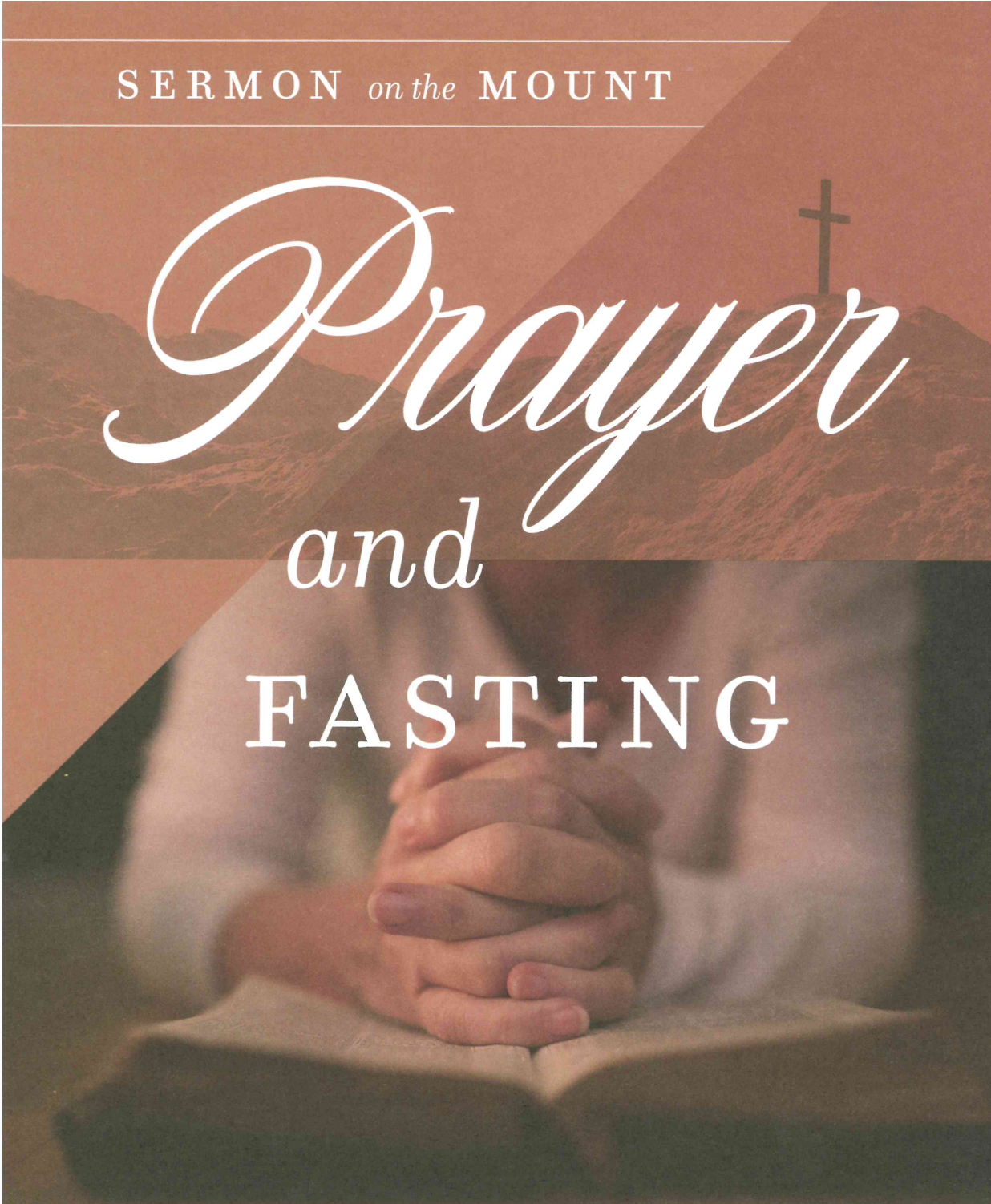


SERMON *on the* MOUNT

Prayer

and

FASTING





“Prayer and Fasting”

Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 6:30 pm

✠ PREPARATION ✠

The congregation gathers in silence.

RINGING OF THE BELL

Please stand for portions of service marked with an asterisk ()*

WELCOME

Pastor John Larson

ELDER PRAYER

***INVOCATION**

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

***HYMN**

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

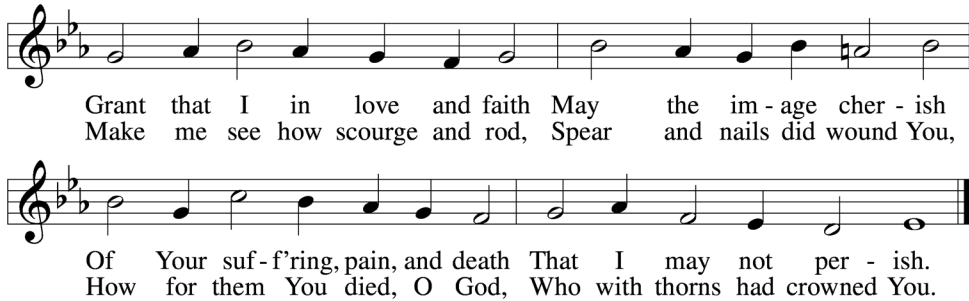
LSB 440 v.1-2



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On Your ho - ly pas - sion;
2 Make me see Your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af - flic - tion,



With Your Spir - it me en - dow For such med - i - ta - tion.
Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness And Your cru - ci - fix - ion;



Grant that I in love and faith May the im - age cher - ish
 Make me see how scourge and rod, Spear and nails did wound You,
 Of Your suf - f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.
 How for them You died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned You.

Tune and text: Public domain

THE PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST *(read by Pastor)* ***The Lord's Supper***

Now the Feast of Unleavened Bread, also called the Passover, drew near, and Jesus said to his disciples: "You know that after two days is the Feast of the Passover, and the Son of Man will be given over to be crucified."

Then the chief priests and scribes assembled with the elders of the people in the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, and consulted how they might take Jesus craftily and put him to death. But they said, "Not on the feast day, lest there be an uproar among the people," for they feared the people.

Then Satan entered into Judas, surnamed Iscariot, one of the Twelve. He went his way to the chief priests and captains and spoke together with them how he might betray Jesus to them. They were glad to hear him. He said to them, "What will you give me to betray him to you?"

They promised to give him money and agreed with him for thirty pieces of silver. He accepted, and from that time he sought opportunity to betray him in the absence of the multitude.

Then came the first day of Unleavened Bread when they sacrificed the Passover lamb. Jesus sent Peter and John, saying, "Go and prepare the Passover, that we may eat it."

They said to him, "Where do you want us to prepare it?"

He said to them, "Go into the city and, when you have entered the city, watch for a man bearing a pitcher of water. When he meets you, follow him into the house where he enters. You shall say to the man who lives there, "The Master says to you, "My time is at hand; I will keep the Passover at your house. Where is the room for me to eat the Passover with my disciples?" And he will show you a large upper room, furnished and prepared; there make ready for us."

The disciples did as Jesus had directed them. They came into the city and found it as he had told them; and they made ready the Passover.

When the hour was come, Jesus sat down and the apostles with him. As they were eating, he said, "I have longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer, for I say to you I shall not eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God."

As they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. This do in remembrance of me."

In the same way also he took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you; this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

"Truly I say to you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in the kingdom of my Father."

There was also a strife among them as to which of them should be accounted the greatest. He said to them, "The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority over them are called 'benefactors.' It shall not be so among you. He that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that serves. For who is greater, he that sits at the table or he that serves? Is it not he that sits at the table? But I am among you as a servant. You are they who have continued with me in my temptations. I appoint you to a kingdom, as my Father has appointed me. You shall eat and drink at my table in my kingdom and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."

Jesus knew that his hour was come to depart from the world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who are in the world, he loved them to the end. Already Satan had put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had given all things into his hands and that he had come from God and was going to God. He rose from supper, laid aside his garments, and girded himself with a towel. He poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel with which he was girded.

When he came to Simon Peter, Peter said to him, "Lord, do you wash my feet?"

Jesus answered and said to him, "What I am doing you do not know now, but after these things you will understand."

Peter said to him, "You shall never wash my feet."

Jesus answered him, "If I do not wash you, you have no part with me."

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."

Jesus said to him, "He who has been bathed does not need to wash more than his feet, for he is clean altogether. You are clean, but not all of you." He knew who was to betray him; that was why he said not every one was clean.

So after he had washed their feet and taken his garments and sat down again, he said to them, "Do you know what I have done to you? You call me the Master and the Lord, and it is good that you say this, for so I am. If I, then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another's feet. I have done this to show you the way to do as I have done to you. Truly, truly, I say to you, a servant is not greater than his lord; neither is he that is sent greater than he that sent him. If you know these things, happy are you if you do them.

"I do not speak of you all; I know whom I have chosen. The Scripture must be fulfilled, 'He that eats bread with me has lifted up his heel against me.' Already now I tell you of this, before it happens, so that when it does happen you may believe that I am he.

"Truly, truly, I say to you, whoever receives anyone whom I shall send, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives him who sent me."

When Jesus had said these things, his spirit was in turmoil. He bore witness and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you that one of you will betray me."

The disciples looked at each other dumbfounded about whom he spoke. One of his disciples, whom Jesus loved, was leaning on Jesus' bosom. Simon Peter said to him, "Ask who it is of whom he is speaking."

That disciple who was reclining on Jesus' chest said to him, "Lord, who is it?"

Jesus then answered, "It is the one to whom I shall give the piece of bread after I have dipped it."

He dipped the piece of bread he had in his hand and gave it to Judas, son of Simon Iscariot. After the piece of bread had been dipped, Satan entered into that one. Jesus said to him, "What you are doing, do quickly."

No one at the table knew what the purpose was of what Jesus had said to him. Because Judas kept the money bag, some thought Jesus had told him to buy what was needed for the feast or to give something to the poor. When that man had received the piece of bread, he went out immediately, and it was night.

When he had gone out, Jesus said, "Now is the Son of Man glorified, and in him God is glorified. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify him in himself, and at once he will glorify him.

"Little children, yet a little while I am with you. You will seek me; and as I said to the Jews so now I say to you, 'Where I am going you cannot come.' A new commandment I give you, that you love one another as I have loved you. For this I

have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Simon Peter said to him, "Lord, where are you going?"

Jesus answered him, "Where I am going you cannot follow me now, but afterwards you will follow me."

***OPENING SENTENCES**

Pastor: God the Father has His ear turned toward you.

People: Lord, teach us to pray.

Pastor: God the Son pleads for you before the kingdom throne.

People: Lord, teach us to pray.

Pastor: God the Holy Spirit gives you the words when you don't know what to say.

People: Lord, teach us to pray.

Pastor: God is always attentive, always listening, always ready, willing and able to help in time of need. He loves to be your guide and your shield.

People: Lord, teach us to pray.

Pastor: When you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

People: Lord, teach us to pray. Amen.

***CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Pastor: Our Lord teaches us to pray and even gives us the words to say. And yet our prayers are often shallow, showy or non-existent.

People: Most merciful God, forgive us for the many times we fail to pray. Though you have given us the words to say, we neglect to use them. When we do pray, we often do so for show, for selfish reasons or with a complete lack of trust. Our faulty prayer life is a reflection of weak faith and sinful lives. We are harried and worried because we fail to take our concerns to you in prayer. Forgive us, renew us and restore us so that as your dear children we pray well, pray often and pray without ceasing.

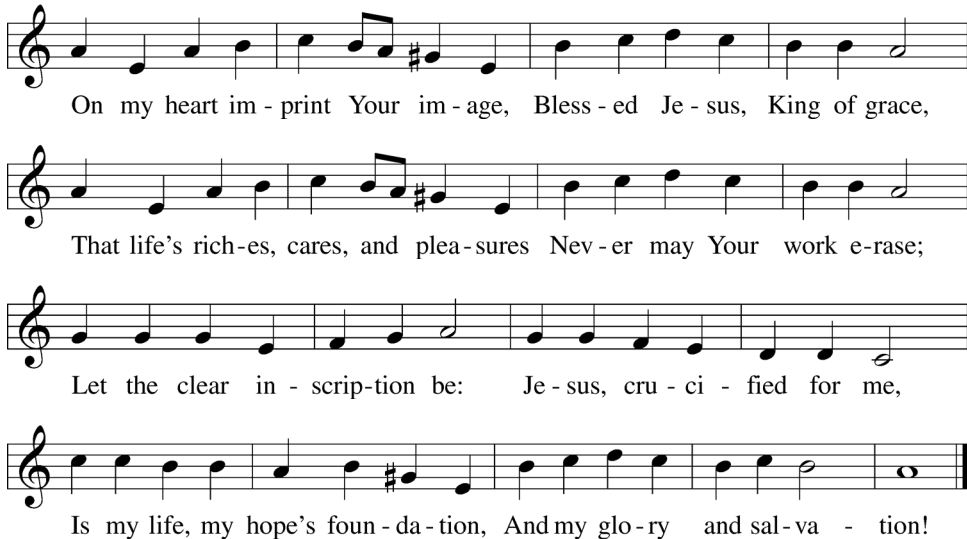
Pastor: Our God in his mercy sent his Son, Jesus Christ, who prayed perfectly for you. In his darkest hour he even prayed for you from the cross. Because of his perfect love and mercy demonstrated by his death and resurrection, your sins are forgiven and your life is renewed. As a result, I declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF RESPONSE

“On My Heart Imprint Your Image”

LSB 442



On my heart im - print Your im - age, Bless - ed Je - sus, King of grace,
That life's rich - es, cares, and plea - sures Nev - er may Your work e - rase;
Let the clear in - scrip - tion be: Je - sus, cru - ci - fied for me,
Is my life, my hope's foun - da - tion, And my glo - ry and sal - va - tion!

Text and tune: Public domain

***GOSPEL READING**

Matthew 6:5-18

(Prayer and fasting)

[Jesus said:] “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

“And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts,

as we also have forgiven our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

“And when you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces that their fasting may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by others but by your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.”

Pastor: O Lord, have mercy on us.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HYMN

“What A Friend We Have in Jesus”

LSB 770



1 What a friend we have in Je - sus, All our sins and griefs to bear!
2 Have we tri - als and temp - ta - tions? Is there trou - ble an - y - where?
3 Are we weak and heav - y lad - en, Cum - bered with a load of care?



What a priv - i - lege to car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
We should nev - er be dis - cour - aged— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
Pre - cious Sav - ior, still our ref - uge— Take it to the Lord in prayer.



Oh, what peace we of - ten for - feit; Oh, what need - less pain we bear—
Can we find a friend so faith - ful Who will all our sor - rows share?
Do thy friends de - spise, for - sake thee? Take it to the Lord in prayer.



All be - cause we do not car - ry Ev - 'ry - thing to God in prayer!
Je - sus knows our ev - 'ry weak - ness— Take it to the Lord in prayer.
In His arms He'll take and shield thee; Thou wilt find a sol - ace there.

Tune and text: Public domain

OFFERING

"Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." (2 Corinthians 9:7). We give our tithes and offerings to God as an act of worship in gratitude for the gifts He has first given us. If you wish to give electronically using a credit card or automated bank withdrawal, please scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit www.epiphanylc.org and click on GIVE. As good stewards, please use credit wisely.



If you wish to mail your gift, send your check to Epiphany Lutheran Church, 550 E. Wolfensberger Rd., Castle Rock, CO 80109.

[CLICK HERE TO GIVE ELECTRONICALLY](#)

***PRAYERS**

People: O Lord, you have given us the gift of prayer and have taught us to pray. Daily remind us that you are our Father and we are your dear children. Make our lives a reflection of your great name.

People: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.

People: O Lord, you have built your kingdom on the witness, testimony and prayers of your people throughout the ages. Bring your kingdom to us and through us, that your will would be done right here and right now just like it always is in heaven.

People: Your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

People: O Lord, you provide for all our needs of body, soul and spirit. You never leave us or forsake us. Give us good government and earthly peace so that your gospel would be proclaimed around the world. Please bring the daily bread of your healing to all in our lives who need it.

People: Give us this day our daily bread.

People: O Lord, we are imperfect sinners in need of a perfect Savior. You have provided for us all that we need for life and salvation. Make our lives an offering to you.

People: And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

People: O Lord, you overcame every temptation and lived a perfect life. In our Baptism you robed us in your righteousness. Free us from our sin and deliver us in the hour of every trial.

People: And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

Pastor: Into your hands, Lord Jesus, we place all of our needs, knowing that you are ever praying and pleading for us before the heavenly throne.

People: **Amen.**

*BENEDICAMUS

LSB pg. 234

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

*BENEDICTION

LSB pg. 234

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

People: **Amen.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*CLOSING HYMN

"O Jesus, Blessed Lord, to Thee"

LSB 632

1 O Je - sus, bless - ed Lord, to Thee My heart - felt
2 Break forth, my soul, for joy and say: What wealth is
thanks for - ev - er be, Who hast so lov - ing -
come to me this day! My Sav - ior dwells with -
ly be - stowed On me Thy bod - y and Thy blood.
in my heart: How blessed am I! How good Thou art!

Tune and text: Public domain

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Midweek Lenten Services (all begin at 6:30 pm)

March 3rd – Salt and Light – Rev. Chris Matthis
March 10th – Do Not Worry – Rev. John Larson
March 17th – Judge Not – Rev. Chris Matthis
March 24th – Build on the Rock – Rev. John Larson

Holy Week Services

April 1st, 7:00 pm – Maundy Thursday (with Holy Communion)
April 2nd, 7:00 pm – Good Friday Tenebrae Service
April 3rd, 5:00 pm – Easter Service (with Communion)
April 4th, 8:00 am & 9:30 am & 11:00 am –
Resurrection Sunday (with Holy Communion)

SERVING THE LORD TONIGHT

(February 24, 2021)

Readings: *(Holy Gospel)* Matthew 6:5-18

	6:30 pm
Preacher	<i>Pastor John Larson</i>
Elders	<i>Richard Rath</i>
Accompanist	<i>Carol Krueger</i>
Acolyte	<i>Ava Sprankle</i>
Altar Guild	<i>Ardath Appel</i>
Lector	<i>Denice Rose</i>
Sound System	<i>Tim Schneider</i>



Epiphany Lutheran Church of Castle Rock, Colorado

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Website: www.epiphanylc.org

ME SYSTEM LINK: <https://epiphanylc.ccbchurch.com/login.php>

Pastor Chris Matthis + Cell: 303-921-0717

pastorchris@epiphanylc.org

(Pastor available by appointment)

DCE Kristin Schmidt + Cell: 951-775-6134 + Tu-F 8 am - 4 pm

dce@epiphanylc.org

Mrs. Donata Rolf + office@epiphanylc.org + Office hours: M-F 8 am – 4 pm

Ms. Mary Wenkheimer, Choir Director + choir@epiphanylc.org

Ms. Debbie Stewart, Accounting Specialist + accounting@epiphanylc.org

Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod

"We help people become fully devoted followers of Jesus Christ"

