

March 14, 2021 – Fourth Sunday in Lent

Celebrant:	Rev. Robert Cooke
Preacher:	Rev. Dr. Alex Faseruk
Music:	Brad Jefford
Readers/Prayers:	Marilyn Beaton
Production:	Kevin McGrath

Opening Hymn: Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy unchanging love

Here I raise my Ebenezer, here there by Thy help I've come
And I hope, by Thy good pleasure safely to arrive at home
Jesus sought me when a stranger wandering from the fold of God
He, to rescue me from danger, interposed His precious blood

O to grace how great a debtor daily I'm constrained to be
Let that grace now, like a fetter, bind my wandering heart to Thee
Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it prone to leave the God I love
Here's my heart, O take and seal it, seal it for Thy courts above

Come, Thou Fount of every blessing, Tune my heart to sing Thy grace
Streams of mercy, never ceasing, call for songs of loudest praise
Teach me some melodious sonnet sung by flaming tongues above
Praise the mount, I'm fixed upon it, mount of Thy unchanging love

Greeting

The grace and peace of our Saviour Jesus Christ be with you,
and also with you.

As we prepare for Easter, when we shall reaffirm the baptismal covenant, let us continue to observe a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy word.

Kyries

May your loving mercy come to us, O Lord,
and your salvation according to your word:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Your word is a lantern to our feet and a light to our path:
Christ, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.**
O let your mercy come to us that we may live,
for your law is our delight:
Lord, have mercy. **Lord, have mercy.**

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.
**Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.**

Collect

Steadfast God,
you reach out to us in mercy.
When we rebel against your holy call
and walk in disobedience,
soften our hearts with the warmth of your love,
so that we may know your Son
alive within us, redeeming us,
and raising us up into your eternal presence. **Amen.**

A Reading from the Book of Numbers

From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." Then the Lord sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the Lord and against you; pray to the Lord to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

NUMBERS 21:4-9

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

A Reading from the Gospel According to John

Jesus said, "Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned; but those who do not believe are condemned already, because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God. And this is the judgement, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God." JOHN 3:14-21

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church.

Thanks be to God.

Sermon

An Affirmation of Faith

Let us declare our faith in God,

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God:
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

Prayers of the People

Lord of compassion

In your mercy, hear us

Lord's Prayer

Trusting in the compassion of God, we pray as our Saviour taught us,

**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.**

**Lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Dear friends in Christ,
as we prepare for the Feast of Easter,
let us make ready our hearts
to reaffirm the covenant of our baptism.

Let us ask God to bring to light
the things now hidden in darkness,
and to disclose to us the secret purposes of our hearts.

How faithfully have we continued
in the apostles' teaching and fellowship,
in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

Lord, have mercy,

Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.

How faithfully have we persevered in resisting evil,
and whenever we fell into sin,
repented and returned to the Lord?

Lord, have mercy,

Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.

How faithfully have we proclaimed
by word and example
the good news of God in Christ?
Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.

How faithfully have we sought and served Christ
in all persons, loving our neighbours as ourselves?
Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.

How faithfully have we worked
for justice and peace among all people,
respecting the dignity of every human being?
Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.

How faithfully have we worked to safeguard
the integrity of God's creation,
respecting, sustaining and renewing the life of the earth?
Lord, have mercy,
Lord, have mercy, and complete your work in us.

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

The peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Blessing

What does the Lord require? That you do justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God. And the blessing of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit be with you this day and always. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn: Create in Me a Clean Heart

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.
Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.

Cast me not away from thy presence, O Lord
And take not thy Holy Spirit from me.
Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation,
And renew a right spirit within me.

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
And renew a right spirit within me.

Dismissal

The worship has ended; the service begins. Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God