

Christ Church Cathedral, Mobile, Alabama

Liturgy of the Simple Presence | Wednesday, April 1, 2020 | 12:00 p.m.

Wednesday in the Fifth Week of Lent

Collect

Almighty God, you alone can bring into order the unruly wills and affections of sinners: Grant your people grace to love what you command and desire what you promise; that, among the swift and varied changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed where true joys are to be found; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

Canticle 13 *Benedictus es, Domine*

H1982, S 231 (BCP 90)

Glory to you, Lord God of our fathers; you are worthy of praise; glory to you.

Glory to you for the radiance of you holy Name; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you in the splendor of you temple; on the throne of your majesty, glory to you.

Glory to you, seated between the Cherubim; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Glory to you, beholding the depths; in the high vault of heaven, glory to you.

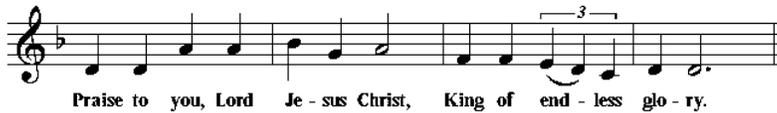
Glory to you, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; we will praise you and highly exalt you for ever.

Setting: Plainsong; Tone 8; adapt. The Standing Commission on Church Music, 1979, alt.

First Reading of the text (followed by silent reading)

Acclamation

All sing refrain; a verse is sung by a cantor



Setting: C. W. Powell, 2011

John 8:31-42

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, ‘If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’ They answered him, ‘We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, “You will be made free”?’

Jesus answered them, ‘Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there for ever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed. I know that you are descendants of Abraham; yet you look for an opportunity to kill me, because there is no place in you for my word. I declare what I have seen in the Father’s presence; as for you, you should do what you have heard from the Father.’

They answered him, ‘Abraham is our father.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If you were Abraham’s children, you would be doing what Abraham did, but now you are trying to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God. This is not what Abraham did. You are indeed doing what your father does.’ They said to him, ‘We are not illegitimate children; we have one father, God himself.’ Jesus said to them, ‘If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and now I am here. I did not come on my own, but he sent me.’

Meditation and Prayer

Hymn H1982, 685

**Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee;
let the water and the blood from thy wounded side that flowed,
be of sin the double cure, cleanse me from its guilt and power.**

**Should my tears for ever flow, should my zeal no languor know,
all for sin could not atone: thou must save, and thou alone;
in my hand no price I bring, simply to thy cross I cling.**

**While I draw this fleeting breath, when mine eyelids close in death,
when I rise to worlds unknown and behold thee on thy throne,
Rock of ages, cleft for me, let me hide myself in thee.**

Words: Augustus Montague Toplady (1740-1778)

Music: *Toplady*, Thomas Hastings (1784-1872)