# Lent 4 - March 29, 2025 Responses of the people are indicated in *bold/italics*.

#### Welcome and announcements:

Opening Song: #Lord Have Mercy from Mass of Mary Magdalene

#### LORD, HAVE MERCY



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Teri: Let us continue as one expression of God's people.

+ Father, Son, Holy Spirit. Amen.

Teri: May the Love of God, the peace of our brother Jesus, and the communion and friendship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

#### Penitential Rite:

Teri: Let us remember our God who cherishes the unfolding of each of our stories, and invites us to new transformation today. Let us search our own hearts and minds, as we be honest before our God. We pray:

God, we reflect on when have we failed to love you with our whole hearts, our whole souls and our whole minds? Lord have mercy

Jesus, we reflect on when have we failed to love our neighbors as we love ourselves? Christ have mercy *Christ have mercy* 

Spirit, we reflect on when have we failed to love our enemies? Lord have mercy *Lord have mercy* 

Teri: My friends, our God of compassion shares with us this Good News! Christ's life, death and resurrection have revealed life eternal. Sins are forgiven and grace is shared. Be refreshed and renewed + in the name of God, in the name of Love, in the name of New Life. Together now we pray. **Amen.** 

#### **Opening Prayer:**

Mike: Let us pray.....

Teri: God, we pray today and share with you our dreams for our children and all future generations. We pray for a world of honor, justice, and peace. We pray for a world where everyone flourishes and thrives. We pray for a world where love is more visible than hate, and compassion more prominent than fear. We pray for all those who need to be welcomed home and for those who wander. May we work with you God, to create the world that you want for our children and all future generations. In Jesus' name we pray: *Amen*.

Mike: Let us all be seated now, as we listen to some stories from our Scriptures.

First Reading: - Shannon

Our first reading is from the Book of Joshua (5: 9, 10-12)

After the Israelites had crossed over the Jordan river and entered the promised land, the Lord said to Joshua,

"Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt."

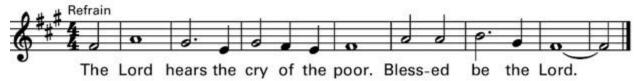
While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the Passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. On the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the Land and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

This has been a reading from the Books of Joshua *Thanks be to God.* 

#### THE CRY OF THE POOR

Psalm 34

John Foley, S.J.



Text: Based on Psalm 34:2–3, 18–19a, 19b–20, 4.
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Second Reading: - Shannon

A Reading from the 2nd Letter of Paul to the Corinthians Apostles (9:36-42)

If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!

All this is from God,who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God.

For our sake God made Christ to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Christ we might become the righteousness of God.

This has been a reading from the 2nd Letter of Paul to the Corinthians. *Thanks be to God.* 

#### LENTEN GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



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#### Gospel:

Mike: May the Word of Christ be with you all. *And also with you.* Mike: A Reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke (15:1-3, 11-32) *Glory to You, O God.* 

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to Jesus. And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them." So he told them a parable:

"There was a man who had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So the father divided his property between them. A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and travelled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need.

So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. The young man would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating and no one gave him anything.

But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you. I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands."

So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. Then the son said to him,

'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.'

But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

Now his elder son was in the field and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on.

The slave replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.'

Then the elder son became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. But he answered his father,

'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!

Then the father said to him,"Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found."

This has been a reading from the Gospel according to Luke. *Praise to you, Jesus the Christ.* 

Homily: Mike

Prayers of the People: - Shannon

Shannon: Our response today is: God of new beginnings, nurture us. **God of new beginnings, nurture us.** 

<u>Shannon</u>: For our world so in need of healing. That leaders may act responsibly and compassionately and prioritize the needs of the most vulnerable. We pray: *God of new beginnings, nurture us.* 

<u>Shannon</u>: For the global church. That we may find creative ways to embody God's unbiased love and hospitality and be a home where all people feel welcomed and included. We pray: **God of new beginnings, nurture us.** 

<u>Shannon:</u> For Light of Christ and its people. That we may listen to the Holy Spirit moving among us as we discern how to follow God's call together. We pray: **God of new beginnings, nurture us.** 

<u>Shannon</u>: For those who are sick, especially Donna Stang. For those in pain who have no one to weep with them. That we may be vessels for the friendship of Jesus to enter their hearts and fill them with peace. We pray: **God of new beginnings, nurture us.** 

<u>Shannon</u>: For those who have died (especially\_\_\_\_\_). That they may rest peacefully in the loving arms of their Creator. And for all who grieve a loss. That the love of family and friends may bring comfort during this time. We pray: **God of new beginnings, nurture us.** 

<u>Shannon</u>: Now, Fr. Teri will lead us in the prayers that have been typed in the comments......(PAUSE....)

<u>Shannon</u>: For these and for all the prayers we share through our hearts, we pray: *God of new beginnings, nurture us.* 

Shannon: In addition, Prayer Partners will be available after Mass here in the Sanctuary by the back altar. For those at home, or those who have a prayer to share during the week, you can email our Prayer Companion Team at <a href="mailto:prayercompanionteam@lightofchristecc.org">prayercompanionteam@lightofchristecc.org</a> and someone will reach out to you. These prayer ministries welcome and invite you, in confidence, to share your concerns in more detail or depth, or even to pray for you when you can't find the words.

#### Collect: Teri

## Sign of Peace:

Mike: Let us all rise in body or spirit.

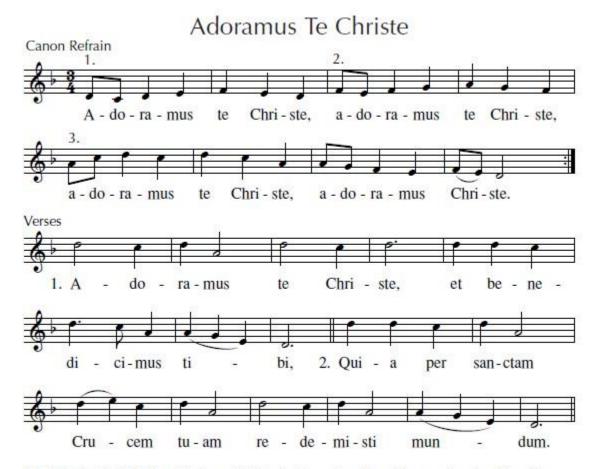
Teri: My friends, may the peace of Christ be with you all.

ALL: And also with you.

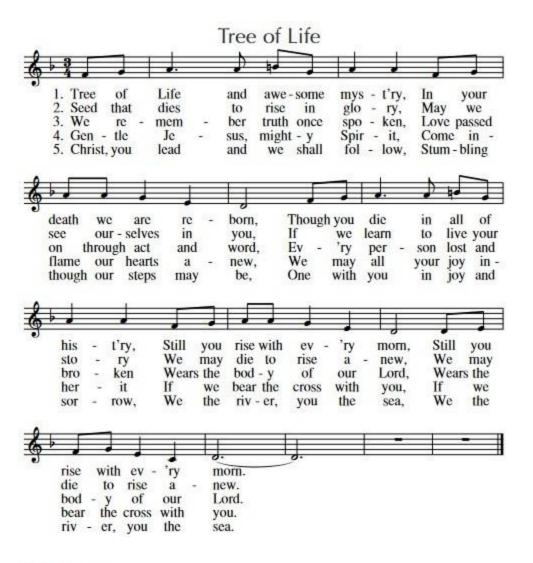
Mike: Let us share with one another a sign of our peace.

Offertory: #400, #401 Adoramus te Christe/Tree of Life medley (Sing refrain of #400. Since V1 of #401. Sing Lente verse of #401.

## Return to refrain of #400 singing as a round 3 times.)



Text: Antiphon from Good Friday Liturgy; We adore you, O Christ, and we bless you, because by your holy cross you have redeemed the world. Tune: Marty Haugen, b.1950, © 1984, GIA Publications, Inc.



#### Lenten Verses

General: Light of life beyond conceiving, Mighty Spirit of our Lord;

Give new strength to our believing, Give us faith to live your word.

Ist Sunday: From the dawning of creation, You have loved us as your own;

Stay with us through all temptation, Make us turn to you alone.

2nd Sunday: In our call to be a blessing, May we be a blessing true;

May we live and die confessing Christ as Lord of all we do.

3rd Sunday: Living Water of salvation, Be the fountain of each soul;

Springing up in new creation, Flow in us and make us whole.

4th Sunday: Give us eyes to see you clearly, Make us children of your light;

Give us hearts to live more nearly As your gospel shining bright.

5th Sunday: God of all our fear and sorrow, God who lives beyond our death;

Hold us close through each tomorrow, Love as near as every breath.

<u>Teri</u>: Blessed are you, Loving God of all Creation, through your goodness we have this bread and this wine and other food from our cupboards to place on your tables. Work of earth and human hands. May these become our spiritual food and drink. **Blessed be God forever.** 

<u>Teri</u>: Blessed are you, Loving God of all Creation. Through your goodness we have these gifts to place on your table. These gifts have sometimes traveled through the mail to get here, and other times through pockets, purses, and backpacks. They represent our entire lives. May they be-come the Light of Christ in your world. **Blessed by God forever.** 

Mike: Pray my sisters and brothers, my family, that these our gifts, our lives may continue to be blessed by our Loving God.

ALL: May God accept the sacrifice at our hands, for the praise and glory of God's name, for our good and the good of all God's world.

Mike: Let us all rise in body or spirit.

Teri: The peace of our God is with you all. And also with you.

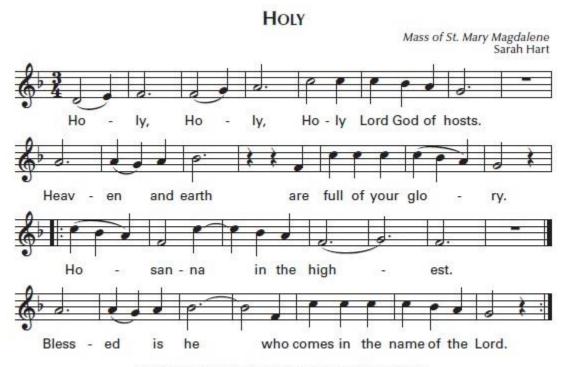
Teri: Open your hearts. We open them to our God.

<u>Teri</u>: Let us give thanks to our Loving God. *It is right to give God thanks and praise.* 

#### **Eucharistic Prayer:**

<u>Ter</u>i: Gracious God, source and sustenance of life, redeeming presence to the pain and brokenness of our world, you break open the boundaries of heaven and earth through your Incarnation. You join us in the human experience so Creator and Creation are one, and the earth as it spins is Your Prayer Bead. You hold our hand, wipe our tears, and walk in our streets. You call us beloved, and release your healing power upon us and all we pray for today. You light up our ways with wise and holy people, and gather us together to be Light as well. This Lent may we create a new spaciousness for You in our lives, not focused on what we give up, but what we can add to our lives with You. For all you bring to our lives, and for all we seek, we acclaim your love and greatness, and we join with all

creation, and share our voices with the choirs of angels and shepherds coming together as we sing:



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#### THE WORDS OF INSTITUTION

Teri: God of Bread and Wine,

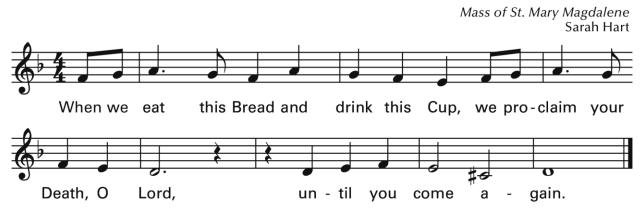
You are most Holy. Send your Holy Spirit upon us, and what we do here gathered at tables throughout your world knowing that all tables are Your Table. May we be touched by your Spirit, to be signs of love and peace to one another, and to the world. + Let also your Spirit come upon these gifts of bread and wine, food before us, to make them holy so that these may become for us the Body and Blood of our brother, Jesus the Christ.

Today, we gather to remember that on the night before he died, Jesus ate with his followers and his friends. We recall how he took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, he broke it, and gave it to them saying - "Take this all of you and eat it. This is my body which will be given up for you."

That same night, Jesus also took the cup filled with wine, and after giving thanks, passed it to his disciples, saying, "Take this all of you and drink from it. This is the cup of my blood. The blood of the new and everlasting covenant. It will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven. Do this in memory of me. "

Mike: Let us proclaim the mystery of faith.....

#### WHEN WE EAT THIS BREAD



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# <u>Teri</u>: Together with God, we are the Body of Christ.

We come together and we remember, because remembering is part of the journey of life. In remembering we recall how the Incarnation joined all of creation in love. Like You, our God, we strive to join with all of creation in love. We profess that all are welcome here, and we recognize your diversity, Amma God, in our midst. We are all your beloved children. The bread we break and the cup we share are symbols of our world of abundance where all are invited to partake of the fullness of life. May we recognize that life and Your Holy and Radiant Light, O Fully Present God.

So grant, Abba God, that in union with all peoples, living and dead, laity, clergy, and bishops, especially Bishop Kae and Bishop Paul.....we may strive to create a world where suffering and pain are diminished, where justice and peace are restored, and where all people can live in health and wholeness, united in acclaiming the God of life, the God who shares Light

with the world, who created an earth that spins, and whose abundance is offered to each and to all.

<u>Teri</u>: Together let us say:

Through Christ, with Christ, in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours all loving God, forever and ever.



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## LORD'S PRAYER

Mike: Let us join our hearts together in love, and pray together in the words that have been prayed with Jesus for centuries:

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kin(g)dom 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 Kin(g)dom, the power, and the glory, now and forever.

#### LAMB OF GOD



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<u>Teri</u>: This is the Living God, the Body and Blood of Christ. This is the one who transforms the world. This is the one who transforms us. Blessed are we who are called to this meal.

#### God, I am ready to receive you. Because by your invitation, I am here.

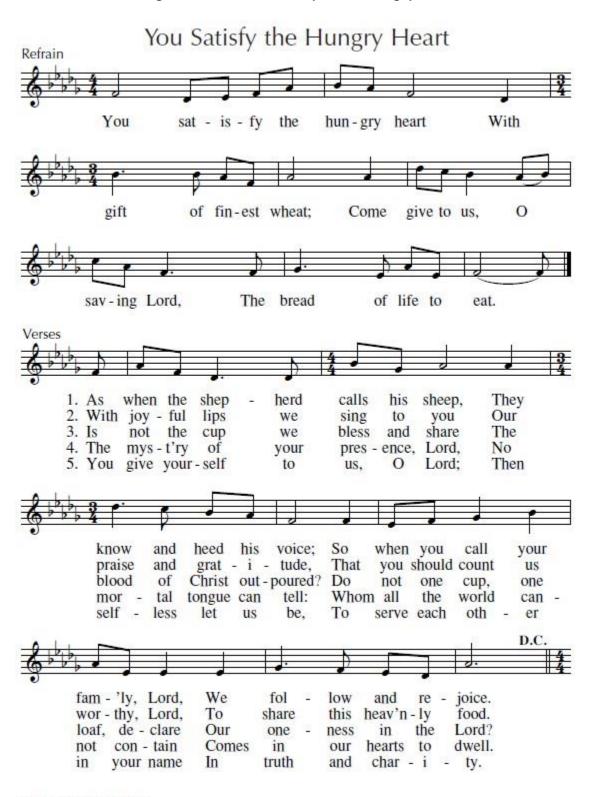
#### (Invitation to Communion)

Teri: Gives general instructions for Communion ending with......The most important thing is that you know that you are welcome here.

Mike: Come as you are, and let us share the meal of Christ together.

Teri: For those of us who join us from home, receive the grace that God shares with you on this day.

## Communion Song: #816 You Satisfy the Hungry Heart



Text: Omer Westendorf, 1916-1998 Tune: BICENTENNIAL, CM with refrain; Robert E. Kreutz, 1922-1996 © 1977, Archdiocese of Philadelphia

#### Prayer after Communion:

Mike: Please rise in body or spirit. And let us pray.....

Teri: God, we have shared this meal together. This meal where you have offered to us, bread, wine, and other food from our own cupboards. May this meal nourish us to grow in love and compassion for one another, your diverse people, and to work together that all may be One in You. We offer this prayer through our brother, Jesus the Christ. *Amen.* 

Teri: The Love of God be with you.

And also with you.

Mike: Please open your hearts, as we ask for God's blessing.

Teri: Receive the blessing of our Prodigal God, who shares grace, compassion, and love with us lavishly. We ask for this blessing now, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Mike:We are the Light of Christ. We are the Light of Christ.

Let us go forth as such.

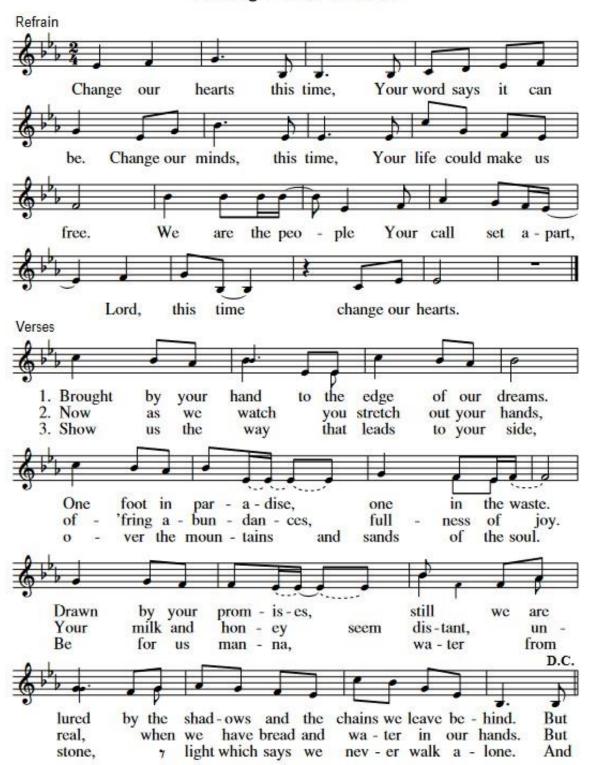
Loving and serving God.

As we get to love and serve in God's world.

As we get to love and serve in God's world. Thanks be to God. *Thanks be to God.* 

## Closing Song: #414 Change Our Hearts

# Change Our Hearts



Text: Rory Cooney, b.1952
Tune: Rory Cooney, b.1952
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