

your vindicator shall go before you; the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.
⁹Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for help, and he will say, "Here I am."

If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,
¹⁰if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
 then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your needs in parched places
 and make your bones strong, and you shall be like a watered garden,
 like a spring of water whose waters never fail. ¹²Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
 you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;
 you shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.

L) The word of the Lord.

C) Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL - Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus commends almsgiving, prayer, and fasting, but emphasizes that spiritual devotion must not be done for show.

[Jesus said to the disciples:] ¹"Beware of practicing your piety before others in order to be seen by them; for then you have no reward from your Father in heaven.

²"So whenever you give alms, do not sound a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, so that they may be praised by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ³But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your alms may be done in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁵"And whenever you pray, do not be like the hypocrites; for they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, so that they may be seen by others. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ⁶But whenever 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.

¹⁶"And whenever you fast, do not look dismal, like the hypocrites, for they disfigure their faces so as to show others that they are fasting. Truly I tell you, they have received their reward. ¹⁷But when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, ¹⁸so that your fasting may be seen not by others but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

¹⁹"Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also."

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr Ruth Ann Loughry

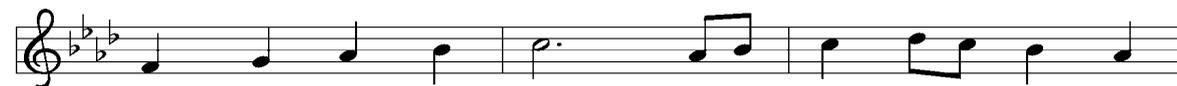
HYMN OF THE DAY

O Lord, Throughout These Forty Days

ELW 319



1	O	Lord, through - out	these	for - ty	days	you
2	You	strove with Sa - tan,	and	you	won;	your
3	Though	parched and hun - gry,	yet	you	prayed	and
4	Be	with us through this	sea - son,	Lord,	and	



prayed	and	kept	the	fast;	in -	spire	re -	pen -	tance
faith -	ful -	ness	en -	dured;	lend	us	your	nerve,	your
fixed	your	mind	a -	bove;	so	teach	us	to	de -
all	our	earth -	ly	days,	that	when	the	fi -	nal



for	our	sin,	and	free	us	from	our	past.
skill	and	trust	in	God's	e -	ter -	nal	word.
ny	our -	selves	that	we	may	know	God's	love.
Eas -	ter	dawns,	we	join	in	heav -	en's	praise.

INVITATION TO LENT - Invitation to the Lenten Disciplines as spiritual renewal deepening our faith.

P) Friends in Christ, today with the whole church we enter the time of remembering Jesus' passover from death to life, and our life in Christ is renewed.

We begin this holy season by acknowledging our need for repentance and for God's mercy. We are created to experience joy in communion with God, to love one another, and to live in harmony with creation. But our sinful rebellion separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, so that we do not enjoy the life our creator intended.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to a discipline that contends against evil and resists whatever leads us away from love of God and neighbor. I invite you, therefore, to the disciplines of Lent—self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love—strengthened by the gifts of word and sacrament. Let us continue our journey through these forty days to the great Three Days of Jesus' death and resurrection.

CONFESSION OF SIN

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign marked at baptism as the pastor begins.

P) Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection and self-examination.

Most holy and merciful God,

C) we confess to you and to one another, and before the whole company of heaven, that we have sinned by our fault, by our own fault, by our own most grievous fault, in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.

P) We have not loved you with our whole heart, and mind, and strength. We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We have not forgiven others as we have been forgiven.

C) Have mercy on us, O God.

P) We have shut our ears to your call to serve as Christ served us. We have not been true to the mind of Christ. We have grieved your Holy Spirit. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Our past unfaithfulness, the pride, envy, hypocrisy, and apathy that have infected our lives, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Our self-indulgent appetites and ways, and our exploitation of other people, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Our negligence in prayer and worship, and our failure to share the faith that is in us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Our neglect of human need and suffering, and our indifference to injustice and cruelty, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Our false judgments, our uncharitable thoughts toward our neighbors, and our prejudice and contempt toward those who differ from us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Our waste and pollution of your creation, and our lack of concern for those who come after us, we confess to you. **Have mercy on us, O God.**

P) Restore us, O God, and let your anger depart from us.

C) Hear us, O God, for your mercy is great.

IMPOSITION OF ASHES

P) Almighty God, you have created us out of the dust of the earth. May these ashes be a sign of our mortality and penitence, reminding us that only by the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ are we given eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**



Please come forward at direction of the ushers to receive ashes - form two lines

+AFTER ASHES HAVE BEEN IMPOSED

P) Accomplish in us, O God, the work of your salvation,
C) that we may show forth your glory in the world.

P) By the cross and passion of your Son, our Savior,
C) bring us with all your saints to the joy of his resurrection.

P) Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.

C) Amen.

+PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L) Reconciled by God's mercy and sustained by God's presence, let us pray for the world and its needs.

(Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**)

L) Receive our prayers, O God, through Jesus Christ, our strength and salvation. **Amen.**

SPECIAL MUSIC

"High on a Hill" (by Ruth Elaine Schram)

Glory Singers

+GREAT THANKSGIVING

P) The Lord be with you.

C) And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.



Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

+WORDS OF INSTITUTION

P) You are indeed holy, almighty and merciful God...

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

C) Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

+LORD'S PRAYER

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.

+INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come to the table. Feast on God's goodness and mercy.

COMMUNION HYMN

I Want Jesus to Walk with Me

ELW 325

+BLESSING

P) Receive the blessing of the holy Trinity: God, who calls all things into existence, Jesus Christ, who redeems us, and the Holy Spirit, whose breath sustains creation, † bless you now and always. **Amen.**

+PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

C) God of our salvation, we give you thanks for this meal that restores our souls, reconciles us to you, and strengthens us for the journey. Through the body and blood of your Son, may we become Christ's body in the world, bearing witness to your love for all creation, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

SENDING HYMN

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW 326



1 Bless now, O God, the jour - ney that all your peo - ple make,
2 Bless so - journ - ers and pil - grims who share this wind - ing way;
3 Di - vine e - ter - nal lov - er, you meet us on the road.



the path through noise and si - lence, the way of give and take.
your hope burns through the ter - rors, your love sus - tains the day.
We wait for lands of prom - ise where milk and hon - ey flow,



The trail is found in des - ert and winds the moun - tain round,
 We yearn for ho - ly free - dom while of - ten we are bound;
 but wait - ing not for plac - es, you meet us all a - round.



then leads be - side still wa - ters, the road where faith is found.
 to - geth - er we are seek - ing the road where faith is found.
 Our cov - e - nant is writ - ten on roads, as faith is found.

+DISMISSAL

P) Go forth into the world to serve God with gladness; be of good courage; hold fast to that which is good; render to no one evil for evil; strengthen the fainthearted; support the weak; help the afflicted; honor all people; love and serve God, rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit.

C) **Thanks be to God.**

Offering baskets are available at the doors for your gifts.

We depart in silence and prayer.

Worship Leaders

Presider – Pr Ruth Ann Loughry
 Accompanist – Gavin Allen-Dunn
 Lector – Joel Riley
 The Glory Singers



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FIFTY+ years of impact...

In 1974, as hunger increased at an alarming rate around the world, Lutherans in the United States launched the World Hunger Appeals. Members of Lutheran congregations across the country participated by fasting for one meal per week and donating the cost of that meal to their neighbors experiencing food insecurity. Those appeals eventually grew into ELCA World Hunger, which is now at work addressing the root causes of poverty in 67 countries around the world, including the United States.

Over the last 50 years, hundreds of thousands of generous people from across this church have contributed more than \$650 million to support ELCA World Hunger. Together we have made great strides against hunger and poverty, providing food to meet immediate needs while equipping communities to foster long-term change through access to education and quality health care, sustainable solutions in agriculture, and advocacy for just laws that make ending hunger possible.

King of Glory has been part of this story from the very beginning, a story of faith in action, a story of hope. But most of all a story of a church set free for bold abundant love and service, a church that responds to God's invitation to transform the world. While we reflect on how far this ministry has come, we know how far we have to go.

Fifty + years after ELCA World Hunger was founded, we find ourselves at another critical moment in history. Amid rising costs, global conflict, the lingering impact of COVID-19, and intensifying effects of climate change, the world once again faces a startling rise in hunger that is undoing decades of progress.

As we journey through Lent, we will reflect on specific stories of ministries funded through YOUR gifts. Our annual offering will be taken on Palm Sunday.

Look for the display in the concourse and pick up a copy of the Lenten devotional book, coin box or calendar. We have many things to choose from.

