

April 5, 2023
Healing Service
Wednesday in Holy Week



First Lutheran Church
BOTHELL

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INTRODUCTION

God's word, proclaimed and reflected upon, and the prayer it calls forth from those gathered, are the heart of this service, which is prepared especially for contemplative settings. The Holy Spirit, who knows our needs, prays with and through us, and when we have no words, for us. Silence makes room to breathe deeply, time to still the heart and quiet restless thoughts, and, a place to listen and rest in the presence of God, "like a child upon its mother's breast" (Psalm 131:2). Some times of silence will last no longer than a deep breath; some will be more spacious. Before worship begins, keeping silence or listening to meditative music invites the community into the unhurried pace of prayer.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit gathers us into a community of prayer.

PRELUDE: *Through the Night of Doubt and Sorrow* (ELW 327)

Sigrun Payne, Piano; Alexia Payne, Violin

WELCOME

OPENING HYMN: *Healer of Our Every Ill* (ELW 672)

GREETING

The love of God poured into our hearts, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the abundant life of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

And also with you.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, rich in mercy, full of kindness, out of your great love, you raise us up from sin and death and make us alive together with Christ. Write your word upon our hearts and restore in us the image of your love that, by your Spirit, our way of life may become the way of Christ, through whom we pray.

Amen.

SILENCE

MEDITATION: *Open Unto Me*

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, silence, reflection, and song.

FIRST READING: *Psalm 3*

O LORD, how many are my [struggles]! [They seem to be] rising against me; [all I hear is], "There is no help for you in God." But you, O LORD, are a shield around me, my glory, and the one who lifts up my head. I cry aloud to the LORD, and he answers me from his holy hill. I lie down and sleep; I wake again, for the LORD sustains me. I am not afraid of [all these struggles that] set themselves against me all around. Rise up, O LORD! Deliver me, O my God! For you strike all my [struggles] on the cheek; you break the teeth of all [that holds me down]. Deliverance belongs to the LORD; may your blessing be on [us all]!

GOSPEL READING: *Matthew 5:1-12*

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying: "Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy. "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. "Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

SERMON

PRAYER (*Be ready to light your candle*)

The Holy Spirit prays with us and through us.

Trusting God's word and promises, we pray in the power of the Spirit and in the name of Christ Jesus, making our "supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgivings" (1 Timothy 2:1) for the sake of all creation. In singing and silence, in stillness and sighing, when lifting our hands or lighting a candle, we pray.

SILENCE

MEDITATION: *There in God's Garden*

LORD'S PRAYER

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

Our Father in heaven,

 hallowed be your name,

 your kingdom come,

 your will be done, on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins

 as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial

 and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,

 and the glory are yours,

 now and forever. Amen.

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world.

MEDITATION: *Psalm 35*

BLESSING

Christ Jesus dwell in our hearts through faith, as we are being rooted and grounded in love, strengthened by the Spirit, and filled with all the fullness of God.

Amen.