



ADVENT HOUSTON

ORDER OF WORSHIP

4th Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2023

LENT

"Unfortunately some Christians live as though the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ never happened. Our lives become absorbed in the day-to-day experiences of life. We focus on name-brand clothing, the color of our houses, the size of our bank account, the year and make of our automobile, the prestige in which others hold us, and the symbols of our own power. We too easily forget our Maker and Redeemer, replacing God with things and ambition. Lent is the season that does something about this situation. It calls us back to God, back to basics, back to the spiritual realities of life. It calls on us to put to death the sin and the indifference we have in our hearts toward God and our fellow persons. And it beckons us to enter once again into the joy of the LORD - the joy of a new life born out of a death to the old life."

Lent is a forty-day period in the church calendar that dates back to the 4th century. It was originally a time of preparation and spiritual discipline for all who were being baptized at Easter—the normal time of baptism for all new Christians and their families. As early as the 1st century, we see Christians using a time of preparation for their baptism, and with time, this preparation grew to forty days in association with Jesus' forty days of prayer and fasting in the wilderness.

Lent is a time that beckons us to remember our own baptismal vows. Martin Luther encouraged his congregation during Lent to "live into [their] baptism." And so, we too should live into our dying with Christ and rising with Christ. We too are called to live into that pattern of repentance and faith. We are invited to turn away from all distractions and sins and turn toward God.

This Lenten practice can take many forms. We can choose to fast from food, reminding ourselves that Christ is our daily bread. As theologians Louis Weil and Charles Price remind us, "The psychosomatic unity of human beings makes it inevitable that a physical glut will cloud mind and spirit." Alternately, we can fast from some of the distracting behaviors that we have slipped into, like scrolling on our phones at bedtime. Or we can pursue new habits that help us to pattern our lives on the life of Jesus; we may commit to praying every day or to calling a friend to check on them every day.

During this Lenten season, make time to consider the condition of your heart and to enter into a season of living out your baptism in repentance and faith.

REFLECTION

"Don't love the world's ways. Don't love the world's goods. Love of the world squeezes out love for the Father. Practically everything that goes on in the world—wanting your own way, wanting everything for yourself, wanting to appear important—has nothing to do with the Father. It just isolates you from him."

— **Eugene Peterson**

"In order to know the Good News about Jesus holistically, beyond something that we work out in our brains like a word problem, we try to enter into this story with our bodies."

— **Tish Harrison Warren**

"We live in a world of evaluations, assessments, and measurements, but Jesus turns his gaze deeper because he knows that what is measurable can be faked."

— **Scot McKnight**

SERVICE OF THE WORD

***Call to Worship – From Psalm 62:5-6**

Leader: For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence,
for my hope is from him.

**People: He only is my rock and my salvation,
my fortress; I shall not be shaken.**

Leader: On God rests my salvation and my glory;
my mighty rock

People: My refuge is God.

***Song – Agnus Dei/King of Kings**

"Agnus Dei" words and music by Michael W. Smith

© Words and Music: 1990 Sony/ATV Milene Music

"King of Kings" words and music by Brooke Ligertwood, Jason Ingram, and Scott Ligertwood

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Intro

Alleluia alleluia

For our Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia Alleluia

For our Lord God Almighty reigns

Alleluia

Holy, holy

Are You Lord God Almighty

Worthy is the Lamb

Worthy is the Lamb

Amen

Verse 1

In the darkness we were waiting

Without hope, without light

Till from heaven You came running

There was mercy in Your eyes

To fulfill the law and prophets

To a virgin came the Word

From a throne of endless glory

To a cradle in the dirt

Chorus

Praise the Father, praise the Son
Praise the Spirit three in one
God of glory, Majesty
Praise forever to the King of Kings

Verse 2

To reveal the kingdom coming
And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation
You did not despise the Cross
For even in your suffering
You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation
Jesus for our sake You died
Chorus

Verse 3

And the morning that You rose
All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good
For the Lamb had conquered death
And the dead rose from their tombs
And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come
To the Father are restored

Verse 4

And the church of Christ was born
Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this gospel truth of old
Shall not kneel, shall not faint
By His blood and in His name
In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ
Who has resurrected me

Prayer of Adoration

First Reading

Jeremiah 18:7-10

[7] If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, [8] and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it. [9] And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, [10] and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it. [ESV]

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

Second Reading

Luke 24:44-49

[44] Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." [45] Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, [46] and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, [47] and that repentance for the forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. [48] You are witnesses of these things. [49] And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high." [ESV]

Leader: The Gospel of the LORD.

People: Praise be to You, Lord, Christ!

*Song – Laden With Guilt and Full of Fears

"Laden With Guilt and Full of Fears" words by Isaac Watts and music by Sandra McCracken

© Words: Public Domain | 2001 Same Old Dress Music

Laden with guilt and full of fears,
I fly to Thee, my Lord,
And not a glimpse of hope appears,
But in Thy written Word
The volumes of my Father's grace
Does all my griefs assuage
Here I behold my Savior's face
In every page.

This is the field where, hidden, lies
The pearl of price unknown
That merchant is divinely wise
Who makes the pearl his own
Here consecrated water flows
To quench my thirst of sin
Here the fair tree of knowledge grows,
No danger dwells within.

This is the judge that ends the strife,
Where wit and reason fail
My guide to everlasting life
Through all this gloomy vale
Oh may Thy counsels, mighty God,
My roving feet command,
Nor I forsake the happy road
That leads to Thy right hand.

***Affirmation of Faith**

The Apostles Creed & Catechism Questions 71 & 72 from "To Be A Christian"

Leader: Christian, what is it that you believe?

ALL: I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord; who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried; he descended into hell*; the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Ghost; the holy catholic Church; the communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins; the resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting. Amen.**

* Christ's 'descent into hell' occurred in His death and burial, the Father's wrath toward sin being poured out on him in our place, so we would never have to taste His wrath.

** By 'catholic,' we mean the universal church made up of all Christians who are saved by grace alone, through faith alone, in Christ alone.

"He ascended into heaven"

Leader: How should you understand Jesus' ascension into heaven?

People: **Jesus was taken up out of human sight and returned in his humanity to the glory he had shared with the Father before his incarnation. There he intercedes for, and receives into heavenly life, all who come to him in faith. Though absent in body, Jesus is always with me by his Spirit and hears me when I pray.**

Leader: What resulted from the ascension?

People: **Jesus ascended into heaven so that, through him, his Father might send us the gift of the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, Christians together are united to Christ, the living Head of his Body, the Church.**

Confession of Sin

(edited from faithword.com)

ALL: **God of grace, we confess that we have elevated the things of this world above you. We have made idols of possessions and people and used your name for causes that are not consistent with you and your purposes. We have permitted our schedules and tasks to come first and have not taken the time to rest or worship you. We have not honored those who cared for us and guided us in life. We have not cared about the lives of others. We have been unfaithful in our covenant relationships. We have yearned for, and sometimes taken, that which is not ours, and we have misrepresented others' intentions. Forgive us, O God, for the many ways we fall short of your glory. Help us to learn to live together according to your ways through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

***Assurance of Pardon – From Romans 5:6-8**

Leader: When we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly.

People: Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die.

Leader: But God demonstrates his own love for us in this:

People: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

KYRIE ELEISON

Citation - Words: Ancient Text, Music: Phil Madeira



LEADER: Lord Je-sus Christ, son of God, have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner.



ALL: Lord Je-sus Christ, son of God, have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner.



LEADER: Ky-ri-e e - le-i-son. Lord Je-sus Christ, have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner.



ALL: Have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner. Have mer-cy on me, a sin-ner.

ADVENTURERS

CHILDREN (K - 3RD GRADE)

All kids from Kindergarten through 3rd Grade are invited to go to Adventurers, a children's lesson and activity time during the sermon. They will be escorted back to the chapel after the Passing of the Peace.

Prayers of the People

Leader: O God, the creator and preserver of all, we humbly beseech you for all sorts and conditions of people; that you would be pleased to make your ways known unto them, your saving health unto all nations. More especially we pray for your holy Church universal; that it may be so guided and governed by your good Spirit, that all who profess and call themselves Christians may be led into the way of truth, and hold the faith in unity of spirit, in the bond of peace, and in righteousness of life. Finally, we commend to your fatherly goodness all those who are in any ways afflicted or distressed, in mind, body, or estate; that it may please you to comfort and relieve them according to their several necessities, giving them patience under their sufferings,

and a happy issue out of all their afflictions. And this we beg for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Leader intercedes on behalf of the community.

Leader: We pray all of this in the name of Jesus who taught us to pray, saying...

**People: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Your Name,
your kingdom come,
your 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 Yours is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Sermon Reading

Jonah 3:1-10

[1] Then the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time, saying, [2] "Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and call out against it the message that I tell you." [3] So Jonah arose and went to Nineveh, according to the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an exceedingly great city, three days' journey in breadth. [4] Jonah began to go into the city, going a day's journey. And he called out, "Yet forty days, and Nineveh shall be overthrown!" [5] And the people of Nineveh believed God. They called for a fast and put on sackcloth, from the greatest of them to the least of them.

[6] The word reached the king of Nineveh, and he arose from his throne, removed his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. [7] And he issued a proclamation and published through Nineveh, "By the decree of the king and his nobles: Let neither man nor beast, herd nor flock, taste anything. Let them not feed or drink water, [8] but let man and beast be covered with sackcloth, and let them call out mightily to God. Let everyone turn from his evil way and from the violence that is in his hands. [9] Who knows?

God may turn and relent and turn from his fierce anger, so that we may not perish." [ESV]

[10] When God saw what they did, how they turned from their evil way, God relented of the disaster that he had said he would do to them, and he did not do it.

Leader: The Word of the LORD.

People: Thanks be to God.

Sermon

Mr. Ryan Dougan

Passing of the Peace

Leader: Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given us access to his grace.

Leader: May the Peace of the Lord be always with you!

People: And also with you!

RETURN OF CHILDREN

During the Offertory, "ADVENTURERS" teachers will bring the children back to the Sanctuary. Feel free to pick up younger children at this time as well. You may also wait to retrieve them, as childcare is provided for the duration of the service.

Announcements

WE'RE SO GLAD TO HAVE YOU WORSHIP WITH US. PLEASE SIGN IN SO WE HAVE A RECORD OF YOUR ATTENDANCE.

OPTION 1: TAKE THE BLUE SIGN-IN PAD FROM UNDER THE SEAT AT THE END OF THE ROW AND RECORD YOUR INFORMATION THERE.



OPTION 2: SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR PHONE'S CAMERA AND FILL OUT THE FORM THERE. YOU MAY ALSO DO THIS AFTER THE SERVICE.

Offertory & Private Prayer

ALL GIVING IS A RESPONSE TO GOD'S GENEROSITY TO YOU IN ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE, BUT PARTICULARLY THROUGH THE PERSON AND WORK OF JESUS. IF YOU ARE NOT SURE WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT JESUS OR CHRISTIANITY, OR IF YOU ARE A GUEST, WE WOULD INVITE YOU TO REFRAIN FROM GIVING AT THIS TIME.

ONLINE GIVING IS AVAILABLE AT [ADVENTPRES.ORG/GIVE](https://adventpres.org/give). YOU CAN ALSO SCAN THIS QR CODE OR PLACE A GIFT IN THE OFFERING BASKET TOWARD THE ENTRANCE OF THE SANCTUARY.



SERVICE OF THE TABLE

Celebration of Holy Communion

People: We do not presume to come to this your table, merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in your abundant and great mercies. We are not worthy to gather up the crumbs under your table. But you are the same Lord, who always delights in showing mercy. Nourish us, therefore, gracious Lord, so that in partaking of this sacrament of your son Jesus Christ, we may walk in newness of life, grow into his likeness, and evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

Leader: The LORD be with you.

People: And also with you.

Leader: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up unto the LORD.

Leader: Let us give thanks to the LORD, our God.

People: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Leader: It is indeed right and good to give you thanks and praise, almighty God and everlasting Father, through Jesus Christ your Son. For in these forty days you lead us into the desert of repentance that through a pilgrimage of prayer and discipline we may grow in grace and learn to be your people once again. Through fasting, prayer and acts of service you bring us back to your generous heart. Through study of your holy word you open our eyes to your presence in the world and free our hands to welcome others into the radiant splendor of your love. As we prepare to celebrate the Easter feast with joyful hearts and minds, we bless you for your mercy and join with saints and angels forever praising you and singing:

People:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of power and might,
Hea - ven and earth are full, full of your
Bless - ed is He who comes in the name of the
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Ho -
san - na in the high - est.

The musical score is written for a single voice part in treble clef, key of D major (two sharps), and 3/4 time. It consists of five staves. The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of two sharps, and a 3/4 time signature. The melody is composed of eighth and quarter notes, with some rests. The second staff starts with a repeat sign. The third staff continues the melody with a dotted half note. The fourth staff has a 'glo - ry.' annotation above the first two notes. The fifth staff ends with a double bar line and repeat dots.

Words of Institution

Leader: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

All: **Christ has died.**
Christ is risen.
Christ will come again.

Leader: Christ our Passover has been sacrificed for us;

People: **Therefore, let us keep the feast.**

Leader: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

People: **Have mercy upon us.**

Leader: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

People: **Have mercy upon us.**

Leader: O Lamb of God, that takes away the sins of the world,

People: **Grant us your peace.**

Advent welcomes all baptized Christians to participate in the Lord's table. This includes all Christians, whether members at Advent or at another church. Children who have been baptized and admitted to the table by the elders of this church or the leadership of another church are also welcome to the table.

If you're still investigating Christianity, not sure what you believe, or simply choose not to participate, you may either remain in your seat or come forward, cross your arms over your chest, and receive a blessing. Feel free to use the prayers printed in the bulletin below. Non-communing children are encouraged to come forward to receive a blessing while their parents receive communion.



We serve both wine and grape juice for communion. Grape juice is available in the center of the communion trays; wine is available along the edge. All communion bread is gluten free.

**PRAYER FOR THOSE
SEARCHING FOR TRUTH:**

LORD JESUS, YOU CLAIM TO BE THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE. IF WHAT YOU CLAIM IS TRUE, PLEASE GUIDE ME, TEACH ME, AND OPEN TO ME THE REALITY OF WHO YOU ARE. GIVE ME THE ABILITY TO FOLLOW YOU NO MATTER WHAT IT MIGHT COST ME. GIVE ME AN UNDERSTANDING FOR YOU THAT IS COHERENT, CONVINCING, AND LEADS TO THE LIFE THAT YOU PROMISE. AMEN.

**PRAYER FOR THOSE
STRUGGLING AGAINST SIN**

LORD JESUS, GIVE ME THE ABILITY TO SEE IN YOU THE FULFILLMENT OF ALL MY NEEDS AND DESIRES, AND HELP ME TO TURN FROM EVERY FALSE SOURCE OF SATISFACTION TO FEED ON YOU, THE TRUE AND LIVING BREAD. ENABLE ME TO LAY ASIDE THE SIN THAT CLINGS SO CLOSELY TO ME, AND RUN WITH PERSEVERANCE THE RACE THAT YOU HAVE SET BEFORE ME, LOOKING ONLY TO YOU, THE AUTHOR AND PERFECTER OF MY FAITH. AMEN.

PRAYER FOR BELIEF:

LORD JESUS, I ADMIT THAT I AM WEAKER AND MORE SINFUL THAN I EVER BELIEVED, BUT THROUGH YOU, I AM MORE LOVED AND ACCEPTED THAN I EVER DARED HOPE. I THANK YOU FOR PAYING MY DEBT, BEARING MY PUNISHMENT ON THE CROSS AND OFFERING FORGIVENESS AND NEW LIFE. KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE BEEN RAISED FROM THE DEAD AND ARE NOW REPRESENTING ME AT THE FATHER'S RIGHT HAND IN HEAVEN, I TURN FROM MY SINS AND RECEIVE YOU AS MY SAVIOR. AMEN.

Communion Song – Abide With Me

"Abide With Me" words by Henry Francis Lyte and Justin Smith and music by Justin Smith

© 2007 Justin Smith Music

Abide with me fast falls the eventide
The darkness deepens Lord with me abide
When other helpers fail and comforts flee
Help of the helpless abide with me

Thou on my head in early youth didst smile
And though rebellious and perverse meanwhile
Thou hast not left me though I oft left Thee
On to the close Lord abide with me

I need Thy presence every passing hour
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power
Who like Thyself my guide and stay can be
Through cloud and sunshine abide with me

I fear no foe with Thee at hand to bless
Ills have no weight tears lose their bitterness
Where is thy sting death where grave thy victory
I triumph still abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies
Heaven's morning breaks and earth's vain shadows flee
In life in death Lord abide with me
In life in death Lord abide with me

*Closing Song – Who You Say I Am

"Who You Say I Am" words and music by Ben Fielding and Reuben Morgan

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Verse 1

Who am I that the highest King
Would welcome me
I was lost but He brought me in
Oh His love for me
Oh His love for me

Chorus 1

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Verse 2

Free at last, He has ransomed me
His grace runs deep
While I was a slave to sin
Jesus died for me
Yes He died for me

Chorus 2

Who the Son sets free
Oh is free indeed
I'm a child of God
Yes I am
In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

Bridge

I am chosen not forsaken
I am who You say I am
You are for me not against me
I am who You say I am (x2)
Chorus 2

Ending

In my Father's house
There's a place for me
I'm a child of God
Yes I am

***Closing Prayer of Thanksgiving and Mission**

***Benediction - From Romans 15**

Leader: May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.

And may the blessing of God, the Father, God, the Son, and God, The Holy Spirit, remain with you and be with you always.

Announcements



QUESTION & DISCUSSION

Next Q&D is March 26th



Scan the QR code for more info and to submit your questions.



POTLUCK AT THE PRICE'S

**SATURDAY, APRIL 1
5 - 8 P.M.**

POTLUCK AT THE PRICE'S

Saturday, April 1, 5 - 8 p.m.



Join us at Jack & Judy's home for food and the Final Four! Click the QR code to register & sign up to bring something. 2202 McClendon



GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE

Friday, April 7, 12:00 noon

We can't get to the resurrection of Easter without "The Old Rugged Cross" of Good Friday. Join us as we reflect on Jesus' accomplishments on the cross.



EASTER SERVICE

Sunday, April 7 - 10:00 a.m. Service

He is Risen! Celebrate our Risen Lord for an Easter morning service. Invite friends and family to join us.

Note 10:00 a.m. Worship time!

Media Release

Advent Houston shares photos taken at our events in our monthly newsletters, on our website, or on social media for the purpose of promoting and highlighting the church's mission. By being present, you consent to being photographed and having these photos shared. For individuals who are not comfortable being visible in a shared photograph, please notify the church at admin@adventpres.org to opt out of the media release.

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ADVENT HOUSTON EXISTS TO **EMBRACE, EMBODY, AND EXTEND**
THE GRACE OF JESUS TO THE TEXAS MEDICAL CENTER, RICE
UNIVERSITY, AND THE SURROUNDING AREA.

