

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 14, 2021

Theme: Nothing external could change the hearts and minds of the rich man or his brothers as they selfishly ignored the needs of those around them. Change comes from within.

PRELUDE

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ☩ one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.
Amen.

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

A time for silence

Eternal God our creator, **in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us with your everlasting love, and forgive us all our offenses, cleanse us from proud thoughts, and remove empty desires. Draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God whose love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God Jesus died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God ☩ forgives us all our sins. **Amen.**

GATHERING SONG

Change My Heart, O God

**Change my heart, O God; make it ever true. Change my heart, O God; may I be like you.
You are the potter; I am the clay. Mold me and make me; this is what I pray.**

GREETING

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray: **Merciful God, You care deeply for those who are in need. May we be your hands and heart as we go about your work of serving the poor, hungry and disadvantaged, feeding our souls on kindness and love. Amen**

SPECIAL MUSIC

Sonata No.1 in F minor, Op.2. Mvt.2

L. Beethoven

Piano: Roger Halvorson

FIRST READING

Psalm 41

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God**

GOSPEL

Luke 16:19-31

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the 16th chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

The reading concludes: The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ**

SERMON

SERMON HYMN

Will You Let Me Be Your Servant

#659

Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?

Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.

**We are pilgrims on a journey, we are travelers on the road;
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load.**

**I will hold the Christ-light for you in the nighttime of your fear;
I will hold my hand out to you, speak the peace you long to hear.**

**I will weep when you are weeping; when you laugh I'll laugh with you.
I will share your joy and sorrow till we've seen this journey through.**

**Will you let me be your servant, let me be as Christ to you?
Pray that I may have the grace to let you be my servant, too.**

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

We pray for the church, the world, and all those in need. Compassionate God, **Hear our prayer**
You hear all your children's prayers and gather the lost into your loving arms. Teach us to put our
trust in you, and in our Lord and savior Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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.**

BENEDICTION

You are what God made you to be: created in Christ Jesus for good works, chosen as holy and
beloved, freed to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing, in the name of
the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

What a Friend We Have In Jesus.

#742

**What a friend we have in Jesus, all our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry ev'rything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit; oh, what needless pain we bear--
all because we do not carry ev'rything to God in prayer!**

**Have we trials and temptations? Is there trouble anywhere?
We should never be discouraged--take it to the Lord in prayer.
Can we find a friend so faithful who will all our sorrows share?
Jesus knows our ev'ry weakness--take it to the Lord in prayer.**

**Are we weak and heavy-laden, cumbered with a load of care?
Precious Savior, still our refuge--take it to the Lord in prayer.
Do your friends despise, forsake you? Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In his arms he'll take and shield you; you will find a solace there.**

DISMISSAL

Go in peace, stay safe and be safe. Share the good news! **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE