

GOOD SHEPHERD LUTHERAN CHURCH AND PRESCHOOL

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

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MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE

April 1, 2020

EVENING PRAYER

THE SERVICE OF LIGHT

P: Jesus Christ is the Light of the world,

John 8:12

C: the Light no darkness can overcome.

John 1:5

P: Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening

C: and the day is almost over.

Luke 24:49

P: Let your light scatter the darkness

1 Corinthians 4:5

C: and illumine your church.

2 Corinthians 4:6

THE HYMN OF LIGHT

O Trinity, Most Blessed Light

#564 TLH

**O Trinity, Most Blessed Light, O Unity of sov'reign might;
As now the fiery sun departs, Shed Thou Thy beams within our hearts.**

**To Thee our morning song of praise, To Thee our evening prayer we raise;
Thee may our glory evermore In lowly reverence adore.**

**All praise to God the Father be, All praise, eternal Son, to Thee,
Whom with the Spirit we adore Forever and forever more. Amen.**

THE THANKSGIVING FOR LIGHT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: Let us pray.

Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

THE PSALMODY — Psalm 148

P: Praise the LORD! Praise the LORD from the heavens; praise him in the heights!

C: Praise him, all his angels; praise him, all his hosts!

P: Praise him, sun and moon, praise him, all you shining stars!

C: Praise him, you highest heavens, and you waters above the heavens!

P: Let them praise the name of the LORD! For he commanded and they were created.

C: And he established them forever and ever; he gave a decree, and it shall not pass away.

P: Praise the LORD from the earth, you great sea creatures and all deeps,

C: fire and hail, snow and mist, stormy wind fulfilling his word!

P: Mountains and all hills, fruit trees and all cedars!

C: Beasts and all livestock, creeping things and flying birds!

P: Kings of the earth and all peoples, princes and all rulers of the earth!

C: Young men and maidens together, old men and children!

P: Let them praise the name of the LORD, for his name alone is exalted; his majesty is above earth and heaven.

C: He has raised up a horn for his people, praise for all his saints, for the people of Israel who are near to him. Praise the LORD!

THE PRAYER FOR THE EVENING

P: Let the incense of our repentant prayer ascend before You, O Lord, and let Your loving-kindness descend on us that, with purified minds, we may sing Your praises with the Church on earth and the whole heavenly host and may glorify You forever.

C: Amen.

[A moment of silence is observed.]

THE CONFESSION

P: Holy and gracious God,

C: I confess that I have sinned against You this day. Some of my sin I know—the thoughts and words and deeds of which I am ashamed—but some is known only to You. In the name of Jesus Christ I ask forgiveness. Deliver and restore me that I may rest in peace.

P: By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in Him we are forgiven. We rest now in His peace and rise in the morning to serve Him.

C: Amen.

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

The First Reading is from Galatians, chapter five.

For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery. . . . For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. For the whole law is fulfilled in one word: "You shall love your neighbor as yourself." But if you bite and devour one another, watch out that you are not consumed by one another. But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do. But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

Galatians 5:1, 13-25

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

The Second Reading is from Matthew, chapter seven.

[Jesus said:] "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus you will recognize them by their fruits." *Matthew 7:15-20*

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

THE VERSICLE

P: In many and various ways God spoke to His people of old by the prophets.

C: But now in these last days, He has spoken to us by His Son.

Hebrews 1:1-2a

**O Blessed spring, where Word and sign Embrace us into Christ the Vine;
Here Christ enjoins each one to be A branch of this life-giving Tree.**

**Through summer heat of youthful years, Uncertain faith, rebellious tears,
Sustained by Christ's infusing rain, The boughs will shout for joy again.**

**When autumn cools and youth is cold, When limbs their heavy harvest hold,
Then though us, warm, the Christ will move With gifts of beauty, wisdom, love.**

**As winter comes, as winters must, We breath our last, return to dust;
Still held in Christ, our souls take wing And trust the promise of the spring.**

**Christ, holy Vine, Christ living Tree, Be praised for this blest mystery:
That Word and water thus revive And join us to Your Tree of Life.**

**My soul doth magnify the Lord,
My spirit shall in God rejoice;
My low estate He did regard,
Exalting me by gracious choice.**

**Henceforth all men shall call me blest,
For great things He hath done to me.
The mighty God is now my Guest;
The Holy One hath set me free.**

**His mercy is on all who fear,
Who trust in Him from age to age;
His arm of strength to all is near,
The proud He scatt'reth though they rage.**

**The strong He castest from their seat
And raiseth men of low degree;
To hungry souls He giveth meat,
The rich depart in poverty.**

**He helped His servant Israel;
Remembering His eternal grace,
As from of old He did foretell
To Abraham and all His race.**

**So praise with me the Holy One,
Who cometh in humility.
Divine Redeemer, God's own Son,
Eternal glory be to Thee!**

THE PRAYERS

P: In peace let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our synod president, and for our district president, for all pastors in Christ, for all servants of the Church, and for all the people, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our president, for all public servants, for the government and those who protect us, that they may be upheld and strengthened in every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all the people here present who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For *(additional bids for prayer may be inserted here)*, let us pray to the Lord:

C: Lord, have mercy.

P: For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

(Silence for personal prayer.)

P: Rejoicing in the fellowship of the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole lives to Christ, our Lord:

C: To You, O Lord.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

P: O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Taught by our Lord and trusting His promises, we are bold 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.**

BENEDICAMUS

P: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

P: The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the † Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

Abide with Me

#878

**Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**I need Thy presence every passing hour.
What but Thy grace can foil the tempter's power?
Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide with me.**

**Come not in terrors, as the King of kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy wings,
Tears for all woes, a heart for every plea—
Come, Friend of sinners, and thus bide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.**

**Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heaven's morning breaks,
 and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

SILENT PRAYER

DISMISSAL

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.