



TO BE HIS LIGHT THAT TRANSFORMS LIVES

*Fourth Sunday in Lent*  
March 14, 2021



### **\*Prayer of Adoration and Confession**

**As we follow your Son to Jerusalem, O God, we thank you for loving us: even we who consistently and perversely stray from that singular path. In times when we've turned our eyes everywhere but to you, you remind us to look up to where you have lifted your Son on the cross, to bring us new life. For this gift, far beyond what we dare to ask or hope to deserve, we offer humble thanks and focused praise. No matter how long the road, or how far we may deviate from the path, we trust in your unfailing presence and care; under the Mercy who is Christ our Lord.**

**If the sin had a name, we've committed it – as you well know, all-suffering God. We know, in your grace, that you have set before us a clear path to follow your Son, but we persist in leaving that road, enticed by the promised pleasures of the undergrowth, far happier to pursue our own devices and desires than to stay beside Jesus.**

**Forgive us, we pray, for our destructive straying. Hold your Son's cross ever before us, that we may learn anew the height and depth and breadth of your love for us; under the mercy of Him who died that we might live, even Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

### **\*Assurance of Pardon**

**P: Hear the Good News! God who is rich in mercy, through great love Given to us, brought us to life with Christ even when we were dead in our sins; it is by the grace of God we are saved.**

**Dearly Beloved, believe the Good News!**

**\*Gloria Patri**

*(Greatorex)*

**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.**

### **Scripture Lesson**

From the History of the Old Testament: 2 Chronicles 36:14-23

<sup>14</sup> All the leading priests and the people also were exceedingly unfaithful, following all the abominations of the nations; and they polluted the house of the LORD that he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

<sup>15</sup> The LORD, the God of their ancestors, sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling place; <sup>16</sup> but they kept mocking the messengers of God, despising his words, and scoffing at his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD against his people became so great that there was no remedy.

<sup>17</sup> Therefore he brought up against them the king of the Chaldeans, who killed their youths with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion on young man or young woman, the aged or the feeble; he gave them all into his hand. <sup>18</sup> All the vessels of the house of God, large and small, and the treasures of the house of the LORD, and the treasures of the king and of his officials, all these he brought to Babylon. <sup>19</sup> They burned the house of God, broke down the wall of Jerusalem, burned all its palaces with fire, and destroyed all its precious vessels. <sup>20</sup> He took into exile in Babylon those who had escaped from the sword, and they became servants to him and to his sons until the establishment of the kingdom of Persia, <sup>21</sup> to fulfill the word of the LORD by the mouth of Jeremiah, until the land had made up for its sabbaths. All the days that it lay desolate it kept sabbath, to fulfill seventy years.

<sup>22</sup> In the first year of King Cyrus of Persia, in fulfillment of the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah, the LORD stirred up the spirit of King Cyrus of Persia so that he sent a herald throughout all his kingdom and also declared in a written edict: <sup>23</sup> "Thus says King Cyrus of Persia: The LORD, the God of heaven, has given me all the kingdoms of the earth, and he has charged me to build him a house at Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever is among you of all his people, may the LORD his God be with him! Let him go up."

**Anthem**                      *"I Will Sing of the Mercies"*      (Howard Whitaker)

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord forever, I will sing,  
With my mouth will I make known Thy faithfulness to all generations.

**Scripture Lesson**                      From the Letters of Paul: Ephesians 2:1-10

**2** You were dead through the trespasses and sins <sup>2</sup> in which you once lived, following the course of this world, following the ruler of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work among those who are disobedient. <sup>3</sup> All of us once lived among them in the passions of our flesh, following the desires of flesh and senses, and we were by nature children of wrath, like everyone else. <sup>4</sup> But God, who is rich in mercy, out of the great love with which he loved us <sup>5</sup> even when we were dead through our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ<sup>[a]</sup>—by grace you have been saved— <sup>6</sup> and raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, <sup>7</sup> so that in the ages to come he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. <sup>8</sup> For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God— <sup>9</sup> not the result of works, so that no one may boast. <sup>10</sup> For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.

## **Pastoral Prayer**

### **Lord's Prayer**

**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.**

### **Offertory Invitation**

We who have been anointed with God's love and set apart for discipleship are challenged to be the body of Christ in the world. We are privileged to share the resources entrusted to each of us, that together we may provide leadership and empowerment for the church's mission. Our offerings support the ministries we offer here and our outreach to many places where needs are greater than our own.

### **Offertory**

*"What Shall I Bring to the Lord?" (Robert C. Lau)*

What shall I bring to the Lord when I come to worship Him?  
Shall I bring my best as offering to Him? What shall I bring?  
Will the Lord require something special from me?  
Oh what shall I bring for a King?

I could bring riches, power; now is the hour to lift our voices and sing.  
I could bring wisdom, glory, I could tell the story of Jesus, my King.  
But hear what the Lord says: Do justice, have mercy, and walk,  
walk humbly with your God, Walk with God.

## Scripture Lesson

From the Gospels: John 3:14-21

<sup>14</sup> And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, <sup>15</sup> that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>16</sup> "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.

<sup>17</sup> "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. <sup>18</sup> 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. <sup>19</sup> And this is the judgment, that the light has come into the world, and people loved darkness rather than light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> For all who do evil hate the light and do not come to the light, so that their deeds may not be exposed. <sup>21</sup> 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."

## Sermon

"The Light" Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

## Hymn

*"Softly and Tenderly"* (Thompson)  
(see next page)

## Benediction

## Choral Response

## Postlude

*"Prelude in G Minor"* (J.S. Bach)

## Softly and Tenderly

1 Soft - ly and ten - der - ly Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing for  
 2 Why should we tar - ry when Je - sus is plead - ing, plead - ing for  
 3 O for the won - der - ful love he has prom - ised, prom - ised for

you and for me; see, on the por - tals he's wait - ing and watch - ing,  
 you and for me? Why should we lin - ger and heed not his mer - cies,  
 you and for me! Though we have sinned, he has mer - cy and par - don,

*Refrain*  
 watch - ing for you and for me. Come home, come home,  
 mer - cies for you and for me? Come home, come home,  
 par - don for you and for me. Come home, come home,

ye who are wea - ry, come home; ear - nest - ly, ten - der - ly,

Je - sus is call - ing, call - ing, O sin - ner, come home!

**Today's Worship Leaders:**

Preaching Today: Rev. J. Martin Westermeyer

Liturgist: Kyle Taylor

Organist: Michael Sullivan

Choral Director: Dobin Park

Thanks to all the musicians and to Michael Sullivan and Dobin Park for assisting with filming  
and to Dobin Park for film editing.

Music reprinted under OneLicense.net A-722754