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THE HAND OF THE LORD WHO HEALS THE SICK

Quarantine is a term for isolating people suspected of carrying some infectious or contagious disease. In Latin, the term literally refers to “forty days.” The forty-day season of Lent serves as a sort of quarantine for sinners, a time when the medicine of repentance and faith in God’s Word brings healing and deliverance from sin, sickness, and death—whatever causes a person to be rejected, abandoned, or shunned by others, or even by God. The hand of the Lord is the reaching, touching, healing hand of the Son of God, Christ, the mighty Savior, that touches you, bringing healing and reconciliation with God and His people.

OPENING SENTENCES

LSB, p. 229

- P** O Lord, open my lips,
C and my mouth will declare Your praise.
- P** Make haste, O God, to deliver me;
C make haste to help me, O Lord.
- C** Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.
Praise to You, O Christ, Lamb of our salvation.

- L** Bless the LORD, O my soul,
C and all that is within me, bless His holy name!
L Bless the LORD, O my soul,
C and forget not all His benefits,
L who forgives all your iniquity,
C who heals all your diseases,
L who redeems your life from the pit,
C who crowns you with steadfast love and mercy,
L who satisfies you with good
C so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.
L The LORD works righteousness
C and justice for all who are oppressed.
L He made known His ways to Moses,
C His acts to the people of Israel.
L The LORD is merciful and gracious,
C slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love.
L He will not always chide,
C nor will He keep His anger forever.
L He does not deal with us according to our sins,
C nor repay us according to our iniquities.
L For as high as the heavens are above the earth,
C so great is His steadfast love toward those who fear Him;
L as far as the east is from the west,
C so far does He remove our transgressions from us.
L As a father shows compassion to his children,
C so the LORD shows compassion to those who fear Him.
L For He knows our frame;
C He remembers that we are dust.
L As for man, his days are like grass;
C he flourishes like a flower of the field;
L for the wind passes over it, and it is gone,
C and its place knows it no more.
L But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to
everlasting on those who fear Him,
C and His righteousness to children's children,

L to those who keep His covenant
C and remember to do His commandments.
L The LORD has established His throne in the heavens,
C and His kingdom rules over all.
L Bless the LORD, O you His angels,
C you mighty ones who do His word,
L obeying the voice of His word!
C Bless the LORD, all His hosts,
L His ministers, who do His will!
C Bless the LORD, all His works,
L in all places of His dominion.
C Bless the LORD, O my soul!

HYMN

“Your Hand, O Lord, in Days of Old” (*LSB* 846)

+ Readings +

READING 2 Kings 5:1–14

P ¹Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great man with his master and in high favor, because by him the Lord had given victory to Syria. He was a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. ²Now the Syrians on one of their raids had carried off a little girl from the land of Israel, and she worked in the service of Naaman’s wife. ³She said to her mistress, “Would that my lord were with the prophet who is in Samaria! He would cure him of his leprosy.” ⁴So Naaman went in and told his lord, “Thus and so spoke the girl from the land of Israel.” ⁵And the king of Syria said, “Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel.”

So he went, taking with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothes. ⁶And he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which read, “When this letter reaches you, know that I have sent to you Naaman my servant, that you may cure him of his leprosy.” ⁷And when the king of Israel read the letter, he tore his clothes and said, “Am I God, to kill and to make alive, that this man sends word to me to cure a man of his leprosy? Only consider, and see how he is seeking a quarrel with me.”

⁸But when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had

torn his clothes, he sent to the king, saying, “Why have you torn your clothes? Let him come now to me, that he may know that there is a prophet in Israel.”⁹ So Naaman came with his horses and chariots and stood at the door of Elisha’s house.¹⁰ And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, “Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.”¹¹ But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me and stand and call upon the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place and cure the leper.¹² Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?” So he turned and went away in a rage.¹³ But his servants came near and said to him, “My father, it is a great word the prophet has spoken to you; will you not do it? Has he actually said to you, ‘Wash, and be clean?’”¹⁴ So he went down and dipped himself seven times in the Jordan, according to the word of the man of God, and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING *Acts 3:1–10*

P¹ Now Peter and John were going up to the temple at the hour of prayer, the ninth hour.² And a man lame from birth was being carried, whom they laid daily at the gate of the temple that is called the Beautiful Gate to ask alms of those entering the temple.³ Seeing Peter and John about to go into the temple, he asked to receive alms.⁴ And Peter directed his gaze at him, as did John, and said, “Look at us.”⁵ And he fixed his attention on them, expecting to receive something from them.⁶ But Peter said, “I have no silver and gold, but what I do have I give to you. In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk!”⁷ And he took him by the right hand and raised him up, and immediately his feet and ankles were made strong.⁸ And leaping up he stood and began to walk, and entered the temple with them, walking and leaping and praising God.⁹ And all the people saw him walking and praising God,¹⁰ and recognized him as the one who sat at the Beautiful Gate of the temple, asking for alms. And they were filled with wonder and amazement at what had happened to him.

P This is the Word of the Lord

C **Thanks be to God.**

READING *Matthew 8:1–17*

P ¹When He came down from the mountain, great crowds followed Him. ²And behold, a leper came to Him and knelt before Him, saying, “Lord, if You will, You can make me clean.” ³And Jesus stretched out His hand and touched Him, saying, “I will; be clean.” And immediately his leprosy was cleansed. ⁴And Jesus said to him, “See that you say nothing to anyone, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a proof to them.”

⁵When He entered Capernaum, a centurion came forward to Him, appealing to Him, ⁶“Lord, my servant is lying paralyzed at home, suffering terribly.” ⁷And He said to him, “I will come and heal him.” ⁸But the centurion replied, “Lord, I am not worthy to have You come under my roof, but only say the word, and my servant will be healed. ⁹For I too am a man under authority, with soldiers under me. And I say to one, ‘Go,’ and he goes, and to another, ‘Come,’ and he comes, and to my servant, ‘Do this,’ and he does it.” ¹⁰When Jesus heard this, He marveled and said to those who followed Him, “Truly, I tell you, with no one in Israel have I found such faith. ¹¹I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, ¹²while the sons of the kingdom will be thrown into the outer darkness. In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.” ¹³And to the centurion Jesus said, “Go; let it be done for you as you have believed.” And the servant was healed at that very moment.

¹⁴And when Jesus entered Peter’s house, He saw his mother-in-law lying sick with a fever. ¹⁵He touched her hand, and the fever left her, and she rose and began to serve Him. ¹⁶That evening they brought to Him many who were oppressed by demons, and He cast out the spirits with a word and healed all who were sick. ¹⁷This was to fulfill what was spoken by the prophet Isaiah: “He took our illnesses and bore our diseases.”

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

LENT RESPONSORY *LSB*, p. 231

HYMN

“Come unto Me, Ye Weary” (*LSB* 684)

SERMON

+ Canticle +

ANTIPHON

LSB, p. 231

MAGNIFICAT

LSB, p. 231

Presentation of Offering

+ PRAYER +

KYRIE

LSB, p. 233

C Lord, have mercy;
Christ, have mercy;
Lord, have mercy.

LORD'S PRAYER

LSB, p. 233

COLLECTS

P O Lord, hear my prayer.

C And let my cry come to You.

P Let us pray.

Lord God, as the familiar hymn bids us, in this time of Lent we “come to Calvary’s holy mountain, sinners, ruined by the fall” (stanza 1). We “come in poverty and meanness, come defiled, without, within.” We pray, “from infection and uncleanness, from the leprosy of sin,” wash our robes and make them white (stanza 2). Help us walk with You in light; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy, be gracious to all who have gone astray from Your ways and bring them again with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of Your Word; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

P Almighty and everlasting God, You despise nothing You have made and forgive the sins of all who are penitent. Create in us new and contrite hearts that lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness we may receive from You full pardon and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C Amen.

C I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

P O God, from whom come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works, give to us, Your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey Your commandments and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

LSB, p. 234

P Let us bless the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

LSB, p. 234

P The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C Amen.

HYMN

“Come to Calvary’s Holy Mountain” (*LSB* 435)