

WORSHIP GUIDE

Christ Our Shepherd Lutheran Church ✠ Peachtree City, Georgia
March 22, 2020 ✠ 10:00 A.M. ✠ The Fourth Sunday in Lent

MUSIC FOR PREPARATION

GREETING

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

☐ Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who is present, who gives life,
who calls into existence the things that do not exist.
If you were to keep watch over sins, O Lord, who could stand?
Yet with you is forgiveness, and so we confess.
Gracious God,

☑ Amen.

Silence is kept for reflection.



☑ **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned away from you, knowingly and unknowingly. We have wandered from your resurrection life. We have strayed from your love for all people. Turn us back to you, O God. Give us new hearts and right spirits, that we may find what is pleasing to you and dwell in your house forever. Amen.**

☐ Receive good news: God turns to you in love.
“I will put my spirit in you, and you shall live,” says our God.
All your sin is forgiven in the name of ✠ Jesus Christ,
who is the free and abounding gift of God’s grace for you.

☑ Amen.

OPENING SONG: *Hymn for Streamed Worship*

Tune: NETTLETON (“Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing”)

- 1. In our homes, we meet to worship, far away from sacred space.
By the Spirit, Christ is with us, making this a holy place.
In these days of social distance, we are called to meet apart.
Still we pray for one another, hold each other in our heart.**
- 2. If this time indeed is holy, we must keep it truly so.
Even in our isolation, God’s rich blessings overflow.
We avoid the world’s distractions, set our minds on things above:
Patience, kindness, goodness, mercy, faith, joy, peace, abiding love.**

—R. G. Huff, 03/17/2020

DIALOGUE

Ephesians 5:8-11

- ☐ Once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light.
- ☑ **Live as children of light—⁹for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.**
- ☐ ¹⁰Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord.
- ☑ ¹¹**Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

☐ Bend your ear to our prayers, Lord Christ, and come among us. By your gracious life and death for us, bring light into the darkness of our hearts, and anoint us with your Spirit, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

☑ Amen.



LESSON: Esther 4:9-14

Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai, saying, ¹¹“All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law—all alike are to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone, may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.” ¹²When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, ¹³Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴For if you keep silence at such a time as this, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another quarter, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”

GOSPEL: John 9:1-7, 24-25

As Jesus walked along, he saw a man blind from birth. ²His disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” ³Jesus answered, “Neither this man nor his parents sinned; he was born blind so that God’s works might be revealed in him. ⁴We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming when no one can work. ⁵As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” ⁶When he had said this, he spat on the ground and made mud with the saliva and spread the mud on the man’s eyes, ⁷saying to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means “Sent”). Then he went and washed and came back able to see.

[The religious leaders and neighbors of the healed man kept challenging him about Jesus’ role.]

²⁴So for the second time they called the man who had been blind, and they said to him, “Give glory to God! We know that this man (Jesus) is a sinner.” ²⁵He answered, “I do not know whether he is a sinner. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.”

HOMILY

Pastor Fritz

SONG OF THE DAY: *Amazing Grace*

ELW, Hymn #779

- 1** Amazing grace! how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found; was blind, but now I see.
- 3** Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come;
‘tis grace has brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.
- 4** The Lord has promised good to me; his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be as long as life endures.

THE APOSTLES’ CREED

- A** Let us confess our baptismal faith together.
- C** **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s 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 to the dead.
On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.
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.

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

When the Assistant concludes, “Hear us, O God,” we respond: “Your mercy is great.”

- C** **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.

OFFERING INVITATION

ANNOUNCEMENTS

CLOSING SONG: *Hold Us Together*

- 1.** It don't have a job, don't pay your bills, won't buy you a home in Beverly Hills.
Won't fix your life in five easy steps, ain't the law of the land or the government? But it's all you need.
REFRAIN: And love will hold us together, make us a shelter to weather the storm,
And I'll be my brother's keeper so the whole world would know that we're not alone
- 2.** It's waiting for you, knocking at your door in the moment of truth when your heart hits the floor
And you're on your knees REFRAIN
- 3.** This is the first day of the rest of your life. This is the first day of the rest of your life,
'Cause even in the dark you can still see the light. It's gonna be alright, it's gonna be alright. REPEAT #3.

REFRAIN