
Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said,
“Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse
to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me
the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to
Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you
come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord;
sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and
his sons and invited them to the sacrifice.

When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is
now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance
or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; for the Lord does not
see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the
heart.” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said,
“Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And
he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons
pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of
these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There
remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse,
“Send and bring him; for we will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and
brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome.
The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him; for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn
of oil, and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord
came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to
Ramah.
Come Thou Fount
Come, Thou Fount of every blessing
Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing
Call for songs of loudest praise

Teach me some melodious sonnet
Sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it
Mount of Thy redeeming love

Here I raise my Ebenezer
Here there by Thy great help I've come
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure
Safely to arrive at home

Jesus sought me when a stranger
Wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger
Interposed His precious blood

Oh, that day when freed from sinning
I shall see Thy lovely face
Clothed then in the blood washed linen
How I'll sing Thy wondrous grace

Come, my Lord, no longer tarry
Take my ransomed soul away
Send Thine angels now to carry
Me to realms of endless day

Oh, to grace how great a debtor
Daily I'm constrained to be
Let that goodness like a fetter
Bind my wandering heart to Thee

Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it
Prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above

Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it
Seal it for Thy courts above
A Reading from Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians
Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”
Reader: The Word of the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Please stand for the gospel as you are able.

Gospel Hymn: Amazing Grace
Amazing Grace, How sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
T'was blind but now I see

T'was 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
We have already come.
T'was grace that brought us safe thus far
And grace will lead us home,
And grace will lead us home

Priest: The Holy Gospel according to John.
People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar began to ask, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” Some were saying, “It is he.” Others were saying, “No, but it is someone like him.”
He kept saying, “I am the man.” But they kept asking him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud, spread it on my eyes, and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ Then I went and washed and received my sight.” They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.”

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. Then the Pharisees also began to ask him how he had received his sight. He said to them, “He put mud on my eyes. Then I washed, and now I see.” Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not observe the sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner perform such signs?” And they were divided. So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him? It was your eyes he opened.” He said, “He is a prophet.”

The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” His parents answered, “We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind; but we do not know how it is that now he sees, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews; for the Jews had already agreed that anyone who confessed Jesus to be the Messiah would be put out of the synagogue. Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.”

So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man is a sinner.” He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” Then they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” The man answered, “Here is an astonishing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but he does listen to one who worships him and obeys his will. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a person born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out.

Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “Lord, I believe.” And he worshiped him. Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and
said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.”

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord
People: **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost but now am found
‘Twas blind but now I see
Was blind, but now I see.

**The Homily**

**The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People together, all standing*

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth; I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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 Prayers**

*The People stand or kneel.*

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: **And also with you.**
Priest: Let us pray.

May we who are merely inconvenienced remember those whose lives are at stake. **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we who have no risk factors remember those most vulnerable. **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we who have the luxury of working from home remember those who must choose between preserving their health or making their rent. **O Lord, hear our prayer.**

May we who have the flexibility to care for our children when their schools close remember those who have no options. **O Lord, hear our prayer.**
May we who have to cancel our trips remember those that have no safe place to go. 
O Lord, hear our prayer.

May we who are losing our margin money in the tumult of the economic market remember those who have no margin at all. O Lord, hear our prayer.

May we who settle in for a quarantine at home remember those who have no home. O Lord, hear our prayer.

As fear grips our country, let us choose love. O Lord, hear our prayer.

During this time when we cannot physically wrap our arms around each other, let us yet find ways to be the loving embrace of God to our neighbors. Amen.

(Prayer for a Pandemic by Cameron Bellm)

Priest: I invite your prayers of intercession, thanksgiving, petition or glorification now either silently or aloud.

Feel free to speak a prayer aloud as the spirit moves you or to remain silent.

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,

Birthdays and Anniversaries

For a Birthday
Watch over thy child, O Lord, as his days increase; bless and guide him wherever he may be. Strengthen him when he stands; comfort him when discouraged or sorrowful; raise him up if he fall; and in his heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days of his life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

For an Anniversary
O God, You have so consecrated the covenant of marriage that in it is represented the spiritual unity between Christ and his Church; Send therefore your blessing upon these your servants, that they may so love, honor, and cherish each other in faithfulness and patience, in wisdom and true godliness, that their home may be a haven of blessing and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen
Offerings

All things come of thee, O Lord, and of thine own have we given thee.

stmarks-cityheights.org/giving-online

The General Thanksgiving
Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. Amen.

A Prayer of St. Chrysostom
Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting.
People: Amen.

Priest: Let us bless the Lord.
People: Thanks be to God.

Priest: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine: Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever.
People: Amen.

We Are Marching / Siyahamba
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching, ooh,
We are marching in the light of God.
We are marching, we are marching, ooh,
We are marching in the light of God.
ANNOUNCEMENTS—MARCH 22

Community During Coronavirus—If you’re feeling a little thrown off by this virus, social distancing and all the rest, think about how we can care for our neighborhoods and communities. How can we be salt and light in our neighborhoods in the time of fear and anxiety? Are we offering to share our stockpile of hand sanitizer with those who missed out on the rush at the store? Are we calling our neighbors who we know are high-risk and offering to make runs to the store for them as needed? Are we telling people they are on our hearts and here’s our mobile number if they just need to talk? How are you supporting others in your neighborhood, workplace and community?

Cancellations/Postponements—Maundy Thursday Footwashing is postponed. Community Singalong is canceled. Adult ed is taking place on Thursday evenings via Zoom. See other announcement for details.

Food Pantry—We are in need of volunteers under 65, oatmeal and plastic carrying bags this month. You can drop off your donation, keeping social distance, with Amy Ennenga, outreach coordinator. She is at church on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Contact her to arrange a drop off: 406-291-3149.
Adult Ed—Normally we meet Sundays @ 9 a.m. This week we will discuss the Stations of the Cross and we will meet on Thursday at 5:30 p.m. via Zoom: zoom.us/webinar/610164652

John Kistler’s Celebration of Life—Debbie Kistler has made the hard but loving decision to postpone this service. We will keep you posted about when it will take place at a time when all can remember and celebrate John safely. Thank you for understanding.

Pandemic
by the Rev. Lynn Ungar

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)
Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch

Promise this world your love--
for better or for worse
In sickness and in health
So long as we all shall live.