

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 22, 2020

A SERVICE OF PRAYER AND PROCLAMATION

Note: The structure of this prayer in this service suggests a pattern which may well be followed in the private prayers of any individual. It may be summarized in the word ACTS: Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, Supplication. [Adapted from Worship Supplement, pp. 100-111.]

† † †

OPENING HYMN

“God of Grace and God of Glory”

LSB #850

**God of grace and God of glory,
On your people pour your pow’r;
crown your ancient church's story,
Bring its bud to glorious flow’r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.**

**Lo! the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.**

**Cure your children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal.**

**Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
serving you whom we adore,
serving you whom we adore.**

INVOCATION

— *Matthew 28:19*

The sign of the cross may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

L: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE SENTENCE FOR THE SERVICE

— *Psalm 118:24*

L: This is the day that the LORD has made;

C: let us rejoice and be glad in it.

THE PRAYER OF ADORATION

L: Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, accept our worship and adoration. Though we cannot fully understand, we join the seraphim in covering our eyes and our feet in deepest reverence, and in crying:

C: “Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of hosts; the whole earth is full of His glory!”.

L: Yet in Jesus Christ we know You,

C: because in Him You have made Yourself known.

L: O God the Father,

C: we adore You because You made Yourself our Father in Jesus Christ and sealed Your fatherhood to us in baptism.

L: O God the Son,

C: we praise You because You became flesh, that we might see the glory of God in Your life and death for us.

L: O God the Holy Spirit,

C: we trust You because You led us to know Jesus Christ and covered us with His holiness.

L: We confess You, O Trinity, in the power of Your majesty.

C: To You alone be all glory now and forever. Amen.

[Adapted from *My Prayer Book*, CPH, pp. 71]

Silence

THE PRAYER OF CONFESSION

L: O God our Father, since you have set forth the way of life for us in Your beloved Son, we confess with shame our sinfulness which causes our slowness to learn of Him, our failure to follow Him, and our reluctance to bear the cross.

C: Lord, have mercy on us and forgive us.

L: Forgive us the poverty of our worship, our neglect of fellowship and of the means of grace, our hesitating witness for Christ, our evasion of responsibility in Your service, and our imperfect stewardship of Your gifts.

C: Lord, have mercy on us and forgive us.

L: Forgive us that so little of Your love has reached others through us, and that we have been thoughtless in our judgments, hasty in condemnation, grudging in forgiveness, slow to seek reconciliation, and unwilling to help our neighbors as we ought.

C: Lord, have mercy on us and forgive us.

All: Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions. Wash us thoroughly from our iniquity, and cleanse us from our sin. Create in us clean hearts, O God, and put a new and right spirit within us. Amen.

ASSURANCE OF FORGIVENESS

L: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon us and has given His only Son to die for us and for His sake forgives us all our sins. To those who believe on His name He gives power to become children of God and has promised them His Holy Spirit. He that believes and is baptized shall be saved. Grant this, Lord, to us all.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray.

C: **Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

THE OLD TESTAMENT READING FOR THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT IS FROM ISAIAH, CHAPTER 42.

For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, "You are our gods." Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the LORD? He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious. *Isaiah 42:14-21*

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GRADUAL

P: [O come, let us fix our eyes on] Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith,

C: who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebrews 12:2

ALL: With you is the fountain of life; in your light do we see light.

Psalms 36:9

THE SECOND READING IS FROM EPHESIANS, CHAPTER FIVE.

For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you."

Ephesians 5:8-14

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE ALLELUIA VERSE

L: Give attention to this reading of the Holy Gospel.

C: Your Word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Ps 119:105

THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. JOHN, THE NINTH CHAPTER.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. And his disciples asked him, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world." Having said these things, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man's eyes with the mud and said to him, "Go, wash in the pool of Siloam" (which means Sent). So he went and washed and came back seeing. The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, "Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?" Some said, "It is he." Others said, "No, but he is like him." He kept saying, "I am the man." So they said to him, "Then how were your eyes opened?" He answered, "The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed and received my sight." They said to him, "Where is he?" He said, "I do not know."

They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, "He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see." Some of the Pharisees said, "This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath." But others said, "How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?" And there was a division among them. So they said again to the blind man, "What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?" He said, "He is a prophet." The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight and asked them, "Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?" His parents answered, "We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself." (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) Therefore his parents said, "He is of age; ask him." So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, "Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner." He answered, "Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see." They said to him, "What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?" He answered them, "I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?" And they reviled him, saying, "You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from."

The man answered, "Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. If this man were not from God, he could do nothing." They answered him, "You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?" And they cast him out. Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?" He answered, "And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?" Jesus said to him, "You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you." He said, "Lord, I believe," and he worshiped him. Jesus said, "For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind." Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, "Are we also blind?" Jesus said to them, "If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, 'We see,' your guilt remains."

John 9:1-41

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

THE APOSTLES' CREED

L: Having been baptized into Christ and clothed in His righteousness, let us confess the faith we have in Him in the Words of the Apostles' Creed.

C: **I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.**

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell.

The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

**Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
Christ, the true, the only Light,
Sun of Righteousness, arise,
Triumph o'er the shades of night;
Dayspring from on high, be near;
Day-star, in my heart appear.**

**Dark and cheerless is the morn
Unaccompanied by Thee;
Joyless is the day's return
Till Thy mercy's beams I see;
Till they inward light impart,
Glad my eyes, and warm my heart.**

**Visit then this soul of mine,
Pierce the gloom of sin and grief;
Fill me, Radiancy divine,
Scatter all my unbelief;
More and more Thyself display,
Shining to the perfect day.**

HYMN OF REFLECTION

“Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old”

LSB #846

Your hand, O Lord, in days of old
Was strong to heal and save;
It triumphed over ills and death,
O'er darkness and the grave.
To You they came, the blind, the mute,
The palsied and the lame,
The lepers in their misery
The sick with fevered frame.

Your touch then, Lord, brought life and health,
Was strong to heal and save
And youth renewed and frenzy calmed
Revealed you, Lord of light.
And now, O Lord, be near to bless,
Almighty as before,
In crowded street, by beds of pain,
As by Gennes'rets shore.

O be our great delive'rer still,
The Lord of life and death;
Restore and quicken, soothe and bless,
With your life giving breath.
To hands that work and eyes that see
Give wisdom's healing pow'r
That whole and sick and weak and strong
May praise you evermore.

THE PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

L: Almighty God, we lift up our hearts in gratitude to You, and for all Your loving-kindness we bless Your holy name. For life and health, for love and friendship, and for the goodness and mercy that have followed us all the days of our life,

C: we thank and praise You, O God.

L: For the wonder and beauty of the world; and for all things true and honorable, just and pure, lovely and gracious,

C: we thank and praise You, O God.

L: For the gift of Jesus Christ, Your only-begotten Son; for the grace and truth which came by Him; and for His obedience unto death, even death on a cross,

C: we thank and praise You, O God.

L: For the glorious resurrection and ascension to Your right hand, and for His kingdom and glory and everlasting dominion,

C: we thank and praise You, O God.

L: For the Holy Spirit, the Counselor, the Lord and Giver of life; for Your holy Church throughout the world; for all the means of grace; and for the fellowship of the redeemed in heaven and on earth,

C: we thank and praise You, O God. Glory, thanksgiving, and praise be to You, O Father Almighty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

THE PRAYER OF SUPPLICATION (INTERCESSION)

L: In peace, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the gift of divine peace and pardon, with all our hearts and with all our minds, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For seasonable weather and for the fruitfulness of the earth, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For those whose labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For all those in need, for the hungry and homeless, for the widowed and orphaned, and for all those in prison unjustly, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For the sick and dying and for all those who care for them, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: For ... *[additional bids for prayer may be inserted here]* ... let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

L: Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Lord remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

C: 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 and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

L: Now may our Lord Jesus Christ Himself, and God our Father, who loved us and gave us eternal comfort and good hope through grace, comfort your hearts and establish them in every good work and deed. And Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and always.

C: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

“O God of God, O Light of Light”

LSB #810

**O God of God, O Light of Light,
O Prince of Peace and King of kings:
To You in heaven’s glory bright
The song of praise forever rings.
To Him who sits upon the throne,
The Lamb once slain but raised again,
Be all the glory He has won,
All thanks and praise! Amen, Amen.**

**For deep in prophets' sacred page,
And grand in poets' winged word,
Slowly in type, from age to age,
The nations saw their coming Lord;
Till through the deep Judean night
Rang out the song "Good will to men!"
Sung once by first-born sons of light.
It echoed now, "Good will!" Amen.**

**That life of truth, those deeds of love,
That death so steeped in hate and scorn—
These all are past, and now above
He reigns our King, once crowned with thorn.
Lift up your heads, O mighty gates!
So sang that host, beyond our ken;
Lift up your heads, your King awaits.
We lift them up. Amen, Amen.**

**Then raise to Christ a mighty song,
And shout His name, His mercies tell!
Sing, heav’nly host, your praise prolong,
And all on earth, your anthem swell!
All hail, O Lamb for sinners slain!
Forever let the song ascend!
Worthy the Lamb, enthroned to reign,
All glory, pow’r,! Amen, Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

L: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**