

# 2021 Midweek Lenten Series

## Making Change

### March 25, 2021 + Change of Plans

God's ways are not our own. We expect a conquering king and hero, but Jesus instead leads us down the road to Jerusalem and humbles himself on the cross. God changes our plans and replaces them with a love broader and deeper than anything we could imagine.

### Opening Dialogue

*(Mark 10:32-34, Luke 18:31-34, Matt. 16:22)*

We see Jesus walking ahead on the road.

**He leads us toward Jerusalem.**

We follow but are very afraid.

**He says the Son of Man will be handed over.**

We understand nothing about all these things.

**He says the prophets' words will be fulfilled.**

We hear him talk of suffering and death.

**Forbid it, Lord! This must never happen to you!**

### Greeting

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

**And also with you.**

### Prayer

O God our surprise, you offer so much more than our own limited plans envision. You take our place, becoming our salvation through the cross. As we prepare for Holy Week, strengthen our hearts and minds to follow Jesus on the road to Jerusalem. When we betray like Judas, deny like Peter, and scatter like the disciples, forgive our frailties. Bring us the promise of resurrection and new life in you. In Jesus' name we pray.

**Amen.**

### Psalmody Psalm 2

1 Why do the nations conspire,  
and the peoples plot in vain?

2 The kings of the earth set themselves,  
and the rulers take counsel together,  
against the LORD and his anointed, saying,

3 "Let us burst their bonds asunder,  
and cast their cords from us."

4 He who sits in the heavens laughs;

the LORD has them in derision.  
5Then he will speak to them in his wrath,  
and terrify them in his fury, saying,  
6"I have set my king on Zion, my holy hill."  
7I will tell of the decree of the LORD:  
He said to me, "You are my son;  
today I have begotten you.  
8Ask of me, and I will make the nations your heritage,  
and the ends of the earth your possession.  
9You shall break them with a rod of iron,  
and dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel."  
10Now therefore, O kings, be wise;  
be warned, O rulers of the earth.  
11Serve the LORD with fear,  
with trembling 12kiss his feet,  
or he will be angry, and you will perish in the way;  
for his wrath is quickly kindled.  
Happy are all who take refuge in him.

**Reading**      Isaiah 52:13-15

13See, my servant shall prosper;  
he shall be exalted and lifted up,  
and shall be very high.  
14Just as there were many who were astonished at him  
— so marred was his appearance, beyond human semblance,  
and his form beyond that of mortals —  
15so he shall startle many nations;  
kings shall shut their mouths because of him;  
for that which had not been told them they shall see,  
and that which they had not heard they shall contemplate.

**Gospel Reading**      Mark 10:32-34

32They were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, and Jesus was walking ahead of them; they were amazed, and those who followed were afraid. He took the twelve aside again and began to tell them what was to happen to him, 33saying, "See, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and the scribes, and they will condemn him to death; then they will hand him over to the Gentiles; 34they will mock him, and spit upon him, and flog him, and kill him; and after three days he will rise again."

**Reflection**

**Hymn of the Day - Lamb of God ELW 336**

*Your only Son no sin to hide  
But You have sent Him from Your side  
To walk upon this guilty sod  
And to become the Lamb of God. Refrain*

*Your gift of love they crucified  
They laughed and scorned Him as he died  
The humble King they named a fraud  
And sacrificed the Lamb of God. Refrain*

*I was so lost I should have died  
But You have brought me to Your side  
To be led by Your staff and rod  
And to be called a lamb of God. Refrain*

**Refrain:**  
*Oh Lamb of God, Sweet lamb of God  
I love the Holy Lamb of God  
Oh wash me in His precious Blood  
My Jesus Christ the Lamb of God.*  
**Prayers**

O God our help,  
you walk with us through all of life's changes.  
**Grant us strength, patience, wisdom, and understanding.**

O God our hope,  
you come to us in the life, death, and resurrection of Christ.

**Show us your salvation,  
and lead us in the way of the cross.**

O God our shelter,  
you enfold us like a mother hen gathering her chicks.  
**Watch over all who are sick, grieving, lonely, and in need this day.**

O God our home, you claim us as your beloved children.

**Lord, remember us when you come into your kingdom.**

*Here other prayers may be offered.*

All this we ask through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Lord's Prayer**

Let us pray together:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom 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 kingdom,  
and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

**Offering Prayer** (*Matt. 25:35*)

Steadfast God, you bless us amid all the changes and chances of life. Grant us servant hearts, that we may feed the hungry and welcome the stranger in the name of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**Blessing**

*Based on 2 Thessalonians 3:16*

The Lord of peace give you peace at all times and in all ways.

In the name of the Father, ✠ Son, and Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

**Sending Song** - That Priceless Grace ELW 591

- 1 That priceless grace, that priceless grace,  
that priceless grace, which gave me life:  
Jesus' life is priceless grace.  
That priceless grace is life for me.*
- 2 That priceless blood, that priceless blood,  
that priceless blood was shed for me:  
Jesus' blood is priceless grace.  
That priceless grace is life for me.*
- 3 That painful death, that painful death,  
that painful death took sins away:  
Jesus' death is priceless grace.  
That priceless grace is life for me.*
- 4 That precious word, that precious word,  
that precious word, which brought me light:  
Jesus' word is priceless grace.  
That priceless grace is life for me.*

## **Dismissal**

Go now in peace, for nothing can separate you from the love of God in Christ Jesus.  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Some of the prayers are based on the text of "O God, our help in ages past" (ELW 632; text by Isaac Watts) and Luke 23:42.*

*Text of the Lord's Prayer from "Salvation unto us has come" (ELW 590). Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.*

From [sundaysandseasons.com](http://sundaysandseasons.com).

Copyright © 2021 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved.