

CALL TO CONFESSION

PRAYER OF CONFESSION (In Unison)

Holy God, you came to us in human form. You lived as we live. You suffered as we suffer. You died a humiliating and painful death on our behalf. You rose again to give us new life. Nonetheless, we choose to be mired in the quicksand of our lives, refusing to receive the grace and assurance you offer that would free us from our self-imposed bonds. Free us, O God, so that we may see your kingdom and offer it to our world. We await the breath and fire of the Holy Spirit, so that we may begin life anew and continue the work we receive from you and inherit from your disciples.

SILENT CONFESSION . . .

. . . **Amen.**

ASSURANCE OF PARDON

✠ GLORIA PATRI #579

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.

✠ MOMENT OF FELLOWSHIP

CHILDREN'S TIME

Dismissal to Growing in God's Love (GIGL)

✠ HYMN OF INSPIRATION #399

*We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight
(Please pass Prayer Requests to the aisle for the ushers to pick up and bring forward)*

FIRST READING John 20:19-31

ANTHEM Gordon Young

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!
Faith Choir

SCRIPTURE READING 1 Peter 1:3-9

Leader: The word of the Lord.
People: **Thanks be to God.**

SERMON Rev. Helen P. DeLeon

"Life is Hard; Pray Harder"

✠ CHORUS OF THANKSGIVING

**Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
Wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our Brother – all who live in love are Thine;
Teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.**

✠ AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

We believe in God, who brings Easter into our Good Friday worlds, who brings sunshine after rain, hope in the midst of pain and tenderly calls our name. We believe in Jesus Christ, the risen Savior, whose presence we can know and experience. We believe in the Holy Spirit—the invisible presence of God at work in our world, bringing reconciliation instead of hatred, creating communities of support even in the most difficult times. We believe God is at work in the church and in us, creating centers of compassion, a fellowship of forgiveness, a gathering of grace, where joy glistens like dew on spring flowers and love flows like a mighty stream. Alleluia! Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

LORD'S PRAYER

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, and the glory, forever. Amen.

OFFERTORY

Fairest Lord Jesus

Van Denman Thompson

✠ DOXOLOGY

**Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

✠ HYMN OF COMMITMENT

Thine Is the Glory

#122

✠ BENEDICTION

✠ SONG FOR GOING FORTH (all sing)

**Go forth into the world; go forth in peace.
Go forth into the world, where Jesus Christ is risen; Jesus Christ is risen.
We go into the world; we go in peace;
We go into the world, risen and redeeming; singing Alleluia,
Risen and redeeming; singing Alleluia.
Amen, Amen.**

POSTLUDE

Postlude in Bb

W. Volckmar
arr. L. N. Porter

✠ Those who are able may stand.