

## FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

### Old Testament Reading: *Isaiah 49:8–13*

Thus says the Lord: "In a time of favor I have answered you; in a day of salvation I have helped you; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, to establish the land, to apportion the desolate heritages, saying to the prisoners, 'Come out,' to those who are in darkness, 'Appear.' They shall feed along the ways; on all bare heights shall be their pasture; they shall not hunger or thirst, neither scorching wind nor sun shall strike them, for he who has pity on them will lead them, and by springs of water will guide them. And I will make all my mountains a road, and my highways shall be raised up. Behold, these shall come from afar, and behold, these from the north and from the west, and these from the land of Syene." Sing for joy, O heavens, and exult, O earth; break forth, O mountains, into singing! for the Lord has comforted his people and will have compassion on his afflicted.

### Epistle: *Galatians 4:21–31*

Tell me, you who desire to be under the law, do you not listen to the law? For it is written that Abraham had two sons, one by a slave woman and one by a free woman. But the son of the slave was born according to the flesh, while the son of the free woman was born through promise. Now this may be interpreted allegorically: these women are two covenants. One is from Mount Sinai, bearing children for slavery; she is Hagar. Now Hagar is Mount Sinai in Arabia; she corresponds to the present Jerusalem, for she is in slavery with her children. But the Jerusalem above is free, and she is our mother. For it is written, "Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear; break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labor! For the children of the desolate one will be more than those of the one who has a husband." Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now.

But what does the Scripture say? "Cast out the slave woman for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman." So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

### Holy Gospel: *John 6:1–15*

After this Jesus went away to the other side of the Sea of Galilee, which is the Sea of Tiberias. And a large crowd was following him, because they saw the signs that he was doing on the sick. Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. Now the Passover, the feast of the Jews, was at hand. Lifting up his eyes, then, and seeing that a large crowd was coming toward him, Jesus said to Philip, "Where are we to buy bread, so that these people may eat?" He said this to test him, for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, "Two hundred denarii worth of bread would not be enough for each of them to get a little." One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, said to him, "There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish, but what are they for so many?" Jesus said, "Have the people sit down." Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, about five thousand in number. Jesus then took the loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed them to those who were seated. So also the fish, as much as they wanted. And when they had eaten their fill, he told his disciples, "Gather up the leftover fragments, that nothing may be lost." So they gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves left by those who had eaten. When the people saw the sign that he had done, they said, "This is indeed the Prophet who is to come into the world!" Perceiving then that they were about to come and take him by force to make him king, Jesus withdrew again to the mountain by himself.

## ✠ ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH ✠

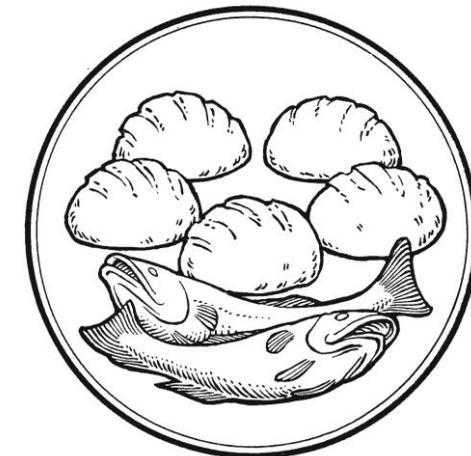
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### ✠ The Lord Feeds His People ✠

*The Lord provided bread from heaven for His people in the wilderness (Ex. 16:2–21). Now He who is Himself the living bread from heaven miraculously provides bread for the five thousand (John 6:1–15). This takes place near the time of the Passover, after a great multitude had followed Jesus across the sea, and when He went up on a mountain. Seen in this way, Jesus is our new and greater Moses, who releases us from the bondage of Mount Sinai and makes us free children of the promise (Gal. 4:21–31). Five loaves become twelve baskets—that is, the five books of Moses find their goal and fulfillment in Christ, whose people continue steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship of the twelve apostles, and in the breaking and receiving of the bread of life, which is the body of Christ together with His precious blood, and in the prayers (Acts 2:41–47). So it is that God's people "shall not hunger or thirst" (Is. 49:8–13). For He abundantly provides for us in both body and soul.*

# Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, Year of Our ✠ Lord 2020

**COMMUNION ANNOUNCEMENT:** Communion is offered today for those who: (1) repent of their sins, (2) believe in Jesus as their Savior, (3) believe that with the bread and the wine Christ gives us His true body and blood for the forgiveness of sins, and (4) desire to amend their sinful ways with the help of the Holy Spirit. We also believe that Holy Communion is a fellowship meal with those of the same confession of faith: therefore, we ask that those **NOT** of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, the American Association of Lutheran Churches, or Lutheran Church Canada **please speak with the Pastor before communing.**

**Introit** (*Sing to Tune C*)

**P** Rejoice with Jerusalem, and be | glad for her,  
all you who | love her;

**G** **that you may nurse and be | satisfied  
from her con- | soling breast.**

**P** I was glad when they | said to me,  
“Let us go to the house | of the Lord!”

**G** **Our feet have been | standing  
within your gates, O Je- | rusalem!**

**P** Pray for the peace of Je- | rusalem!  
May they be secure who | love you!

**G** **For my brothers and com- | panions' sake  
I will say, “Peace be with- | in you!”**

(*Sing Gloria Patri as printed on p. 186*)

## Prayers of the Church

**P** Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

**P** Almighty and eternal God, worthy to be held in reverence by all people everywhere, we give You humble and sincere thanks for the innumerable blessings that You have bestowed on us without any merit or worthiness on our part. We praise You especially for preserving for us Your saving Word and the Holy Sacraments. Grant and preserve to Your Holy Church throughout the world purity of doctrine, and provide faithful pastors to preach Your Word with power. Help all who hear the Word rightly to understand and truly to believe it. Lord, in Your mercy,  
**G Hear our prayer.**

**P** Heavenly Father, in mercy bring to repentance the enemies of Your Church, and grant them amendment of life. Protect and defend Your Church in all tribulation and danger, and sustain with Your Spirit our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world who experience persecution. Strengthen us and all fellow Christians to set our hope fully on the grace revealed in Christ, and help us to fight the good fight of faith, that in the end we may receive the salvation of our souls. Lord, in Your mercy,

**G Hear our prayer.**

**P** Compassionate Lord, graciously defend us from all calamity by fire and water, from war and pestilence, from scarcity and famine, and from every other evil. Protect and prosper all who labor in their rightful callings, and let all useful arts flourish among us. Be the God and Father of the poor and homeless, the helper of the hungry and needy, the comforter of the distressed and those who sorrow. Look with mercy especially upon those who have requested our prayers, including .... Lord, in Your mercy,

**G Hear our prayer.**

**P** Father, as we are strangers and pilgrims on earth, help us by true faith and a godly life to prepare for the world to come, doing the work You have given us to do while it is day, before the night comes when no one can work. And when our last hour comes, support us by Your power and receive us into Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Amen.**

## Divine Service

*Setting Three*



### Preparation

Pastor's Welcome  
Announcements  
Hymn of Invocation #420  
Invocation/Absolution p.184

### Word

Introit *Bulletin*  
Kyrie p.186  
*Omit: 'Gloria In Excelsis' Due to Lent*  
Old Testament *Reverse*  
Epistle *Reverse*  
*Omit: 'Alleluia' Due to Lent*  
Holy Gospel *Reverse*  
Nicene Creed p.191  
Lessons for Lambs #588 (v 1)  
Hymn of the Day #743  
Sermon  
Offertory p. 192  
Offering  
Prayers *Bulletin*

### Sacrament

Preface p.194  
Distribution #633, #623, #621, #634  
Nunc Dimittis p.199  
Departing Hymn #918