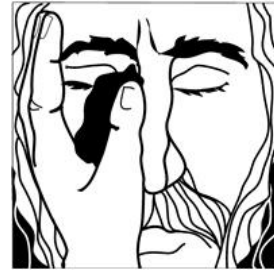


Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 19, 2023
10:00 a.m.
In person and streamed on Zoom



Prelude *Prélude Modal* ~ Jean Langlais

Welcome & Announcements

Confession & Forgiveness

Who here has sinned?

We have sinned. We put our heads in the sand.

We ignored people in need. We make false assumptions and fail to be kind.

We are in need of forgiveness.

Good news!

Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score.

When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives.

When you lose your way, God seeks you out.

Thanks be to God for a love like that.

Have you sinned?

I have sinned. I put my head in the sand. I ignore people in need. I make false assumptions and fail to be kind. I, too, am in need of forgiveness.

Good news!

Our God is a merciful God. God does not punish, hold grudges, or keep score.

When you suffer, God weeps. When you sin, God forgives.

When you lose your way, God seeks you out.

Thanks be to God for a love like that. Amen.

Gathering Hymn *Dearest Jesus, at Your Word* ~ ELW 520

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 and Hymn of Praise

Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.
 Chris - te e - lei - son. Christ, have mer - cy.
 Ky - ri - e e - lei - son. Lord, have mer - cy.

1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;
 yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.
 yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.
 yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.
 Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;
 Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;
 ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.
 Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;
 yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you

And also with you

Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

First Reading 1 Samuel 16:1-13

Samuel anointed David even though he was the eighth-oldest son of Jesse and did not match his brothers in height or other physical characteristics. With the anointing came endowment with the Spirit of the LORD, designating David as the LORD's chosen successor to Saul.

Psalm 23

Please read responsively with the lector

¹The LORD is my shepherd;

I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though 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.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Gospel Reading John 9:1-41

Jesus heals a man born blind, provoking a hostile reaction that he regards as spiritual blindness to the things of God



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.



Noth-ing in all cre - a - tion can sep - a - rate us from the love of God.

The Holy Gospel according to John
Glory to you O Lord

...

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn Of the Day

Text: Anna Strickland (2022)

Music: Erneueren Gesangbuch (1665)



We come with ques - tions as - sum - ing that
Here is the mys - t'ry we claim as the
God help us live in - to mys - t'ry be -



there will be an - swers Set - ting the
fol - lowers of Je - sus: Christ has died,
- yond com - pre - hen - sion Qui - et our



world in an or - der that o - beys our
Christ is raised, Christ dai - ly comes to re -
minds al - ways clam - or - ing for some di -



gram - mar We want to know
- deem us Grace free, not earned,
- rec - tion Give us your peace



where Spir - it's riv - er will flow Frus - trat - ed
whe - ther or not we de - serve God works be -
with all that we can't per - ceive Hold - ing us



by her me - an - ders
- yond rules and boun - d'ries
with - in the ten - sion

Affirmation of Faith

We believe in a merciful God,
 a God who does not keep score,
 a God who wants good for us.
We believe in a creative God,
 a God who would heal with mud,
 a God capable of seeing what we cannot.
We believe in a saving God,
 a God who heals,
 a God who greets our questions with patience,
 a God who sends us out with hope in our step.
What wondrous love is this. Amen.

Prayers of the People

Each petition ends with the words, Merciful God, receive our prayer.

Sharing the Peace

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

As you share a greeting of peace, some may wish to shake hands, bump elbows, or simply nod to one another with the greeting; please be sensitive to varying preferences as we share the peace of Christ in preparation for Holy Communion.

Musical Offering *Cantabile* ~ César Franck

Offertory Song *Return to God* ~ Gather #389 (refrain only, 2x)

The image shows two staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 3/4 time. The first staff begins with a repeat sign and contains the melody for the first line of lyrics: "Re-turn to God with all your heart, the source of grace and". The second staff continues the melody for the second line of lyrics: "mer - cy; come seek the ten - der faith-ful-ness of God_____". The music is written in a simple, accessible style suitable for congregational singing.

Offertory Prayer

God of good gifts, receive these and all our offerings as we present them in faithful service for the sake of your gospel. Prepare our hearts to receive you in this meal as you pour out your very presence through Christ Jesus, the wellspring of eternal life. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right ... and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and
God of might, heav - en and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
Bless - ed is the one who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.
Ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, God of the universe . . .
in the name of Jesus Christ, who taught us to pray . . .



Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name,
your king - dom come, your will be done, on earth as in heav - en.
Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins as we
for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Save us from the time of tri - al
and de - liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the pow'r,
and the glo - ry are yours, now and for - ev - er. A - men.

Holy Communion

You are beloved of God, and this meal is for you. Come forward to the altar rail and stand or kneel to receive communion. The bread is gluten-free and there is wine or grape juice. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, you may come forward and cross your arms over your chest.



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on
us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the
world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn *O Christ, Your Heart, Compassionate* ~ ELW 722

Blessing After Communion

Prayer

Embodied God, at your table, we have tasted the goodness of Jesus. With the eyes of our hearts open to your promise, empower us to hear the needs of our neighbors and touch the world with your love. **Amen.**

Blessing

As you leave this place, may God bless you with seeking.
Seek out the hungry. Seek the weary. Seek the good in every person you pass.
Seek out the hopeful. Seek the faithful. Seek God in each of us.
As you seek and as you wonder, may you find what you are looking for.
In the name of our loving God, who is always seeking us, go now in peace. **Amen.**

Sending Hymn *Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness* ~ ELW 843

Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve God **Thanks be to God**

Postlude *Trio in G Minor* ~ Josef Rheinberger

Confession and Forgiveness, Affirmation of Faith, and Blessing by Rev. Sarah A. Speed | sanctifiedart.org