

**An Order for  
The Fourth Sunday Before Lent  
Sunday, February 21, 2021 | 11:00 am EET**

**The Gathering**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
the love of God,  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit  
be with you all:  
**and also with you.**

**Prayers of Penitence**

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:  
'I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me  
shall never walk in darkness  
but shall have the light of life.'  
Let us therefore bring our sins into his light  
and confess them in penitence and faith.  
cf John 8.12

*There is a moment of silence in which we recollect all the thing we have done which we ought not to have done, and left undone those things which we ought to have done.*

**All Father eternal,  
giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you  
and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love,  
and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed,  
and repent of all our sins.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
who died for us,  
forgive us all that is past;  
and lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light.  
Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.  
**All Amen.**

**Hymn: As Water To The Thirsty** <https://youtu.be/DwTrgFUSFZI>

1 As water to the thirsty,  
as beauty to the eyes,  
as strength that follows weakness,  
as truth instead of lies,  
as songtime and springtime  
and summertime to be,  
so is my Lord,  
my living Lord,  
so is my Lord to me.

2 Like calm in place of clamor,  
like peace that follows pain,  
like meeting after parting,  
like sunshine after rain,  
like moonlight and starlight  
and sunlight on the sea,  
so is my Lord,  
my living Lord,  
so is my Lord to me.

3 As sleep that follows fever,  
as gold instead of gray,  
as freedom after bondage,  
as sunrise to the day,  
as home to the traveler  
and all we long to see,  
so is my Lord,  
my living Lord,  
so is my Lord to me.

**Collect**

O God,  
you know us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers,  
that by reason of the frailty of our nature  
we cannot always stand upright:  
grant to us such strength and protection  
as may support us in all dangers  
and carry us through all temptations;  
through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,  
who is alive and reigns with you,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

**The First Reading: Isaiah 43.18-25**

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Do not remember the former things,  
or consider the things of old.  
I am about to do a new thing;  
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?

I will make a way in the wilderness  
and rivers in the desert.  
The wild animals will honour me,  
the jackals and the ostriches;  
for I give water in the wilderness,  
rivers in the desert,  
to give drink to my chosen people,  
the people whom I formed for myself  
so that they might declare my praise.

Yet you did not call upon me, O Jacob;  
but you have been weary of me, O Israel!  
You have not brought me your sheep for burnt offerings,  
or honored me with your sacrifices.  
I have not burdened you with offerings,  
or wearied you with frankincense.  
You have not bought me sweet cane with money,

or satisfied me with the fat of your sacrifices.  
But you have burdened me with your sins;  
you have wearied me with your iniquities.

I, I am He  
who blots out your transgressions for my own sake,  
and I will not remember your sins.

This is the word of the Lord.  
*All Thanks be to God.*

### **Psalm 41**

- 1 Blessed are those who consider the poor and needy; ♦  
the Lord will deliver them in the time of trouble.
- 2 The Lord preserves them and restores their life,  
that they may be happy in the land; ♦  
he will not hand them over to the will of their enemies.
- 3 The Lord sustains them on their sickbed; ♦  
their sickness, Lord, you will remove.
- 4 And so I said, ‘Lord, be merciful to me; ♦  
heal me, for I have sinned against you.’
- 5 My enemies speak evil about me, ♦  
asking when I shall die and my name perish.
- 6 If they come to see me, they utter empty words; ♦  
their heart gathers mischief;  
when they go out, they tell it abroad.
- 7 All my enemies whisper together against me, ♦  
against me they devise evil,
- 8 Saying that a deadly thing has laid hold on me, ♦ and that I will not rise again from where I lie.
- 9 Even my bosom friend, whom I trusted, who ate of my bread, ♦  
has lifted up his heel against me.
- 10 But you, O Lord, be merciful to me ♦  
and raise me up, that I may reward them.
- 11 By this I know that you favour me, ♦  
that my enemy does not triumph over me.
- 12 Because of my integrity you uphold me ♦  
and will set me before your face for ever.
- 13 Blessed be the Lord God of Israel, ♦  
from everlasting to everlasting. Amen and Amen.
- Glory to God, Source of all being,  
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Am**

### **The Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 1.18-22**

A reading from Paul’s Second Letter to the Corinthians

As surely as God is faithful,  
our word to you has not been “Yes and No.”

For the Son of God, Jesus Christ,  
whom we proclaimed among you, Silvanus and Timothy and I,  
was not “Yes and No”;  
but in him it is always “Yes.”  
For in him every one of God’s promises is a “Yes.”  
For this reason it is through him that we say the “Amen,” to the glory of God.  
But it is God who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us,  
by putting his seal on us  
and giving us his Spirit in our hearts as a first installment.

This is the word of the Lord.  
*All Thanks be to God.*

**Hymn: What Does The Lord Require of You?**     <https://youtu.be/DwTrgFUSFZI>

1. What does the Lord require of you?  
What does the Lord require of you?
2. Justice, kindness,  
walk humbly with your God.
3. To seek justice, and love kindness,  
and walk humbly with your God.

**The Gospel Reading: Mark 2.1-11**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Mark  
*All Glory to you, O Lord.*

When Jesus returned to Capernaum after some days,  
it was reported that he was at home.  
So many gathered around that there was no longer room for them,  
not even in front of the door; and he was speaking the word to them.  
Then some people came,  
bringing to him a paralyzed man, carried by four of them.  
And when they could not bring him to Jesus because of the crowd,  
they removed the roof above him; and after having dug through it,  
they let down the mat on which the paralytic lay.  
When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic,  
“Son, your sins are forgiven.”  
Now some of the scribes were sitting there, questioning in their hearts,  
“Why does this fellow speak in this way?  
It is blasphemy!  
Who can forgive sins but God alone?”  
At once Jesus perceived in his spirit  
that they were discussing these questions among themselves;  
and he said to them,  
“Why do you raise such questions in your hearts?  
Which is easier, to say to the paralytic,

‘Your sins are forgiven,’  
or to say,  
‘Stand up and take your mat and walk’?  
But so that you may know  
that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins”  
—he said to the paralytic—  
“I say to you, stand up, take your mat and go to your home.”  
And he stood up, and immediately took the mat and went out before all of them;  
so that they were all amazed and glorified God, saying,  
“We have never seen anything like this!”

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

*All Praise to you, O Christ.*

**Hymn: Abide With Me**     <https://youtu.be/6Che-qybTiU>

1 Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
the darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!  
when other helpers fail, and comforts flee,  
help of the helpless, O abide with me.

2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;  
change and decay in all around I see;  
O thou who changest not, abide with me.

3 I need thy presence every passing hour;  
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's power?  
who like thyself my guide and stay can be?  
through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me.

4 I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;  
ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if thou abide with me.

5 Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;  
shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies:  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;  
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

**Reflection**

**An Affirmation of Faith:** *Shema Yisrael* שמע ישראל

Let us recall the teaching of Jesus as we say:

**Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.**

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,  
with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

**This is the first and the great commandment.**

**The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.**

**There is no commandment greater than these.**

**An Intercession.**

**The Lord's Prayer (Traditional Language)**

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**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,**

**the power and the glory,**

**for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Announcements**

**The Blessing**

May God,

who in Christ gives us a spring of water welling up to eternal life,

perfect in you the image of his glory;

and the blessing of God almighty,

the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,

be among you and remain with you always.

*All Amen.*

**Hymn: How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds** <https://youtu.be/0WnWtrFMdzc>

1 How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer's ear!  
It soothes his sorrows, heals his wounds,  
and drives away his fear.

2 It makes the wounded spirit whole,  
and calms the troubled breast;  
'tis manna to the hungry soul,  
and to the weary rest.

3 Dear name! the rock on which I build,  
my shield and hiding-place,  
my never-failing treasury filled  
with boundless stores of grace.

4 Jesus! my Shepherd, Brother, Friend,  
my Prophet, Priest, and King,  
my Lord, my Life, my Way, my End,  
accept the praise I bring.

5 Weak is the effort of my heart,  
and cold my warmest thought;  
but when I see thee as thou art,  
I'll praise thee as I ought.

6 Till then I would thy love proclaim  
with every fleeting breath;  
and may the music of thy name  
refresh my soul in death.

**Dismissal**

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.  
*All* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**