

St. John's Reformed Church
March 19, 2023 - 10:00 A.M.
Fourth Sunday of Lent

Please join responsively by speaking aloud the bolded sections.

Pre-Prelude *Jane Bier, Organist*
Announcements and Hospitality *Pastor Alisha*

Our Approach to God

Prelude *Jane Bier, Organist*
Votum: *Glenn Countryman, Liturgist*

In a world that does not understand repentance, we pray for new understanding, humility, patience, and discipline that will help us die to sin and live for Jesus...

*Call to Worship:

Let us worship God, who has done great things.

We rejoice in our God, who made a way through the desert of this world.

Let us worship God, who has caused streams of mercy to flow in the wasteland.

We are the people God has formed through Christ; we worship him, and we rejoice!

Let us worship God in spirit and in truth.

We praise God for the grace that has saved us.

*Hymn *Eternal Spirit, God of Truth* #641 v. 1-2

Salutation & Prayer of Invocation *Pastor Alisha*

Prayer of Confession *Glenn Countryman, Liturgist*

Almighty God, you despise nothing you have made, and you forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts, that, truly repenting of our sins and acknowledging our brokenness, we may obtain from you, the God of all mercy, full pardon and forgiveness, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Kyrie Eleison *“Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.”*

Assurance of Pardon *Pastor Alisha*

Summary of the Law: based on Isaiah 58:6-8

“Is not this the fast I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice; to share your bread with the hungry; to bring the homeless poor into your house; to clothe the naked? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly.”

May the Spirit guide us to be obedient to this Word. Amen.

*Gloria Patri *Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. Amen.*

Music Meditation *“For the Beauty of the Earth”*

piano and organ duet featuring Mary Bayer & Jane Bier

The Word of God in Proclamation

Prayer of Illumination *Glenn Countryman, Liturgist*

Lesson from the Old Testament: 1 Samuel 16:1-13 (pg. 259-260)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Lesson from the New Testament: Ephesians 5:8-14 (pg. 194)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*Hymn *Before the Throne of God* #682 v. 1-3

Lesson from the Psalms: Psalm 23 (pg. 501)

This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sermon

Prayer for Blessing

Our Response to God's Grace

*Confession of Faith: Apostles' Creed *Glenn Countryman, Liturgist*
I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From there 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.

*meaning the universal Christian church - all believers in Jesus Christ

*The Peace, The peace of Christ be with you. **And also with you.**

The Offering

Offertory

Jane Bier, Organist

*Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow.

Praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly hosts.

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

*Prayer of Dedication (*unison*)

Compassionate God, we offer you these gifts as signs of our time and labor. Receive the offering of our lives and feed us with your grace, that in the midst of death all creation might experience your unending life in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayers for the People of God

The Lord's Prayer (use 'trespasses')

Threefold Amen ***Amen, Amen, Amen***

*Hymn *He Leadeth Me* #440 v. 1-4

Benediction

*Congregational Amen "Go Now in Peace"

Go now in peace. Never be afraid.

God will go with us each hour of every day.

Go now in faith steadfast strong and true.

Know he will guide us in all we do.

Go now in love, and show we believe.

Reach out to others so all the world can see.

God will be there watching from above.

Go now in peace, in faith and, in love.

*Postlude

Jane Bier, Organist

*Indicates congregation to stand if able.