



PLUM Afternoon Prayer
4th Sunday in Lent
March 22, 2020

WELCOME and ANNOUNCEMENTS

SHARING

God Sightings

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God

Call to Worship

L: Come and worship the God of love!

C: Let us love the Lord, our God!

L: With heart and soul, with mind and strength.

C: Let us love our neighbors, too!

L: In equal measure as ourselves.

C: Come and worship the God of love!

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Let us confess our sins before God and one another.

Pause for silence and reflection.

P: Merciful God,

C: Forgive us, for we have fallen short of your vision for humanity. We have put ourselves before others, ignored the vulnerable, and forgotten you altogether. We have missed the point of your kingdom. Have mercy on us, for Jesus' sake, amen.

P: Children, your God has not forgotten you. Jesus knows your weakness and sees through your presence. You are made whole simply by seeking forgiveness. Receive the Lord's pardon and believe that it is true, by the name of Jesus Christ, **Amen.**

PEACE

L: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

GREETING

L: The free gift of grace in Jesus Christ, the reconciling love of God, and the life and peace of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

KYRIE

In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

Lord, have mercy.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray. (*Brief Silence*)

O Lord, your greatest command to love can also be most difficult. Give us the same heart as you have for the world and everything in it, that we might be the living presence of your love. In Jesus' name, **Amen.**

WORD

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching and song.

FIRST READING: Psalm 89:1-4

¹ I will sing of your steadfast love, O LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will proclaim your faithfulness to
all generations.

² I declare that your steadfast love is established forever;
your faithfulness is as firm as the heavens.

³ You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen
one, I have sworn to my servant David:

⁴ "I will establish your descendants forever,
and build your throne for all generations."

GOSPEL: Mark 12:28-44

The holy gospel according to Mark

Glory to you, O Lord.

Readers: Narrator, Scribe, Jesus

Narrator: One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him,

Scribe: “Which commandment is the first of all?”

Narrator: Jesus answered,

Jesus: “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ The second is this, ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.”

Narrator: Then the scribe said to him,

Scribe: “You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that ‘he is one, and besides him there is no other’; and ‘to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,’ and ‘to love one’s neighbor as oneself,’—this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.”

Narrator: When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him,

Jesus: “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

Narrator: After that no one dared to ask him any question. While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said,

Jesus: “How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared,

‘The Lord said to my Lord, “Sit at my right hand, until I put your enemies under your feet.”’

David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?” And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

Narrator: As he taught, he said,

Jesus: “Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! They devour widows’ houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation.”

Narrator: He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then he called his disciples and said to them,

Jesus: “Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she

out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on.”

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

SERMON

Rev. Sue Devine

APOSTLES’ CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God’s only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

L: Turning our hearts to God who is gracious, loving and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief Silence

L: God of living water, we speak often of love, and yet we know so little of the sacrificial kind which you desire. May your ways of empathy, sympathy and deep compassion govern our actions and transform our lives into a truer reflection of the one who created us. Loving God,

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of living water, send your church beyond boundaries to proclaim your grace. May its witness be a source of refreshment for thirsty souls. Strengthen our voices, that all people can know and believe that Jesus is truly the savior of the world. Loving God,

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of living water, protect from pollution or misuse all rivers, lakes, oceans, and streams. Bless the work of those who dig wells and those who advocate for access to clean water, that all people and animals have enough to drink. Loving God,

C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of living water, open the hearts of leaders and authorities, that they hear the cries of the suffering and act with compassion toward them. Bring peace and reconciliation to people divided by race, culture, or nationality. Loving God,
C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of living water, mend the hearts of those who grieve broken relationships, whether by conflict, abuse, divorce, or death. Draw near to all who are ill (*especially, _____*). Assure those questioning your presence in the midst of doubt or suffering. Loving God,
C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of living water, renew us in the promises of baptism. Join us together in worship, fellowship, and sharing your good news especially in our present situation of social distancing. Embolden us to stretch our comfort zones so we may care and serve others. Loving God,
C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of living water, we thank you for those who endured suffering and who now boast in your glory. Pour your Holy Spirit into our hearts and give us peace as we live in the hope of our salvation. Loving God.
C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of living water, we pray for our nation and the world as we face new uncertainties around coronavirus. Protect the most vulnerable among us. Grant wisdom, patience, and clarity to health care workers, especially as their work caring for others puts them at great risk. Guide us as we consider how best to prepare and respond in our families, congregations, workplaces, and communities. Give us courage to face these days not with fear but with compassion, concern, and acts of service, trusting that you abide with us always. Loving God,
C: Your mercy is great.

L: God of living water, Grant confidence and zeal to members of our PLUM congregations, that we may faithfully carry out your work which you have entrusted to us. Loving God,
C: Your mercy is great
Here other petitions may be offered.

L: According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you, through Christ Jesus our Lord, **Amen.**

L: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as the Lord taught us.

LORD'S PRAYER

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

BLESSING

May God, who has called us forth from the dust of the earth, and claimed us as children of the light, strengthen you on your journey into life renewed.
The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord's face shine upon you with grace and mercy.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you + peace.
Amen.

DISMISSAL

Marked with the cross of Christ, go forth to love and serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**



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All individuals are encouraged to check the following for updates which will be posted by **Noon** daily.

- PLUM website at www.plumofpa.com for all news and event updates.
- PLUM phone hotline **412-466-7774** (messages may also be left on this line or call our individual churches)

The call in line for worship and bible study:

Zoom online: <https://zoom.us/j/401596541>

Zoom by phone: **+1 646 876 9923 US**

Meeting ID: 401 596 541