

4th Sunday in Lent

03/10/2024

Greg Fetzner, Pastor

J.V. Trautwein, Pastor Emeritus

PRELUDE

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand, as you are able.

P In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen**

P Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C **Amen**

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C **we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen**

P Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen

GATHERING HYMN: [ELW#527 "Lord Jesus Christ, Be Present Now"](#)

P The grace of Jesus Christ our Savior, the reconciling love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.



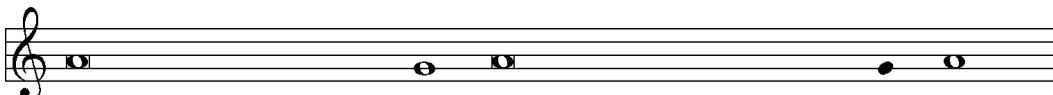
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **C** Lord, have mer - cy.



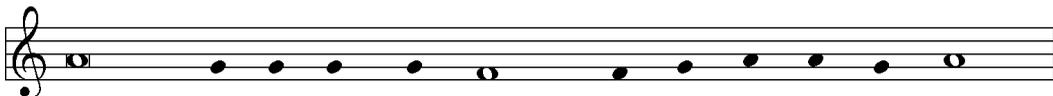
A For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal-va-tion, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



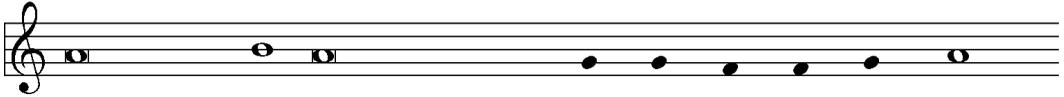
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the u - ni - ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor - ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra-cious Lord. **G** A - men

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray. O God, you show forth your almighty power chiefly by reaching out to us in mercy. Grant us the fullness of your grace, strengthen our trust in your promises, and bring all the world to share in the treasures that come through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

C **Amen**

Please be seated.

PSALM 119:1-8

L ¹Happy are they whose way is blameless, who follow the teaching of the Lord!

C ²**Happy are they who observe your decrees and seek you with all their hearts,**

L ³who never do any wrong, but always walk in your ways.

C ⁴**You laid down your commandments, that we should fully keep them.**

L ⁵Oh, that my ways were made so direct that I might keep your statutes!

C ⁶**Then I should not be put to shame, when I regard all your commandments.**

L ⁷I will thank you with a true heart, when I have learned your righteous judgments.

C ⁸**I will keep your statutes; do not utterly forsake me.**

MARK 12:28-44

L A reading from Mark: ²⁸One of the scribes came near and heard [Jesus and the Sadducees] disputing with one another, and seeing that [Jesus] answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?" ²⁹Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; ³⁰you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' ³¹The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." ³²Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; ³³and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' —this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." ³⁴When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

³⁵While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? ³⁶David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared, 'The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.'" ³⁷David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?" And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

³⁸As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, ³⁹and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! ⁴⁰They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

⁴¹He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. ⁴²A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. ⁴³Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. ⁴⁴For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

- L The word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN OF THE DAY: [ELW#337 "Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed"](#)

SERMON: ([Sermon Audio Link](#))

Please stand, as you are able.

- P Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.
C **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 and the Son, 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

Offering*: ([On-Line giving Link](#))

The Offering is received and is presented at the altar.

C Cre-ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re-new a right spir -
 it with-in me. Cast me not a-way from your pres-ence, and take
 not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re-store to me the
 joy of your sal-va - tion, and up-hold me with your free Spir - it.

- L Trusting in God’s promise to reconcile all things, let us pray for the church, the well-being of creation, and a world in need.

A brief silence.

- L Gracious God, your love unites. Give vision to the global church and foster cooperation in mission. Increase inter-religious understanding and ecumenical dialog. Make your church a sanctuary for all fleeing persecution, disaster, and war. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- L Creating God, your love enlivens. Restore balance to the earth’s fragile habitats. Preserve wilderness lands, rainforests, and wildlife. Cleanse oceans and rivers. Make us good stewards of the earth. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**
- L Righteous God, your love liberates. We give thanks for those who courageously witness to your liberating love. Free all people from the evils of racism, religious strife, and hatred. Hear us, O God.
- C Your mercy is great.**

L Merciful God, your love heals. Strengthen health care workers, first responders, and caregivers. Relieve all who live with chronic illness and pain. We pray for Heidi Brackbill, Parker Brennan, Rebecca Brennan, the Elshafei family, Alexis Erdman, Samantha Erdman, Jeff Fultz, Mary Goehring, Bob Hardy, Mark Hughes, the Johnson family, Robert Karner, Charles Larsen, Charlotte Leer, the McNamara family, Donna Mayhew, Wendy Neumann, Julie Obie, Peter Olsen, Brenda Penyak, Dottie Reitz, Robert Reitz, Claudia Schober, D. J. Singer, Jack Smith, MaKenzie Snyder, the Spiegel family, Chuck Trautwein, Esther Trautwein, Rich Wohkittel, and Pastor Jack. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L Incarnate God, your love enlightens. Open our hearts and minds to fresh understandings of our faith. Deepen our love for you and for one another. Teach us to pray for our enemies. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L Abiding God, your love saves. Those who died in the faith are made alive in Christ. We give thanks for your promise that we also will be raised to newness of life. Hear us, O God.

C **Your mercy is great.**

L Accompany us on our journey, God of grace, and receive the prayers of our hearts, through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C **Amen**

P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us 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**

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.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN: [ELW#502 "The King of Love My Shepherd Is"](#)

P Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

*Offering to be sent to
Robert Brackbill
10274 Raleigh Tavern Lane
Ellicott City, MD 21042

Epiphany Lutheran Church
9122 Sybert Drive
Columbia Hills
Ellicott City, MD 21043
<https://www.epiphanylutherancolumbia.org>

Please note that you now have the opportunity of online giving with the link found after the offering designation or here: https://tithe.ly/give_new/www/#/tithely/give-one-time/2627291



**If you are interested in purchasing an Easter Lily
please contact Deb Fultz. The cost is \$10 each.**

**Join us on Wednesdays in Lent at 6pm
for a Soup and Bread Supper and Lenten discussion.**



Upcoming Narrative Lectionary Texts

March 17	Lent 5	Mark 13:1-8, 24-37
March 24	Palm Sunday	Mark 11:1-11 and Mark 14:3-9
March 28	Holy Week	Mark 14:22-42, 15:16-39
March 31	Easter	Mark 16:1-8
April 7	2 Easter	Acts 1:1-14
April 14	3 Easter	Acts 3:1-10
April 21	4 Easter	Acts 17:1-9 1 Thess. 1:1-10
April 28	5 Easter	Acts 18:1-4 1 Cor 1:10-18
May 5	6 Easter	1 Cor 13:1-13
May 12	7 Easter	1 Cor 15:1-26, 51-57
May 19	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-4; 1 Cor 12:1-13

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