



## The Fourth Sunday in Lent – Rich Man and Lazarus

March 14, 2021

8:30 a.m.

### PRELUDE

Prelude on the tune “Dives and Lazarus”

James Biery

### THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM\*

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning you created us in your image  
and placed us in a well-watered garden.  
In the desert, you promised pools of water for the parched,  
and you gave us water from the rock.  
When we did not know the way,  
you sent the Good Shepherd to lead us to still waters.  
At the cross, you washed us from Jesus' wounded side,  
and on this day, you shower us again with the water of life.

We praise you for your salvation through water,  
for the water in this font,  
and for all water everywhere.

Bathe us in your forgiveness, grace, and love.  
Satisfy all who thirst,  
and give us the life only you can give.  
To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ, our living water,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
now and forever.

**Amen.**

### PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, you look with compassion on this troubled world. Feed us with your grace, and grant us the treasure that comes only from you, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

## MUSICAL REFLECTION

“When I Think Upon Thy Goodness”

Franz Joseph Haydn

## FIRST READING

Psalm 41:1-3

Today’s first reading is from the Psalms:

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those who consider the poor;  
the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble.  
<sup>2</sup>The Lord protects them and keeps them alive;  
they are called happy in the land.  
You do not give them up to the will of their enemies.  
<sup>3</sup>The Lord sustains them on their sickbed;  
in their illness you heal all their infirmities.

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## NARRATIVE READING

Luke 16:19-31

Today’s narrative reading is from Luke:

<sup>19</sup>There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. <sup>20</sup>And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, <sup>21</sup>who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. <sup>22</sup>The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. <sup>23</sup>In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. <sup>24</sup>He called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am in agony in these flames.' <sup>25</sup>But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that during your lifetime you received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner evil things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in agony. <sup>26</sup>Besides all this, between you and us a great chasm has been fixed, so that those who might want to pass from here to you cannot do so, and no one can cross from there to us.' <sup>27</sup>He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house — <sup>28</sup>for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' <sup>29</sup>Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' <sup>30</sup>He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' <sup>31</sup>He said to him, 'If they do not listen to Moses and the prophets, neither will they be convinced even if someone rises from the dead.'"

Word of God. Word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

## SERMON

## MUSICAL RESPONSE

"Seek Ye the Lord"

J. Varley Roberts

## CREEDAL POEM

Together we express our faith in the words of Joe Davis' creedal poem, "Grace is like an ocean".

Grace is like an ocean  
And The Spirit hovers over the face of these waters  
Yet we're not meant to play it safe by the harbor  
We are all drawn deeper and farther  
Called into relationships to travel seas uncharted

Like raindrops  
On our cheeks and our chests  
Our tears and our sweat  
Connecting our bodies, our blood  
Streams of consciousness collected in  
Pondering ponds, puddles, swamps, and gutters  
Wandering waters so often huddled where we're taught they don't belong

However far from the garden—  
Life grows wherever the water flows  
In the cracked concrete of a city street or even in the desert heat we can still find the  
budding of rose

Only our imagination limits where Holy Spirit moves  
Like a flood  
Breaking gates and walls  
Baptizing beyond the lines of society  
And our comfort zones  
The raging waves make mountains, and shape diamonds cut from stone, gentle drops soak  
the soil where the smallest seed becomes the tallest oak

No place too high or too low, too remote or too close  
Grace explodes and unfolds  
The tides are ever changing and giving rise to new hope

Remember these waters where it all begins  
Where we all belong  
All gathered, all called, all sent  
Grace is the water in which we all swim

## PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

*We gather our prayers using a sung response*

Guided by the spirit and gathered into one, let us pray for the church, the world and all God's creation.

Lord, in your mer-cy, hear our\_ prayer.

Li - sten to our cry.

Each petition concludes:  
[Sung Response]

Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting that you always hear our prayers.

**Amen.**

## LORD'S PRAYER

Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us, let us pray as our Savior taught:

**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.**

## BENEDICTION

You are what God made you to be:  
created in Christ Jesus for good works,  
chosen as holy and beloved,  
freed to serve your neighbor.  
God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing,  
in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity.  
**Amen.**

## PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you all.  
**And also with you.**

## POSTLUDE

“St. Patrick’s Breastplate” from Sonata No. 4

Charles Villiers Stanford

PREACHING Pastor Stephanie Friesen  
PRESIDING Pastor Melissa Pohlman  
ASSISTING Pastor Peter Nycklemoe  
ORGANISTS Deacon Cantor Mark Sedio, Isaac Drewes  
SOLOIST Bill Pederson  
VIDEO/SOUND Mark Kieffer

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Prayer of the Day – <http://www.narrativelectionary.org>*