

HEARTS @ HOME



A Worship Service for Your Household

Sunday March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Lent

RCL: John 3:14-21

+ LITANY FOR LENT+¹

Most holy and merciful God,

We confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, 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, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength.
We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.
Have mercy on us, O God.

We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us.
We have not been true to the mind of Christ.
We have grieved your Holy Spirit.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our negligence in prayer and worship,
and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our false judgments,
our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Our waste and pollution of your creation,
and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you.
Have mercy on us, O God.

Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.
Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

+ PRAYER +

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
Amen.

+ SCRIPTURE +

+ **John 3:14-21**

+ **Spark Story Bible:** The Light of the World (Pages 416-419)

+ **Northwest Synod of Wisconsin App:** Click the 'Bible' tab at the bottom.

+ REFLECTION ON GOD'S WORD +

Option 1: Click on your congregation's sermon video or live worship link

Option 2: Use the following questions for in-home conversation or personal reflection

Option 3: Use questions for reflection + Coloring Sheet (page 4)

Questions:

- + Why do you think John refers to Moses and the serpent being lifted up? How does this compare to Jesus?
- + How would you describe God's love for the whole world?
- + Share a story of a time when you overcame a time of darkness, hopelessness, or pain. What impact did your faith have during that time or circumstance? Where did you find the strength to move forward?

+ APOSTLES' CREED +

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 +

With all the people of God, we pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.

- + We are thankful for the love that you give to the entire world, gracious God; by the power of your Holy Spirit, give us the compassion and integrity to reject words and actions that cause division and hatred, and replace them with the same unconditional love you give us in abundance so that all your children will know the peace of Jesus Christ. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + God of wisdom you provide us with science and knowledge and the ability to evolve and grow in so many ways; we are grateful for researchers, medical professionals and scientific experts who embody these gifts as they help to provide us with information, hope, and healing when we need it most. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + Merciful God, we pray for all public servants, and for the work they do for the betterment of society; grant them the ability to use their authority faithfully and in ways that enhance our common life together, and guide them toward actions and policies that seek equity and justice for all people. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**
- + Holy God, loving parent of the child Jesus, we pray for children around the world. Alert us to the struggles that many children endure. With your generous and tender care, grant to all children compassionate adults who will shield them, feed them, and help them to grow strong and skilled, joyful

and free. Empower family members and all caregivers with adequate resources and a daily renewal of wisdom and patience, and assure them of their holy vocation as guardians of your dear ones, for the sake of our protector, Jesus Christ. Lord in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

+ *Add your own prayers here...*

Loving God, we give all these prayers to you, trusting in your mercy and grace. **AMEN.**

+ OFFERING +

As people of faith we are called to continue strengthening the ministry of the church, even when we are physically distant. We invite you to prayerfully consider a gift to your congregation or the synod – as the body of Christ we work together to serve our neighbors.

+ LORD'S PRAYER +

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.**

+ BLESSING EACH OTHER +

Using your pointer finger, dip it in the bowl of water and make the sign of the cross on another's forehead or the back of their hand saying, "**You are a beloved child of God.**"
Take turns until all in the household have been blessed.

*+ Text, tune, and arrangements used by permission of Augsburg Fortress License #12387-S +
1 Lenten Litany found: <https://www.womenoftheelca.org/filebin/pdf/resources/LentPenitence.pdf>*

Other Lenten Ideas can be found here:
<http://nswi.org/worship-faith-formation-at-home/lent-easter-planning>