

FOURTH Sunday in Lent

March 19, 2023

PRELUDE, BELLS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, WELCOME

HYMN “O Word of God Incarnate” LSB 523

- 1 O Word of God incarnate,
O Wisdom from on high,
O Truth unchanged, unchanging,
O Light of our dark sky:
We praise You for the radiance
That from the hallowed page,
A lantern to our footsteps,
Shines on from age to age.
- 2 The Church from You, dear Master,
Received the gift divine;
And still that light is lifted
O'er all the earth to shine.
It is the chart and compass
That, all life's voyage through,
Mid mists and rocks and quicksands
Still guides, O Christ, to You.
- 3 O make Your Church, dear Savior,
A lamp of burnished gold
To bear before the nations
Your true light as of old!
O teach Your wand'ring pilgrims
By this their path to trace
Till, clouds and darkness ended,
They see You face to face!

Text: William W. How, 1823–97, alt.

Text: Public domain

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Heavenly Father, we come before You as Your children, seeking pardon for our wrongdoing, and to ask for strengthened faith and renewed love.

C: **Forgive us, Father, for the times we have let our hearts be troubled and haven't placed our complete trust in You and Your Word of Truth. We are sorry that we too often focus mostly on our immediate selfish desires instead of Your desires for our daily walk with You as our Way, Truth, and Life into eternity.**

Forgive us, Father, for when we have heard Your word but didn't keep it, and acted like our sin-tainted version of truth was better than Your Word of Truth and Way for life. Deep down in our hearts, we know better, and we want to do better at being Your children, trusting You for everything that is eternal, as well as what You have done as our Way here on earth while guiding us with Your truth and Your perfect, abundant Life. For the sake of Jesus, the Way, Truth and Life, forgive us, and by Your Holy Spirit renew us to be about Your will and Your ways. Amen.

P: Hear the Good News: Jesus said, "I AM the Way and the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me." Jesus also said, "I am going to My Father's house to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you may also be where I am." As a called and ordained servant of Jesus, the Way and the Truth the Life, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. (John 14:1-14)

C: Amen.

KYRIE *LSB 204*

**Congregation Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.**

SALUTATION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Let us pray.

Faithful God, whose grace attends us all our days, look upon us in mercy and renew us by Your Holy Spirit. Direct our steps into pathways of peace and lead us to discover all that is good and right and true. Preserve us in Your righteousness and at last bring us to Your eternal kingdom where You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING Isaiah 42:14–21

"For a long time I have kept silent, I have been quiet and held myself back. But now, like a woman in childbirth, I cry out, I gasp and pant.

I will lay waste the mountains and hills and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn rivers into islands and dry up the pools. I will lead the blind by ways they have not known, along unfamiliar paths I will guide them; I will turn the darkness into light before them and make the rough places smooth. These are the things I will do; I will not forsake them.

But those who trust in idols, who say to images, 'You are our gods,' will be turned back in utter shame. Israel Blind and Deaf

"Hear, you deaf; look, you blind, and see! Who is blind but my servant, and deaf like the messenger I send?

Who is blind like the one committed to me, blind like the servant of the Lord?

You have seen many things, but have paid no attention; your ears are open, but you hear nothing."

It pleased the Lord for the sake of his righteousness to make his law great and glorious. (NIV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Ephesians 5:8–14

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) and find out what pleases the Lord.

Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what the disobedient do in secret. But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for it is light that makes everything visible. This is why it is said: "Wake up, O sleeper, rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you." (NIV)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOLY GOSPEL John 14:1–14

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fourteenth chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

Thomas said to him, "Lord, we don't know where you are going, so how can we know the way?"

Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

If you really knew me, you would know my Father as well. From now on, you do know him and have seen him."

Philip said, "Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us." Jesus answered: "Don't you know me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in me? The words I say to you are not just my own. Rather, it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe on the evidence of the miracles themselves. I tell you the truth, anyone who has faith in me will do what I have been doing. He will do even greater things than these, because I am going to the Father. And I will do whatever you ask in my name, so that the Son may bring glory to the Father. You may ask me for anything in my name, and I will do it. (NIV)

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

NICENE CREED

**I believe in one God,
the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth
and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only-begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds,
God of God, Light of Light,
very God of very God,
begotten, not made,
being of one substance with the Father,
by whom all things were made;
who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary
and was made man;
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried.
And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures
and ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of the Father.
And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead,
whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord and giver of life,**

**who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified,
who spoke by the prophets.
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church,
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins,
and I look for the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

HYMN “You Are the Way; through You Alone” LSB 526

- 1 You are the way; through You alone
Can we the Father find;
In You, O Christ, has God revealed
His heart and will and mind.
- 2 You are the truth; Your Word alone
True wisdom can impart;
You only can inform the mind
And purify the heart.
- 3 You are the life; the empty tomb
Proclaims Your conqu’ring arm,
And those who put their trust in You
Not death nor hell shall harm.
- 4 You are the way, the truth, the life;
Grant us that way to know,
That truth to keep, that life to win
Whose joys eternal flow.

Text: George W. Doane, 1799–1859, alt.
Text and music: Public domain

SERMON “I AM...the Way and the Truth and the Life”

Text: John 14:1-14

OFFERING

HYMN “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds” LSB 524 *sts. 1–4*

- 1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer’s ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.
- 2 It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the heart’s unrest;
’Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary, rest.
- 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.

4 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest, and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Text and music: Public domain

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LSB, p. 215

P: Let us pray for the whole church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Gracious Lord, shine Your light of mercy and grace into our darkened hearts of sin and eyes blinded to Your will and ways, so that we know the fullness of Your forgiveness, life, and peace. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Healing Lord, shine Your light of peace and healing to all who seek relief, for the sick and dying, for those troubled physically, spiritually, emotionally, and mentally, and for the grieving and the dying, that Your comfort be known, [*especially . . .*]. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of all nations, shine Your light to all places in this world and to the leaders of cities, states, and countries, that Your light guide and direct them so that peace be had and justice faithfully served. Give courage and diligence to all who work to defend liberties and life, and to those who speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of the Church, shine Your light upon all You have enabled to speak and proclaim Your Word. Be with our congregation, that we remain united in truth, love, faith, and service. Give courage to live as Your witnesses, that many who remain in darkness rejoice in the light of truth. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Lord of all seasons, in this season of Lent shine Your light upon us as we examine ourselves, see our sins, and know our need for a Savior. As we continue to follow Christ to the cross, draw our hearts and minds to You and the joys that await. Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

P: Into Your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in Your mercy, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

**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.

PREFACE

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

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

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

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

P: Lord of heaven and earth, we praise You for bringing light to a darkened world. We bless You for calling us to be people who walk as children of the light, secure in the currents of the world around us. We thank You for inviting us to Your Holy Table. Joined together in the name of our Lord and as one with the communion of saints, we pray You to pour out Your Holy Spirit upon us to sanctify and renew us in body and soul for the sake of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

C: Amen.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to His disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My T body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new covenant in My T blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

PAX DOMINI

Pastor The peace of the Lord be with you always.

Congregation Amen.

AGNUS DEI

LSB 163

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

HYMN "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain" LSB 435

- 1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
 Sinners, ruined by the fall;
 Here a pure and healing fountain
 Flows for you, for me, for all,
 In a full, perpetual tide,
 Opened when our Savior died.
- 2 Come in poverty and meanness,
 Come defiled, without, within;
 From infection and uncleanness,
 From the leprosy of sin,

Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.

3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

4 They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.

Text and music: Public domain

“Jesus Comes Today with Healing” LSB 620

1 Jesus comes today with healing,
Knocking at my door, appealing,
Off’ring pardon, grace, and peace.
He Himself makes preparation,
And I hear His invitation:
“Come and taste the blessèd feast.”

2 Christ Himself, the priest presiding,
Yet in bread and wine abiding
In this holy sacrament,
Gives the bread of life, once broken,
And the cup, the precious token
Of His sacred covenant.

3 Under bread and wine, though lowly,
I receive the Savior holy,
Blood and body, giv’n for me,
Very Lamb of God from heaven,
Who to bitter death was given,
Hung upon the cursèd tree.

4 God descends with heav’nly power,
Gives Himself to me this hour
In this ordinary sign.
On my tongue His pledge receiving,
I accept His grace, believing
That I taste His love divine.

5 Let me praise God’s boundless favor,
Whose own feast of love I savor,
Bidden by His gracious call.
Wedding garments He provides me,

With a robe of white He hides me,
Fits me for the royal hall.

- 6 Now have I found consolation,
Comfort in my tribulation,
Balm to heal the troubled soul.
God, my shield from ev'ry terror,
Cleanses me from sin and error,
Makes my wounded spirit whole.

Text: Heinrich Puchta, 1808–58; tr. David W. Rogner, 1960

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Music: Public domain

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now” LSB 440

- 1 Jesus, I will ponder now
On Your holy passion;
With Your Spirit me endow
For such meditation.
Grant that I in love and faith
May the image cherish
Of Your suff'ring, pain, and death
That I may not perish.
- 2 Make me see Your great distress,
Anguish, and affliction,
Bonds and stripes and wretchedness
And Your crucifixion;
Make me see how scourge and rod,
Spear and nails did wound You,
How for them You died, O God,
Who with thorns had crowned You.
- 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus alone
Make me see Your passion,
But its cause to me make known
And its termination.
Ah! I also and my sin
Wrought Your deep affliction;
This indeed the cause has been
Of Your crucifixion.
- 4 Grant that I Your passion view
With repentant grieving.
Let me not bring shame to You
By unholy living.
How could I refuse to shun
Ev'ry sinful pleasure
Since for me God's only Son
Suffered without measure?
- 5 If my sins give me alarm
And my conscience grieve me,

Let Your cross my fear disarm;
Peace of conscience give me.
Help me see forgiveness won
By Your holy passion.
If for me He slays His Son,
God must have compassion!

- 6 Graciously my faith renew;
Help me bear my crosses,
Learning humbleness from You,
Peace mid pain and losses.
May I give You love for love!
Hear me, O my Savior,
That I may in heav'n above
Sing Your praise forever.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.

Text and music: Public domain

POST-COMMUNION THANKSGIVING

P: Let us pray.

Blessed are You, heavenly Father, for You have once again fed and nourished us at Your Table through the body and blood of Your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord. As Lord of our lives, strengthen and support us so that we may walk as children of the light, and, sharing that kindly light, proclaim Your love to all the world.

Bless us day by day, and keep us hope-filled as we await Your eternal kingdom, where You live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C: Amen.

HYM “Christ Be My Leader” LSB 861

- 1 Christ be my Leader by night as by day;
Safe through the darkness, for He is the way.
Gladly I follow, my future His care,
Darkness is daylight when Jesus is there.
- 2 Christ be my Teacher in age as in youth,
Drifting or doubting, for He is the truth.
Grant me to trust Him; though shifting as sand,
Doubt cannot daunt me; in Jesus I stand.
- 3 Christ be my Savior in calm as in strife;
Death cannot hold me, for He is the life.
Nor darkness nor doubting nor sin and its stain
Can touch my salvation: with Jesus I reign.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, 1926

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