

**Jesus said, “For where two or three are gathered in my name,
there am I among them.” – Matthew 18:20**

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church (LCMC)
Springfield, GA
Home Worship Bulletin for Sunday, **April 5, 2020**

Palm Sunday

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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

Let us make our confession to God. Almighty, God, merciful Father, **I a troubled and penitent sinner, confess to you all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended you and for which I am sorry for them, and repent of them, and pray for your boundless mercy. For the sake of the suffering and death of your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a poor sinful being; forgive my sins, give me your Holy Spirit for the amendment of my sinful life, and bring me to life everlasting. Amen.**

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

SALUTATION

The LORD be with you. **And also, with you.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... **Almighty and everlasting God, You send Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Himself our flesh and to suffer death upon the cross. Mercifully grant that we may follow the example of His great humility and patience and be made partakers of His resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING

Isaiah 50:4-9a

The Lord God has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning he awakens; he awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught. ⁵The Lord God has opened my ear, and I was not rebellious; I turned not backward. ⁶I gave my back to those who strike and my cheeks to those who pull out the beard; I hid not my face from disgrace and spitting. ⁷But the Lord God helps me; therefore I have not been disgraced; therefore I have set my face like a flint, and I know that I shall not be put to shame. ⁸He who vindicates me is near. Who will contend with me? Let us stand up together. Who is my adversary? Let him come near to me. ⁹Behold, the Lord God helps me; who will declare me guilty?

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

PSALM OF THE DAY **Psalm 31:9-16**

Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am in distress;

my eye is wasted from grief;

my soul and my body also.

¹⁰For my life is spent with sorrow,

and my years with sighing;

my strength fails because of my iniquity,

and my bones waste away.

¹¹Because of all my adversaries I have become a reproach,

especially to my neighbors,

and an object of dread to my acquaintances;

those who see me in the street flee from me.

¹²I have been forgotten like one who is dead;

I have become like a broken vessel.

¹³For I hear the whispering of many—

terror on every side!—

as they scheme together against me,

as they plot to take my life.

¹⁴But I trust in you, O Lord;

I say, “You are my God.”

¹⁵My times are in your hand;

rescue me from the hand of my enemies and from my persecutors!

¹⁶Make your face shine on your servant;

save me in your steadfast love!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son+, and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning is now. And will be forever. Amen.

SECOND READING **Philippians 2:5-11**

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.

The Word of the LORD – **Thanks be to God.**

THE HOLY GOSPEL **Matthew 26:14-27:66**

The Holy Gospel according to Matthew **Glory to you, O Lord**

Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵ and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶ And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

¹⁷ Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸ He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” ¹⁹ And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

²⁰ When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve. ²¹ And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” ²² And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” ²³ He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me. ²⁴ The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” ²⁵ Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

²⁶ Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷ And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸ for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹ I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.”

³⁰ And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives. ³¹ Then Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me this night. For it is written, ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.’ ³² But after I am raised up, I will go before you to Galilee.” ³³ Peter answered him, “Though they all fall away because of you, I will never fall away.” ³⁴ Jesus said to him, “Truly, I tell you, this very night, before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times.” ³⁵ Peter said to him, “Even if I must die with you, I will not deny you!” And all the disciples said the same.

³⁶ Then Jesus went with them to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to his disciples, “Sit here, while I go over there and pray.” ³⁷ And taking with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, he began to be sorrowful and troubled. ³⁸ Then he said to them, “My soul is very sorrowful, even to death; remain here, and watch with me.” ³⁹ And going a little farther he fell on his face and prayed, saying, “My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as you will.” ⁴⁰ And he came to the disciples and found them sleeping. And he said to Peter, “So, could you not watch with me one hour? ⁴¹ Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.” ⁴² Again, for the second time, he went away and prayed, “My Father, if this cannot pass unless I drink it, your will be done.” ⁴³ And again he came and found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. ⁴⁴ So, leaving them again, he went away and prayed for the third time, saying the same words again. ⁴⁵ Then he came to the disciples and said to them, “Sleep and take your rest later on. See, the hour is at hand, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴⁶ Rise, let us be going; see, my betrayer is at hand.”

⁴⁷ While he was still speaking, Judas came, one of the twelve, and with him a great crowd with swords and clubs, from the chief priests and the elders of the people. ⁴⁸ Now the betrayer had given them a sign, saying, “The one I will kiss is the man; seize him.” ⁴⁹ And he came up to Jesus at once and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” And he kissed him. ⁵⁰ Jesus said to him, “Friend, do what you came to do.” Then they came up and laid hands on Jesus and seized him. ⁵¹ And behold, one of those who were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest and cut off his ear. ⁵² Then Jesus said to him, “Put your sword back into its place. For all who take the sword will perish by the sword. ⁵³ Do you think that I cannot appeal to my Father, and he will at once send me more than twelve legions of angels? ⁵⁴ But how then should the Scriptures be fulfilled, that it must be so?” ⁵⁵ At that hour Jesus said to the crowds, “Have you come out as against a robber, with swords and clubs to capture me? Day after day I sat in the temple teaching, and you did not seize me. ⁵⁶ But all this has taken place that the Scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples left him and fled. ⁵⁷ Then those who had seized Jesus led him to Caiaphas the high priest, where the scribes and the elders had gathered. ⁵⁸ And Peter was following him at a distance, as far as the courtyard of the high priest, and going inside he sat with the guards to see the end. ⁵⁹ Now the chief priests and the

whole council were seeking false testimony against Jesus that they might put him to death,⁶⁰ but they found none, though many false witnesses came forward. At last two came forward⁶¹ and said, "This man said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God, and to rebuild it in three days.'" ⁶² And the high priest stood up and said, "Have you no answer to make? What is it that these men testify against you?" ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent. And the high priest said to him, "I adjure you by the living God, tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." ⁶⁴ Jesus said to him, "You have said so. But I tell you, from now on you will see the Son of Man seated at the right hand of Power and coming on the clouds of heaven." ⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his robes and said, "He has uttered blasphemy. What further witnesses do we need? You have now heard his blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What is your judgment?" They answered, "He deserves death." ⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him. And some slapped him, ⁶⁸ saying, "Prophecy to us, you Christ! Who is it that struck you?"

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting outside in the courtyard. And a servant girl came up to him and said, "You also were with Jesus the Galilean." ⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all, saying, "I do not know what you mean." ⁷¹ And when he went out to the entrance, another servant girl saw him, and she said to the bystanders, "This man was with Jesus of Nazareth." ⁷² And again he denied it with an oath: "I do not know the man." ⁷³ After a little while the bystanders came up and said to Peter, "Certainly you too are one of them, for your accent betrays you." ⁷⁴ Then he began to invoke a curse on himself and to swear, "I do not know the man." And immediately the rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ And Peter remembered the saying of Jesus, "Before the rooster crows, you will deny me three times." And he went out and wept bitterly.

27 When morning came, all the chief priests and the elders of the people took counsel against Jesus to put him to death. ² And they bound him and led him away and delivered him over to Pilate the governor.

³ Then when Judas, his betrayer, saw that Jesus was condemned, he changed his mind and brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and the elders, ⁴ saying, "I have sinned by betraying innocent blood." They said, "What is that to us? See to it yourself." ⁵ And throwing down the pieces of silver into the temple, he departed, and he went and hanged himself. ⁶ But the chief priests, taking the pieces of silver, said, "It is not lawful to put them into the treasury, since it is blood money." ⁷ So they took counsel and bought with them the potter's field as a burial place for strangers. ⁸ Therefore that field has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹ Then was fulfilled what had been spoken by the prophet Jeremiah, saying, "And they took the thirty pieces of silver, the price of him on whom a price had been set by some of the sons of Israel, ¹⁰ and they gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me."

¹¹ Now Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, "Are you the King of the Jews?" Jesus said, "You have said so." ¹² But when he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate said to him, "Do you not hear how many things they testify against you?" ¹⁴ But he gave him no answer, not even to a single charge, so that the governor was greatly amazed.

¹⁵ Now at the feast the governor was accustomed to release for the crowd any one prisoner whom they wanted. ¹⁶ And they had then a notorious prisoner called Barabbas. ¹⁷ So when they had gathered, Pilate said to them, "Whom do you want me to release for you: Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" ¹⁸ For he knew that it was out of envy that they had delivered him up. ¹⁹ Besides, while he was sitting on the judgment seat, his wife sent word to him, "Have nothing to do with that righteous man, for I have suffered much because of him today in a dream." ²⁰ Now the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and destroy Jesus. ²¹ The governor again said to them, "Which of the two do you want me to release for you?" And they said, "Barabbas." ²² Pilate said to them, "Then what shall I do

with Jesus who is called Christ?" They all said, "Let him be crucified!"²³ And he said, "Why? What evil has he done?" But they shouted all the more, "Let him be crucified!"

²⁴ So when Pilate saw that he was gaining nothing, but rather that a riot was beginning, he took water and washed his hands before the crowd, saying, "I am innocent of this man's blood; [□] see to it yourselves."²⁵ And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children!"

²⁶ Then he released for them Barabbas, and having scourged Jesus, delivered him to be crucified.

²⁷ Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the governor's headquarters, and they gathered the whole battalion before him. ²⁸ And they stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and twisting together a crown of thorns, they put it on his head and put a reed in his right hand. And kneeling before him, they mocked him, saying, "Hail, King of the Jews!" ³⁰ And they spit on him and took the reed and struck him on the head. ³¹ And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the robe and put his own clothes on him and led him away to crucify him.

³² As they went out, they found a man of Cyrene, Simon by name. They compelled this man to carry his cross. ³³ And when they came to a place called Golgotha (which means Place of a Skull), ³⁴ they offered him wine to drink, mixed with gall, but when he tasted it, he would not drink it. ³⁵ And when they had crucified him, they divided his garments among them by casting lots. ³⁶ Then they sat down and kept watch over him there. ³⁷ And over his head they put the charge against him, which read, "This is Jesus, the King of the Jews." ³⁸ Then two robbers were crucified with him, one on the right and one on the left. ³⁹ And those who passed by derided him, wagging their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who would destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save yourself! If you are the Son of God, come down from the cross." ⁴¹ So also the chief priests, with the scribes and elders, mocked him, saying, ⁴² "He saved others; he cannot save himself. He is the King of Israel; let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God; let God deliver him now, if he desires him. For he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ And the robbers who were crucified with him also reviled him in the same way.

⁴⁵ Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land until the ninth hour. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?" that is, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" ⁴⁷ And some of the bystanders, hearing it, said, "This man is calling Elijah." ⁴⁸ And one of them at once ran and took a sponge, filled it with sour wine, and put it on a reed and gave it to him to drink. ⁴⁹ But the others said, "Wait, let us see whether Elijah will come to save him." ⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up his spirit.

⁵¹ And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. ⁵² The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, ⁵³ and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. ⁵⁴ When the centurion and those who were with him, keeping watch over Jesus, saw the earthquake and what took place, they were filled with awe and said, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

⁵⁵ There were also many women there, looking on from a distance, who had followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to him, ⁵⁶ among whom were Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of James and Joseph and the mother of the sons of Zebedee.

⁵⁷ When it was evening, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who also was a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ He went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate ordered it to be given to him. ⁵⁹ And Joseph took the body and wrapped it in a clean linen shroud ⁶⁰ and laid it in his own new tomb, which he had cut in the rock. And he rolled a great stone to the entrance of the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were there, sitting opposite the tomb.

⁶² The next day, that is, after the day of Preparation, the chief priests and the Pharisees gathered before Pilate ⁶³ and said, "Sir, we remember how that impostor said, while he was still

alive, ‘After three days I will rise.’⁶⁴ Therefore order the tomb to be made secure until the third day, lest his disciples go and steal him away and tell the people, ‘He has risen from the dead,’ and the last fraud will be worse than the first.”⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, “You have a guard of soldiers. Go, make it as secure as you can.”⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by sealing the stone and setting a guard.

The Gospel of the Lord – **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

How Do We Walk in the Darkness?

Pastor Jim

As I was preparing the sermon for today, I came across these words, “If we take away anything new from the Passion story this year let us take away this: we can learn to walk in the darkness if we remember we that are walking in the light of God.” When I first read those words, two verses of Holy Scripture immediately came to mind. The first is from John 8:12, “*When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.’*” The second is found in I John 1:7, “*But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.*”

Today, we near the end of our Lenten Journey as we begin the Passion Week. There is no doubt in my mind that this year, we all feel the darkness. We have all been shaken by the power of sin in our world as we have been reminded that we live in a fallen and sinful world. When Adam and Eve transgressed God’s Law, sin entered the world and with sin came God’s curse – the reality of suffering and death. Not only are we spiritually dead apart from God’s grace but everything in this world dies. The flowers, the tree, the birds and the bees, and all creation suffers because of the power of sin.

This year, we are not alone. Christians all over the world are having to face the fact that the Covid-19 virus brings suffering, sickness, and death. As a result, we are all separated from each other during that time of the year when we most want to be together. As believers and followers of the risen Christ, we want to gather to worship Him, to fellowship with each other, and to display our unity as the people of God to a world walking in darkness. However, this year, we find ourselves separate from each other, sheltering-in-place in our homes. It is indeed a different time. Yet, in our present darkness we know that we still walk in the Light of our Savior who is “the light of the world” (John 8:12).

In her 2014 book, *Learning to Walk In the Dark*, Barbara Brown Taylor wrote in the closing pages, “Whether you decide to explore the dark alone or with company, your job is as simple and as hard as this: drop what you believe about the dark, or have been taught about the dark, to see for yourself what is true.”

At times, we all feel like we are groping in the dark. Many congregations find themselves groping for the reasons their efforts seem to fail. They grope for strategies that will work and become successful. They grope for avenues to increase giving and revenue. They grope for a worship style, a music style, an advertising style that will attract new members without aggravating the current members. They grope for that perfect social media presence and we too often feel like we are simply walking in the darkness.

Matthew recognized that he and those around him were walking in the darkness. Then the realization came upon them. The true Light of God entered their lives. He touched them. He was with them. The promised Christ appeared and revealed to them the power of the Gospel.

God was with them. This truth dispelled their darkness. Jesus, the Light of God, was indeed the Messiah, the promised Christ!

Their friends, families, and religious leaders said “It’s not so.” They said emphatically. “Your Jesus might be a prophet. He may be a great teacher, but he is not God’s anointed. Jesus of Nazareth is not God! He’s a fraud and you better beware. You just might find yourselves charged with blasphemy. Remember the penalty for that!”

Matthew was walking in the darkness. Yet, he taught others how to walk in the dark. He, by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, wrote the Gospel that bears his name. He created a manual for the church — a guidebook for how the church must walk in a dark world by walking in the Light of Christ’s Kingdom here and now.

So, how do we walk in the dark? The Gospel according to Matthew helps us walk in the darkness in place of groping in the darkness.

The first truth we learn is that we need to love God more than anything else in the world. This means that we need a prayer life, a worship life, a ministry life. We need to pray like our lives depend on it, because they do! We need to worship God because He alone is worthy of worship and we need to get the idols out of our lives. We need a ministry life of sharing and giving as we use our money, our energy, and our time to help meet the needs of others.

The Gospel (Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John) bears witness to the example of Christ and His followers. We learn how to have a prayer life, a worship life, a ministry life as we look at the examples, they set for us. This is especially true as we look at the disciples. They were sinners, just like you and me, and it shows! As we study the Holy Scriptures, we find men and women walking in darkness coming to the Light of Christ, embracing Him, and then walking in His light; different, changed, but still not perfect. This is the Gospel for you and me in our day. Second, we need to focus on loving our neighbor. This means looking beyond your own wants and needs. It means re-evaluating your household and church economics so that others are served here at home and around the world. This means getting the focus off ourselves and on Christ.

In our Second Lesson today we read these words, *“⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross”* [Philippians 2:5-8].

Jesus left His place in heaven to become one of us. He experienced the same things that we experience. He knew hunger and thirst. He knew loneliness and betrayal. He felt love and heartache. He felt pain and suffering. He experienced anger and joy. He experienced the power of temptation but unlike us, He never sinned. Now, that fact does not mean He does not know what we go through in life. Perhaps, in a sense, He knows even better than we do the darkness of the world.

“Then Jesus told his disciples, ‘If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me’” [Matthew 16:24]. Jesus set the standard for you and me. He showed us how we must love God and love our neighbors as ourselves.

Finally, we need to focus on our mission and purpose in life. We all have different callings, gifts, abilities, resources, likes, and passions. God created us all as different individuals but He has given to us one common mission in life. Jesus revealed God’s mission to us in His very last words spoken at the time of His ascension. At the end of Matthew’s Gospel, we read, *“¹⁸And Jesus came and said to them, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age’”* [Matthew 28:18-20].

Do you remember Jean Valjean in Les Miserables? He stole from the priest who gave him food and shelter. When he was caught, he told the police the priest had given him the silver items he'd stolen. When the police place Jean before the priest knowing he was guilty, the priest said, "But Jean, I told you, you could have these silver candlesticks as well."

Years later, a man wrongly identified as Jean Valjean was about to be executed for the real Jean Valjean's original crime (stealing bread for his sister's family). Jean faced a choice: stay silent, invisible to the law, and live — or publicly proclaim that the man they held prisoner was innocent. Jean Valjean chose a destiny in keeping with the saving grace of God shown to him by the priest. He went confessed his true identify and the man's life was saved.

When we learn to walk in the darkness, we relinquish control of our lives. When we walk in the Light of Christ, we walk as Jesus walked. We walk trusting completely and absolutely, without reservation – living by faith and not by sight [II Corinthians 5:7].

Jesus was not killed because he was called the Son of Man or Son of God. Jesus was killed because He is the Son of Man/Son of God! His words, He deeds, His actions, challenged the religious and political status-quo. Jesus was killed not because He was called the Son of God but because He lived and acted as the Son of God He was. He walked in the darkness, knowing He was the Light of God.

It's time we learned to walk in the dark. Learning to walk in the dark means loving God more than anybody or anything else in the world. Learning to walk in the dark means loving our neighbors as ourselves. Learning to walk in the dark means remembering why we are here, our purpose and goal in life, to serve Him who gave Himself for us. None of these things we do alone. We do them all with the help of God and we do them together even when we are separated for a time by the darkness of this world. We continue to walk in His Light. Thanks be to God!

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth,

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit,

And born of the virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again 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!

PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always – **and also with you.**

THE PRAYERS

L The Lenten journey leads us to repentance and new life. Let us turn our hearts to God, who is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Therefore, in peace let us pray, Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

L For the gift of divine forgiveness and pardon of all our sin, rejoicing in the blessings of the God, Lord in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**
L For the holy Christian Church, here and scattered throughout the world, and for the proclamation of the Gospel and the calling of all to faith, Lord in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
L For this nation, for our cities and communities, and for the common welfare of us all:
Lord in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
L For those who labor, for those whose work is difficult or dangerous, and for all who travel, Lord in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
L For all those in need, for the hungry and the homeless, for the widowed and the orphaned, and for all those in prison, Lord in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
L For the sick and the dying and for all who care for them, Lord in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
L For all doctors, nurses, medical personnel; for all scientists and government officials, and for all who labour to combat the Corvid-19 virus; for all who suffer from the virus, Lord in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
L For the ministries of all who partner with us in the worship and work of the Gospel. Lord in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
L Finally, for these and for all our needs of body and soul, Lord in Your mercy,
C **hear our prayer.**
L Merciful and gracious God, hear our prayers, restore us to the joy of Your salvation, and uphold us with Your Holy Spirit, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L As our Saviour taught us, we are bold to pray:
C **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.

THE BLESSING

The Lord bless us and keep us.
The Lord make His face to shine on us and be gracious to us.
The Lord loo upon us with favour and give us His peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Let us go forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.
Thanks be to God!