

EMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 22, 2020

Liturgical Order of Worship

The 4th Sunday in Lent

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN "Come Unto Me, Ye Weary" LSB #684

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us come before our merciful heavenly Father in confession

People: Dear Father in Heaven, in the midst of pandemic, it has often been easy to let my fear replace my trust in You. I have too often depended on my own strength and wisdom instead of seeking Your Holy Will in the midst of daily life. At times, I have neglected to remember that I have a vocation to live out daily and through it others are blessed. Finally, I have let despair deplete the hope I am called to have in You. For these and all my sins of thought, word, and deed I seek Your divine mercy and forgiveness for the sake of Jesus Christ, Your Son, my precious Savior and Lord. Amen.

Pastor: God is truly patient and merciful to His people. Throughout the scriptures, God welcomes into His loving arms those who repent of their sins. As far as the east is from the west; He removes our sins and replaces the guilt of our souls with His beautiful peace. According to His holy will, I forgive you your sins in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

INTROIT (*Ps. 115:11-13, 18; antiphon: Ps.25:6*)

Remember Your mercy, O Lord, and Your | steadfast love,*

For they have been | from of old.

You who fear the Lord, trust | in the Lord!*

He is their help | and their shield.

The Lord has remembered us; He will | bless us;*

He will bless the house of Israel; He will bless the House of | Aaron;

He will bless those who | fear the Lord,*

Both the small | and the great.

We will | bless the Lord*

From this time forth and forevermore. | Praise the Lord!

Glory be to the Father and | to the Son*

And to the Holy | Spirit;

As it was in the be- | ginning,*

Is now, and will be forever. | Amen.



COLLECT

Pastor: O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON Lamentations 3:17-24

- ¹⁷ *I have been deprived of peace;
I have forgotten what prosperity is.*
- ¹⁸ *So I say, "My splendor is gone
and all that I had hoped from the Lord."*
- ¹⁹ *I remember my affliction and my wandering,
the bitterness and the gall.*
- ²⁰ *I well remember them,
and my soul is downcast within me.*
- ²¹ *Yet this I call to mind
and therefore I have hope:*
- ²² *Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed,
for His compassions never fail.*
- ²³ *They are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.*
- ²⁴ *I say to myself, "The Lord is my portion;
therefore I will wait for Him."*

EPISTLE LESSON Romans 5:1-5

5 Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,² through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand. And we boast in the hope of the glory of God.³ Not only so, but we also glory in our sufferings, because we know that suffering produces perseverance;⁴ perseverance, character; and character, hope.⁵ And hope does not put us to shame, because God's love has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit, who has been given to us.

SPECIAL MUSIC "In Christ Alone" by Keith Getty | Stuart Townend

(Sung by Christina Munn, Christi Lorenz, Ian Black, Nick Black, Heather Meulenberg)

*In Christ alone my hope is found
He is my light my strength my song
This Cornerstone this solid Ground
Firm through the fiercest drought and storm
What heights of love what depths of peace
When fears are stilled when strivings cease
My Comforter my All in All
Here in the love of Christ I stand.*

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GOSPEL

John 5:24-29

²⁴ *“Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life. ²⁵ Very truly I tell you, a time is coming and has now come when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son also to have life in Himself. ²⁷ And He has given Him authority to judge because He is the Son of Man.*

²⁸ *“Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice ²⁹ and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.*

SERMON HYMN

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

LSB #809

SERMON

APOSTLE’S CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth.

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit;
the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints;
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,
and the life (+) everlasting. Amen.**

HYMN

“Lord of All Hopefulness”

LSB #738

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We pray for God to remove fear from our hearts.

Lord God our Father. We pray during these uncertain days that You would come among us, Your people, and quell any fear we have. Minister Your peace in our hearts. Fill us with Your Spirit, strengthen our faith as we walk day by day with You by our side. We thank You Lord for Your love and care for us. In Jesus’ Name we pray.

We pray for our government leaders.

Father, we ask protection and blessings on our country’s leaders at all levels. They find themselves in an unprecedented time, being called on to make tough decisions that aren’t always popular. We pray

that You will be included in every discussion and decision they make. Guard their health, allowing them adequate rest when they need it. Grant them strength and courage to face the tasks before them. Thank You for those who are encouraging us to pray and for that example. May all of these men and women work together in a spirit of cooperation and charity. In Jesus' Name we pray.

We pray for hope.

Father God, in times of great challenge, we often seek others for advice and comfort before seeking You. If others don't have reassuring answers or sound advice, we can be left feeling fearful, uneasy and even hopeless. Your precious holy word is very clear that we are to seek You first, for our hope comes from You. During this pandemic, Jesus, help us to cling to the words of St. Paul in Romans 15:13: "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." In Jesus' Name we pray.

We pray for our church and school leaders.

Father, we humbly come before You with gratitude for who You are, and for all You have done for us. We praise You for being our rock and fortress - our strength and our salvation. You promise to be with us always and to never leave us.

Today we give You thanks for our church and school leaders. We lift them up before You and ask You to grant them strength and guidance.

Be with our Pastors and Elder Ministry Team as they minister to the needs of our church family. Thank You for the love and care they provide us, as the hands and feet of Christ. Give them the ability to recognize who among us is in need, and how to address those needs. Grant them strength and endurance to serve.

Bless our Board of Directors as they make decisions for Emmanuel Lutheran Church. Remind them to first call upon You for wisdom and direction, so they can make God-pleasing decisions that glorify You. Allow them to feel Your presence and to know Your peace.

Father, be with our School Ministry Team, our principal, and our Early Childhood Director. Give them hope and courage as they face challenging times for our staff and for our school families. May they look to You for strength and trust in Your guidance.

Father, we give You thanks that we can praise and worship You wherever we are, because we know You are always with us. As our pastors and worship leaders strive to create opportunities for us to worship away from our church family, give them the skills and resources they need, so we can continue to worship You during this Lenten season.

Lord God, keep all our leaders safe and healthy. Send Your Spirit to strengthen their faith and keep them grounded in Your word and fervent in prayer.

We thank You for Your abounding grace and mercy, and for the blessings You continue to shower upon us. Strengthen us, comfort us and give us hope during these challenging times. In Jesus' Name we pray.

We pray for those who are suffering the pain of loss.

Loving father, thank You for the care You provide every day of our lives. Be with those who are suffering with the pain of loss: Loss of good health; Loss of independence; Loss of loved ones; Loss of meaningful work; and Loss of a feeling of connection during this national crisis.

Father, sustain us in your love and care and walk with us during these challenging times. In Jesus' Name we pray.

We pray for a strengthening of faith during these challenging times.

Loving heavenly father, You are our abiding hope. You are intimately acquainted with our lives and our individual needs. Thank You that Christ is our life and that we are members of His Body and a dwelling place of His Spirit. How privileged we are to be indwelt by Your glorious Presence (by the Holy Trinity: Father, Son and Holy Spirit) so that You can display Your excellence to those around us. We can rest on Your Presence working in us through the Holy Spirit. We can joyfully depend on You throughout our days.

Thank You that each difficulty is an opportunity to see Your work; that in Your time, You will bring us out to a place of abundance.

May Your Spirit strengthen us to be faithful children to the world around us, sharing hope and not despair, living as the prized possession of our Heavenly Father who protects us. To You belongs all power and glory. In Jesus' Name we pray, AMEN.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

**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
forever and ever. Amen.**

BENEDICTION

HYMN

"Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me"

LSB #761