

THE FOURTH WEDNESDAY IN LENT, March 17, 2021

(P: pastor; C: congregation)

OPENING LITANY AND CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

P: In the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit,

C: Amen.

P: God commanded the skies above and opened the doors of heaven, and he rained down on them manna to eat and gave them the grain of heaven.

C: Man ate of the bread of the angels; he sent them food in abundance.

P: With humble and repentant hearts, let us confess our sins unto God our Father.

C: O LORD, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing; heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled. Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love.

P: On the basis of your confession and the Lord's promise, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON: Acts 2:41-47

So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

SECOND LESSON: John 6:1-15

After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

P: The word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

MEDITATION, Amazing Grace for the Filled

HYMN: “How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds”, LBW 345

(Text: Public domain)

**How sweet the name of Jesus sounds
In a believer’s ear!
It soothes our sorrows, heals our wounds,
And drives away our fear.**

**It makes the wounded spirit whole
And calms the heart’s unrest;
'Tis manna to the hungry soul
And to the weary, rest.**

**Dear name! The rock on which I build,
My shield and hiding place;
My never-failing treasury filled
With boundless stores of grace.**

**O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
My Prophet, Priest and King,
My Lord, my life, my way, my end,
Accept the praise I bring.**

PRAYER

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you sent to us a Savior, Jesus our Lord, the Bread of life. Through faith in his name we are fed and filled. Teach us to reach out to others with Jesus’ love, that we might supply their needs, both physical and spiritual. By the power of the Holy Spirit, lead them through the proclamation of the Gospel to feed on Jesus, the bread of heaven.

C: Amen

LORD’S PRAYER

P: Let us pray with confidence in the words our Savior gave us:

C: 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. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

BLESSING

P: The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

C: Amen

CLOSING HYMN: “Amazing Grace”, st. 2

**’Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.**