



METROPOLITAN NEW YORK SYNOD
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT ✠ SERVICE OF WORD

Sunday, March 14, 2021

GATHERING

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

Nothing in all creation can separate us from the love of God.

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CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the keeper of the covenant,
the source of steadfast love,
our rock and our redeemer.

Amen.

God hears us when we cry and draws us close in Jesus Christ. Let us return to the one who is full of compassion.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Fountain of living water,
pour out your mercy over us.
Our sin is heavy, and we long to be free.
Rebuild what we have ruined
and mend what we have torn.
Wash us in your cleansing flood.
Make us alive in the Spirit
to follow in the way of Jesus,
as healers and restorers of the world you so love.
Amen.

HYMN

“One Thing Remains”

Higher than the mountains that I face
Stronger than the power of the grave
Constant through the trial and the change
One thing remains,
Yes, one thing remains.

[Chorus 3x:]

Your love never fails,
It never gives up
It never runs out on me

Because on and on, and on, and on it goes
Before it overwhelms and satisfies my soul
And I never ever have to be afraid
One thing remains
So, this one thing remains.

[Chorus 3x:]

Your love never fails,
It never gives up
It never runs out on me

[Bridge:]

In death, in life I'm confident and covered by the power of Your great love
My debt is paid.
There's nothing that can separate my heart from Your great love...

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.**

GLORIA

My soul proclaims your greatness, O Lord;

I sing my Savior's praise!

Great wonders you have done for me,
and holy is your name.

My soul proclaims your greatness, Lord; I sing my Savior's praise!

You looked upon my lowliness, and I am full of grace.

Now every land and ev'ry age this blessing shall proclaim—
great wonders you have done for me, and holy is your name.

To all who live in holy fear your mercy ever flows. With mighty arm you dash the
proud, their scheming hearts expose.

The ruthless you have cast aside, the lowly throned instead;
the hungry filled with all good things, the rich sent off unfed.

To Israel, your servant blest, your help is ever sure;
the promise to our parents made their children will secure.

Sing glory to the Holy One, give honor to the Word, and praise the Power of the
Most High, one God, by all adored.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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

From Mount Hor [the Israelites] set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food.” Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us.” So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, “Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live.” So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 107:1-3, 17-22

Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good,
for God’s mercy endures forever.

**Let the redeemed of the Lord proclaim
that God redeemed them from the hand of the foe,**
gathering them in from the lands;
from the east and from the west, from the north and from the south.

**Some were fools and took rebellious paths;
through their sins they were afflicted.**

They loathed all manner of food
and drew near to death’s door.

**Then in their trouble they cried to the Lord
and you delivered them from their distress.**

You sent forth your word and healed them
and rescued them from the grave.

**Let them give thanks to you, Lord, for your steadfast love
and your wonderful works for all people.**

Let them offer sacrifices of thanksgiving
and tell of your deeds with shouts of joy.

SECOND READING ✠ EPHESIANS 2:1-10

Even if our gospel is veiled, it is veiled to those who are perishing. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God. For we do not proclaim ourselves; we proclaim Jesus Christ as Lord and ourselves as your slaves for Jesus' sake. For it is the God who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

GOSPEL ✠ JOHN 3:14-21

The holy gospel according to Saint John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus said:] "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

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

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

“Great Are You Lord”

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken

Great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
To You only

You give life, You are love
You bring light to the darkness
You give hope, You restore
Every heart that is broken

Great are You, Lord

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
To You only

[x2]

All the earth will shout
Your praise
Our hearts will cry
These bones will sing
Great are You, Lord

[x3]

It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
We pour out our praise
It's Your breath in our lungs
So we pour out our praise
To You only

[x2]

CREED

We believe in one God,
**the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,
the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father,
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made,
of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.**

**For us and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,
was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary
and became truly human.**

**For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.**

**On the third day he rose again
in accordance with the scriptures;
he ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

**He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father,
who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the resurrection of the dead,
and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

A brief silence.

You sent your Son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry, our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

From east to west your steadfast love is shown. Nourish seas and deserts, wilderness areas and cities. Give water to thirsty lands; nurture spring growth that feeds hungry creatures; bless farmers as they prepare for the growing season. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

You sustained your people in the wilderness. Give courage to all who lead in times of crisis and scarce resources. Prosper the work of those who aid victims of famine and drought. Bring peace in places where scarce resources cause violence. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn, especially during this pandemic. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

By grace we have been saved. Fill our synod to overflowing with that grace, that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Please share intercessions with us in the comments section.

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Led by Mary, Mother of God, and all the saints, we entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

OFFERING

An offering is gathered for the mission of the church, including the care of those in need. At this time donations can be made to the Bishop's discretionary fund to help congregations and rostered leaders during the Covid-19 crisis.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

All thanks and praise to you, glorious God of grace.
Throughout your word you remind us that
you have blessed us with foremothers of the faith.
With Sarah, we bless you for your gift of life.
With Ruth, we praise you for family and food.
With Miriam, we celebrate our escape from the foe.
Remembering Deborah, we honor the words of your prophets.
Remembering the woman at the well, we laud you for living water.
Remembering Junia, we thank you for those who minister among your people.
One with the daughter of Jairus, we wake to life in you.

Remembering Martha and Mary, we are disciples of Jesus.
Living, he healed the bleeding woman;
dying, he cared for his mother;
risen, he sent Mary Magdalene in mission.

Mighty God of mercy,
as you heard the prayers of Hannah, so now hear us.
Send your Spirit on this assembly, that like Phoebe,
we serve one another with zeal.

Send your Spirit on the church, that like Anna,
we tell others of your mercy.
Send your Spirit into our hearts, that like Dorcas,
we care for the poor and needy.

With Mary, we magnify your name:
My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

All thanks and praise to you, powerful God of peace.
We adore you, our God,
who mother and feed and comfort us with your word,
today, tomorrow, and forever.
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.**

BLESSING

God, the Source of glory,
God, the Word of life,
God, the Spirit of truth
✠ bless you all, now and forever.
Amen.

HYMN

“On The Throne”

I will walk through the fire
Walk through the darkest night
I will walk through the flood
I won't be overcome, I won't be overcome

I will walk through the trial
Walk through the valley of fear
I will walk through the storm
I won't be overcome, I won't be overcome

For the Lord is
God is able, God is faithful
Higher than the mountains that I face
Every season, I will press on
For God alone, is on the throne

I will walk in Your promise
Walk in Your victory
I will walk in Your power
I won't be overcome, I won't be overcome

For the Lord is
God is able, God is faithful
Higher than the mountains that I face
Every season, I will press on
For God alone, is on the throne...

Glorious, victorious
Sovereign over all

On the throne
Infinite, magnificent
Reigning over all

On the throne
Glorious, victorious
Sovereign over all

On the throne
Infinite, magnificent
Reigning over all

For the Lord is
God is able, God is faithful
Higher than the mountains that I face
Every season, I will press on
For God alone, is on the throne...

DISMISSAL

Be in peace. Remember the poor.
Thanks be to God.