



**February 18, 2024**  
**First Sunday of Lent**

Prelude “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah” -  
arr. Keveren (piano)

**Greeting & Gathering**

Welcome & Orientation

Call to Worship

**We seek to tread in the steps of Christ.  
In the steps of Christ, our Champion and King.  
He has shown us the true but misunderstood  
way of strength in weakness and weakness in  
strength.**

**He is our model and our Master.**

\*Processional Hymn #582 (1&2)  
“O Jesus Christ, May Grateful Hymns Be Rising” (organ)

\*Greeting Others

**The Gospel as Tragedy**

Confessing the “Tragic Truth”

*May we weep for pride and loose talk...*

*May we weep for the blame heaped on others...*

*May we weep for things I clutch at...*

**Make plain to us, O God  
Pretense and divided loyalties.  
Grudges and compulsive habits.  
Lustful alighting places.  
Unloving relationships.  
Self-sufficient attitudes.**

*May we weep for our hollow society...  
May we weep for neglect and brutality...  
May we weep for blighted lives...*

**May holy Jesus pardon us from these sins,  
Free us from these evils  
And power us into new ways**

Sharing the Ashes

## **The Gospel as Comedy**

Confessing the “Divine Jest”

*Lord, you were born in an outbuilding, an outsider:*  
**We rejoice that you were in our birth.**

*You were thirty years at the carpenter’s bench:*  
**We chuckle when we sense you in our work.**

*You were driven to the sands by the searching Spirit.*  
**We smile when you strip from us what is not of  
you.**

*You were alone, without comfort or food:*  
**We grin when alone we rely on you.**

*You were tested by the evil one, you clung to no falsehood.*

**We hold fast to the divine punch line that pricks holes in power and pride.**

*You knew deep tears and weakness:*

**We savor the irony that your strength appears in our weakness.**

*You followed to the end the way of the Cross:*

**We laugh aloud when we see that you are leading us through death to life.**

Sharing the Water

## **The Gospel as “Fairy Tale”**

Offertory

Offertory Prayer

\*Doxology

Confessing a Once and Future “Happily Ever After”

*Christ, who is the Gospel,*

**Into your story we place the broken, the wounded, the hungry, and the homeless...**

*Christ, who is Kingdom,*

**Into your realm we usher the bereaved or betrayed; those who have suffered loss of health or esteem, family or friends, employment or home.**

*Christ, who is the Good Shepherd,*

**Into your flock we welcome the unwanted, the abused, the defamed, the spurned, and the deserted sheep of your pasture.**

*Christ, Host of the Wedding Feast of Heaven & Earth,*  
**To your table we bring the anxious, the lonely,  
the victimized, and the invisible.**

Reading from Old Testament: *Genesis 9:8-17*

*This is the Word of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God.**

Reading from the Catholic Epistles: *1 Peter 3:18-22*

*This is the Lord of the Lord*

**Thanks be to God.**

Homily

\*Hymn of Response “Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah”

#501(1&2) (organ)

\*Benediction

*Father, in the life of Jesus you have shown us the way.*

**Give us His spirit of self-discipline; lead us more  
deeply into the way of the cross.**

*Before His hands were stretched out on the cross, they were  
stretched out in love to children, women and men.*

**May your way of the Cross be our way, that we  
too, may stretch our hands in love to you and all  
your children.**

**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of  
God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be  
with us all, evermore. Amen.**

“Recessional” -

Asper (organ)