



Fasting from Apathy

First Sunday of Lent
February 21, 2021

Prelude

Confession

P: Most holy and merciful God,

**C: we confess to you and to one another,
and before the whole company of heaven,
that we have sinned by our fault,
by our own fault,
by our own most grievous fault,
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, and mind, and strength.

We diminish our respect and awe of You by not putting our relationship with you on the top of our priority list. We relegate You to being our god of convenience and comfort rather than Creator of the Cosmos, and, in this way, we limit the power you have in our lives. Have mercy on us, O God.

We let other voices and speak to us of fulfillment, hope and peace.

We have been tempted to turn away from the truth you offer us. We have doubted your presence, your power and your promise. Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to love and serve others with the same compassionate love and service Christ offers us.

We have not been diligent in staying keenly aware of how we can be a source of comfort, hope and sustenance to those who suffer, or are in despair, or deprived of what they need to live. We have found security in protecting and preserving our abundant blessings. Have mercy on us, O God.

We misuse and abuse the role you have given us in and over creation.

We exploit and squander the earth's resources without inconveniencing ourselves with consideration for the sustainability of life in the future. We assume the power of gods, but fail to seek the wisdom of God in the use of our power, focusing too much on our satisfaction in this moment rather than comprehending the full scope of our actions. We privilege our lives over the lives of other creatures without respect for the depth of the interconnectedness of all life. Have mercy on us, O God.

We do not always own our own problems, nor do we take enough responsibility for working to solve them.

We scapegoat, we make excuses, we get distracted. We do not bring them to you and open ourselves to the Spirit's guidance through unexpected voices and resources. We become discontented because we resign to empty contentment. We default to following the norm rather than clinging to the distinction of being a Child of God. Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

Lenten Hymn

Forty Days

*1. Forty days and forty nights
You were fasting in the wild;*
**Forty days and forty nights
Tempted, and yet undefiled.**

*2. Shall not we Your sorrow share
And from worldly joys abstain,*
**Fasting with unceasing prayer,
Strong with You to suffer pain?**

*3. Then, if Satan on us press,
Flesh or spirit to assail,*

**Victor in the wilderness,
Grant we may not faint nor fail!**

*4. So shall we have peace divine;
Holier gladness ours shall be.*
**'Round us, too, shall angels shine,
Such as served You faithfully.**

*5. Keep, O keep us, Savior dear,
Ever constant by Your side,*
**That with You we may appear
At the eternal Eastertide.**

Greeting & Kyrie

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen

Prayer of the Day

P: *The Lord be with you*

C: *And also with you*

P: *Let us pray:*

C: Merciful Father, awaken our passion for your Word and our witness to our faith in Christ in our faithful work. Do not let us fall into the listlessness of apathy, or the constraints of contentment, but fire us with the spirit of compassion, that in being transformed in love, we will transform with love. We ask this in the name of the one walked the way of the cross in passion for you and compassion for us, Jesus' the Christ.

Amen.

First Lesson

Amos 6

Amos spoke God's word to god's people saying:
I feel sorry for those who are not at ease in Zion,
and for those who feel secure on Mount Samaria,
those 1% of the first of the First World nations -
that nation that my people look to for help!

Take a look at the nation over there,
Or even the one over there,
Then look at that great nation to the East,
then go down to Gath of the Philistines.
Are you better than these kingdoms?
Or is your territory greater than their territory,
By trying to make alliances with them to push away the
day of disaster that the army of the Assyrian Empire
will bring,
you bring near a seat of violence.

I feel sorry for those who lounge on beds of ivory,
and those sprawled out on their couches,
eating lambs from the flock,

and calves from the stall;
who sing songs to the sound of stringed instruments,
and like David, improvise on instruments of music;
who drink wine from sacrificial bowls,
and anoint themselves with the finest oils,
but are not sick over the ruin of their nation, the
heritage of Joseph!

Therefore, now they will be the first of the exiles,
and the revelry of the sprawlers will pass away.

R: The Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

*Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and all that is within me,
bless his holy name.*

**Bless the Lord, O my soul,
and do not forget all his benefits--**

*who forgives all our iniquity,
who heals all our diseases,*

**who redeems our life from the Pit,
who crowns us with steadfast love and mercy,**

*who satisfies us with good as long as we live
so that our youth is renewed like the eagle's.*

**As a father has compassion for his children,
so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him.**

*For he knows how we were made;
he remembers that we are dust.*

**As for mortals, their days are like grass;
they flourish like a flower of the field;
for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
and its place knows it no more.**

*But the steadfast love of the Lord
is from everlasting to everlasting
on those who fear him,*

**and his righteousness to children's children,
to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.**

*Bless the Lord, O you his angels,
you mighty ones who do his bidding,
obedient to his spoken word.*

**Bless the Lord, all his hosts,
his ministers that do his will.**

*Bless the Lord, all his works,
in all places of his dominion.*

Bless the Lord, O my soul.

Second Lesson

Revelation 3

TI, John, your brother . . . happened to be on the island called Patmos because of the word of God and the testimony of Jesus. I happened to be in the spirit on the Lord's day, and I heard behind me a great voice like a trumpet saying, "Write in a book what you see and send it to the seven churches . . . And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the origin* of God's creation:

"I know your works; you are neither cold nor hot. I wish that you were either cold or hot. So, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I am about to vomit you out of my mouth. For you say, 'I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing.' You do not realize that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked. Therefore, I counsel you to buy from me gold refined by fire so that you may be rich; and white robes to clothe you and to keep the shame of your nakedness from being seen; and salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see. I reprove and discipline those whom I love. Be earnest, therefore, and repent.

L: The Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Verse

[tune 733]

How can it be, that the wicked ones prosper?

How can it be, that the greedy ones thrive?

How can it be, that oppression and anger

Hold such control, while the poor just survive?

Refrain:

Though hope is hidden now, God changes nations.

God brings the powerful down to their knees.

God sets a table of great celebration.

God sent us Jesus who welcomes and frees.

Old ways of selfishness, old ways of sinning,

Old ways of apathy seem to go on.

Old angry patterns still seem to be winning,

Old fears and prejudice shadow the dawn.

Refrain

Prophets proclaim it in times of despairing,

Pushing toward justice while others destroy.

Precious the gift! And it's ours for the sharing!

Precious is Christ, who brings hope, giving joy.

Refrain

Evil may prosper, but God's love is stronger.

Everyone, some day, will know this is true:

Envy and strife will not win any longer.

Eternal God, all our hope is in you!

Refrain

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Gospel Acclamation

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke the ninth Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Luke 10

One day while Jesus was teaching, a lawyer stood up to test him. And the lawyer asked Jesus, "Teacher, what must I have done to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus said to him, "What has been written in the law? What do you read there?"

The lawyer answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; [Dt 6:5] and your neighbor as yourself." [Lev 19:18]

And Jesus said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to justify himself, the lawyer asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and went away, leaving him half dead. Now by chance a priest was going down that road; and when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. But a Samaritan while traveling came near him; and when he saw him, he was compassionate and having approached, he bandaged his wounds, pouring oil and wine on them and having placed him on the animal and led him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him; and when I come back, I will repay you whatever more you spend.'

Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?"

He said, "The one who showed him mercy."

Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

P: *The Gospel of our Lord!*

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *Antidote for Apathy*

*He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep
To gain what he cannot lose*

**He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep
To gain what he cannot lose**

*Oh Father, forgive our indifference
May Your love motivate us*

Be our antidote for apathy

Cure our animosity

Inspire our complacency

Be our strength in our inadequacy

That we come to You dependent in prayer

The hope for which the world despairs

Is found in one who came to serve

A divine man, who walked the earth

*And he is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep
To gain what he cannot lose*
**And he who tries to save his life will lose it
But he is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep
To gain what he cannot lose**

Be our antidote for apathy
Cure our animosity
Inspire our complacency
Be our strength in our inadequacy
That we come to You dependent in prayer
The hope for which the world despairs
Is found in one who came to serve
A divine man, who walked the earth

Who gave His life for the underserved
**He is no fool who gives up what he cannot keep
To gain what he cannot lose**

Songwriter: Tenielle Neda Musulin

Apostles Creed

*P: I ask you to profess your faith in Christ Jesus, reject sin, and
confess the faith of the church, the faith in which we baptize.
Do you renounce all the forces of evil, the devil, and all his
empty promises?*

C: We do with the help of God.

P: Do you believe in God the Father?

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

P: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

**C: I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived of the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

P: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

**C: I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

Offering

P: Let us pray:

C: Loving God, we give you thanks for the bounty and blessings of our lives, returning these offerings as signs of our gratitude. May these gifts further your work and sustain your kingdom among us. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

Lord's Prayer

Benediction

Dismissal

Grace Lutheran Church

Christopher Chantelau, *Pastor* • Becki Advocate, *Dir. of Music*

Kristen Halderman, *Parish Administrator* • Vinnie Tipa, *Sexton*

Rev. Dr. Timothy Kennedy, *Pastor Emeritus*

