

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

**SERVICE OF THE WORD
GATHERING**

Gathering Music

Welcome, Prayer and Meditation

Hymn, "The Glory of These Forty Days"

Text: Latin hymn, 11th cent.; tr. Maurice F. Bell, 1862-1947, alt. Music: J. King, Geistliche Lieder, 1543. Text © Oxford University Press. Public Domain. Music: William B. Bradbury, 1816-1868. Public Domain.

- 1. The glory of these forty days
we celebrate with songs of praise;
for Christ, through whom
all things were made,
himself has fasted and has prayed.**

2. Alone and fasting Moses saw
the loving God who gave the law;
and to Elijah, fasting,
came the steeds and chariots of flame.

- 4. Then grant, O God, that we may, too,
return in fast and prayer to you.
Our spirits strengthen with your grace,
and give us joy to see your face.**

Greeting

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

Prayer of the Day

Almighty God.....through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord. **Amen.**

WORD

Scripture Reading, Matthew 4:1-2, 6:16-18

¹Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ²He fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was famished.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Scripture Reading, Mark 2:18-20

¹⁸Now John's disciples and the Pharisees were fasting; and people came and said to him, "Why do John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast, but your disciples do not fast?" ¹⁹Jesus said to them, "The wedding guests cannot fast while the bridegroom is with them, can they? As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. ²⁰The days will come when the bridegroom is taken away from them, and then they will fast on that day.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon, "The Christian Habit of Fasting"

RESPONSE TO THE WORD

Hymn, "O Lord, throughout These Forty Days"

Text: based on Claudia F. Hernaman, 1838-1898; para. Gilbert E. Doan Jr., b. 1930. Music: A. Davisson, Kentucky Harmony, 1816; arr. Theodore A. Beck, 1929-2003, Public Domain. Text © 1978 Lutheran book of Worship, admin. Augsburg fortress. Arr. © Concordia Publishing House. Reprinted with permission under OneLicense #731814-A. All rights reserved.

1. O Lord, throughout
these forty days you prayed
and kept the fast;
inspire repentance for our sin,
and free us from our past.
2. You strove with
Satan, and you won;
your faithfulness endured;
lend us your nerve,
your skill and trust
in God's eternal word.
3. **Though parched and hungry,
yet you prayed and fixed
your mind above;
so teach us to deny ourselves
that we may know God's love.**
4. **Be with us through
this season, Lord,
and all our earthly days,
that when the final Easter dawns,
we join in heaven's praise.**

Responsive Prayer

P: Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
C: **have mercy on 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 forever. Amen.**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty..... and the life everlasting. Amen.

P: Show us your mercy, O God,
C: **and grant us your salvation.**
P: Give us the joy of your saving help again,
C: **and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.**
P: Give us peace in all the world;
C: **For only in you can we live in safety.**
P: Keep the nations under your care,
C: **and guide us in the way of justice and truth.**
P: Let your way be known upon earth;
C: **your saving health among all nations.**

P: Let not the needy be forgotten,
C: nor the hope of the poor taken away.
P: Create in me a clean heart, O God,
C: and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.
P: Lord, hear my prayer,
C: and let my cry come before you.
P: We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.
C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P: Let us bless the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.
P: Almighty God, bless us, defend us from evil, and bring us to everlasting life.
C: Amen.

Announcements

Hymn, "All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night"

Text: Thomas Ken, 1637-1711, alt. Music: Thomas Tillis, 1505-1585. Public Domain.

1. All praise to thee, my God, this night
for all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings,
beneath thine own almighty wings.
2. **All praise to thee, my God, this night
for all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings,
beneath thine own almighty wings.**
3. Teach me to live, that I may dread
the grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die, that so I may
rise glorious at the awesome day.
4. **Teach me to live, that I may dread
the grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die, that so I may
rise glorious at the awesome day.**
5. **Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
praise God, all creatures here below;
praise God above, ye heav'nly host;
praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.**

Sending Music

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