



Online Bulletin

March 22, 2020

ORDER OF SERVICE

HYMN

[O Church Arise](#)

INVOCATION

In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

Holy God, gracious Father, I am sinful by nature and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions. I have not loved you with my whole heart; I have not loved others as I should. I deserve your punishment both now and forever. But Jesus my Savior, paid for my sins with his innocent suffering and death. Trusting in him, I pray: God have mercy on me, a sinner.

Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son + and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

I will go. I will return to my place
until they admit their guilt and seek my face.
In their distress they will earnestly seek me.
^{6:1}Come, let us return to the LORD.

For he has torn us to pieces,
but he will heal us.
He has struck us,
but he will bandage our wounds.
²After two days he will revive us.
On the third day he will raise us up,
so that we may live in his presence.
³Let us acknowledge the LORD.
Let us pursue knowledge of the LORD.
As surely as the sun rises,
the LORD will appear.
He will come to us like a heavy rain,
like the spring rain that waters the earth.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, ⁴so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.
⁵To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way

the spirit does. ⁶ Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. ⁷ For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. ⁸ Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

⁹ But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:17-28

As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside; and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸ "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and experts in the law, and they will condemn him to death. ¹⁹ They will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock, flog, and crucify him. On the third day he will be raised."

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to him with her sons, kneeling and asking something of him. ²¹ He said to her, "What do you want?"

She said to him, "Promise that in your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on your right hand and one on your left hand."

²² But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?"

They said to him, "We are."

²³ He said to them, "You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not for me to give; rather these places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

²⁴ When the ten heard this, they were angry with the two brothers.

²⁵ But Jesus summoned them and said, "You know that the rulers of the nations lord it

over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It will not be that way among you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you will be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ!

SERMON

Psalms 42-43

DEALING WITH A DROUGHT

For the choir director. *A maskil* of the Sons of Korah.
1 As the deer pants for streams of water,
so my soul pants for you, my God.
2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.

When can I go and meet with God?

3 My tears have been my food day and night,
while people say to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”

4 These things I remember as I pour out my soul:
how I used to go to the house of God
under the protection of the Mighty One
with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.

5 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

6 My soul is downcast within me;
therefore I will remember you
from the land of the Jordan,
the heights of Hermon—from Mount Mizar.

7 Deep calls to deep
in the roar of your waterfalls;
all your waves and breakers
have swept over me.

8 By day the Lord directs his love, at night his song is with me—a prayer to the God of my life.

9 I say to God my Rock,
“Why have you forgotten me?
Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?”

10 My bones suffer mortal agony
as my foes taunt me,
saying to me all day long,
“Where is your God?”

11 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

[Psalm 43]

1 Vindicate me, my God,
and plead my cause against an unfaithful nation.

Rescue me from those who are
deceitful and wicked.

2 You are God my stronghold.
Why have you rejected me?

Why must I go about mourning,
oppressed by the enemy?

3 Send me your light and your faithful care,
let them lead me;

let them bring me to your holy mountain,
to the place where you dwell.

4 Then I will go to the altar of God,
to God, my joy and my delight.

I will praise you with the lyre,
O God, my God.

5 Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me?
Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, we acknowledge our dependence upon you. This virus has reminded us of our frailty as human beings. We repent of our false belief in self-sufficiency and our pride. Lord, we know the fallen nature of our world has marred the beauty of your created order. We, like your Son, weep and rage at sickness and death that has been reaped by Covid-19. We long for the day you resurrect our bodies and bring us to heaven no virus or pandemic will ever exist.

As we endure this new normal in our lives, we pray earnestly for the medical doctors, nurses, and health care professionals who are putting their lives on the line for their neighbors. Give them strength and immunity during this time, so that our healthcare system is not overwhelmed. We pray for the scientists, disease experts, and epidemiologists who are working feverishly on vaccines and testing mechanisms. Lord, we thank you for gifting them with knowledge and wisdom we don't have. We pray for their endurance, for breakthroughs, and for resources. Lord, you are the Great Physician, so we pray for healing for the victims of COVID-19.

Dear God, move in the hearts of our public officials. As you have instructed us in your Word, we earnestly come before you on behalf of our president, Congress, governors, mayors, and local officials. We pray you guide them with wisdom and charity and discernment.

We also pray for the people in our nation and the nations of the world to be humbled and turn to you in repentance and faith. We know you are the Prince of peace, Lord of lords, the King of kings. We praise you for your goodness and your mercy, and your purpose in all of this. And we ask this in the name of Jesus, our Lord. Amen.

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. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor + and give you peace.

Amen.

HYMN

[As the Deer \(Psalm 42-43\)](#)