

Service of Prayer and Proclamation

March 15, 2020 • The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Redeemer Lutheran Church-LCMS
Charleston, WV

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

INVOCATION

P In the name of the Father and of the ✝ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

LUTHER'S MORNING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

CONFESSION

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.

What sins should we confess?

Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.

Which are these?

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

What is the Office of the Keys?

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His Church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

Where is this written?

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22–23)

What do you believe according to these words?

I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

TEN COMMANDMENTS

- P** You shall have no other gods.
You shall not misuse the name of the Lord your God.
Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy.
Honor your father and your mother.
You shall not murder.
You shall not commit adultery.
You shall not steal.
You shall not give false testimony against your neighbor.
You shall not covet your neighbor's house.
You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his manservant or maidservant, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

CONFESSION OF SINS

LSB 291

Brief time of silence to think on God's Word and the sin we need to confess

- P** O almighty God, merciful Father, we poor miserable sinners, confess unto You all our sins and iniquities with which we have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But we are heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and we pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to us, poor, sinful beings.

ABSOLUTION

LSB 291

- P** In the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

COLLECT OF THE DAY

Lent 4

- P** Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 10:1–4, 16–18

Why, O LORD, do you stand far away? Why do you hide yourself in times of trouble? In arrogance the wicked hotly pursue the poor; let them be caught in the schemes that they have devised. For the wicked boasts of the desires of his soul, and the one greedy for gain curses and renounces the LORD. In the pride of his face the wicked does not seek him; all his thoughts are, “There is no God.” ... The LORD is king forever and ever; the nations perish from his land. O LORD, you hear the desire of the afflicted; you will strengthen their heart; you will incline your ear to do justice to the fatherless and the oppressed, so that man who is of the earth may strike terror no more.

READINGS FROM HOLY SCRIPTURE

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Job 24:13–17

P A reading from Job, the twenty-fourth chapter.

“There are those who rebel against the light, who are not acquainted with its ways, and do not stay in its paths. The murderer rises before it is light, that he may kill the poor and needy, and in the night, he is like a thief. The eye of the adulterer also waits for the twilight, saying, ‘No eye will see me’; and he veils his face. In the dark they dig through houses; by day they shut themselves up; they do not know the light. For deep darkness is morning to all of them; for they are friends with the terrors of deep darkness.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

NEW TESTAMENT READING

1 John 3:11–15

P A reading from 1 John, the third chapter.

For this is the message that you have heard from the beginning, that we should love one another. We should not be like Cain, who was of the evil one and murdered his brother. And why did he murder him? Because his own deeds were evil and his brother’s righteous. Do not be surprised, brothers, that the world hates you. We know that we have passed out of death into life, because we love the brothers. Whoever does not love abides in death. Everyone who hates his brother is a murderer, and you know that no murderer has eternal life abiding in him.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

COLLECT FOR THE WORD

P Blessed Lord, You have caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning. Grant that we may so hear them, read, mark, learn, and take them to heart that, by the patience and comfort of Your holy Word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

P The Gospel according to St. Mark the fourteenth chapter.

It was now two days before the Passover and the Feast of Unleavened Bread. And the chief priests and the scribes were seeking how to arrest him by stealth and kill him, for they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar from the people.”

And they led Jesus to the high priest. And all the chief priests and the elders and the scribes came together. And Peter had followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. And he was sitting with the guards and warming himself at the fire. Now the chief priests and the whole Council were seeking testimony against Jesus to put him to death, but they found none. For many bore false witness against him, but their testimony did not agree. And some stood up and bore false witness against him, saying, “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple that is made with hands, and in three days I will build another, not made with hands.’” Yet even about this their testimony did not agree. And the high priest stood up in the midst and asked Jesus, “Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?” But he remained silent and made no answer. Again, the high priest asked him, “Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed?” And Jesus said, “I am, and you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming with the clouds of heaven.” And the high priest tore his garments and said, “What further witnesses do we need? You have heard his blasphemy. What is your decision?” And they all condemned him as deserving death. And some began to spit on him and to cover his face and to strike him, saying to him, “Prophesy!” And the guards received him with blows.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

SERMON***Murderous Eyes*****APOSTLES' CREED**

P I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life † everlasting. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Blessed Lord, You give sight to the blind, You open the ears of the deaf, and You make the lame to walk. Hear the prayers of Your people on behalf of all people as they have need. *Brief silence*

In the darkness of sin and its death, we cry to You, O Lord. Open our ears by Your Word, our minds by Your Spirit, and our hearts by Your grace, that we may know and be thankful for all the blessings You have given to us in Christ, our Lord, especially the gifts of forgiveness, life and salvation. Strengthen us in faith, that we may serve You with all our body, mind, soul and strength. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Bidden by Your Word, we pray to You, O Lord, on behalf of Your Church and all Your people in every place. Give to us good pastors and servants of Your Word who will preach the full counsel of Your Word and serve us with Your Sacraments. Raise up many more to serve as church workers and bless those who are now preparing for full-time church work. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Defended by Your grace, we ask You, O Lord, to provide us with good and faithful leaders who will honor the cause of justice in our land, preserve the precious gift of liberty, and protect the lives of those least able to defend themselves. Give perseverance to those who are address the current pandemic and by your Spirit enable us to love You ad our neighbors without fear in the midst of it. Bless the members of our armed forces and protect them as they defend us and grant Your blessing to all first responder who come to our aid in time of need, and those who work in the medical field who help in our infirmities. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Enjoying the riches of Your grace, we ask You, O Lord, to give us generous hearts, that we may share with the poor what You have provided and work for the common good of all. Be with those who are unemployed and in search of honest labor, the underemployed in pursuit of better jobs, and the homeless seeking basic shelter for themselves and those in their families. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Knowing Your healing will and gifts, we pray You, O Lord, to remember the sick in their afflictions, to calm those troubled in mind, and to keep steadfast the dying. Show us Your gracious will, O Lord, and sustain those who are afflicted in body or mind until that day when You will bestow upon us new bodies fit for the eternal life You have prepared for us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Mindful of Your promise, we ask You, O Lord, to comfort those who grieve and to build up those who mourn with hope for the resurrection. Remembering the faithful who have died in Christ, we pray You to bring us at last to be with them in Your nearer presence, looking forward to that day when we shall join in the marriage supper of the Lamb in His Kingdom without end. Lord, in Your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

All these things, O Lord, we pray in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, asking You to grant our prayers not for our sake but for the sake of Him alone. Teach our hearts to be content with Your will and to trust that You will answer us with what is best for us and at the right time for our need. Thus we pray, giving testimony of our confidence in Your gracious favor in Christ who taught us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

C Our Father which 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.

BENEDICTION (Aaronic)

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 ✠ give you peace. Amen

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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PRAYER LIST

Betsy Shaak (friend of Patricia Lilly) was hospitalized with severe respiratory distress suspected to be Covid-19, recently tested negative for the virus and appears to be improving a bit.

Megan Swartz (friend of Sue Reed) undisclosed prayer request.

Linda (Ron Reimert's mother) has been approved for a needed medical procedure to be scheduled at another time.

Johnny (brother of Tee Boyd) fell and was injured also dealing with depression and anxiety

Linda Cooper (friend of Judy Knox) recently diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

Lisa (friend of Susan Hutchison) **and John**, who are dealing with John's progressing ALS.

Residents, staff and families of the Josephine Care Community in Stanwood, WA a Lutheran care facility located about 30 miles from where Pastor Jack Richards is located in Everett, WA. They have identified three COVID-19 resident cases.

Aaron Harris (friend of Steve Koepsel) – facing chemo and radiation for brain tumor – requesting prayers for full healing, peace and comfort for family and friends.

Noah (young family friend of Sue Reed's son, Jeff)

Liz Albitz, Ed & Kim Booten, Billie Brisendine, Brodie, Nancy & Tim Calnon, Catherine, Father Chapin, Will Davis, Jamie Dickenson, Robbie Dickenson, Doris Gerke, Paula Hammond, Jim and Marlene Hanson, Jo Hartley, Selena Heise, Roy "Hutch" Hutchison, Tom Janicki, Roy and Betty Lindmark, Marie Marcum, Deby, Jeanneane Maxon, Sandy McKinney, Phyllis Miscovich, Bob Mitchell, Lori Nettles, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Huntington, Herb Pauley, Kirsti Patzman, Marian Pauley, Harold Reed, Thresa Robinson, Donna Ruffatto, Stu and Marcia Schwalm, Richard Selmon, Carmella Shaver, St. John's Lutheran Church, Taegan Witcher

All diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other forms of dementia, and their caregivers;

All diagnosed with any form of cancer; All diagnosed with any incurable (even if treatable) disease.

For our congregation - that we would pursue God's will for us as His people gathered here to bring Him glory as we make disciples being help, hope, home in the body of Christ.