



making  
change

## ***Week of Lent 4: Change of Heart***

*Jesus' words to the Pharisees give us pause:  
"You honor me with your lips, but your  
hearts are far from me." Jesus invites us to  
experience a change of heart that will in fact  
change every part of our lives.*

### Opening Dialogue

*(Song of Solomon 8:6, Psalm 139:23-24)*

Beloved, set me as a seal upon your heart,  
as a seal upon your arm.

For love is strong as death;  
passion fierce as the grave.

**O God, search me and know my heart;  
test me and know my thoughts.**

**See if there is any wicked way in me,  
and lead me in the way everlasting.**

### Prayer of the Day

*(Ephesians 3:14-4:1)*

O God of our longing, strengthen us and dwell in our hearts,  
that we be rooted and grounded in your love. Help us to  
comprehend the breadth and length and height and depth of  
your mercy shown to us on the cross. Fill our hearts with your  
grace, that we lead lives that radiate your love to all. In Jesus'  
name we pray.

**Amen.**

### Psalm 119:1-16

<sup>1</sup>Happy are those whose  
way is blameless, who  
walk in the law of the Lord.

<sup>2</sup> **Happy are those who  
keep his decrees, who  
seek him with their whole  
heart,**

<sup>3</sup> who also do no wrong  
but walk in his ways.

<sup>4</sup> **You have commanded  
your precepts to be kept  
diligently.**

<sup>5</sup> O that my ways may be  
steadfast in keeping your  
statutes!

<sup>6</sup> **Then I shall not be put  
to shame, having my eyes  
fixed on all your  
commandments.**

<sup>7</sup> I will praise you with an  
upright heart, when I learn  
your righteous ordinances.

<sup>8</sup> **I will observe your  
statutes; do not utterly  
forsake me.**

<sup>9</sup> How can young people  
keep their way pure? By  
guarding it according to  
your word.

<sup>10</sup> **With my whole heart I  
seek you; do not let me  
stray from your  
commandments.**

<sup>11</sup> I treasure your word in  
my heart, so that I may not  
sin against you.

<sup>12</sup> **Blessed are you,  
O Lord; teach me your  
statutes.**

<sup>13</sup> With my lips I declare all  
the ordinances of your  
mouth.

<sup>14</sup> **I delight in the way of  
your decrees as much as  
in all riches.**

<sup>15</sup> I will meditate on your  
precepts and fix my eyes  
on your ways.

<sup>16</sup> **I will delight in your  
statutes; I will not forget  
your word.**

### Psalm Prayer

Holy God, you are just in all your ways and your  
commandments are the greatest of treasures. Teach us to

love you with all our hearts and to love our neighbors as ourselves, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn

“Change My Heart, O God” ELW 801

Reading

Ezekiel 36:22-28

Therefore say to the house of Israel: Thus says the Lord God: It is not for your sake, O house of Israel, that I am about to act but for the sake of my holy name, which you have profaned among the nations to which you came. <sup>23</sup> I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations and which you have profaned among them, and the nations shall know that I am the Lord, says the Lord God, when through you I display my holiness before their eyes. <sup>24</sup> I will take you from the nations and gather you from all the countries and bring you into your own land. <sup>25</sup> I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean from all your uncleannesses, and from all your idols I will cleanse you. <sup>26</sup> A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you, and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh. <sup>27</sup> I will put my spirit within you and make you follow my statutes and be careful to observe my ordinances. <sup>28</sup> Then you shall live in the land that I gave to your ancestors, and you shall be my people, and I will be your God.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

Now when the Pharisees and some of the scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around him, <sup>2</sup> they noticed that some of his disciples were eating with defiled hands, that is, without washing them. <sup>3</sup> (For the Pharisees, and all the Jews, do not eat unless they wash their hands,<sup>[a]</sup> thus observing the tradition of the elders, <sup>4</sup> and they do not eat anything from the market unless they wash,<sup>[b]</sup> and there are also many other traditions that they observe: the washing of cups and pots and bronze kettles and beds.<sup>[c]</sup>) <sup>5</sup> So the Pharisees and the scribes asked him, “Why do your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders but eat with defiled hands?” <sup>6</sup> He said to them, “Isaiah prophesied rightly about you hypocrites, as it is written,

‘This people honors me with their lips,  
but their hearts are far from me;  
<sup>7</sup> in vain do they worship me,  
teaching human precepts as doctrines.’

<sup>8</sup> “You abandon the commandment of God and hold to human tradition.”

## Hymn

“Chief of Sinners Though I Be” ELW 609

Print instructions: Print Pages 1-4 Booklet style on 8.5x11 paper (copier will not fold this size paper)