

Morning Prayer for the 4th Sunday of Lent, March 22, 2020

A Penitential Office

To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness, for we have rebelled against him, and have not obeyed the voice of the Lord our God by following his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets. *Daniel 9.9-10*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbour.

Silence is kept.

God of all mercy,

Most merciful God,

we confess that we have sinned against you

in thought, word and deed,

by what we have done

and by what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart;

we have not loved our neighbours as ourselves.

We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.

For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,

have mercy on us and forgive us,

that we may delight in your will,

and walk in your ways,

to the glory of your name. Amen.

May the God of love and power forgive you and free you from *your/our* sins, heal and strengthen you by the Holy Spirit and raise you to new life in Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

THE GATHERING OF THE COMMUNITY

Introductory Responses

We cast our burdens upon you, O Lord,

and you will sustain us.

Create in us clean hearts, O God,

and renew a right spirit within us.

Cast us not away from your presence

and take not your Holy Spirit from us.

Give us the joy of your saving help again

and sustain us by your bountiful Spirit.

Blessed are you, O Holy One,

the God of our salvation who bears our burdens.

Blessed are you, God of compassion and mercy, to you be praise and glory for ever. In the darkness of our sin, your light breaks forth like the dawn and your healing springs up for deliverance. As we rejoice in the gift of your saving help, sustain us with your bountiful Spirit and open our lips to sing your praise.

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God for ever.

THE PROCLAMATION OF THE WORD

Psalm 23

1. The Lord is my shepherd; *
I shall not be in want.
2. He makes me lie down in green pastures *
and leads me beside still waters.
3. He revives my soul *
and guides me along right pathways for his name's sake.
4. Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil; *
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.
5. You spread a table before me in the presence of those who trouble me; *
you have anointed my head with oil, and my cup is running over.
6. Surely your goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, *
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.

Glory to you, Jesus Christ, our good shepherd. In the waters of baptism you give us new birth, at your table you nourish us with heavenly food, and in your goodness and mercy, you guide us beyond the terrors of evil and death to your Father's home to dwell in eternal light. Glory to you for ever.

A reading from Paul's letter to the Ephesians

After the reading of Ephesians 5:8-14:

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the church.

Thanks be to God.

The Responsory

Incline your ear to me; make haste to answer when I call.

**Incline your ear to me;
make haste to answer when I call.**

Lord, hear my prayer and let my cry come before you.

Make haste to answer when I call.

Hide not your face from me in the day of my trouble.

Make haste to answer when I call.

You endure for ever and your name from age to age.

Make haste to answer when I call.

You will arise and have compassion on Zion, for it is time to have pity upon her.

Make haste to answer when I call.

The Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

After the reading of John 9:1-41:

The Gospel of Christ.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The Canticle

The Song of Manasseh (Manasseh 1a, 2, 4, 6, 7ab, 9ac, 11, 12, 14b, 15b)

Lord almighty and God of our ancestors, *

you who made heaven and earth in all their glory:

All things tremble with awe at your presence, *

before your great and mighty power.

Immeasurable and unsearchable is your promised mercy, *

for you are God, Most High.

You are full of compassion. long-suffering and very merciful, *

and you relent at human suffering.

O God, according to your great goodness,

you have promised forgiveness for repentance *

to those who have sinned against you.

The sins I have committed against you *

are more in number than the sands of the sea.

I am not worthy to look up to the height of heaven, *

because of the multitude of my iniquities.

And now I bend the knee of my heart before you, *

imploping your kindness upon me.

I have sinned, O God, I have sinned, *

and I acknowledge my transgressions.

Unworthy as I am, you will save me, *

according to your great mercy.

For all the host of heaven sings your praise, *

and your glory is for ever and ever.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit:

as it was in the beginning, is now and will be for ever.

Amen.

Affirmation of Faith

Hear, O Israel

Hear, O Israel,

the Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God

with all your heart,

with all your soul,

with all your mind,

and with all your strength.

This is the first and the great commandment. The second is like it:

Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

The Litany

THE PRAYERS OF THE COMMUNITY

Let us offer our intercessions, petitions and thanksgivings, saying, 'God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.'

For the one holy catholic and apostolic Church throughout the world,

God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.

For the mission of the Church,
that in faithful witness it may preach the gospel to the ends of the earth,
God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.
For those preparing for baptism
and for their teachers and sponsors,
God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.
For peace in the world,
that a spirit of respect and reconciliation may grow among nations and peoples,
God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.
For the poor, the persecuted, the sick and all who suffer;
for refugees, prisoners and all in danger;
that they may be relieved and protected,
God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.
For all whom we have injured or offended,
God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.
For grace to amend our lives and to further your reign,
God of our ancestors, hear our prayer.

The Week of the Fourth Sunday in Lent

God of the living, through baptism we pass from the shadow of death to the light of the resurrection. Remain with us and give us hope so that, rejoicing in the gift of the Spirit who gives life to our mortal flesh, we may be clothed with the garment of immortality, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Trusting in the compassion of God
and gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Saviour taught us,
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 for ever. Amen.

The Dismissal

THE SENDING FORTH OF THE COMMUNITY

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

May God our Redeemer show us compassion and love. **Amen.**