

Lenten Midday Prayer – March 22, 2023

Who Will Carry You?

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Welcome

St. Luke's Preschool Singers

Opening Prayer

L: O God of Peace, you have taught us that in returning and rest we shall be saved, in quietness and confidence shall be our strength: By the might of your Spirit lift us, we pray, to your presence, where we may be still and know that you are God; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

Litany of Healing

L: Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers:

(Please take a moment of silent reflection.)

L: God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation.

C: Have mercy on us.

L: God the Son, who came that we might have life, and have it more abundantly.

C: Have mercy on us.

L: God the Spirit, whose temple our bodies are.

C: Have mercy on us.

L: Holy Trinity, in whom we live, and move, and have our being.

C: Have mercy on us. Amen.

First Reading: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Brothers and sisters, join in imitating me, and observe those who live according to the example you have in us. For many live as enemies of the cross of Christ; I have often told you of them, and now I tell you even with tears. Their end is destruction; their god is the belly; and their glory is in their shame; their minds are set on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and it is from there that we are expecting a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will transform the body of our humiliation that it may be conformed to the body of his glory, by the power that also enables him to make all things subject to himself. Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm in the Lord in this way, my beloved.

L: The word of the Lord

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 9:1-8

And after getting into a boat he crossed the sea and came to his own town. And just then some people were carrying a paralyzed man lying on a bed. When Jesus saw their faith, he said to the paralytic, "Take heart, son; your sins are forgiven." Then some of the scribes said to themselves, "This man is blaspheming." But Jesus, perceiving their thoughts, said, "Why do you think evil in your hearts? For which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" —he then said to the paralytic—'stand up, take your bed and go to your

home.” And he stood up and went to his home. When the crowds saw it, they were filled with awe, and they glorified God, who had given such authority to human beings.

L: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers

L: We pray that you will hear us, O Lord; and will grant your grace to all.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will be with the leaders of the nations, that their decisions will sustain the lives of the most vulnerable among us.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will sustain those who face long or terminal illness, bearing them up as on eagle’s wings.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will abide with all who are lonely or despondent, having no one to comfort them.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will restore all who are in mental darkness to soundness of mind and cheerfulness of heart.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will grant us life eternal so we may live in your hope that doesn’t disappoint.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will give your wisdom in ample measure to doctors, nurses, and medical workers of all kind, so that with knowledge, skill, patience, they may minister to the sick.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

L: That you will give us grateful hearts for your healing power already at work all around us.

C: Hear us, and make us whole.

Lord’s Prayer

Gathering our prayers and praises into one, let us pray as our Savior taught us.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Closing Prayer

L: Jesus Lamb of God, bearer of our sins, redeemer of the world.

C: Have mercy on us and give us your peace. Amen.

Benediction

L: May the Lord fill us with the light and truth and love of the Spirit, overflowing that we share it with others in Jesus’ name.

C: Amen.