



Ash Wednesday - February 17, 2021

Gathering Hymn *O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days* ELW 319

O Lord, throughout these forty days you prayed and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin, and free us from our past.

You strove with Satan, and you won; your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve, your skill, and trust in God's eternal word.

Though parched and hungry, yet you prayed and fixed your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves that we may know God's love.

Be with us through this season, Lord, and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns, we join in heaven's praise.

Welcome and Announcements

Exhortation

P Brothers and sisters: God created us to experience joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all of his creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. Also, by our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the discipline of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

Confession

P Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most holy and merciful God,

C we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

P We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.

C Have mercy on us, O God.

P Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

P Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the ✝ Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C Amen.

Greeting

P From our God who loves us with an everlasting love, who brings forth a new creation in Christ, who leads us by the Spirit in the wilderness: Grace and abundant mercy be with you all.

C And also with you.

The Lessons

Isaiah 58:1-10

Psalms 51:1-5, 10-13

The Gospel

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21 NT p.5

The Sermon

Pastor Cyndi Jones

Hymn of the Day *Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling ELW 608*

Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling, calling for you and for me.
See, on the portals he's waiting and watching, watching for you and for me.

Refrain: "Come home, (Come home,) come home! (come home!)
You who are weary, come home."

Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling, calling, "O sinner, come home!"

Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading, pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not his mercies, mercies for you and for me? *Refrain*

Oh, for the wonderful love he has promised, promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, he has mercy and pardon, pardon for you and for me. *Refrain*

The Prayers

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

A brief silence

Each petition ends.....Lord, in your mercy, **C hear our prayer**

at the conclusion of the prayers: **C Amen.**

The Peace

*While we cannot share the peace in person,
we live each day knowing the gift of God's abundant peace is with us always.*

Lord's Prayer

C Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

Blessing

P Merciful God, accompany our journey through these forty days. Renew us in the gift of baptism, that we may provide for those who are poor, pray for those in need, fast from self-indulgence, and above all that we may find our treasure in the life of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C Thanks be to God.

Sending Hymn

Abide With Me - ELW 629

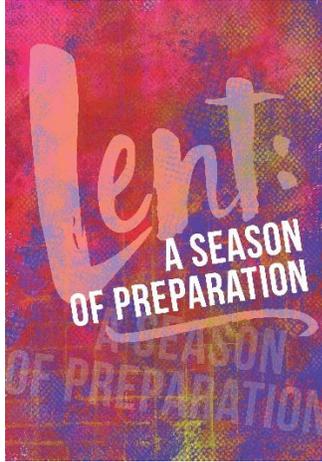
Abide with me, fast falls the eventide. The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee, help of the helpless, oh, abide with me.

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day; earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
change and decay in all around I see; O thou who changest not, abide with me.

I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour; what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be? Through cloud and sunshine, oh, abide with me.

I fear no foe, with thee at hand to bless; ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory? I triumph still, if thou abide with me!

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes, shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies;
heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee; in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.



Serving Us Today

Pastor Jonathan Doolittle, Liturgist
Pastor Cyndi Jones, Preacher
Dr. Steven Gray, Organist and Director of Music
AV Technician. Eddie McCoven
Vocalist, Angela Jackson

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days, Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930
Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Softly and Tenderly Jesus is Calling, Text: Will L. Thompson, 1847-1909

Abide with Me, Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847

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