

The Fourth Sunday in Lent – Rich Man and Lazarus

March 14, 2021

10:30 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.

OPENING HYMN*

“I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

(see end of bulletin)

PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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.

CHILDREN'S TIME

FIRST READING

Psalm 41:1-3

Today's first reading is from the Psalms:

¹Happy are those who consider the poor;
the Lord delivers them in the day of trouble.
²The 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.
³The 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:

¹⁹There was a rich man who was dressed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. ²⁰And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, ²¹who longed to satisfy his hunger with what fell from the rich man's table; even the dogs would come and lick his sores. ²²The poor man died and was carried away by the angels to be with Abraham. The rich man also died and was buried. ²³In Hades, where he was being tormented, he looked up and saw Abraham far away with Lazarus by his side. ²⁴He 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.' ²⁵But 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. ²⁶Besides 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.' ²⁷He said, 'Then, father, I beg you to send him to my father's house — ²⁸for I have five brothers — that he may warn them, so that they will not also come into this place of torment.' ²⁹Abraham replied, 'They have Moses and the prophets; they should listen to them.' ³⁰He said, 'No, father Abraham; but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.' ³¹He 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

HYMN OF THE DAY

“O Blest Are They Who in Their Love”

(see end of bulletin)

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.

CLOSING HYMN

“Beneath the Cross of Jesus”

(see end of bulletin)

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

An asterisk () indicates that the hymn/song is from the ELCA’s new worship supplement,
“All Creation Sings.”*

PREACHING Pastor Stephanie Friesen
PRESIDING Pastor Melissa Pohlman
ASSISTING Pastor Peter Nycklemoe
ORGANISTS Isaac Drewes, Cantor Mark Sedio
QUARTET Froya Olson, David Gindra, Bill Pederson, Robin Helgen
VIDEO/SOUND Mark Kieffer

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

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to me and rest;
2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I free - ly give
3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this dark world's light;



lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down your head up - on my breast."
the liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; stoop down and drink and live."
look un - to me, your morn shall rise, and all your day be bright."



I came to Je - sus as I was, so wea - ry, worn, and sad;
I came to Je - sus, and I drank of that life - giv - ing stream;
I looked to Je - sus, and I found in him my star, my sun;



I found in him a rest - ing - place, and he has made me glad.
my thirst was quenched, my soul re - vived, and now I live in him.
and in that light of life I'll walk till trav - 'ling days are done.

O Blest Are They Who in Their Love

1 O blest are they who in their love com - pas - sion
 2 *When all the e - vils earth can dream are cast on*
 3 The hands which shared my bro - ken bread, my love with
 4 To me, O Lord, in mer - cy turn; your fa - vor,

3 hold for those in need; for they shall find, when faced by
me, my faith to break, their rage I tem - per through God's
 their de - ceit re - paid; and friends whose trust I count - ed
 my most trea - sured prize; my mouth shall sing re - demp - tion's

4 foes, the Lord is their de - fense in - deed.
grace, and bear them bold - ly for God's sake.
 mine have left me wound - ed and be - trayed.
 song, and tears of love wash clean my eyes.

Text: Paraphrase of Psalm 41, Michael Morgan, 1995

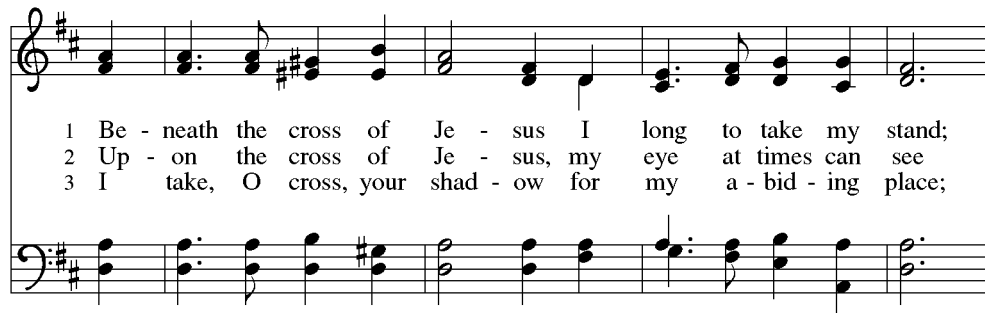
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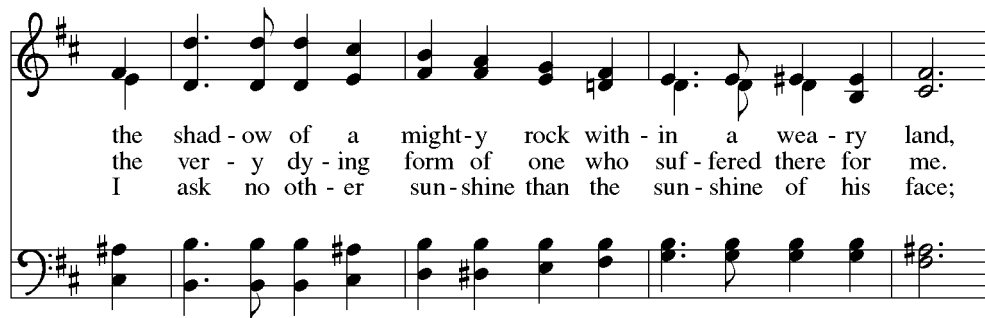
Music: *When Jesus Wept*, William Billings, 1770

Stanzas 1 & 3

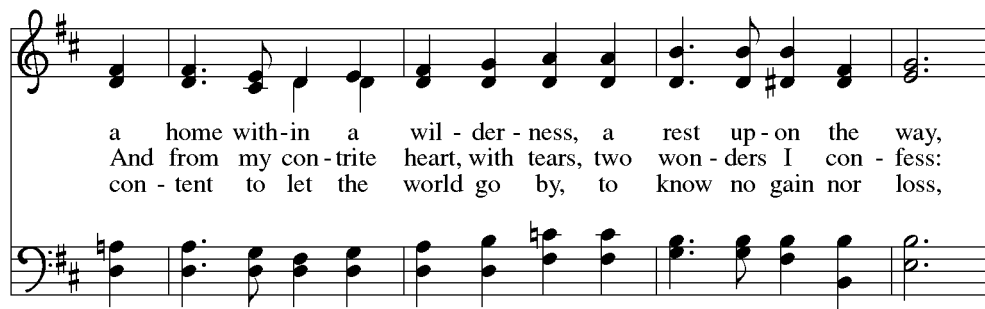
Beneath the Cross of Jesus



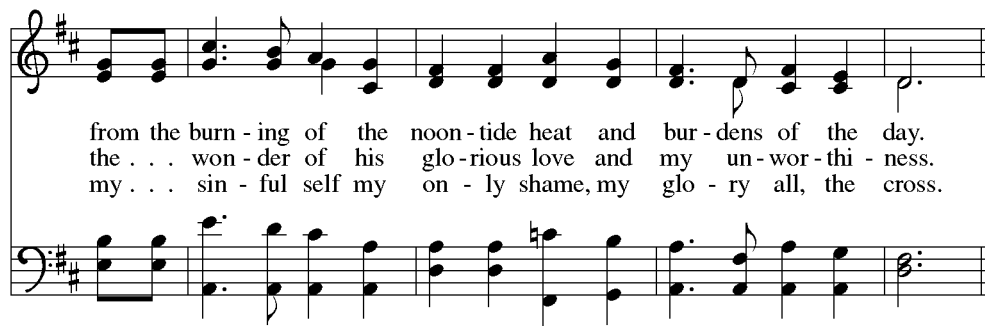
1 Be - neath the cross of Je - sus I long to take my stand;
2 Up - on the cross of Je - sus, my eye at times can see
3 I take, O cross, your shad - ow for my a - bid - ing place;



the shad - ow of a might - y rock with - in a wea - ry land,
the ver - y dy - ing form of one who suf - fered there for me.
I ask no oth - er sun - shine than the sun - shine of his face;



a home with - in a wil - der - ness, a rest up - on the way,
And from my con - trite heart, with tears, two won - ders I con - fess:
con - tent to let the world go by, to know no gain nor loss,



from the burn - ing of the noon - tide heat and bur - dens of the day.
the . . . won - der of his glo - rious love and my un - wor - thi - ness.
my . . . sin - ful self my on - ly shame, my glo - ry all, the cross.