

St Paul's Lutheran - Home Devotional

March 22, 2020 - The Fourth Sunday in Lent

Psalm

Psalm 142

¹With my voice I cry out to the LORD;
 with my voice I plead for mercy to the LORD.
²I pour out my complaint before him;
 I tell my trouble before him.
³When my spirit faints within me,
 you know my way!
In the path where I walk
 they have hidden a trap for me.
⁴Look to the right and see:
 there is none who takes notice of me;
no refuge remains to me;
 no one cares for my soul.
⁵I cry to you, O LORD;
 I say, "You are my refuge,
 my portion in the land of the living."
⁶Attend to my cry,
 for I am brought very low!
Deliver me from my persecutors,
 for they are too strong for me!
⁷Bring me out of prison,
 that I may give thanks to your name!
The righteous will surround me,
 for you will deal bountifully with me.

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 42:14-21

¹⁴For a long time I have held my peace;
 I have kept still and restrained myself;
now I will cry out like a woman in labor;
 I will gasp and pant.
¹⁵I will lay waste mountains and hills,
 and dry up all their vegetation;
I will turn the rivers into islands,
 and dry up the pools.
¹⁶And I will lead the blind
 in a way that they do not know,
in paths that they have not known
 I will guide them.
I will turn the darkness before them into light,
 the rough places into level ground.
These are the things I do,
 and I do not forsake them.
¹⁷They are turned back and utterly put to shame,
 who trust in carved idols,
who say to metal images,
 "You are our gods."
¹⁸Hear, you deaf,
 and look, you blind, that you may see!
¹⁹Who is blind but my servant,
 or deaf as my messenger whom I send?
Who is blind as my dedicated one,
 or blind as the servant of the LORD?
²⁰He sees many things, but does not observe them;
 his ears are open, but he does not hear.
²¹The LORD was pleased, for his righteousness' sake,
 to magnify his law and make it glorious.

Epistle Reading

Ephesians 5:8-14

⁸For at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light ⁹(for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), ¹⁰and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. ¹¹Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. ¹²For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. ¹³But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, ¹⁴for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says,

"Awake, O sleeper,
 and arise from the dead,
and Christ will shine on you."

744 Amazing Grace

sts. 1-5

- 1 Amazing grace—how sweet the sound—
 That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost but now am found,
 Was blind but now I see!
- 2 The Lord has promised good to me,
 His Word my hope secures;
He will my shield and portion be
 As long as life endures.
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
 I have already come;
His grace has brought me safe thus far,
 His grace will lead me home.
- 4 Yes, when this flesh and heart shall fail
 And mortal life shall cease,
Amazing grace shall then prevail
 In heaven's joy and peace.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand years,
 Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
 Than when we'd first begun.

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Collect for the Day

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, Your mercies are new every morning; and though we deserve only punishment, You receive us as Your children and provide for all our needs of body and soul. Grant that we may heartily acknowledge Your merciful goodness, give thanks for all Your benefits, and serve You in willing obedience; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Acknowledgments

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