

MIDWEEK OF LENT 3

THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO HEALS THE SICK AS WE GATHER

Quarantine is a term for isolating people suspected of carrying some infectious or contagious disease. In Latin, the term literally refers to “forty days.” The forty-day season of Lent serves as a sort of quarantine for sinners, a time when the medicine of repentance and faith in God’s Word brings healing and deliverance from sin, sickness, and death—whatever causes a person to be rejected, abandoned, or shunned by others, or even by God. The hand of the Lord is the reaching, touching, healing hand of the Son of God, Christ, the mighty Savior, that touches you, bringing healing and reconciliation with God and His people.

SERIES HYMN

The Word That Spoke in Darkness

Lisa M. Clark

Mark Knickelbein



1 The Word that spoke in dark-ness And prom-ised com-ing light
 2 The Sav-ior came to con-quer And meet His mis-sion's aim:
 3 The Christ pro-claimed His vic-t'ry With ev-'ry act of grace:
 4 The Prince of Peace con-tin-ued With each new task com-plete



Kept guid-ing through the a-ges Un-til the time was right
 Up-end-ing Sa-tan's ter-ror, Cre-a-tion to re-claim
 The out-cast shown com-pas-sion And God's own ho-ly face
 At cross and tomb and glo-ry Up-on His roy-al seat,



To take on flesh and fol-low The Fa-ther's good com-mand
 By walk-ing on the wa-ters So we by faith may stand
 As Jes-us looked with fa-vor On all from ev-'ry land
 De-liv-er-ance ac-com-plished Ex-act-ly as He planned;



And dwell a-mong His peo-ple, The king-dom now at hand.
 With trust in Him whose res-cue Is of-fered by His hand.
 Who need-ed life and heal-ing From His al-might-y hand.
 Our King will raise in wel-come His pierced and ris-en hand.

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OPENING SENTENCES

Psalm 102:1, 25

- P** Hear my prayer, O LORD;
C let my cry come to You!
P Of old You laid the foundation of the earth,
C and the heavens are the work of Your hands.

Isaiah 53:1, 4a, 12b

- P** Who has believed what they heard from us?
C And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?
P Surely He has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows.
C Yet He bore the sin of many, and makes intercession for the transgressors.

Matthew 8:8

- P** Lord, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof,
C but only say the word, and my servant will be healed.

READING

2 Kings 5:1–14

- P** ¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. ²Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman's wife. ³She said to her mistress, "Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy." ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord, "Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel." ⁵And the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel."

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothes. ⁶And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, "When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy." ⁷And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me."

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn

his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel.” ⁹So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha’s house. ¹⁰And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” ¹¹But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper. ¹²Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage. ¹³But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’” ¹⁴So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 6; antiphon: v. 1

L O LORD, rebuke me not in Your anger,
nor discipline me in Your wrath.

C Be gracious to me, O LORD, for I am languishing;
heal me, O LORD, for my bones are troubled.

My soul also is greatly troubled.

But You, O LORD— how long?

Turn, O LORD, deliver my life;

save me for the sake of Your steadfast love.

For in death there is no remembrance of You;

in Sheol who will give You praise?

I am weary with my moaning;

every night I flood my bed with tears;

I drench my couch with my weeping.

My eye wastes away because of grief;

it grows weak because of all my foes.

Depart from me, all you workers of evil,

**for the LORD has heard the sound of my weeping.
 The LORD has heard my plea;
 the LORD accepts my prayer.
 All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;
 they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.
 O LORD, rebuke me not in Your anger,
 nor discipline me in Your wrath.**

READING

Acts 3:1–10

P ¹Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour. ²And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple. ³Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms. ⁴And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.” ⁵And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them. ⁶But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!” ⁷And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong. ⁸And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God. ⁹And all the people saw him walking and praising God, ¹⁰and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 103

L Bless the LORD, O my soul,
C and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
L Bless the LORD, O my soul,
C and forget not all His benefits,
L who forgives all your iniquity,
C who heals all your diseases,
L who redeems your life from the pit,
C who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,

- L** who satisfies you with good
C so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
L The LORD works righteousness
C and justice for all who are oppressed.
L He made known His ways to Moses,
C His acts to the people of Israel.
L The LORD is merciful and gracious,
C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
L He will not always chide,
C nor will He keep His anger forever.
L He does not deal with us according to our sins,
C nor repay us according to our iniquities.
L For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
C so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;
L as far as the east is from the west,
C so far does He remove our transgressions from us.
L As a father shows compassion to his children,
C so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.
L For He knows our frame;
C He remembers that we are dust.
L As for man, his days are like grass;
C he flourishes like a flower of the field;
L for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
C and its place knows it no more.
L But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on
those who fear Him,
C and His righteousness to children's children,
L to those who keep His covenant
C and remember to do His commandments.
L The LORD has established His throne in the heavens,
C and His kingdom rules over all.
L Bless the LORD, O you His angels,
C you mighty ones who do His word,
L obeying the voice of His word!
C Bless the LORD, all His hosts,

- L** His ministers, who do His will!
C Bless the LORD, all His works,
L in all places of His dominion.
C Bless the LORD, O my soul!

READING

Matthew 8:1–17

P ¹When He came down from the mountain, great crowds followed Him. ²And behold, a leper came to Him and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, if You will, You can make me clean.” ³And Jesus stretched out His hand and touched Him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

⁵When He entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to Him, appealing to Him, ⁶“Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” ⁷And He said to him, “I will come and heal him.” ⁸But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” ¹⁰When Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who followed Him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹²while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

¹⁴And when Jesus entered Peter’s house, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve Him. ¹⁶That evening they brought to Him many who were oppressed by demons, and He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was

spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

P This is the Word of the Lord

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN

“Come unto Me, Ye Weary” (*LSB* 684)



1 “Come un - to Me, ye wea - ry, And I will give you rest.”
 2 “Come un - to Me, ye wan - d’rers, And I will give you light.”
 3 “Come un - to Me, ye faint - ing, And I will give you life.”
 4 “And who - so - ev - er com - eth, I will not cast him out.”



O bless - ed voice of Je - sus, Which comes to hearts op-pressed!
 O lov - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to cheer the night!
 O cheer - ing voice of Je - sus, Which comes to aid our strife!
 O pa - tient love of Je - sus, Which drives a - way our doubt,



It tells of ben - e - dic - tion, Of par-don, grace, and peace,
 Our hearts were filled with sad - ness, And we had lost our way;
 The foe is stern and ea - ger, The fight is fierce and long;
 Which, though we be un - wor - thy Of love so great and free,



Of joy that hath no end - ing, Of love that can - not cease.
 But Thou hast brought us glad - ness And songs at break of day.
 But Thou hast made us might - y And strong - er than the strong.
 In - vites us ver - y sin - ners To come, dear Lord, to Thee!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–98, alt. Tune: Friedrich K. Anthes, 1812–after 1857 Text and tune: Public domain

SERMON

PRAYER

(*LSB* 435)

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, as the familiar hymn bids us, in this time of Lent we “come to Calvary’s holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall” (stanza 1). We

“come in poverty and meanness, come defiled, without, within.” We pray, “from infection and uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin,” wash our robes and make them white (stanza 2). Help us walk with You in light; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

LUTHER’S EVENING PRAYER

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, 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.

NEW TESTAMENT CANTICLE

1 Peter 2:20–25

- L** If when you do good and suffer for it you endure,
this is a gracious thing in the sight of God.
For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you,
leaving you an example, so that you might follow in His steps.
- C** **He committed no sin,
neither was deceit found in His mouth.
When He was reviled,
He did not revile in return;**
- L** when He suffered, He did not threaten,
but continued entrusting Himself to Him who judges justly.
He Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree,
that we might die to sin and live to righteousness.
- C** **By His wounds you have been healed.
For you were straying like sheep,
but have now returned
to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

BLESSING

- P** Let us bless the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**
- P** The almighty and merciful Lord, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you.
C **Amen.**

HYMN

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” (LSB 435)



1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun - tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined
 2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean - ness, Come de - filed, with -
 3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound - ed, im - po -
 4 They that drink shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain
 out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean - ness,
 tent, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,
 new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows for you, for me, for all, In a full, per -
 From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and
 Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain
 Break His cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.
 make them white; Ye shall walk with God in light.
 will re - store; They that drink shall thirst no more.
 deem - er died, Sealed when He was glo - ri - fied.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt. Tune: Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-87 Text and tune: Public domain

Lenten Midweek Services

April 2, Midweek 4: The Hand of the Lord Who Raises the Dead;

Luke 7:11-17

April 9, Midweek 5: The Hand of the Lord Who Holds All Things;

John 3:11-18, 25-36

Maundy Thursday

April 17: The Hand of the Lord Who Serves and Feeds Us;

John 13:1-17, 31b-35, and 1 Cor. 11:23-32

Good Friday

April 18: The Hand of the Lord Who Was Pierced for Us

Easter Sunday

April 20: He Went Home Marveling;

Luke 24:1-12