



AWAKEN

“Different Pictures”

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Prelude Welcome

**Vessels, holy and whole, broken, needing the One. Open, body and soul.
Healer, come. (Sung twice, on the second time, all sing)**

Leader: Prolonged times of difficulty can really wreck our ability to stay creative. The picture of our lives is dulled and hope for a brighter future can fade. We need a touch of inspiration to awaken us from our sleep, as we hear in one of this week’s healing stories. We also awaken to our ability to seek out the Divine Healer, reaching out to touch the power we know can restore our intellect and imagination. We emerge ready to re-engage with the world, seeking and seeing solutions, creating different pictures of life renewed just as a mosaic artist creates beauty from broken pieces of glass.

**Vessels, holy and whole, Broken, needing the One.
Open, body and soul. Healer, come.**

Prayer of Confession

Leader: Let us acknowledge our need to restore, repair, renew your Holy Vessels: ourselves and our health: physical, emotional, and spiritual; the health of our communities, and the health of the beautiful planet on which we live.

Let us pray:

Merciful God,
**we have lived a year of Lent.
In the midst of it all, we have seen love shine through at times.
But as we look back,
it feels like a year of shattered dreams and shattered peace.
We have gotten discouraged.
Even with so much that was out of our control,
we also see the ways our own faults
and failures to love each other fully, to care for the least,
to honor your creation, to stand for what is right and good,
have all contributed to the shattering.**

**And so we come to you in pieces,
fragments, broken pieces of our past selves.
As we walk along the shores of Uncertainty and Pain,
we ask that you meet us here.**

Help us, Healer.

Show us our strength. Forgive our inertia.

Move us to move one step at a time toward greater care for others and for the world you so love.

In this silence, we sense and acknowledge our yearning for wholeness.

Silence

Vessels, holy and whole, Broken, needing the One.

Open, body and soul. Healer, come.

Word of Assurance and Forgiveness:

Throughout the season of Lent, we are contemplating the symbol of broken glass—sea (or beach) glass to be specific. Time and adversity make something beautiful out of what was once seen as ordinary and broken.

It becomes a transformed and precious piece.

Jesus attended to those considered ordinary, broken, even those deemed unworthy.

Jesus attends to us.

Know this: God's love and grace surround you.

No. Matter. What.

You are a precious and holy vessel right now.

Christ's light is a treasure given freely.

For you, for me, for all.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven.

Glory to God. Amen.

Prayer of the day

O God, rich in mercy, by the humiliation of your Son you lifted up this fallen world and rescued us from the hopelessness of death. Lead us into your light, that all our deeds may reflect your love, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God now and forever.

Amen.

Children's Moment

The Word

First Reading: Numbers 21:4-9 *(New Revised Standard Edition)*

⁴From Mount Hor they set out by the way to the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom; but the people became impatient on the way. ⁵The people spoke against God and against Moses, "Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we detest this miserable food." ⁶Then the LORD sent poisonous serpents among the people, and they bit the people, so that many Israelites died. ⁷The people came to Moses and said, "We have sinned by speaking against the LORD and against you; pray to the LORD to take away the serpents from us." So Moses prayed for the people. ⁸And the LORD said to Moses, "Make a poisonous serpent, and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten shall look at it and live." ⁹So Moses made a serpent of bronze, and put it upon a pole; and whenever a serpent bit someone, that person would look at the serpent of bronze and live.

Psalm 107.1-3, 17-22

¹O give thanks to the LORD, for he is good;
for his steadfast love endures forever.

²**Let the redeemed of the LORD say so,
those he redeemed from trouble**

³and gathered in from the lands, from the east and from the west,
from the north and from the south.

¹⁷**Some were sick through their sinful ways,
and because of their iniquities endured affliction;**

¹⁸they loathed any kind of food, and they drew near to the gates of death.

¹⁹**Then they cried to the LORD in their trouble,
and he saved them from their distress;**

²⁰he sent out his word and healed them,
and delivered them from destruction.

²¹Let them thank the LORD for his steadfast love,
for his wonderful works to humankind.

²²And let them offer thanksgiving sacrifices,
and tell of his deeds with songs of joy.

Gospel Matthew 9.18-26

While he was saying these things to them, suddenly a leader of the synagogue came in and knelt before him, saying, My daughter has just died; but come and lay your hand on her, and she will live.” And Jesus got up and followed him, with his disciples. Then suddenly a woman who had been suffering from hemorrhages for twelve years came up behind him and touched the fringe of his cloak, for she said to herself, If I only touch his cloak, I will be made well.” Jesus turned, and seeing her he said, Take heart, daughter; your faith has made you well.” And instantly the woman was made well. When Jesus came to the leader’s house and saw the flute players and the crowd making a commotion, he said, Go away; for the girl is not dead but sleeping.” And they laughed at him. But when the crowd had been put outside, he went in and took her by the hand, and the girl got up. And the report of this spread throughout that district. - Matt 9: 18-26

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God!**

Message

Hymn of the Day “Lord Take My Hand and Lead Me” 767 So Nimm Denn Meine Hande 7474D

1. Lord take my hand and lead me
upon life’s way
direct, protect and feed me
from day to day
without your grace and favor
I go astray
So take my hand O Savior
And lead the way.

2. Lord when the tempest rages
I need not fear
For you the Rock of Ages
are always near.
Close by your side abiding
I fear no foe
For when your hand is guiding
In peace I go.

3. Lord when the shadows lengthen
and night has come
I know that you will strengthen
my steps toward home
then nothing can impede me
O blessed Friend!
So take my hand and lead me
Unto the end.

Apostles Creed

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

**On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again 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.

The Peace

Announcements

Zoom Scavenger Hunt

March 21 at 2:30 PM

Invite your friends and family to join virtually for an exciting time!

Send us a message and we will forward the zoom info.

Hope to see you there!

This Lent

A season of recovery and restoration

Throughout the season of Lent, we will be contemplating the symbol of broken glass—sea (or beach) glass to be specific. Sea glass comes from vessels that have broken, been discarded, and yet time and adversity have transformed into something beautiful.

Time and adversity... making something beautiful out of that which, once seen as ordinary and broken. Broken pieces transformed and precious. This is the journey we are on..

Jesus attended to those considered ordinary, broken, even those deemed unworthy.

Jesus attends to us.

Special Music from our choir: “Come We That Love the Lord”

Prayers of the Church

Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world and all in need.

A brief silence.

You sent your son that the world might be saved through him. Inspire the witness of the church throughout the world. Empower missionaries, Bible translators, and ministries of service in your name. Bless our partners in ministry, our ELCA global partner churches, and Young Adults in Global Mission.

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

Your mercy endures forever. Deliver all who cry to you, especially those who are hungry or without homes. Give life in places where death seems triumphant; give healing to those who are sick and comfort to those who mourn.

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

By grace we have been saved. Fill this congregation to overflowing with that grace that we show mercy to others. Nourish any in our midst who are hungry, especially children, and bless our ministries of feeding and shelter. Give us patience and courage when the way seems long.

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

Your Son was lifted up that whoever believes might have eternal life. We praise you for all who have died in Christ. Bring us with all the saints into the fullness of your promises.

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

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Blessing

Now go with confidence that, though shattered, we are held.

Remember you are what God made you to be:

created in Christ Jesus for good works,

chosen as holy and beloved,

freed to serve your neighbor.

May God bless you to be a blessing.

In the name of God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Closing Hymn: “Drawn to the Light” 593 John C Ylvisaker 1937: La Crosse 9 10 88 and refrain

1. People who walk
in darkness have sought
a light in the heart
of the darkest night.
Just when we thought
all would be lost
we were drawn
to the light of God. *Ref.*

3. Where is the sun?
Oh there will be none!
The Lamb is the one
who is shining bright
bids us to come!
Life has begun
when we're drawn
To the light of God. *Ref.*

2. How can we tell
a heaven from hell
if everyone dwells
in the dark of night?
Morning dispels
gently compels
and we're drawn
to the light of God. *Ref.*

Refrain: Dawn is in sight! Gone is the night, drawn to the light and the morning.
Glorious and bright, oh what a sight to be drawn to the light of God.

The Dismissal: Go in peace. Share the good news.
Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Thanks for joining us!

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