

# The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Livermore, CA

March 22, 2020

## Invocation

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m The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

## Confession of Sins

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m We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C **Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.**

## Absolution

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m God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child! May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C **Amen!**

## Prayer of the Day

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m Let us pray.

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen**

# The Word

## First Lesson

Hosea 5:15-6:3 | EHV

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<sup>5</sup>“I will go. I will return to my place until they are judged guilty,  
and they seek my face in their distress.

They will seek me eagerly.”

<sup>6a</sup>Come, let us return to the LORD.

He himself has torn us,  
but he will heal us.

He is wounding us,  
but he will bandage us.

<sup>3</sup>He will restore us to life after two days.  
On the third day he will raise us so that we may live before him.

<sup>3</sup>We will know.

We will pursue knowledge of the LORD.  
His coming forth is as sure as the coming of dawn.  
He comes to us like the rain,  
like the spring rain that waters the earth.

## Psalm of the Day

Psalms 42 & 43 | page 82, Red Hymnal

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**Refrain: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord**

C As the deer pants for streams of water,\*  
so my soul pants for you, O God.

C My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.\*  
Where can I go and meet with God?

C Why are you downcast, O my soul?\*  
Why so disturbed within me?

C Put your hope in God,\*  
for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

**Refrain: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord**

C Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me;\*  
let them bring me to the place where you dwell.

C Then will I go to the altar of God, my joy and my delight.\*  
I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

C *Glory be 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.*

**Refrain: Blessed are they who hope, who hope in the Lord**

So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. <sup>2</sup>For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. <sup>3</sup>Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, <sup>4</sup>so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

<sup>5</sup>To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. <sup>6</sup>Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. <sup>7</sup>For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. <sup>8</sup>Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

<sup>9</sup>But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. <sup>10</sup>But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

## Gospel

Matthew 20:17-28 | EHV

<sup>17</sup>As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside; and on the way he said to them, <sup>18</sup>"Look, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and experts in the law, and they will condemn him to death. <sup>19</sup>They will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock, flog, and crucify him. On the third day he will be raised."

<sup>20</sup>Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to him with her sons, kneeling and asking something of him. <sup>21</sup>He said to her, "What do you want?"

She said to him, "Promise that in your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on your right hand and one on your left hand."

<sup>22</sup>But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?"

They said to him, "We are."

<sup>23</sup>He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not for me to give; rather these places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

<sup>24</sup>When the ten heard this, they were angry with the two brothers.

<sup>25</sup>But Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. <sup>26</sup>It will not be that way among you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, <sup>27</sup>and whoever wants to be first among you will be your slave— <sup>28</sup>just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

*Following the lessons, the minister and the congregation respond:*

m All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.

C **By his wounds, we are healed.**

## Apostles' Creed

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**C I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead.  
He ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From there he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Christian Church  
the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

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## Sermon

Romans 8:1-10

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### The Christian is Free

**I. ...thanks to Jesus' service.**

**II. ...to serve Jesus in thanks.**

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### Responsive Prayer of the Church for Lent

*The Prayer of the Church is spoken responsively with the congregation.*

- m** Heavenly Father, you loved the world and gave your Son to liberate us from sin and death by his obedient death on the cross.
- c** **We confess that without your love we are lost.**
- m** Lord of the Church, we thank you for the treasure of the gospel. By your Spirit, keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.
- c** **Strengthen our determination to do what pleases you, no matter what the danger or the cost.**
- m** Let us pray for those who carry a cross in the name of Christ and face ridicule and persecution for the sake of the kingdom: missionaries and chaplains, young people who stand up for what is right in the face of pressure to do what is wrong, and all who pay a high price for their faith and their values as Christians.
- c** **By your Spirit, O Lord, grant them patience and endurance.**
- m** Let us pray for those who carry heavy burdens in life: the sick and the chronically ill, the depressed and the lonely, those torn by conflict in personal relationships, those victimized by war and injustice, and all who face the terrors of life with a heavy heart.
- c** **Grant them peace, O Lord, and in your mercy, be their guardian and friend, their comfort and hope.**

m Let us pray for those who care for others: pastors and counselors; physicians and nurses; social workers and caring friends; all who feed the hungry, comfort the hurting, and stand beside the dying.

c **Strengthen them in their work, O Lord, and do not let them become weary in doing good.**

*Special prayers and intercessions may follow.*

m Hear us, Lord, as we bring you our private petitions.

*Silent prayer.*

m Help us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Keep us faithful even to the point of death, that we may receive the crown of life, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

c **Amen.**

## **The Lord's Prayer**

*Traditional Version*

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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.**

## **Benediction**

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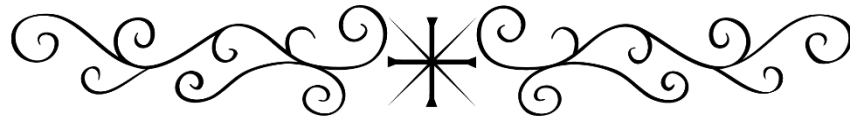
m Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

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

C **Amen**



Thank you for joining us for our service today. Due to the COVID-19 novel coronavirus, and in order to comply with the Alameda County Public Health order, there will be no gatherings at church through April 8. The next currently scheduled services are Maundy Thursday, April 9, at 7pm; Good Friday, April 10 at 7pm, and Easter Sunday, April 12, at 9am and 11am.

Pastor Natsis is available for spiritual care over the phone or e-mail (or in the case of emergency, in-person). Cell phone: 734-678-4475; parsonage phone: 925-583-5822; e-mail address: [mattnatsis@gmail.com](mailto:mattnatsis@gmail.com)

For further updates about our service schedule, see our website at [www.goodshepherd-livermore.org](http://www.goodshepherd-livermore.org).

God bless you during this time.