

THE
SHEPHERD'S
COTE

A NON-DENOMINATIONAL WEEKLY
DEVOTION, WORSHIP AND SPIRITUAL
RESOURCE FOR CHURCHES MINISTERING
TO THE DEVELOPMENTALLY DISABLED.
THIS IS A FREE SERVICE OF THE
COVENANT CHAPEL AT THE J. IVERSON
RIDDLE DEVELOPMENTAL
CENTER, 300 ENOLA ROAD, MORGANTON, NC
28655.

ORDER OF SERVICE

COVENANT CENTER CHAPEL

SERVICES FOR THE WEEK OF

February 25, 2007

(The congregation is asked to participate in all underlined responses and all hymns.)

PRELUDE

INVOCATION

“Bless the Lord, O my soul, and all that is within me, bless His holy name.”

Psalm 103:1

SILENT PRAYER

RESPONSIVE CALL TO WORSHIP

Chaplain: Did you come to worship God?

Congregation: Yes, we did!

Chaplain: Did you come to sing unto the Lord?

Congregation: Yes, we did!

Chaplain: Did you come to pray?

Congregation: Yes, we did!

Chaplain: Let us begin our service in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen!

HYMN: “Christ the Lord is Risen Today”

Christ the Lord is risen today, Alleluia!

Sons of men and angels say, Alleluia!

Raise your joys and triumphs high, Alleluia!

Sing, ye heavens, and earth reply, Alleluia!

READING OF THE PSALMS

PSALM 99

“The Lord is King; He sits upon His throne. He rules over all nations. Everyone will praise Him for He is wonderful. God loves what is right and fair. Praise the Lord our God, let everyone worship Him. He is holy! God has answered His people in by gone days. He has shown everyone that He is a God Who forgives. Praise the Lord our God. Let us worship Him for God is holy!”

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Great and Loving Lord,

Thank You for loving us so much that You came to live among us and show us how to live. You are so loving. Help us to be loving also.

In Jesus Christ we pray, Amen.

HYMN: "Crown Him With Many Crowns"

Crown Him with many crowns, The Lamb upon His throne;
Hark! How the heavenly anthem drowns all music but its own!
Awake my soul and sing Of Him Who died for thee;
And hail Him as the matchless King Thro' all eternity.

LITANY OF THANKS AND PRAISE

For the beauty of the earth -

Thank you, God

For the glory of the skies -

Thank you, God

For the love which all around us lies -

Thank you, God

For the wonder of each hour, the day, the night -

Thank you, God

For hills, trees, flowers -

Thank you, God

For sun, moon and stars of light -

Thank you, God

For the joy of human love -

Thank you, God

For friends on earth and friends above

Thank you, God

HYMN: "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross"

When I survey the wondrous cross,
On which the Prince of Glory died,
My richest gain I count but loss,
And pour contempt on all my pride.

SCRIPTURE READING

Luke 4:1-13

"Jesus went into the desert where the devil tried to tempt Him.

"First of all, since Jesus was hungry, the devil tried to get Him to make the rocks become bread.

"When that did not work, the devil told Jesus," "If You will just worship me, I will give You the whole world."

"That did not work so then the devil tried to get Jesus to make a big show so that people would follow Him.

"But Jesus was too smart for the devil."

MESSAGE

“JESUS IS MORE THAN FOOD”

(It seems appropriate to preface this entire order of service with a special note. With this chapel service we are beginning the Lent or Easter season --- it may be too much to try and separate these concepts in the minds of my parishioners. Knowing that it will take them a goodly time to learn new hymns, I start early using Easter hymns and themes rather than waiting for Easter Sunday itself to utilize them.)

(Actually I am trying to blend two ideas into one sermonette here: 1) the story of the temptations; and 2) the beginning of the Easter or Lent season. For this I have brought two very different items. One of these are the Ashes made from the burnt palms saved from last year, and, secondly, there is a variety of food --- pieces of fruit, crackers, and such that they can easily identify as food.)

After John the Baptist baptized Jesus, Jesus went out into the desert where He confronted the Devil. The Bible says that the Devil tempted Him. Another way of thinking of this story is to say that Jesus and the Devil argued.

One way that they disagreed was over food. Jesus said that we not only need the food like I have brought here, but we also need spiritual food. This is the kind of food that you can not find in a supermarket.

Jesus was telling us that we need to sustain ourselves by reading our Bibles, praying and going to worship service and all the other things that draw us close to God. If we go without regular food for long, we grow weak; if we go without spiritual nourishment, we will grow spiritually weak.

That is what Jesus did.

One way in which we can worship God on this special Sunday is with the Ashes. Last year when we made crosses out of palms, I kept the palms all year. Now I have taken them and burnt them. It is a Christian tradition of using the ashes to make a cross on our foreheads to remind us that God loves us and forgives us.

HYMN: “Fairest Lord Jesus”

Fairest Lord Jesus, Ruler of all nature,
O Thou of God and man the Son;
Thee will I cherish, Thee will I honor,
Thou my soul’s glory, joy and crown.

(Everyone greet one another)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

God of Forgiveness,

We thank You especially today that You are so loving and forgiving. Help us to live our lives so close to You, that we will also be loving and forgiving.

We pray this prayer in the name of Jesus Who taught us this prayer that we pray together saying:

THE LORD’S PRAYER (Spoken by everyone)

Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day, our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses
As we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into
Temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom,
The power, and glory, for ever and ever. AMEN.

HYMN: Jesus Loves Me

Jesus Loves me this I know
For the Bible tells me so.
Little ones to him belong
They are weak, but He is strong.
Yes, Jesus loves me, yes, Jesus loves me.
Yes, Jesus loves me, the Bible tells me so.

THE BENEDICTION:

May the love of the cross, the power of the resurrection, And the presence of the living
Lord, be with you always, Amen.

Congregation: Amen

DOXOLOGY

Praise God from whom all blessings flow,
Praise Him all creatures here below.
Praise Him above ye Heavenly Host.
Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen

CHAPLAIN: Go in peace; Serve the Lord

CONGREGATION: Thanks be to God

MUSICAL POSTLUDE