

March 22, 2020
Fourth Sunday in Lent
English Lutheran Church of Bateman &
St. James Trinity Lutheran Church

Confession and Forgiveness

(All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.)

P In the name of the Father,
and of the ✝ Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. **C Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

P Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we
may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

P Most merciful God,
C we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
We have sinned against you 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;
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
Forgive us, renew us, and lead us,
so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P In the mercy of almighty God,
Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
and by his authority,
I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Prayer of the Day

P Let us pray.

C 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.

Psalm: Psalm 23

P ¹The LORD is my shepherd;
I shall not be in want.

²The LORD makes me lie down in green pastures
and leads me beside still waters.

³You restore my soul, O LORD,
and guide me along right pathways for your name's sake.

⁴Though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil;
for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

⁵You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;
you anoint my head with oil, and my cup is running over.

⁶Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life,
and I will dwell in the house of the LORD forever.

Sermon

Pastor Rick Biedermann

Prayers of Intercession

P Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church,
the world, and all who are in need.

(A brief silence.)

P God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to
your deeds of power. Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or
overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O
God... **C Your mercy is great.**

P God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in
it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering
drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O
God... **C Your mercy is great.**

P God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek
goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those
who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God...

C Your mercy is great.

P God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all
who seek prayer this day (*especially Mike, Terry, Eric, Von, John, Nola, Jerry,
Marcy, Dave, Shelley, and Ashley & Family as well as those we name aloud or in
our hearts*). Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical
therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God...

C Your mercy is great.

P God of insight, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who
enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help
us to be creative and brave in making our facilities and our ministries accessible
to all. Hear us, O God. **C Your mercy is great.**

P God of living water, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us, especially all who are currently sick or in isolation. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always; Hear us, O God...

C Your mercy is great.

P God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints. Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God... **C Your mercy is great.**

P According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord. **C Amen.**

Blessing

P Now is the acceptable time.
Now is the day of salvation.
Holy God,
speaking, spoken, and inspiring,
✠ bless you, unbind you,
and send you in love and in peace.

C Amen.

Dismissal

P Go in peace. Share the good news.

C Thanks be to God.