

Unjustly condemned for blasphemy and sedition, Jesus was crucified,
suffering the depths of human pain

and giving his life for the sins of the world.

God raised this Jesus from the dead,

vindicating his sinless life,

breaking the power of sin and evil,

delivering us from death to life eternal.

***Hymn 714**

“God of the Fertile Fields”

***The Charge** (responsive)

Mark 12:28-31

Which commandment is the first of all?

**You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart,
and with all your soul, and with all your mind,
and with all your strength.**

And the second is this:

**You shall love your neighbor as yourself.
There is no other commandment greater than these.**

***Sung Benediction 166 (verse 1)** “Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days”

**Lord, who throughout these forty days for us did fast and pray,
teach us with you to mourn our sins and close by you to stay.**

***Postlude**

“Adagio”

Corelli

**The congregation is invited to stand.*

Scripture passages are read from the New Revised Standard Version. The Prayer of Confession is reprinted by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word Worship Companion: Liturgies for Year C*, Volume 1 © 2012.

MPC is a congregation of the PC(USA), a member of the Presbytery of Western North Carolina, an Earth Care Congregation and a Living Wage Certified employer.

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**THE SERVICE FOR THE LORD’S DAY
MONTREAT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

MARCH 31, 2019, 10:00 A.M.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

Morning Meditation

Jürgen Moltmann (1973)

*“The symbol of the cross in the church points to the God who was crucified
not between two candles on an altar, but between two thieves in the place of the skull,
where the outcasts belong, outside the gates of the city.
It does not invite thought, but a change of mind.”*

Chimes of the Trinity and Ritual of Fellowship

Prelude

“All Who Hunger Gather Gladly”

HOLY MANNA

***Call to Worship**

Grace and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessed are those whose transgression is forgiven.

Psalm 32:1

Thanks be to God.

***Hymn 35**

“Praise Ye the Lord, the Almighty”

Prayer of Confession *followed by silent prayer*

Merciful God, we confess that we have strayed from your ways.

Like the prodigal, we have wasted our inheritance.

You gave us the earth for our home, but we squander earth’s resources

and hoard its bounty. You gave us neighbors to love,

but we pursue selfish ambitions. You gave us the commandments

that lead to human flourishing, but we break your law

and forsake your love. Accept our repentance, we pray.

Draw our wandering hearts back to you, that we may find freedom

in obedience to your love. Through Christ our Lord we pray. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison 576 (unison)

“Lord, Have Mercy”

Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy; Lord, have mercy on us.

Assurance of Pardon

Response 602 (unison)

“Holy Lamb of God”

Holy Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Holy Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world. Have mercy on us.

Holy Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world.

Grant us your peace; grant us your peace; grant us your peace.

Prayer for Illumination

Old Testament Reading

Joshua 5:9-12

Hymn 7

“Mothering God, You Gave Me Birth”

First Gospel Reading

Luke 15:1-3, 11-24

Choral Anthem

“Panis Angelicus (Bread of the Angels)”

Pavlechko

Bread of the angels becomes the bread of all; heavenly sustenance given our earthly form:

O wondrous mystery! Food for humanity. Pauper, servant, the humble, small.

O everlasting Love, God ever Three in One, visit us as we pray, enter our grateful hearts;

Lead us in righteousness, guide us along the path into the light in which you dwell.

Bread of angels, bread of angels, bread of angels.

Second Gospel Reading

Luke 15:25-32

The Sermon

“After the Manna”

Keith Grogg

Prayers of the People and The Lord’s Prayer (traditional)

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 debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory forever, Amen.

Offering of our Tithes and Gifts

Offertory

“God of Compassion, In Mercy Befriend Us”

Hillert

***Doxology 607**

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,

Praise Christ all people here below, praise Holy Spirit, evermore,

Praise Triune God Whom we adore. Amen!

***Prayer of Dedication**

***Affirmation of Faith** (responsive)

A Brief Statement of Faith

We trust in Jesus Christ,

fully human, fully God.

Jesus proclaimed the reign of God:

preaching good news to the poor and release to the captives,

teaching by word and deed

and blessing the children,

healing the sick

and binding up the brokenhearted,

eating with outcasts, forgiving sinners,

and calling all to repent and believe the gospel.