



Journeying to the Cross

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 14, 2021

Rich Man and Lazarus

Change comes from within.

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Prelude

"There's a Wideness in God's Mercy"

Announcements

Call to Worship

**Return to God with all your heart, the source of grace and mercy;
Come seek the tender faithfulness of God.**

**Now the time of grace has come, the day of salvation;
come and learn now the way of our God. (Refrain)**

Confession & Forgiveness

In this holy season of Lent, we are mindful that we are tempted on our journeys and on our own, our only destination is death. In our journey we choose trails of deceit, self-centeredness and blindness to our neighbor in need. We confess our sin that leads us away and separates us from God and one another...

Gracious God,

have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may journey with you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.

Christ journeys with us and through Christ's life, death, and resurrection we are forgiven. Siblings in Christ, let us journey together, forgiven and freed for the life we know in Christ. **Amen.**

Opening Song

Come As You Are

**Come out of sadness from wherever you've been
Come broken-hearted let rescue begin
Come find your mercy O sinner come kneel
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't heal**

Chorus

**(So) Lay down your burdens lay down your shame
All who are broken lift up your face
O wanderer come home
You're not too far
So lay down your hurt lay down your heart
Come as you are**

**There's hope for the hopeless
And all those who've strayed
Come sit at the table come taste the grace
There's rest for the weary
Rest that endures
Earth has no sorrow that Heaven can't cure** *Chorus*

Prayer of the Day

Merciful God, You care deeply for those who are in need. May we be your hands and heart as we go about your work of serving the poor, hungry and disadvantaged, feeding our souls on kindness and love. **Amen.**

God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song

Nothing external could change the hearts and minds of the rich man or his brothers as they selfishly ignored the needs of those around them. Change comes from within.

Invitation to the Word

You set your face toward Jerusalem for our sake,
come to us now in the proclamation of your word.

Scripture Reading

Luke 16:19-31

¹⁹“There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.’ ²⁵But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. ²⁶Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.’ ²⁷He said, ‘Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house—²⁸for I have five brothers—that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.’ ²⁹Abraham replied, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.’ ³⁰He said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ ³¹He said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.’

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Message

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

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need.

A brief silence.

If we do not show love, we cannot know the abundant life which you desire for us. Touch our hearts with mercy that we might also be merciful.

Compassionate God, **Hear our prayer.**

So much of the world suffers for lack of basic needs. Lead us to demand more equitable systems of resource use and distribution, that none may be in need.

Compassionate God, **Hear our prayer.**

Polar ice is melting faster than we can mend this broken planet, O Lord. Give us wisdom to deal with the challenges ahead and find new ways of living and thriving along with your creation.

Compassionate God, **Hear our prayer.**

Be with those who suffer from diseases related to malnutrition as well as those with various eating disorders. Feed us on your grace and bring us into wholeness with our bodies and our souls. Send your healing Spirit to...

Compassionate God, **Hear our prayer.**

Comfort those whose hearts are broken at the loss of those they love. Assure us that you hold all the departed in your eternal love and that we will see them again when our time on earth is done.

Compassionate God, **Hear our prayer.**

Other petitions may be offered.

You hear all your children's prayers and gather the lost into your loving arms. Teach us to put our trust in you, and in our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Offering Prayer

Holy God, gracious and merciful, you bring forth food from the earth and nourish your whole creation. As our congregation gathers food and necessities for the Action Center during this Lenten season, turn our hearts toward those who hunger in any way, that all may know your care. Through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

**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.**

Abundant Living Gratitude Moment

- Missions

Larry Bradsby, Susan Linner

Sharing God's Peace

May the peace of the Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

Blessing

With Christ's face set towards Jerusalem, may you be blessed with God's faithfulness, mercy and love for the journey ahead of us. **Amen.**

Sending Song

Take My Life, That I May Be

Red ELW 685

**Take my life, that I may be
consecrated, Lord, to thee;
take my moments and my days;
let them flow in ceaseless praise.**

**Take my hands and let them move
at the impulse of thy love;
take my feet and let them be
swift and beautiful for thee.**

**Take my voice and let me sing
always, only, for my King;
take my lips and let them be
filled with messages from thee.**

**Take my love; my Lord, I pour
at thy feet its treasure store;
take myself, and I will be
ever, only, all for thee.**

Sending

Go in peace as you continue your journey with Christ.

Postlude

"God Be in My Head"



Participants

- Pastors: Courtney Steitz, Michael TeKrony
- Prelude: Jordan Ortman
- Assisting Minister: Jackie TeKrony
- Liturgy leaders: Judy Ekberg, Bryan Bennett, Wally Settgast, Gloria Lloyd
- Opening Song: Diane Klinkerfues
- Closing Song: Scott Ikenberry, Amy Evancheck, Louise Powelson, Melinda Powelson, Megan Hausman, Donna & Mike Madsen, Susie DiPaolo, Barb Hessel, Linda TeKrony, Eric Kurtz, Brenda Gleason, John Reed, Paul Thomas, Dianne Schulte, Jordan Ortman
- Postlude: Wartburg College
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