

# 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020



*A Journey through*

**WILDERNESS & DEATH**

*for the sake of Life*

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*The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God*

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*You are invited to light a candle  
as we prepare our hearts and minds for worship.*



## Welcome

Together, we gather with God the Father, † Son and Holy Spirit.

Together, we gather on our shared journey through the wilderness and death, for the sake of Life.

## Confession & Forgiveness

In this holy season of Lent, we are mindful that we are tempted in our wilderness and on our own, our only destination is death. In our wilderness 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 find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

Christ journeys with us through the wilderness and death and with Christ we are forgiven. Sisters and Brothers in Christ, rise together in our wilderness, forgiven and freed for the life we know in Christ. Freed to proclaim this Good News to others in the wilderness, for the sake of Life. And all God's children say, **Amen.**

God, whose almighty word chaos and darkness heard  
and took their flight:  
hear us, we humbly pray, and where the gospel day  
sheds not its glorious ray,  
let there be light.

Christ, who once came to bring, on your redeeming wing,  
healing and sight;  
health to the troubled mind, sight where illusions blind;  
oh, now to humankind  
let there be light.

Holy and blessed three, glorious Trinity,  
Wisdom, Love, Might:  
boundless as ocean's tide, rolling in fullest pride,  
through the earth, far and wide,  
let there be light.

## 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.**

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*God speaks to us in scripture, preaching & song*

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## Scripture Readings

### **Ephesians 5:8-14**

<sup>8</sup>Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. Live as children of light—  
<sup>9</sup>for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true. <sup>10</sup>Try to find out  
what is pleasing to the Lord. <sup>11</sup>Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but  
instead expose them. <sup>12</sup>For it is shameful even to mention what such people do  
secretly; <sup>13</sup>but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, <sup>14</sup>for everything that  
becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

“Sleeper, awake!

Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”

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

## Psalm 23

The LORD is my shepherd, I shall not want.  
He makes me lie down in green pastures;  
he leads me beside still waters; he restores my soul.  
He leads me in right paths for his name's sake.  
Even though I walk through the darkest valley,  
I fear no evil; for you are with me;  
your rod and your staff— they comfort me.  
You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;  
you anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.  
Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,  
and I shall dwell in the house of the LORD my whole life long.

## Message

### Prayers of the People

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

Lord, in your mercy, **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.**

### Proclamation of Faith

**We are not alone, we live in God's world.**

**We believe in God: who has created and is creating,  
who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh,  
to reconcile and make new,  
who works in us and others by the Spirit.**

**We trust in God.**

**We are called to be the Church:**

**to celebrate God's presence, to live with respect in creation,  
to love and serve others, to seek justice and resist evil,  
to proclaim Jesus, crucified and risen,  
our judge and our hope.**

**In life, in death, in life beyond death, God is with us.**

**We are not alone. Thanks be to God!**

### Sharing God's Peace

The peace of God be with you always. **And also with you.**

## 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.

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*God blesses us and sends us out in mission to the world*

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## Blessing

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.**

## Sending Song

Be Thou My Vision

Red ELW 793 vv. 1,3,4

Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart;  
naught be all else to me, save that thou art:  
thou my best thought both by day and by night,  
waking or sleeping, thy presence my light.

Riches I heed not, nor vain, empty praise,  
thou mine inheritance, now and always:  
thou and thou only, the first in my heart,  
great God of heaven, my treasure thou art.

Light of my soul, after victory won,  
may I reach heaven's joys, O heaven's Sun! |  
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,  
still be my vision, O Ruler of all.

## Sending

Be at peace. Rest in the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**