



MidWeek Lent 4  
2020

## RESPONSES

**M:** O Lord, o - pen my lips.



**C:** And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.

**M:** Has - ten to save me, O God.



**C:** O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.

**M:** The Lord be with you.



**C:** And al - so with you.

## CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

**P:** Brothers and sisters in Christ, God created us to know joy in communion with him, to love all humanity, and to live in harmony with all creation. But sin separates us from God, our neighbors, and creation, and so we do not enjoy the life our Creator intended for us. By our sin we grieve our Father, who does not desire us to come under his judgment, but to turn to him and live. Therefore, God in his mercy has sent our Lord Jesus Christ to take our place under the law, to suffer for us, and to die the death we deserve. God made Jesus, who had no sin, to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

During these days of Lent we fix our eyes on Jesus, the Author and Perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of God. The time of Lent reminds us that to know Christ and the power of his resurrection, we must also know the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death. As disciples of the Lord Jesus we are called to struggle against everything that leads us away from love of God and neighbor.

I invite you, therefore, to confess your sins, ask our Father for forgiveness, and commit yourselves to this struggle. Let us be silent. Let us be still. Let us pause now for a time of reflection and self-examination.

- P: "Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered."  
 C: **"Blessed is the man whose sin the Lord does not count against him and in whose spirit is no deceit."** (*Psalms 32:1-2*)
- P: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts."  
 C: **"See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."**  
 (*Psalms 139:23-24*)
- P: We confess to you, O God, that our hearts too often turn from your way.  
 C: **We have chased after things we thought would make us feel good. We have neglected things that are good.**
- P: We confess to you, O God, that our minds too often turn from your truth.  
 C: **We have flirted with falsehood and rationalized wrongs. We have questioned your goodness and challenged your justice.**
- P: "Hide your face from my sins and blot out all my iniquity."  
 C: **"Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit to sustain me."** (*Psalms 51:9 and 12*)
- P: Your sin is forgiven, for Jesus paid its price. Your guilt is gone, because Jesus endured its shame. You have received the Holy Spirit to assure you that God is your dear Father and to empower you to live as his daughters and sons.
- C: **Amen.**

**PASSION HISTORY LESSON** Matthew 26:57-68 "Before the Sanhedrin"

**SERMON TEXT** Ephesians 4:12 **"THE RECON FOR WAR"**

### **PRAYERS & SPECIAL PRAYERS**

- P: Lord Jesus, you suffered our sorrows and endured our punishment. You earned our forgiveness and secured for us eternal life. Our life hangs on your parting promise to be with us always. When we face problems bigger than our ability to solve them,  
 C: **Remind us that you are with us always.**  
 P: When we wrestle with fears about our health, our job, or our finances,  
 C: **Remind us that you are with us always.**  
 P: When we worry about those we love,  
 C: **Remind us that you are with us always.**

**P:** Holy Spirit, Jesus gave you to be another Counselor for us, the Spirit of truth who inspired, interprets and applies Scripture. When we doubt God's love or question our forgiveness,

**C:** **Remind us of what Jesus said. Teach us all things, Spirit of Truth. Fill us with Jesus' love and power.**

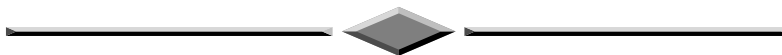
- Dear Lord, our Protector, in light of recent events all around over the world, we ask that you spare people in our communities, our country and in other nations harm to both body and soul. Grant healing and strength to those who have been afflicted with the **coronavirus** or other sicknesses. Be with those who provide care, giving them wisdom and guarding them from danger. Calm those who are fearful of the unknown and grant us, through your Word, a consistent faith and trust in your promises. Build in us a spiritual confidence as you have shown us your faithfulness so many times, especially in the saving work of Jesus. And finally, help us to be alert for opportunities to witness to your grace and share with others the confidence we have through the good news of our Savior.
- Merciful Father, we seek your strength and comfort for **Jim and Karri Brich, their daughter Sue, their grandchildren, and their entire family as their son, Ben, age 43**, unexpectedly died last week. Heal their wounded hearts, remind them of your grace, and keep them faithful to your saving Word. In your love provide for their needs now and in the future.
- Father, comfort **our member Pam Vroman and her family** as you have answered their prayer and called her mother home into heaven. Secure each of them in your love, especially Pam's father as he grieves the loss of his dear wife. Assure them that your timing is perfect and your resurrection has proven that you have conquered the grave.

### LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heavn. 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.**

### BLESSING

**M:** The grace of our Lord ✝ Je - sus Christ and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



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