

MID-WEEK II: THE FIRST WEDNESDAY IN LENT
FEBRUARY 24, 2021

Theme of the Day: On Ash Wednesday, we began a sermon series on the Old Testament prophet Zechariah—*Your Kingdom Come*. God's kingdom comes through craftsmen who know that *It's Tool Time!*

INVOCATION AND CALL TO WORSHIP (From selected verses in Zechariah 9:9–10)

P: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Behold, your King comes to you—

C: Righteous and having salvation.

P: Speaking peace to the nations.

C: And ruling from sea to sea—

P: To the ends of the earth!

C: God's kingdom comes—

P: To us!

All: Through Jesus Christ our Lord!

HYMN

Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

#435

1 Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows for you, for me, for all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.

2 Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
Ye shall walk with God in light.

3 Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, impotent, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
They that drink shall thirst no more.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Come to Calvary's holy mountain, sinners ruined by the fall.
C: **Here, a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all.**
P: In a full, perpetual tide—
C: **Opened when our Savior died!**
P: Coming to Calvary's holy mountain, we confess our sins.

Silence for reflection and confession.

P: Merciful Father—
C: **I am wrapped up in myself.**
P: I cling to comfort and choose the easy way.
C: **I want tweaking not transformation.**
P: Greed, envy, intolerance and jealousy mark my life.
C: **I fail to learn, and what I have learned, I fail to practice.**
P: I judge others with a standard I never use for myself.
All: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**
P: Zechariah 13:1 states, "On that day there will be a fountain opened to cleanse from sin and uncleanness." Because of Christ's cross and crucifixion—Zechariah's day is today. Here, a pure and healing fountain flows for you, for me, for all. In a full, perpetual tide opened when our Savior died. In Jesus' name, you are absolved, forgiven and loved! God's kingdom comes to us—
All: **Through Jesus Christ our Lord!**

HYMN Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain **435**

4 They that drink shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break His covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when He was glorified.

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.
C: **And also with you.**
P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, your gift of victory comes chiefly in the weakness of our Savior's bitter suffering and death on a cross. Empower us to build our lives upon this amazing grace; through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.
All: **Amen.**

THE READINGS ARE ABOUT VICTORY THROUGH WEAKNESS

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON

Zechariah 1:18–21

And I lifted my eyes and saw, and behold, four horns! And I said to the angel who talked with me, "What are these?" And he said to me, "These are the horns that have scattered Judah, Israel, and

Jerusalem.” Then the LORD showed me four craftsmen. And I said, “What are these coming to do?” He said, “These are the horns that scattered Judah, so that no one raised his head. And these have come to terrify them, to cast down the horns of the nations who lifted up their horns against the land of Judah to scatter it.”

P: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE LESSON

2 Corinthians 12:7–12

So to keep me from being too elated by the surpassing greatness of the revelations, a thorn was given me in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to harass me, to keep me from being too elated. Three times I pleaded with the Lord about this, that it should leave me. But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. I have been a fool! You forced me to it, for I ought to have been commended by you. For I was not at all inferior to these super-apostles, even though I am nothing. The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with utmost patience, with signs and wonders and mighty works.

E: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL LESSON

Mark 8:27–38

And Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi. And on the way he asked his disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they told him, “John the Baptist; and others say, Elijah; and others, one of the prophets.” And he asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Christ.” And he strictly charged them to tell no one about him. And he began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer many things and be rejected by the elders and the chief priests and the scribes and be killed, and after three days rise again. And he said this plainly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and seeing his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.” And he called to him the crowd with his disciples and said to them, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel’s will save it. For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? For what can a man give in return for his life? For whoever is ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him will the Son of Man also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.”

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord

C: Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTELS’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His 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 into hell.
The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty.
From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life T everlasting. Amen.**

SERMON

“It’s Tool Time”

Zechariah 1:18–21

WE CONFESS from Catechism

ALL: “Thy Kingdom come.”

P: What does this mean?

C: The kingdom of God certainly comes by itself without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

P How does God's kingdom come?

C: God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we believe His holy Word and lead godly lives here in time and there in eternity.

OFFERING & HYMN God of Grace and God of Glory

850

1 God of grace and God of glory,
On Your people pour Your pow’r;
Crown Your ancient Church’s story;
Bring its bud to glorious flow’r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
For the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.

2 Lo, the hosts of evil round us
Scorn the Christ, assail His ways!
From the fears that long have bound us
Free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage

For the living of these days,
For the living of these days.

3 Cure Your children's warring madness;
Bend our pride to Your control;
 Shame our wanton, selfish gladness,
Rich in things and poor in soul.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss Your kingdom's goal.

4 Save us from weak resignation
To the evils we deplore;
 Let the gift of Your salvation
Be our glory evermore.
 Grant us wisdom, grant us courage,
Serving You whom we adore,
Serving You whom we adore.

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PRAYERS

P: Our King comes to us, righteous and having salvation. May God hear our prayers, because of our crucified and risen King—Christ Jesus.

A brief silence

P: Heavenly Father, as you first came to us, claiming us as your own, we welcome you into our lives—

C: We make ourselves available to your holy will.

P: Help us become living examples of your love in the world.

C: Open our hearts to the areas of our lives that need to change—

P: So we carry out the mission of our church—

C: *Connecting People to Jesus.*

P: Inspire us to live the Christian life—

C: In ways that are dynamic and engaging.

P: Bring renewal to our church.

C: And make us hunger and thirst for more of Jesus.

P: Give us courage when we are afraid.

C: Hope when we are discouraged.

P: And clarity in times of decision.

Additional prayers: After each petition respond...

P: Lord in your mercy,

C Hear our prayer.

P: They that drink shall live forever; 'tis a soul renewing flood.

C: God is faithful; God will never, break his covenant of blood.

P: Signed when our Redeemer died—
All: **Sealed when he was glorified. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION (From Zechariah 9:9)

P: Behold, your King comes to you—
C: **Righteous and having salvation.**
P: Speaking peace to the nations.
C: **And ruling from sea to sea—**
P: To the ends of the earth!
C: **God's kingdom comes—**
P: To us!
C: **By his Spirit.**
P: God's kingdom comes through us—
C: **To the ends of the earth!**
All: **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN On What Has Now Been Sown

921

1 On what has now been sown
 Thy blessing, Lord, bestow;
 The pow'r is Thine alone
 To make it sprout and grow.
 Do Thou in grace the harvest raise,
 And Thou alone shalt have the praise!

2 To Thee our wants are known,
 From Thee are all our pow'rs;
 Accept what is Thine own
 And pardon what is ours.
 Our praises, Lord, and prayers receive,
 And to Thy Word a blessing give.

3 O grant that each of us,
 Now met before Thee here,
 May meet together thus
 When Thou and Thine appear
 And follow Thee to heav'n, our home.
 E'en so, amen, Lord Jesus, come!

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SILENT PRAYER Lord Jesus Christ, it's tool time. Empower me to build! Amen.