

**Fourth Sunday in Lent  
March 14, 2021**

**Prelude**

**Welcome and Announcements**

**Confession**

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen**

God of all mercy and consolation, come to the aid of your people, turning us from our sin to live for you alone. Give us the power of your Holy Spirit that, attentive to your Word, we may confess our sins, receive your forgiveness, and grow into the fullness of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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

*Silence for reflection and self-examination.*

Gracious God,  
**have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**

*The minister stands and addresses the congregation.*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen**

**Kyrie**

Lord, have mercy:   **Lord, have mercy**

Christ, have mercy:   **Christ, have mercy**

Lord, have mercy:   **Lord, have mercy**

**Apostolic 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.**

## Prayer of the Day

Let us pray.

*A brief silence is kept before the prayer.*

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

**First Reading:** Numbers 21:4-9

**Psalm:** Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 2:1-10

**Gospel Acclamation:**

*Return to the Lord, your God, for he is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.*

**Gospel:** John 3:14-21

**Sermon**

**Silence for Reflection**

**Music Meditation**

## Apostles' Creed

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**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**

On this fourth Sunday in Lent, let us pray to our loving God for all the needs of the world, responding to each petition with words from today's psalm, "your mercy endures forever."

*A brief silence.*

O God, preserve your church through good times and bad. Empower pastors, missionaries, Young Adults in Global Mission, and all ministries of service for their work throughout this pandemic. Bless Lutherans around the world, our ecumenical partners, and everyone preparing for baptism at Easter.

*A brief silence.*

O God our Redeemer, receive our prayers:  
**your mercy endures forever.**

Continue your creation of this good earth. Nourish seas and rivers, and give water to thirsty lands. Nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures, and bless the fields being prepared for the growing season.

*A brief silence.*

O God our Creator, receive our prayers:  
**your mercy endures forever.**

In Brazil and wherever COVID-19 rages, send healing. In Myanmar and wherever tyranny rules, restore human rights. In Nigeria and wherever there is domestic terrorism, send concord. In Ethiopia and wherever there is bloodshed, bring peace. In Yemen and wherever people starve, give food and water. In the United States and wherever there is discrimination, inspire all residents to honor one another and to strive for justice. Prosper the work of those who care for victims of violence, and grant legislators wisdom in decision-making.

*A brief silence.*

O God our Protector, receive our prayers:  
**your mercy endures forever.**

Give rest and welcome to migrants. Bring run-aways to places of safety. Protect all who are incarcerated. Provide caring families to children who seek adoption. Give a decent life to all who live on our streets.

*A brief silence.*

O God our Homeland, receive our prayers:  
**your mercy endures forever.**

As you saved your people of old from snakebite, so now deliver all who suffer from disaster, hunger, disease, and despair, and those we name here before you. . .

*A brief silence.*

O God our Savior, receive our prayers:  
**your mercy endures forever.**

Shine light into our darkness, make night into a blessing, and in mercy hear the prayers of our hearts:

*A longer time of silence.*

O God our Friend, receive our prayers:  
**your mercy endures forever.**

We praise you for all the saints who have lived and died in Christ, especially Patrick and Joseph, and we remember before you all who have died from COVID-19. At the end, bring us with them into life in your presence.

*A brief silence.*

O God our Comforter, receive our prayers:  
**your mercy endures forever.**

To you, O God, our only God, we entrust all for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our loving Lord. **Amen**

## **Offering**

In response to all that God has done and continues to do for us in Christ Jesus, we now come to that part of our worship when we give . . . not reluctantly, but cheerfully and in thanksgiving.

While many of us have been accustomed to giving in the offering plate, because of the pandemic, there are other ways: through the mail or with Vanco online. However you choose to give, please know that your gifts make a difference. Your support of our mutual ministry enables us to reach out with the gospel in word and deed in our community and to the world.

## **Offertory Prayer**

Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**

### **Lord's Prayer**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

**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**

Almighty God, Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit, bless us now and forever. **Amen**

Be at Peace, Christ is with you. **Thanks be to God!**

### **Postlude**