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May the Lord bless his people with peace!**  \* Hymn     Sing Glory to the Name of God   GtG #10  Prayer of Confession **Generous God, we are reeling from this week, from feelings of hopelessness, to anger, to outrage. We condemn violence, yet we know that we have been complicit in it. In times where we saw injustice, we turned away. In moments where you called us to use our voice, we chose to remain silent. In seasons where you led us to action, we did not act for peace. We know your mercy and grace, and we know that we are human, but we ask for your forgiveness as well as your presence as we seek to be the people you call us to be. Amen.**  Silent Prayers of Confession   Words of Assurance (responsive) Leader: By our confession and God’s merciful power, we are once again restored and redeemed. **People: Thanks be to God who forgives us and calls us his beloved.**   The Peace Leader: The peace of Christ be with you! **People: And also with you!** (You may greet those around you)   The Proclamation of the Word   Prayer of Illumination   Generous God, we ask for you to open our hearts and minds this day to hear your Word more clearly and understand your call for us in new and revitalizing ways. Quiet all that distracts us and allow us to come into this moment as if we are hearing these words for the first time. Amen.  Scripture Lesson    Mark 1:4-11 NRSV   **4**John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. **5**And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. **6**Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. **7**He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. **8**I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.” **9**In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **10**And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. **11**And a voice came from heaven, “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased.”  Sermon Baptism By Fire  The Response to the Word   \* Hymn     Baptized in Water            GtG #482   Communion of the People   Invitation to the Lord’s Table (Iona Community) Gathered around a table is where Jesus so often met people – Matthew and Zacchaeus, Mary and Martha, Peter and Lazarus – gathered round a table where he could see people face to face, listen to their stories, share their laughter. And here we are gathered round a table, lovingly prepared by human hands in the divine order of grace. Come all you who hunger and thirst for a deeper life, for a stronger faith, for a better world. Here is the bread of life. Feed on it with gratitude. Here is the cup of salvation. Drink from it and believe. Here Jesus offers a taste of eternity, for all his holy guests. So accept his invitation and feel welcome at this table. Come. Jesus Christ promises to tend and nurture all who meet him here.   Great Thanksgiving The Lord be with you **And also with you.** Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord** Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise...**   We praise you, dear God, with hearts lifted high, for you bring forth bread from the earth and fruit of the vine. In the beginning you watered the earth that humans among all creatures might have food and drink. You gave to your servant Sarah bread to strengthen her family on their journey, and wine to make them glad. You called Moses and his people out of bondage and refreshed them with manna and quail in the wilderness. You gave Mary, Joseph, and Jesus their daily bread to share. Even when we turn from your way and squander all the goodness that should be for your purposes, still you welcome us home and prepare a feast for us. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with choirs of angels and with all the faithful of every time and place, who forever sing to the glory of your name;   In Praise of God   You are holy, O God of majesty, and blessed is Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. He took upon himself the weight of our sin and carried the burden of our guilt. He shared our life in every way and though tempted, was sinless to the end. Baptized as your own, he went willingly to his death and by your power was raised to new life. In his dying and rising, You gave birth to your church, delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit. Remembering all your mighty and merciful acts, we take this bread and this wine from the gifts you have given us, and celebrate with joy the redemption won for us in Jesus Christ. Accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving as a living and holy offering of ourselves, that our lives may proclaim the one crucified and risen.   In Praise of Jesus Christ.   Pastoral Prayer and the Lord’s Prayer  “For this I pray to God” / “For this I give thanks to God.” Congregational Response: “**Hear our prayer, O God.”**   Generous God, you are the bread of life, O God, and we give you thanks. You create all things good, and you nourish your creation with tender gifts. Thank you for all the ways that you breathe life into our lives. We hear your words, O Bread of Life, and yet we are hungry. We are hungry for peace: for an end to the violence in our neighborhoods and in our world. For people who hear gunshots in the night and bombings in the day, we are hungry for peace, O God. We are hungry for justice: for an end to the oppression in our nation and in our world. For people who suffer because of racism, sexism, poverty, and the fear of the other, we are hungry for justice, O God. We hear your words, O Cup of Blessing, and yet we are thirsty. We are thirsty for righteousness: we are thirsty to know your truth. We are thirsty to feel your presence. We are thirsty for your Spirit to quench our parched souls. We are thirsty for righteousness, O God. We pray for those in our community who thirst this day...   And now, in confidence and in gratitude, we say the prayer together that Jesus Christ, our Savior and Redeemer, taught us to pray… **Our Father,** **who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven and 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 thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.**   Words of Institution On the night before Jesus met with death, Jesus came to the table with those He loved. He took bread and praised You, God of all creation. He broke the bread among His disciples and said, “Take this, all of you, and it. This is my body, given for you.” In the same way, he took a cup of wine and gave thanks to You, God of all creation. He passed the cup among His disciples and said, “Take this, all of you, and drink from it. This is the cup of the new covenant sealed in my blood for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in remembrance of me.”   Sharing of the Meal   Let us come to the table, to eat, and drink, and to know that the Lord is good. It is He who has redeemed us and offers us this sacrifice. We join in this sacrament to remember for whenever we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until He comes.   Prayer of Dedication **Dear God, take us out to live as changed people because we have shared the living bread** **and cannot remain the same. Ask much of us, expect much from us, enable much by us, encourage many through us. So, Lord, may we live to your glory, both as inhabitants of the earth, and citizens of the commonwealth of Heaven. Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor are yours, almighty God, now and forever. Amen.**  Offertory Prayer   Prayer During a National Crisis   God of ages, in your sight nations rise and fall, and pass through times of peril. Now when our land is troubled, be near to judge and save. May leaders be led by your wisdom; may they search your will and see it clearly. If we have turned from your way, help us to reverse our ways and repent. Give us your light and your truth to guide us; through Jesus Christ, who is Lord of this world, and our Savior. Amen.  Hymn     God of Love, We’ve Known Division  Charge & Benediction Leader: Compelled by the Spirit, **People:** We remember our Baptism. Leader: And we remember the call, **People:** The call to be Christ’s people in the world, Leader: May we dare to be brave, justice driven people **People: May we be the hands and feet of Jesus, every day and in every way.** | |  | | | | |