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April 2, 2017

Communion

Fifth Sunday in Lent –
“Becoming Whole Again”

(Portions of the service that are in **BOLD** are to be said by all.
All points marked * those who are able are invited to stand.)

Approach

Welcome and Announcements

- * Gathering Hymn VU #852 – “Up From the Depths I Cry to God”

Opening Reflections

Sung Response

**Come, let us follow footsteps on the way -
Prints of the one, who taught us how to pray.
Look to the cross, it is a sign of peace.
Let all the world, with love, its conflict cease.**

Call to Worship

One: In this place, at this time,

All: Let God call out of us what is good.

One: In this place, at this time,

All: Let us surrender what does harm.

One: In this place, at this time,

All: Let us be filled with worship.

One: We are an offering to God.

All: Let us present ourselves freely.

- * Opening Hymn MV #79 – “Spirit, Open My Heart”

Prayer of Approach

As you open your heart to us, O God, help us to open ourselves to you, to empty ourselves of the call of material things and worldly affairs, to seek your Spirit within us in honesty and love. Gift-Giving God, we do not always acknowledge our own worth, nor that of our neighbor. We sometimes forget our capacity for greatness and squander opportunities to do what is right. Along with all of you creation, you have given us gifts for service in this world. May we search out the wisdom to recognize our gifts, cultivate the courage to open them up, and reach in joyfully to give them a place of honour in our lives. AMEN

- * Hymn VU #622 – “Your Hands, O Christ”

The Word

- 📖 Scripture Reading – Ezekiel 37:1-14
John 11:1-45

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

THANKS BE TO GOD!

Meditation – “Wholeness, what does that really mean?”

(a quiet time for your personal reflection and prayer)

Anthem – “Healer of My Heart”

The Response

- * Offering / Response

**Let the cross be our glory, and the Lord be our song,
By mercy made holy, by the Spirit made strong.
Let the cross be our glory, and the Lord be our song,
Til the likeness of Jesus be through us made known.
Let the cross be our glory and the Lord be our song.**

Celebration of Communion

One: Holy God, we come to the table as people eager for Easter;
tempted to tell only our faith stories of triumph and victory,
tempted to move directly to the party with flowers and balloons.

All: Hear us, Holy God, as we pray.

One: Holy God, we come to the table scarred from the world;
bringing some vague awareness that all is not well,
bringing some distant memory that the costly cross looms in
the distance.

All: Hear us, Holy God, as we pray.

One: Holy God, we come to the table with a sense of defeat;
knowing that we too have silently witnessed crucifixions,
knowing that we too have failed to count the cost of following
Christ.

All: Hear us, Holy God, as we pray.

Prayer after Communion

**We give thanks that bread broken brings wholeness; that
wine poured out replenishes; that time spent with the Risen
Christ and one another is gift and grace. AMEN**

- * Closing Hymn – “I Am the Ressurrection” (see back page of announcements)

* Benediction / Response

**Grace alone which God supplies,
Strength unknown He will provide.
Christ in us, our Cornerstone,
We will go forth in grace alone.**

Patrick Woodbeck, Student Minister

Laura Steidl, Music Director

Luci Toews, Office Administrator

Myrna Hagues, Organist

Doug Waldron, Liturgist

Gina Grant, Custodian

Ushers: Cam Wilson and Bill McOuat

Greeters: Major Rodd

Communion Servers: Dale Napper, Gordon Goossen,

Bob Harrison and Doug Waldron