

Lent

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 2021

SUFFRAGES

Holy God, holy and mighty, holy and immortal,
have mercy on us.

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.**

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.*
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Show us your mercy, O God,
and grant us your salvation.
Give us the joy of your saving help again,
and sustain us with your bountiful Spirit.
Give peace in all the world;
for only in you can we live in safety.

Keep the nations under your care,
and guide us in the way of justice and truth.
 Let your way be known upon earth;
your saving health among all nations.
 Let not the needy be forgotten,
nor the hope of the poor be taken away.
 Create in me a clean heart, O God,
and sustain me with your Holy Spirit.
 Lord, hear my prayer,
and let my cry come before you.

HYMN #342 There in God's Garden



1 There in God's gar - den stands the Tree of Wis - dom,
 2 Its name is Je - sus, name that says, "Our Sav - ior!"
 3 Thorns not its own are tan - gled in its fo - liage;
 4 See how its branch - es reach to us in wel - come;



whose leaves hold forth the heal - ing of the na - tions:
 There on its branch - es see the scars of suf - f'ring;
 our greed has starved it, our de - spite has choked it.
 hear what the Voice says, "Come to me, ye wea - ry!



Tree of all knowl - edge, Tree of all com -
 see there the ten - drils of our hu - man
 Yet, look! it lives! its grief has not de -
 Give me your sick - ness, give me all your



pas - sion, Tree of all beau - ty.
 self - hood feed on its life - blood.
 stroyed it nor fire con - sumed it.
 sor - row, I will give bless - ing."

5 This is my ending
 this my resurrection;
 into your hands, Lord,
 I commit my spirit.
 This have I searched for;
 now I can possess it.
 This ground is holy.

6 All heav'n is singing,
 "Thanks to Christ whose passion
 offers in mercy
 healing, strength, and pardon.
 Peoples and nations,
 take it, take it freely!"
 Amen! My Master!

Text: Király Imre von Pécselyi, c. 1590–c. 1641; tr. Erik Routley, 1917–1982
 Music: SHADES MOUNTAIN, K. Lee Scott, b. 1950
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READING Genesis 3:8-24

They heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden at the time of the evening breeze, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man, and said to him, "Where are you?" He said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself." He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit from the tree, and I ate." Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent tricked me, and I ate." The Lord God said to the serpent, "Because you have done this, cursed are you among all animals and among all wild creatures; upon your belly you shall go, and dust you shall eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will strike your head, and you will strike his heel." To the woman he said, "I will greatly increase your pangs in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children, yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." And to the man he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten of the tree about which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life; thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread until you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

The man named his wife Eve, because she was the mother of all living. And the Lord God made garments of skins for the man and for his wife, and clothed them.

Then the Lord God said, "See, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" — therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken. He drove out the man; and at the east of the garden of Eden he placed the cherubim, and a sword flaming and turning to guard the way to the tree of life.

The reading is followed by silence for reflection.

PRAYERS

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Additional prayers may be read, concluding with the following prayer.

We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have graciously protected us today. We ask you to forgive us all our sins, where we have done wrong, and graciously to protect us tonight. Into your hands we commend ourselves: our bodies, our souls, and all that is ours. Let your holy angels be with us, so that the wicked foe may have no power over us.

Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

Amen.

The Lenten Prayer of St. Ephraim the Syrian

*Of all Lenten hymns and prayers, one short prayer can be termed the Lenten prayer.
Tradition ascribes it to one of the great teachers of spiritual life, St. Ephraim the Syrian.*

O Lord and Master of my life! Take from me the spirit of sloth, faintheartedness,
lust of power and idle talk. But give rather the spirit of chastity, humility, patience
and love to your servant. Yea O Lord and King! Grant me to see my own errors and
not to judge my brothers and sisters; for you are blessed unto ages of ages.
Amen.

Worship participants

Pastor Brad Pohlman
Pastor John Worzala Dumke
Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson
Andrew Schaeffer

Luther Memorial Church staff

The Rev. Brad Pohlman, Senior Pastor
The Rev. John Worzala Dumke, Associate Pastor
The Rev. Rebecca Ninke, Visitation Pastor
Vicar Leif Kratzke Nelson, Seminary Intern
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The Rev. Kirsten Worzala Dumke, Mission Pastor

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The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton, Presiding Bishop
The Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe, Synod Bishop