

*Fourth Sunday in Lent
Service of the Word, Sunday, March 22, 2020
The Lutheran Church of the Redeemer, Ramsey, NJ*

PRELUDE: Wie groß is des Almächt'gen Güte Mendelssohn

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

GATHERING SONG (next page)

God, Whose Almighty Word



1. God, whose al - might - y word Cha - os and
 2. Sav - ior, you came to give Those who in
 3. Spir - it of truth and love, Life - giv - ing,
 4. Gra - cious and ho - ly Three, Glo - ri - ous



dark - ness heard, And took their flight:
 dark - ness live Heal - ing and sight,
 ho - ly dove, Speed on your flight!
 Trin - i - ty, Wis - dom, love, might:



Hear us, we hum - bly pray, And where the gos - pel - day
 Health to the sick in mind, Sight to the in - ward blind:
 Move on the wa - ter's face Bear - ing the lamp of grace
 Bound-less as o - cean's tide Roll - ing in full - est pride



Sheds not its glo - rious ray, Let there be light!
 Now to all hu - man-kind Let there be light!
 And, in earth's dark - est place, Let there be light!
 Through the world far and wide, Let there be light!

Text: John Marriott, 1780-1825, alt.

Tune: ITALIAN HYMN, 66 4 666 4; Felice de Giardini, 1716-1796

GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

KYRIE

Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**

Christe eleison: **Christ, have mercy.**

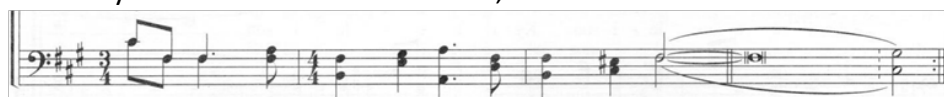
Kyrie eleison: **Lord, have mercy.**



Ky -ri -e e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

Chri -ste e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.

Ky -ri -e e - le - i - son, e - le - i - son.



The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

God of tender care, like a mother, like a father, you never forget your children, and you know already what we need. In all our anxiety give us trusting and faithful hearts, that in confidence we may embody the peace and justice of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 49:8-16a

Thus says the Lord:

In a time of favor I have answered you,
on a day of salvation I have helped you;

I have kept you and given you
as a covenant to the people,

to establish the land,

to apportion the desolate heritages;

saying to the prisoners, 'Come out',

to those who are in darkness, 'Show yourselves.'

They shall feed along the ways,

on all the bare heights shall be their pasture;

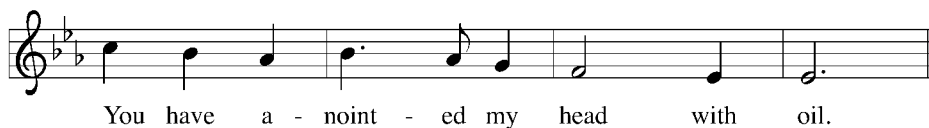
they shall not hunger or thirst,

neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them down,

for he who has pity on them will lead them,
 and by springs of water will guide them.
 And I will turn all my mountains into a road,
 and my highways shall be raised up.
 Lo, these shall come from far away,
 and lo, these from the north and from the west,
 and these from the land of Syene.
 Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth;
 break forth, O mountains, into singing!
 For the Lord has comforted his people,
 and will have compassion on his suffering ones.
 But Zion said, 'The Lord has forsaken me,
 my Lord has forgotten me.'
 Can a woman forget her nursing-child,
 or show no compassion for the child of her womb?
 Even these may forget,
 yet I will not forget you.
 See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands;
 your walls are continually before me.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM: Psalm 23



Psalm 23:5
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- ¹The LORD| is my shepherd;
 I shall not | be in want.
- ²**The LORD makes me lie down | in green pastures
 and leads me be- | side still waters.**
- ³You restore my | soul, O LORD,
 and guide me along right pathways | for your name's sake.
- ⁴**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall | fear no evil;
 for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they | comfort me.**
- ⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence | of my enemies;
 you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is | running over.
- ⁶**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days | of my life,
 and I will dwell in the house of the | LORD forever. R**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 4:1-5

Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God’s mysteries. Moreover, it is required of stewards that they should be found trustworthy. But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged by you or by any human court. I do not even judge myself. I am not aware of anything against myself, but I am not thereby acquitted. It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore do not pronounce judgement before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then each one will receive commendation from God.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Let your steady love come to us, O Lord.



Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.



Save us as you promised; we will trust your word.

GOSPEL: Matthew 6:24-34

‘No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

‘Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, “What will we eat?” or “What will we drink?” or “What will we wear?” For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

‘So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.

The gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

We Come to You for Healing, Lord



1 We come to you for heal - ing, Lord, of
 2 As once you walked through an - cient streets and
 3 You touch us through phy - si - cians' skills, through
 4 When nights are long with wake - ful - ness, through
 5 We come to you, O lov - ing Lord, in



bod - y, mind, and soul, and pray that by your
 reached toward those in pain, come, ris - en Christ, a -
 nurs - es' gifts of care, and through the love of
 days when strength runs low, grant us your gift of
 our dis - tress and pain, in trust that through our



Spir - it's touch we may a - gain be whole.
 mong us still with pow'r to heal a - gain.
 faith - ful friends who lift our lives in prayer.
 pa - tience, Lord, your calm - ing peace to know.
 nights and days your grace will heal, sus - tain.

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Jr., 1923–2007

Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1764–1824

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APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

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

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

As God's beloved children, let us pray that the light of Christ shine on the nations, the church, and all those in need.

That Christians everywhere may be servants of Christ and stewards of the mysteries we celebrate in our worship. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That the leaders of nations, states, cities, and towns find wisdom, strength and compassion in carrying out their stewardship of our public life in these troubling times. Bless those who are tasked with responding to our current crisis and keep them safe. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That our gratitude for the birds of the air and the flowers of the field lead us to treasure each day, care for the earth, and seek the welfare of generations to come. Guide us in seeking vaccines, treatments, and cures for the diseases that afflict us. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That like a patient mother you comfort all those who suffer with illness, grief, worry, or anxiety, especially those who are affected indirectly and directly by the Coronavirus. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

That as we strive first for your kingdom, you provide for us all that we need and deepen our faith in your provident care. Help all to trust in your gracious presence and bring faith to light in the midst of our troubles. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Here other intercessions may be offered.

That you gather us with all your holy ones, who treasured the riches of your grace and whose names are now inscribed on the palms of your hands. Make us one in your eternal life. Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

Receive our prayers and hopes, God of mercy and justice, for we pray in the name of Christ, the light of the world.
Amen.

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Let us pray.

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love. For your Word of life, O God,

we give you thanks and praise.

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need. Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

**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.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

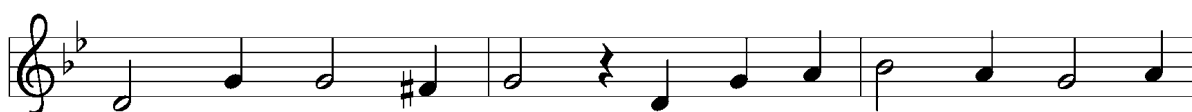
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✝ give you peace.
Amen.

SENDING SONG

If You But Trust in God to Guide You



1 If you but trust in God to guide you with gen - tle
 2 What gain is there in anx - ious weep - ing, in help - less
 3 The Lord our rest - less hearts is hold - ing, in peace and
 4 Sing, pray, and keep God's ways un - swerv - ing, of - fer your



hand through all your ways, you'll find that God is there be -
 an - ger and dis - tress? If you are in your Sav - ior's
 qui - et - ness con - tent. We rest in God's good will un -
 ser - vice faith - ful - ly. Trust heav - en's word; though un - de -



side you when cross - es come, in try - ing days. Trust then in
 keep - ing, in sor - row will he love you less? For Christ who
 fold - ing, what wis - dom from on high has sent. God, who has
 serv - ing, you'll find God's prom - ise true to be. This is our



God's un - chang - ing love; build on the rock that will not move.
 took for you a cross will bring you safe through ev - 'ry loss.
 cho - sen us by grace, knows ver - y well the fears we face.
 con - fi - dence in - deed: God nev - er fails in time of need.

Text: Georg Neumark, 1621–1681; tr. composite
 Music: WER NUR DEN LIEBEN GOTT, Georg Neumark
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DISMISSAL

Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude: Herr Gott, nun sei gepreiset J. S. Bach

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