

St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church

4th Sunday in Lent, March 22nd, 2020

*Congregation responses are in **bold italic** type.*

+ Congregation stands

Welcome and announcements

+Call to Worship

Come home.

Come to the place of healing.

Come, let your thirst be quenched.

Come to God's embrace.

Come, let your heart be blessed.

Come home.

Find yourself loved.

Discover a life to be lived and a song to be sung.

Amen

+Prayer of the Day

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.

+Holy Gospel

Gospel: John 9:1-41

The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 9th chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

(The Gospel is read...)

This is 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

The prayers are prepared locally for each occasion. The following examples may be adapted or used as appropriate. Each petition ends with the words, "We pray. Lord hear our prayer."

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

A brief silence.

For all health care workers who are tired, overworked, and washing their hands so much their hands are raw.... We pray.

Lord hear our prayer.

For parents who are struggling to find someone to watch their kids who are out of school, knowing that if they don't go to work, they won't be able to pay the bills, we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For children who are trying to understand what is happening, feeling their parent's stress, we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For teachers who are desperately strategizing ways to keep their students on a learning path, while not stressing the system or the school budgets, we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those small businesses who have had to close and for all their employees, we ask for peace, for understanding, for help to pay the bills... we pray

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those working in the grocery stores, who are stocking shelves and who are moving as quickly as they can, who cannot keep a healthy social distance, we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For cleaning staff in schools, hospitals, factories, warehouses, who are doing their best to meet greater cleaning standards, while not running out of supplies, we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For caregivers who are dedicated to those they care for, while worrying about their families at home, we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For the immuno-compromised who are trying to stay safe, in clean environments, we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who may have been exposed to this virus and are waiting for test results, we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For those who have been infected by this virus and are fighting this disease, we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

For all of us who feel confused and frightened and are trying to hang on, we pray.

Lord, hear our prayer.

According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Now let us pray together the prayer Jesus taught us...

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

Now is the acceptable time.

Now is the day of salvation.

Holy God,

speaking, spoken, and inspiring,

✝ bless you, unbind you,

and send you in love and in peace.

Amen.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Share the good news.

Thanks be to God.