

LENTEN MIDWEEK 4

LENTEN THEME: Honest Repentance – “Purification”
March 22, 2023

INVOCATION

**P: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.
C: Amen.**

PROMISE OF PURIFICATION Psalm 24:1–6; 66:12

**L: Who shall ascend the hill of the LORD?
And who shall stand in his holy place?
C: He who has clean hands and a pure heart,
who does not lift up his soul to what is false
and does not swear deceitfully.**

**L: He will receive blessing from the LORD
and righteousness from the God of his salvation.
C: Such is the generation of those who seek him,
who seek the face of the God of Jacob.**

**L: We went through fire and through water;
C: yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.**

CONFESSION (based on John 20: 24-29; Luke 24:36-43)

**L: God promises blessing to those who have clean hands and a pure heart.
Knowing that our hands and our hearts are unclean and impure, we go before
our Father in heaven and seek His forgiveness, knowing also that Jesus by His
death on the cross has removed the contaminants of our sin once and for all.**

(silent prayer)

**L: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom
no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of
your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your
holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. C: Amen**

L: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

P: Most merciful God,

C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with pure hearts: we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, purify us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

L: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins so that in the fires of trial and temptation we will be purified and made holy for our dwelling place in heaven. In the name of the Father, and of the ☩ Son, and of the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven.

SONG OF PRAISE “Refiner’s Fire” Brian Doerksen

PRAYER

L: Lord of Light, cleanse our minds of impure thoughts and help us think about what is true, noble, right, pure, lovely, and admirable. Keep our minds set on excellent and praiseworthy things, and help us avert our eyes from sinful things that harm us and our trust in You. Keep us ever focused on the cross of Jesus from where true cleansing comes. Purify us by fire if it be Your will, that we may grow in our sanctification and in greater appreciation for the life in heaven where all that is corruptible is no more; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT Daniel 3:1-30 (The Fiery Furnace)

(The Old Testament lesson is read)

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE Romans 12:1-2 (A Living Sacrifice)

I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

L: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

HOLY GOSPEL John 11:55–57 (The Passover for purification)

L: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 11th chapter.

C: Glory to You, O Lord.

Now the Passover of the Jews was at hand, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover to purify themselves. They were looking for Jesus and saying to one another as they stood in the temple, “What do you think? That he will not come to the feast at all?” Now the chief priests and the Pharisees had given orders that if anyone knew where he was, he should let them know, so that they might arrest him.

L: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

HYMN No. 660 “Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus”

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus Ye soldiers of the cross.
Lift high His royal banner; It must not suffer loss.
From vict’ry unto vict’ry His army He shall lead
Till ev’ry foe is vanquished And Christ is Lord indeed.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The trumpet call obey;
Stand forth in mighty conflict In this His glorious day.
Let all His faithful serve Him Against unnumbered foes;
Let courage rise with danger And strength to strength oppose.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus; Stand in His strength alone;
The arm of flesh will fail you, Ye dare not trust your own.
Put on the Gospel armor; Each piece put on with prayer.
Where duty calls or danger, Be never wanting there.**

**Stand up, stand up for Jesus; The strife will not be long;
This day the din of battle, The next the victor's song.
The soldiers, overcoming, Their crown of life shall see
And with the King of Glory Shall reign eternally.**

SERMON "Purification" Daniel 3:1-30 Pastor Vern

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

**L: All powerful Lord, thank you for sending Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego to be the faithful forefathers of the purification fires of this Lenten season.
Thank you for the visual, biblical, and historical example that the fire season is real.**

C: Thank you for the reminder in Psalm 66, "we went through fire and water but you brought us out to abundance."

L: We pray that our fire season isn't quite as intense as a literal fire, however, we know that if it is, there will always be Another there with us.

C: Thank You for sending Jesus to be with us in the fires of our life's trials, and for the promise of walking us out unharmed. Prepare us Lord, for the journey you have ordained.

L: We know that no matter the fire, we will never be alone. We know that with Jesus, the bondages that hold us will be burned away while our lives in Christ will be spared.

C: Bring us, we pray, from the fire of our trials into blessed abundance of heavenly home.

L: Help us never to underestimate the value of our fiery trials, no matter how dangerous, no matter how difficult.

C: We praise You, O Christ for purifying us as gold, and through Your fiery trial and death on the cross, You have burned the dross of our sins away, once and for all.

**L: Help us in our trials to reflect more and more of the radiance of Your Son,
Jesus, whose glory He shares with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, now and
forever.**

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

L: Remember us in Your kingdom, Lord, and teach us to pray:

**All: 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.**

LUTHER'S EVENING PRAYER

L: I thank You, my heavenly Father,

**C: through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this
day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done
wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend
myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me,
that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.**

BLESSING OF THE LORD

**L: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.**

C: Amen. Thanks be to God!

CLOSING HYMN No. 878 "Abide with Me" (vss. 1, 4 & 6)

**Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens;
Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.**

**Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes;
Shine through the gloom, and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.**

SENDING

L: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.