

Lenten Midday Prayer – March 20, 2024

End Times – Part Two

Welcome

Invocation – Screen

L: The Light Shines in the darkness and the darkness did not overcome it, because Jesus is the Light of the World. We gather in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

St. Luke’s Preschool Singers – Lyrics on Screen

Opening Prayer – Screen

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 – Screen

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: 1st Thessalonians 5:1-11 – Screen

Now concerning the times and the seasons, brothers and sisters, you do not need to have anything written to you. For you yourselves know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. When they say, ‘There is peace and security’, then sudden destruction will come upon them, as labor pains come upon a pregnant woman, and there will be no escape! But you, beloved, are not in darkness, for that day to surprise you like a thief; for you are all children of light and children of the day; we are not of the night or of darkness. So then, let us not fall asleep as others do, but let us keep awake and be sober; for those who sleep at night, and those who are drunk get drunk at night. But since we belong to the day, let us be sober, and put on the breastplate of faith and love, and for a helmet the hope of salvation. For God has destined us not for wrath but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, so that whether we are awake or asleep we may live with him. Therefore encourage one another and build up each other, as indeed you are doing.

L. The Word of the Lord,

C. Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37 – Screen

‘But in those days, after that suffering, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see “the Son of Man coming in clouds” with great power and glory. Then he will send out the angels, and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. ‘From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts forth its leaves, you know that summer is near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. ‘But about that day or hour no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. Beware, keep alert; for you do not know when the time will come. It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his slaves in

charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to be on the watch. Therefore, keep awake—for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or at cockcrow, or at dawn, or else he may find you asleep when he comes suddenly. And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.’

L: The Gospel of the Lord,

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

Sermon

Prayers – Screen

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 – Screen

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

C: 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 – Screen

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 - Screen

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.