

CHRISTUS VICTOR LUTHERAN CHURCH
OCEAN SPRINGS, MISSISSIPPI

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

Service of the Word (*livestream*)



GATHERING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God,
who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist.

Amen.

If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Gracious God,
have mercy on us.
We confess that we have turned away from you,
knowingly and unknowingly.
We have wandered from your resurrection life.
We have strayed from your love for all people.
Turn us back to you, O God.
Give us new hearts and right spirits,
that we may find what is pleasing to you
and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Receive good news: God turns to you in love.
“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.
All your sin is forgiven in the name of † Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.
Amen.

GREETING & PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.

Let us pray: Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

WORD

[Click here for the full text of this Sunday's readings](#)

PSALM *Psalm 23*

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

**The Lord makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.**

You restore my soul, O Lord,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

**Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.**

You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

**Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.**

GOSPEL *John 9:1-41 (abridged to verses 1-7)*

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

As [Jesus] walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. His disciples asked him, 'Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?' Jesus answered, 'Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God's works might be revealed in him. We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.' When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man's eyes, saying to him, 'Go, wash in the pool of Siloam' (which means Sent). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

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

SERMON

APOSTLES' CREED

**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 OF INTERCESSION

[Click here for the full text of this Sunday's prayers, written by the Lutheran World Federation specifically for the spread of COVID-19.](#)

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

After each petition ending, "Hear our cry, O God," the assembly responds:

Listen to our prayer.

. . . Remember all your family, the entire human race, and all your creation, in your love.

Amen.

PEACE

THANKSGIVING

OFFERING

In these uncertain times, the world needs the church's witness to the Gospel more than ever.

Since we will not physically gather for a while, please remember that it is because of your faithful generosity that this congregation is able to continue to carry out its ministry of sharing God's love with our community. This ministry is our shared ministry, together! We encourage you, as you (and your family) are able, to mail your offerings to the church office or give online at christusvictor.com/giving.

Thank you for anything you can do!

OFFERING PRAYER

Holy and generous host, even in separation,
you gather us across time and space.

Prepare us to witness to your goodness
with every gift you have given us to share,
that all people may know your peace
through Jesus Christ, now and forever.

Amen.

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD

Praise and thanks to you, holy God, for by your Word you made all things: you spoke light into darkness, called forth beauty from chaos, and brought life into being.

For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

By your Word you called your people Israel to tell of your wonderful gifts: freedom from captivity, water on the desert journey, a pathway home from exile, wisdom for life with you.

For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Through Jesus, your Word made flesh, you speak to us and call us to witness: forgiveness through the cross, life to those entombed by death, the way of your self-giving love.

For your Word of life, O God, **we give you thanks and praise.**

Send your Spirit of truth, O God; rekindle your gifts within us: renew our faith, increase our hope, and deepen our love, for the sake of a world in need.

Faithful to your Word, O God, draw near to all who call on you; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory 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.

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

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

Amen.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Christ is with you.

Thanks be to God.



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LUTHERAN CHURCH

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A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America