



THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

MARCH 22, 2020

LITURGY OF THE WORD AND PRAYERS

Prelude

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be the God of our salvation:

Who bears our burdens and forgives our sins.

If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. —1 John 1:8, 9

Collect of the Day

God be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Gracious Father, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ came down from heaven to be the true bread which gives life to the world: Evermore give us this bread, that he may live in us, and we in him; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Gospel Matthew 6:25-34

The Holy Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ according to Matthew.

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

Jesus said, "I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life? And why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow; they neither toil nor spin, yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these. But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will he not much more clothe you—you of little faith? Therefore do not worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. "So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today's trouble is enough for today."

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Homily & Reflections The Rev. Ledlie I. Laughlin

A period of silence will be observed after the sermon.

Hymn 711

Seek ye first the kingdom of God

Seek Ye First

Seek ye first the kingdom of God and its righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you; Allelu, alleluia!

Refrain Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! Allelu, alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you, seek, and ye shall find,
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you; Allelu, alleluia! *Refrain*

Prayers of the People

Intercessor Loving God, in this season of penitence, help us to die to the ways of the world so we may accept the life of your kingdom. We turn to you in faith, and offer our prayers to your grace, saying: God, have mercy.

For wisdom and clarity for the candidates and our search committee as we seek to call a new Head of the Nursery School to help us grow in faith, and for the whole church, that our Lenten hunger may be for justice, and our thirst for deeds of righteousness, we pray: **God, have mercy.**

For those to be baptized at Easter, that they may be drawn to the folly of God's love revealed in the cross, we pray: **God, have mercy.**

For our President and Congress, and for our divided and restless world, that those who hold power over others may be troubled and transformed by the demands of justice, we pray: **God, have mercy.**

For all who experience want or loneliness, that God may turn our hearts toward one another and help us share the abundance God has given, we pray: **God, have mercy.**

For all who suffer under the specter of COVID-19, for the fearful and the anxious, and for all among us seeking any kind of healing and relief, especially . . . and those we name now, either silently or aloud . . . , that God's holy presence will surround them, we pray: **God, have mercy.**

For all who have died, especially . . . and those we name now, either silently or aloud . . . , that they may be at peace, we pray: **God, have mercy.**

For all the blessings of this life, especially . . . and those blessings we name now, silently or aloud . . .
For these and all your gifts, O God: **We praise your Name for ever and ever.**

Presider Grant, O God, that the prayers we offer today may be your channel for new and abundant life through faithful word and deed; through our Mediator and Advocate, Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Blessing

The People respond **Amen.**

Dismissal

The People respond **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

The Holy Spirit inspires us to give generously, to extend Christ's mission in this place and the wider world. Please visit www.onrealm.org/columba/-/give/now to make your offering, or you can text to give using your phone. Text "SCEC" to 73256 and you will receive a return text with instructions.

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Join us this week!

WEDNESDAYS: THROUGH APR. 1, 10 AM OR 7-8 PM

Lenten Book Groups

Join us on Zoom (video conferencing) for a morning or evening group discussion of Bishop Marianne Budde's book, "Receiving Jesus: The Way of Love" led by David Griswold. [Register](#) to receive video conferencing instructions.

WEDNESDAYS: THROUGH APR. 1, 7-8 PM

Parenting the Way of Love: Book Study Group

Join us Wednesdays in Lent as we use Bishop Marianne Budde's book "Receiving Jesus: The Way of Love" to explore what it means for us to "Parent the Way of Love." Led by Amy Molina-Moore via Zoom video conferencing. [Register](#) to receive video conferencing instructions.

WEDNESDAYS: THROUGH APR. 15, 5 PM

Legos for Lent

Children ages 4-10 and their parents are invited to come hear Bible stories with Miss Katie via [Facebook Live](#) and depict them in a Lego® creation at home. Led by [Katie McGervey](#).

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