

Midweek Lent 4/1

Announcements

INVOCATION

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Merciful Father, we bring before You our confession, imploring Your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior. We are sinful from birth and daily add to that burden. Our actions have been thoughtless and have resulted in evil. Our words have been hurtful, and we have not always honored Your name in our speaking. We have left undone many things that could have brought glory and praise to You. O Lord, grant us Your grace and the blessing of forgiveness. By the renewing work of the Holy Spirit, lead us to amend our sinful lives, that we may grow daily in righteousness and be bringers of peace in our time.

Silence for reflection

Pastor: Because of the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus, God promises full and free forgiveness. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, I forgive you all of your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit. As you believe, so may it be.

PSALM 1

- ¹ Blessed is the one
 who does not walk in step with the wicked
or stand in the way that sinners take
 or sit in the company of mockers,
² but whose delight is in the law of the Lord,
 and who meditates on his law day and night.
³ That person is like a tree planted by streams of water,
 which yields its fruit in season
and whose leaf does not wither—
 whatever they do prospers.
⁴ Not so the wicked!
 They are like chaff
 that the wind blows away.
⁵ Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,
 nor sinners in the assembly of the righteous.
⁶ For the Lord watches over the way of the righteous,
 but the way of the wicked leads to destruction.

PETITIONS OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

Pastor: Throughout these weeks of Lent we have reflected on the petitions of the Lord's Prayer. Tonight we join together praying it together. We pray:

**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.**

Silence to read and reflect over these precious petitions

SERMON TEXT & MESSAGE

Matthew 25:1-13

“Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went to meet the bridegroom. ² Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. ³ For when the foolish took their lamps, they took no oil with them, ⁴ but the wise took flasks of oil with their lamps. ⁵ As the bridegroom was delayed, they all became drowsy and slept.

⁶ But at midnight there was a cry, ‘Here is the bridegroom! Come out to meet him.’

⁷ Then all those virgins rose and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ And the foolish said to the wise, ‘Give us some of your oil, for our lamps are going out.’

⁹ But the wise answered, saying, ‘Since there will not be enough for us and for you, go rather to the dealers and buy for yourselves.’

¹⁰ And while they were going to buy, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was shut.

¹¹ Afterward the other virgins came also, saying, ‘Lord, lord, open to us.’

¹² But he answered, ‘Truly, I say to you, I do not know you.’

¹³ Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour.

PRAYER

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

DOXOLOGY:

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav’nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.