



Fasting from Escapism

Third Sunday of Lent
March 07, 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

580

*1. How clear is our vocation, Lord,
when once we heed your call:
to live according to your word,
and daily learn, refreshed, restored,
that you are Lord of all,
and will not let us fall.*

*3. We marvel how your saints become
in hindrances more sure,
whose joyful virtues put to shame
the casual way we wear your name,
and by our faults obscure
your pow'r to cleanse and cure.*

*2. But if, forgetful, we should find
your yoke is hard to bear;
if worldly pressures fray the mind,
and love itself cannot unwind
its tangled skein of care,
our inward life repair.*

*4. In what you give us, Lord, to do,
together or alone,
in old routines and ventures new,
may we not cease to look to you.
The cross you hung upon—
all you endeavored done.*

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, when your people turned away from you, you did not turn away from us, but sent your son into our midst, as a person who experienced all that we experience, even death. Send your Spirit on us as well, that we will not turn away from being your faithful people, but seek out opportunities to serve and love in your name. We ask this in the name of the one whose serving brought us life, Jesus the Christ. Ame

First Lesson

Ephesians 6

Finally, find your own power in the power of the Lord and in the superiority of his strength. Put on every part of the armor that God provides us so that you may actually be able to stand up against the schemes, temptations and attacks of the devil. For our fight is not against blood and flesh, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against those dominating over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. For this reason, you must take up every part of the armor God provides, so that you will have the power to endure, and having done everything faithfully, to stand firm. Stand now, fastening the belt of truth around your waist and putting on the breastplate of righteousness and putting shoes on your feet so that you are ready to go out and proclaim the good news of peace. Always carry with you the shield of faith, with which you will be able to quench all the flaming arrows of the evil one. Accept the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God.

Pray in the Spirit at all times in every prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert and always persevere in supplication for all the saints.

R: The Word of the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Scriptural Response

Troop: A Scout is Trustworthy!

**C: No one who practices deceit shall remain in my house;
no one who utters lies shall continue in my presence.**

Psalm 101:7

Troop: A Scout is Loyal!

**C: It is a loyal thing you do when you render any service
to the friends, even though they are strangers to you.**

3 John 1:5

Troop: A Scout is Helpful!

**C: In all this I have given you an example that by such work
we must help the weak, remembering the words of the Lord
Jesus, for he himself said, 'It is more blessed to give
than to receive.'**

Acts 20:35

Troop: A Scout is Friendly!

**C: Some friends play at friendship, but a true friend sticks
closer than one's nearest kin.**

Proverbs 18:24

Troop: A Scout is Courteous!

**C: Remind them to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling,
to be gentle, and to show courtesy to everyone.**

Titus 3:2

Troop: A Scout is Kind!

**C: Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another,
as God in Christ has forgiven you.**

Ephesians 4:32

Troop: A Scout is Obedient!

**C: So, Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was
obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart.**

Luke 2:51

Troop: A Scout is Cheerful!

**C: In the world you have tribulation; but be of good cheer,
I have overcome the world.**

John 16:33

Troop: A Scout is Thrifty!

**C: Precious treasure remains in the house of the wise, but the fool
devours it.**

Proverbs 21:20

Troop: A Scout is Brave!

C: Be strong and of good courage.

1 Chronicles 28:20

Troop: A Scout is Clean!

C: Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? Those who have clean hands and pure hearts.

Psalms 24:3

Troop: A Scout is Reverent!

C: And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Micah 6:8

Second Lesson

Revelation 3

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

769

*1. If you but trust in God to guide you
and place your confidence in him,
**you'll find him always there beside you
to give you hope and strength within;
for those who trust God's changeless love
build on the rock that will not move.***

*2 Only be still and wait his pleasure
in cheerful hope with heart content.
He fills your needs to fullest measure*

with what discerning love has sent;
doubt not our inmost wants are known
to him who chose us for his own.

3 Sing, pray, and keep his ways unswerving,
offer your service faithfully,
and trust his word; though undeserving,
you'll find his promise true to be.
God never will forsake in need
the soul that trusts in him indeed.

Gospel Acclamation

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

C: Glory to you, O Lord!

Gospel

Luke 5

And the news about Jesus was passed along even more; many crowds would gather to hear him and to be healed of their weaknesses , but Jesus would also withdraw to the wilderness and pray.

And it came about one day while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting nearby (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to restore people's wholeness.

And behold, some men carrying a paralyzed man on a couch were seeking to bring him in and place him before Jesus. They could not find a way into the house through the crowd, so going up on the rooftop, they they lowered him on a cot through the roof tiles into the midst of the crowd; right in front of Jesus.

And having seen their faith, Jesus said, "Man, yours sins have been released of you"

And the scribes and the Pharisees dialogued amongst themselves saying, "Who is this who speaks blasphemies? Who has the power to forgive sins if not God alone?"

But Jesus, having recognized their dialogues, answered, saying to them, "Why are you uncertain in your hearts? Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'?"

But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins --

he said to the one who was paralyzed--"I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home."

Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God.

Ecstasy seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with fear, saying, "We have seen paradoxical things today."

After this, Jesus went out and saw a tax collector named Levi, sitting at the tax booth; and he said to him, "Follow me."

And he got up, left everything, and was following him.

Then Levi gave a great banquet for him in his house; and there was a large crowd of tax collectors and others sitting at the table with them.

The Pharisees and their scribes were complaining to his disciples, saying, "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and sinners?"

Jesus answered, "Those who are well have no need of a physician, but only those who are sick; I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance."

P: *The Gospel of our Lord!*

C: Praise to you, O Christ!

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

"The World is not My Home" – The Carter Family

*This world is not my home, I'm just passing through
My treasures and my hopes are all beyond the blue
**Where many many friends and kindred have gone on before
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.***

Refrain

*Oh, lord, you know I have no friend like you
If heaven's not my home, oh, lord, what would I do
**Angels beckon me to heaven's open door
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore. Refrain***

*Over in Glory land, there is no dying there
The saints are shouting victory and singing everywhere
**I hear the voice of them that I have heard before
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore. Refrain***

*Heaven's expecting me, that's one thing I know
I fixed it up with Jesus a long time ago
He will take me through though I am weak and poor*

And I can't feel at home in this world anymore. Refrain

Oh, I have a loving mother over in Glory land

I don't expect to stop until I shake her hand

She's gone on before, just waiting at heaven's door

And I can't feel at home in this world anymore. Refrain

“The World is not My Home” Woody Guthrie

I ain't got no home, I'm just a-roamin' 'round,

Just a wandrin' worker, I go from town to town.

And the police make it hard wherever I may go

And I ain't got no home in this world anymore.

My brothers and my sisters are stranded on this road,

A hot and dusty road that a million feet have trod;

Rich man took my home and drove me from my door

And I ain't got no home in this world anymore.

Was a-farmin' on the shares, and always I was poor;

My crops I lay into the banker's store.

My wife took down and died upon the cabin floor,

And I ain't got no home in this world anymore.

Now as I look around, it's mighty plain to see

This world is such a great and a funny place to be;

Oh, the gamblin' man is rich an' the workin' man is poor,

And I ain't got no home in this world anymore.

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*

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