

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 22, 2020 – Online Worship Service

Congregation parts are printed in **bold**.

Thank you to Jenni Lathrop for managing our FacebookLive comments and responses and to Paul Lathrop for providing the audio and video support for this worship service.

GATHERING

PRELUDE

WELCOME AND GREETING

GATHERING HYMN

Jesu, Jesu, Fill Us With Your Love

Ruth Bills, Musician
ELW Red Hymnal 708

Refrain ***Jesu, Jesu, fill us with your love,
show us how to serve
the neighbors we have from you.***

- 1** Kneels at the feet of his friends,
silently washes their feet,
master who acts as a slave to them. *Refrain*
- 2** Neighbors are wealthy and poor,
varied in color and race,
neighbors are near us and far away. *Refrain*
- 3** These are the ones we will serve,
these are the ones we will love;
all these are neighbors to us and you. *Refrain*
- 4** Kneel at the feet of our friends,
silently washing their feet:
this is the way we will live with you. *Refrain*

Text: Tom Colvin, 1925-2000, alt.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Lord of love, you have taught us that love is your greatest commandment. In this time of isolation, as we weather a pandemic, help us to know and experience your love in new and powerful ways. Likewise, empower us to love our neighbor – especially those who are most isolated or in need - by whatever means are available to us. Let us rejoice that the love that comes from you, and is embodied in us, will find a way! In Jesus' name,

C: **Amen.**

WORD

FIRST READING

Psalm 89:1-4

I will sing of your steadfast love, O Lord, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to all generations.
I declare that your steadfast love is established for ever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

You said, 'I have made a covenant with my chosen one,
I have sworn to my servant David:
"I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations." '

L: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

GOSPEL READING

Mark 12:28-44

P: Hear now the Holy Gospel according to Mark, the twelfth chapter:

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, 'Which commandment is the first of all?' Jesus answered, 'The first is, "Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you

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.” The second is this, “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater than these.’ Then the scribe said to him, ‘You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that “he is one, and besides him there is no other”; and “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.’ When 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.

While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, ‘How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? David 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.’ ” David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?’ And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

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

He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then 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. For 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.’

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Pr. John Strommen, Preacher

MEAL

ABOUT COMMUNION TODAY

As you have already been made aware, we are inviting you to administer communion at home this morning. The church has always acknowledged the importance of lay members administering the sacrament in extraordinary times. In addition, as Martin Luther made clear, the power of the sacrament is in the words of institution, not the one who administers or says these words. So, any of God's children who believe in Christ as their savior can consecrate the elements under the right circumstances. And these are the right circumstances!

So, in advance of Sunday morning as the service unfolds, first appoint a member of your family or household to be the celebrant (what we call the one who says the words of institution) and serve the Lord's Supper. If you are alone, don't worry! You are a part of a very large family. I will say the words for you, and you can commune yourself.

Before the service, make sure:

- *Your hands are clean.*
- *There is bread on hand on a small plate. You may put a cloth or napkin on top if you like.*
- *There is wine or grape juice ready (or some other beverage if wine or grape juice is not available).*
- *That you have small glasses of some kind to drink from. The wine can either be poured ahead of time or at the time of serving.*
- *If you have a goblet (what we call chalice in church) of some kind, you could have that present to raise up during the words of institution.*
- *Someone there will serve the server.*
- *Don't worry if it doesn't go perfectly! Remember what the meal means: God's grace for imperfect people.*

If any of you are uncomfortable saying the words and consecrating the elements yourself, I will say them live and be your celebrant.

If you do have your own celebrant to say the words yourselves and serve communion at home, just wait until I am done with the words and the Lord's Prayer, then go ahead at my prompting and do the words of institution, etc.

Don't worry, I will coach you as we go!

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.
Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.', 'Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.', 'Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.', and 'It is right to give our thanks and praise.'

HOLY, HOLY

ELW, Setting Four

Red Hymnal p 153

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. Each staff contains a melody line with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: 'Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,', 'heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.', 'Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes', and 'in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.'

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

L: Let us pray as Jesus taught us:

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.**

RECEIVING THE MEAL

For those who are doing the consecrating at home, AT THIS TIME you can now do the words of institution, followed by the Lord's Prayer. As you do the words of institution, you can hold up the appropriate element – the bread and the goblet or cup - if you wish (but it's not necessary).

LAMB OF GOD

ELW, Setting Four

Red Hymnal p 154



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

BLESSING

P: May the body and blood of our crucified and risen Lord strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: **Amen.**

P: And now let us respond to the receiving of God's gifts to us by offering our gifts and our prayers to God.

RESPONDING

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

We will do the prayers like we normally do, where you can offer petitions. some of you have already sent prayers by email. I will read those first. those who want to respond live may do so, and I'll read those also.

P: Let us now enter into a conversation with the living God by offering up what is on our hearts and minds. We begin by praying for those among us who suffer in body, mind, or spirit, especially for Gerry, Kathy, Glenn, Peggy, Charles, Dick, Robert, the family of Beth, and the family of Joyce.

P: Lord, in your mercy,

C: **hear our prayer.**

Individual petitions from the congregation, silent and spoken, personal and global, are invited. If spoken, end with the words: Lord, in your mercy,

P: Into your hands we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy and in your grace.

C: **Amen.**

SENDING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FINAL BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace, in the name of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit,

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Healer of Our Every Ill

ELW Red Hymnal 612

*Refrain Healer of our ev'ry ill, light of each tomorrow,
give us peace beyond our fear, and hope beyond our sorrow.*

1 You who know our fears and sadness,
grace us with your peace and gladness;
Spirit of all comfort, fill our hearts. *Refrain*

3 Give us strength to love each other,
ev'ry sister, ev'ry brother;
Spirit of all kindness, be our guide. *Refrain*

Text: Marty Haugen, b. 1950

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Dismissal

L: Go in peace, serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!