

ASCENSION LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE LUTHERAN CHURCH—MISSOURI SYNOD
LITTLETON, COLORADO

February 20 and 21, 2021

5 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m. Sunday



FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT

The God Who Prays For Us

AS WE GATHER *(Based on Ephesians 3:14-21)*

Today is the First Sunday in Lent so some elements of our service such as our Opening Hymn are a reminder of that. Lent is a time of repentance and renewal by the **POWER** of God's Holy Spirit.

As Pastor continues his sermon series on the book of Ephesians we encounter the word **POWER** three times in today's section of Ephesians. Paul prays for the **POWER** of God in us for no small reason. Why? Because without God's **POWER** at work in us, we simply cannot grasp the depth of God's love for us. We are used to love being conditional or just a fluffy feeling. Fifty percent of marriages end in divorce despite the promise to "love until death do us part." We are used to love running out, love ending, love being conditional or shallow.

So different in God's love! It takes God's **POWER** working in us to even get it! Unlike fickle human love, God's love is **UN**-conditional and is so real and tangible that it led His Son to a cross. No one else has loved you all the way to a cross. No one else has died so that you might live. You haven't experienced this kind of love anywhere else, that's why you need God's **POWER** to grasp it. It's like no other love...

Paul prays we would know God's love in four ways using four adjectives:

...how **WIDE** it is - wide enough to cover everyone on earth of every time and race

...how **LONG** it is - long enough to last forever and never run out or change

...how **HIGH** it is - high enough to cover all our sins

...how **DEEP** it is - deep enough to meet our deepest needs

✂ PREPARATION ✂

Prelude

“Allegro Moderato”

Hermann Schroeder

Pastoral Greeting

Opening Hymn

“O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days”

LSB 418



1 O Lord, through - out these for - ty days You
2 You strove with Sa - tan, and You won; Your
3 Though parched and hun - gry, yet You prayed And
4 Be with us through this sea - son, Lord, And



prayed and kept the fast; In - spire re - pen - tance
faith - ful - ness en - dured; Lend us Your nerve, Your
fixed Your mind a - bove; So teach us to de -
all our earth - ly days, That when the fi - nal



for our sin, And free us from our past.
skill and trust In God's e - ter - nal Word.
ny our - selves, Since we have known God's love.
Eas - ter dawns, We join in heav - en's praise.

Tune: Public domain

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Invocation

Confessional Address

Joel 2:12

Pastor: As we begin this Lenten season, we may not be wearing sackcloth and ashes, but we are heeding our Lord's call to “return to Me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning; and rend your hearts and not your garments.” We join in King David's prayer of confession in Psalm 51.

Psalm *Psalm 51:1–13; antiphon v. 17*

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

People: a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Pastor: Have mercy on me, O God, according to Your steadfast love;

People: according to Your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions.

Pastor: Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity,

People: and cleanse me from my sin!

Pastor: For I know my transgressions,

People: and my sin is ever before me.

Pastor: Against You, You only, have I sinned and done what is evil in Your sight,

People: so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

Pastor: Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

People: Behold, You delight in truth in the inward being, and You teach me wisdom in the secret heart.

Pastor: Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean;

People: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Pastor: Let me hear joy and gladness;

People: let the bones that You have broken rejoice.

Pastor: Hide Your face from my sins,

People: and blot out all my iniquities.

Pastor: Create in me a clean heart, O God,

People: and renew a right spirit within me.

Pastor: Cast me not away from Your presence,

People: and take not Your Holy Spirit from me.

Pastor: Restore to me the joy of Your salvation,

People: and uphold me with a willing spirit.

Pastor: Then I will teach transgressors Your ways, and sinners will return to You.

People: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

Pastor: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit;

People: a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

Absolution

Pastor: Brothers and sisters in Christ, our God has called us to return to Him so that we might be reconciled and receive the reward of His forgiveness. The almighty and merciful Lord grant you pardon, forgiveness, and remission of all your sins. I, by virtue of my office, as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

✠ WORD ✠

Epistle: Ephesians 3:14-21

(Paul prays for POWER in us to even grasp the depth of God's love for us.)

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ

may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the LORD's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge-that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**



Verse *Joel 2:13b*

Pastor: Return to the LORD, your God,

People: **for He is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. Amen.**

Holy Gospel: Mark 1:9-15

(Jesus is baptized and sent to be tempted.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to Mark, the 1st Chapter.

People: **Glory to You, O Lord.**

At that time Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. As Jesus was coming up out of the water, he saw heaven being torn open and the Spirit descending on him like a dove. And a voice came from heaven: "You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased." At once the Spirit sent him out into the desert, and he was in the desert forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.

After John was put in prison, Jesus went into Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God. "The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: **Praise to You, O Christ.**

Hymn of the Day "How Wide the Love of Christ"

LSB 535

Alternate Tune: St Thomas ("O Bless the Lord, My Soul")

(Words only are being given for this excellent text because we are singing it to a more familiar tune known as "O Bless the Lord My Soul")

- 1 How wide the love of Christ!
It knows not class or race
But holds our one humanity
Within its broad embrace.
- 2 How long the love of Christ!
Its patience will not cease
Until this broken world is bound
In everlasting peace.
- 3 How high the love of Christ!
Beyond all thought it soars,
And yet upon our passing lives
Unmeasured mercy pours.
- 4 How deep the love of Christ,
Descending to a cross!
He bears within His wounded hands
All human pain and loss.
- 5 All praise to You, O Christ,
For love whose depth and height,
Whose length and breadth fill time and space
With endless life and light!

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Sermon "The God Who Prays For Us"

Pastor John Larson
TEXT: Ephesians 3:14-21

Nicene Creed

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the

Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.

And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Church

Offering Offerings will be collected at the back, in the Narthex.

✠ HOLY COMMUNION AT ASCENSION ✠

The Lord, our Host, invites to his Supper those who are baptized into the Christian faith, confess him as Savior, have been instructed and have examined themselves, truly repent of sins, believe the Risen Lord is present in the sacrament with his true body and blood, and resolve to live faithfully and obediently. For those with an intolerance to alcohol, the center ring of the tray contains grape juice. Gluten free wafers are available to those with wheat allergies. Children who have not been instructed, yet desire a blessing, are invited to come forward with arms crossed. When receiving the bread and wine, the communicant may respond with "Amen!", a word of affirmation and belief.

✠ SACRAMENT ✠

Preface (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: **We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**



Words of Institution

Lord's Prayer

People: **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.**

DISTRIBUTION MUSIC

"Jesus Loves Me"

LSB 588



1 Je - sus loves me! This I know, For the Bi - ble tells me so.
2 Je - sus loves me! He who died Heav-en's gates to o - pen wide.



Lit - tle ones to Him be-long; They are weak, but He is strong.
He has washed a - way my sin, Lets His lit - tle child come in.

Refrain



Yes, Je - sus loves me! Yes, Je - sus loves me!



Yes, Je - sus loves me! The Bi - ble tells me so.

Public domain

Special Music (Piano)

"The Love of Jesus Medley"

arr. Mark Hayes

1. "Jesus Loves Me"
2. "I Love You With the Love of the Lord"
3. "Oh, How He Loves You and Me"

General Communion Blessing

Benediction (Divine Service, Setting One)

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

People: **Amen.**



First Sunday

IN LENT

1 O love, how deep, how broad, how high,
 2 He sent no an - gel to our race,
 4 For us He prayed; for us He taught;
 △ 7 All glo - ry to our Lord and God

Be - yond all thought and fan - ta - sy,
 Of high - er or of low - er place,
 For us His dai - ly works He wrought,
 For love so deep, so high, so broad;

That God, the Son of God, should take
 But wore the robe of hu - man frame,
 By words and signs and ac - tions thus
 The Trin - i - ty whom we a - dore

Our mor - tal form for mor - tals' sake!
 And to this world Him - self He came.
 Still seek - ing not Him - self but us.
 For - ev - er and for - ev - er - more.

Tune and text: Public domain

Congregational Concerns

Dismissal

Pastor: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude “Agincourt Hymn” (Oh Love, How Deep)
(and Row by Row Dismissal)

John Dunstable

Serving in Worship

OFFICIANT and CELEBRANT
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC MINISTRIES

Pastor John Larson
 Michael Zehnder