

WE CONFESS OUR NEED

All: Lord Jesus, our sinful nature invites us to be self-centered and to fight for “what’s ours by right.” Forgive us for wanting “what’s ours,” Lord Jesus. You gave up your rights so that we might be called your children. You set aside glory and took on humility so that we might know your love and see God face to face. Give us a new heart, Lord Jesus, that looks away from what we want and longs to know and then accomplish what you want done for others. Forgive us and strengthen us in faith by your grace. Amen.

Scripture Readings

April 20, 2008

Acts 2:42-47

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. Selling their possessions and goods, they gave to anyone as he had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Romans 12:3-8

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you. Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

Leader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

John 17:13-23

"I am coming to you now, but I say these things while I am still in the world, so that they may have the full measure of my joy within them. I have given them your word and the world has hated them, for they are not of the world any more than I am of the world. My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world. For them I sanctify myself, that they too may be truly sanctified. "My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one: I in them and you in me. May they be brought to complete unity to let the world know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me.

Leader: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon Outline - April 20, 2008
"An Easter People" • "The Purple Church*"
Acts 2:42-47

Introduction: Keep the fire burning...

Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day... (v.41)

They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer... (v.42)

All the believers were together and had everything in common... (v.44)

And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved." (v.47)

1. "They _____ themselves."

- To be made one in a _____ and _____.

2. The challenge of "_____."

- Can we be "_____."

3. Purple is the mark of _____.

- We are the "_____."

4. Purple is the mark of _____.

- Children, _____, of the Most High.

5. Purple is both _____.

- An institution which exists _____.

6. Purple means that we _____.

- We will always stand upon _____!

* *With thanks to Rev. Leonard Sweet.*

Answers to Sermon Outline:

"color lines", "the purple church", repentance, "forgiven ones", royalty, yet servants, costly and rare, for others, bruise easily, the wounds of Christ!

Leader: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

People: And the people took the blessing and held it in their hearts.

Leader: Christ is Risen!

People: He is risen indeed! Alleluia!

Leader: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!