



*“FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES,
AS WE FORGIVE THOSE WHO TRESPASS AGAINST US”*

FIFTH WEDNESDAY IN LENT

March 25, 2020

Trinity Free Lutheran Church, Grand Forks, ND

OPENING

O LORD, open my lips,

And my mouth will declare Your praise.

PSALM 51:15

Make haste, O God to deliver me;

Make haste to help me, O LORD.

PSALM 70:1

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation. Amen.

PSALM 130:1-8 (ESV)

¹ Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD!

² **O Lord, hear my voice!**

**Let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleas for mercy!**

³ If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities,
O Lord, who could stand?

⁴ **But with you there is forgiveness,
that you may be feared.**

⁵ I wait for the LORD, my soul waits,
and in his word I hope;

⁶ **my soul waits for the LORD
more than watchmen for the morning,
more than watchmen for the morning.**

⁷ O Israel, hope in the LORD!

For with the LORD there is steadfast love,
and with him is plentiful redemption.

⁸ **And he will redeem Israel
from all his iniquities.**

HYMN #74: "WIDE OPEN ARE THY LOVING HANDS"

- 1 Wide open are Thy loving hands
To pay with more than gold
The awful debt of guilty men,
Forever and of old.
Ah, let me grasp those pierced hands,
That we may never part,
And let the power of their blood
Sustain my fainting heart.
- 2 Wide open are Thy saving arms,
A fallen world t' embrace;
To take to love and endless rest
Our whole forsaken race.
Lord, I am helpless, sad, and poor,
But boundless is Thy grace;
Give me the soul-transforming joy
For which I seek Thy face.
- 3 Draw all my mind, my soul, and heart
Up to Thy throne on high,
And let Thy sacred cross exalt
My spirit to the sky.
To these, Thy mighty, faithful hands,
My spirit I resign:
In life, I live alone to Thee,
In death, alone am Thine.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: GENESIS 50:15-21 (ESV)

¹⁵When Joseph's brothers saw that their father was dead, they said, "It may be that Joseph will hate us and pay us back for all the evil that we did to him." ¹⁶So they sent a message to Joseph, saying, "Your father gave this command before he died: ¹⁷'Say to Joseph, "Please forgive the transgression of your brothers and their sin, because they did evil to you." ' And now, please forgive the transgression of the servants of the God of your father." Joseph wept when they spoke to him. ¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down before him and said, "Behold, we are your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place of God? ²⁰As for you,

you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

EPISTLE LESSON: 1 JOHN 1:5-2:2 (ESV)

⁵This is the message we have heard from him and proclaim to you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. ⁶If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth. ⁷But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin. ⁸If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

^{2:1} My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. ²He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.

RESPONSE TO THE LESSONS

Deliver me, O LORD, My God,
for you are the God of my salvation. *PSALM 51:14*

**Rescue me from my enemies,
protect me from those who rise against me.** *PSALM 59:1*

In You, O LORD, do I put my trust,
leave me not, O LORD, my God. *PSALM 141:8*

**Rescue me from my enemies,
protect me from those who rise against me.** *PSALM 59:1*

Deliver me, O LORD, My God,
for you are the God of my salvation. *PSALM 51:14*

**Rescue me from my enemies,
protect me from those who rise against me.** *PSALM 59:1*

HYMN #220: "OUR FATHER, THRONED IN HEAVEN ABOVE"

- 1 Our Father, throned in heaven above,
All glory to Thy name of love!
Thy kingdom come: Thy holy will
May earth as well as heaven fulfill.
- 2 Give us this day our daily food,
With all we need of promised good;
And freely all our sins remit,
As we our debtors freely quit.
- 3 Defend us from the tempter's ways,
Uphold when tried, when fallen, raise:
For power is Thine, and boundless reign,
In glory evermore, Amen.

CATECHISM READING: THE 5TH PETITION OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Fifth Petition:

And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us.

What does this mean?

We pray in this petition that our heavenly Father would not regard our sins nor because of them deny our prayers; for we neither merit nor are worthy of those things for which we pray; but that He would grant us all things through grace, even though we sin daily and deserve nothing but punishment. And certainly we, on our part, will heartily forgive and gladly do good to those who may sin against us.

GOSPEL LESSON: MATTHEW 18:15-35(ESV)

¹⁵ "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault, between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, that every charge may be established by the evidence of two or three witnesses. ¹⁷ If he refuses to listen to them, tell it to the church. And if he refuses to listen even to the church, let him be to you as a Gentile and a tax collector. ¹⁸ Truly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. ¹⁹ Again I say to you, if two of you agree on

earth about anything they ask, it will be done for them by my Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I among them."

²¹ Then Peter came up and said to him, "Lord, how often will my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?"

²² Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy-seven times.

²³ "Therefore the kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who wished to settle accounts with his servants. ²⁴ When he began to settle, one was brought to him who owed him ten thousand talents. ²⁵ And since he could not pay, his master ordered him to be sold, with his wife and children and all that he had, and payment to be made. ²⁶ So the servant fell on his knees, imploring him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you everything.' ²⁷ And out of pity for him, the master of that servant released him and forgave him the debt. ²⁸ But when that same servant went out, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii, and seizing him, he began to choke him, saying, 'Pay what you owe.' ²⁹ So his fellow servant fell down and pleaded with him, 'Have patience with me, and I will pay you.' ³⁰ He refused and went and put him in prison until he should pay the debt. ³¹ When his fellow servants saw what had taken place, they were greatly distressed, and they went and reported to their master all that had taken place. ³² Then his master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you all that debt because you pleaded with me. ³³ And should not you have had mercy on your fellow servant, as I had mercy on you?' ³⁴ And in anger his master delivered him to the jailers, until he should pay all his debt. ³⁵ So also my heavenly Father will do to every one of you, if you do not forgive your brother from your heart."

SERMON: "FORGIVENESS"

THE MAGNIFICAT

LUKE 1:46-55

My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant.
For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed;

for he who is mighty has done great things for me,

and holy is his name.

And his mercy is for those who fear him

from generation to generation.

He has shown strength with his arm;

he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts;

he has brought down the mighty from their thrones

and exalted those of humble estate;

he has filled the hungry with good things,

and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has helped his servant Israel,

in remembrance of his mercy,

as he spoke to our fathers,

to Abraham and to his offspring forever.

HYMN #70: "ALAS! AND DID MY SAVIOR BLEED"

- 1 Alas! and did my Savior bleed,
And did my Sov'reign die,
Would He devote that sacred head
For sinners such as I?
- 2 Was it for crimes that I had done
He groan'd upon the tree?
Amazing pity, grace unknown,
And love beyond degree.
- 3 Well might the sun in darkness hide,
And shut His glories in,
When God, the mighty Maker, died
For man, the creature's sin.
- 4 Thus might I hide my blushing face
While His dear cross appears,
Dissolve my heart in thankfulness,
and melt my eyes to tears.
- 5 But drops of grief can ne'er repay
The debt of love I owe;
Here, Lord, I give myself away,
'Tis all that I can do.

THE 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.

COLLECT

O Lord, hear my prayer,

And let my cry come to You.

PSALM 102:1

O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

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

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

Amen.