



Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 22, 2020

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

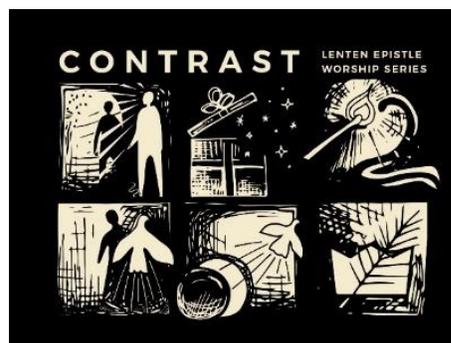
INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR ONLINE IN-HOME WORSHIP SERVICE

Thank you for joining us today in our online in-home worship service! This service is designed to be used with just one person or with your family and friends who have gathered to thank and praise Jesus for his continued goodness to us. Print as many copies of this bulletin as you wish or follow along looking at this file on any computer, tablet or phone.

Before watching, it may be helpful to remove distractions from the room such as pets, loud toys, etc. Parents might explain to children that we will be worshiping Jesus while the video is playing, listening and responding just like we usually do at church. It might feel a little odd at first to worship this way, but if you explain the situation beforehand, you can expect better participation in your home.

SEASON OF LENT 2020

Lent is a season of contrasts. On Sundays in Lent this year, we will be learning about our Christian faith by focusing on the Second lessons appointed for the season of Lent as we prepare for Easter. Each of these second lessons illuminate a sharp contrast. We will highlight these contrasts of Lent through preaching, teaching, and black and white art. We will see how God reveals the stark contrast between sinful humans and the redeeming God-man, between doing it yourself and trusting in God, between being darkness or being light in the Lord. Get a glimpse of the “old self” and “new self” to see and appreciate the transformation that God has accomplished through Christ. The contrasts are as opposite as death and life. The only one who could accomplish these transformations is the one who humbled himself, so that we could be changed, and exalted.



PRAYER BEFORE WORSHIP

Bless us, O Lord, as we prepare to worship you today. Help us to concentrate on your life- saving gospel which reminds us that heaven is ours. Help us take this to heart. Amen.

ORDER OF SERVICE

CALL TO WORSHIP

Based on Based on Psalm 119:25-40

Minister: Give me understanding, O Lord, and I will keep your law,

Congregation: And obey it with all my heart.

M: I have chosen the way of truth;

C: I have set my heart on your laws.

M: I run in the path of your commands,

C: For you have set my heart free.

M: Teach me, O Lord – Father, Son + and Holy Spirit – to follow your decrees.

C: Then I will keep them to the end. Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

Based on today's sermon text – Romans 8:1-10

M: The apostle writes: “The sinful mind is hostile to God ... those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.”

C: Lord, the sinful nature is strong within us.

M: Lord, we confess that our sinful nature is powerless to obey or please you. And we confess that our sinful nature has produced sinful thoughts, words and actions in our lives every day.

C: Lord Jesus, we confess that, without you, there is nothing good in us. Without you, we have no righteousness before God, no forgiveness, and no hope of heaven. Have mercy on us.

M: Do you believe that Jesus suffered and died for you, and that God raised him from the dead as proof that your sins are fully paid? And so—are your faith and hope in God?

C: Yes.

SONG OF FORGIVENESS

How Can It Be

By Lauren Daigle

I am guilty,
Ashamed of what I've done, what I've become.
These hands are dirty,
I dare not lift them up to the Holy One.

Refrain: You plead my cause,
You right my wrongs,
You break my chains,
You overcome.
You gave Your life,
To give me mine.
You say that I am free.
How can it be?
How can it be?

I've been hiding,
Afraid I've let you down. Inside I doubt
That You still love me,
But in Your eyes there's only grace now.

Refrain: You plead my cause,
You right my wrongs,
You break my chains,
You overcome.
You gave Your life,
To give me mine.
You say that I am free.
How can it be?
How can it be?

Though I fall, You can make me new.
From this death I will rise with You.
Oh the grace reaching out for me.
How can it be?
How can it be?

Refrain: You plead my cause,
You right my wrongs,
You break my chains,
You overcome.
You gave Your life,
To give me mine.
You say that I am free.
How can it be?
How can it be?

Repeat Refrain

ABSOLUTION

M: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again. In his great mercy, God made us alive in Christ even when we were dead in our sins. Hear the word of Christ through his called servant:

I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Lord God, before the suffering and death of your one and only Son, you revealed his glory on the holy mountain. Grant that we who bear his cross on earth may behold by faith the light of his heavenly glory and so be changed into his likeness; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

Genesis 37:1-11

Everyone wants to be first. Everyone wants to be important. Joseph took pride in how his father showed him favoritism. His brothers resented him for it. We will see the same desire for personal pride and favoritism among Jesus's disciples in our Gospel for today.

¹ Jacob lived in the land where his father had resided as an alien, that is, in the land of Canaan.

² This is the account about the development of the family of Jacob:

When Joseph was seventeen years old, he was tending the flock with his brothers. He was just a boy compared to the sons of his father's wives Bilhah and Zilpah. Joseph brought a bad report about them to their father. ³ Now Israel loved Joseph more than all his other sons, because he was the son born in his old age, and he made him a special robe. ⁴ His brothers saw that their father loved him more than all his brothers, so they hated him and could not speak to him in a friendly way.

⁵ Once Joseph had a dream, and he told it to his brothers, so they hated him all the more. ⁶ He said to them, "Please listen to this dream that I have dreamed: ⁷ There we were, binding sheaves in the field, and suddenly my sheaf rose up and stood upright. Then your sheaves gathered around and bowed down to my sheaf."

⁸ His brothers said to him, "So will you really reign over us? Will you really have dominion over us?" They hated him all the more because of his dreams and what he said.

⁹ Then he had another dream and told it to his brothers. He said, "Listen, I had another dream. This is what I saw: The sun and the moon and eleven stars bowed down to me." ¹⁰ He told it to his father and to his brothers. His father rebuked him and said to him, "What kind of dream is this that you have dreamed? Will I and your mother and your brothers really come and bow down to the ground in front of you?"

¹¹ His brothers were jealous of him, but his father kept what he had said in mind.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:17-28

Jesus reminds James and John, his own disciples, that greatness is not a position of authority that you can raise yourself to possess. True greatness is found in humble service.

¹⁷ As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside; and on the way he said to them, ¹⁸ "Look, we are going up to Jerusalem. The Son of Man will be handed over to the chief priests and experts in the law, and they will condemn him to death. ¹⁹ They will hand him over to the Gentiles to mock, flog, and crucify him. On the third day he will be raised."

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to him with her sons, kneeling and asking something of him. ²¹ He said to her, "What do you want?"

She said to him, "Promise that in your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on your right hand and one on your left hand."

²² But Jesus answered, "You do not know what you are asking. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?"

They said to him, “We are.”

²³ He said to them, “You will indeed drink my cup, but to sit on my right hand and on my left hand is not for me to give; rather these places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father.”

²⁴ When the ten heard this, they were angry with the two brothers.

²⁵ But Jesus summoned them and said, “You know that the rulers of the nations lord it over them, and their great ones exercise authority over them. ²⁶ It will not be that way among you. Instead whoever wants to become great among you will be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first among you will be your slave— ²⁸ just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

SONG OF PRAISE

Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

By Chris Tomlin

Amazing grace! How sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now I'm found;
Was blind, but now I see.

My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear;
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed.

My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Lord has promised good to me;
His word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures.

My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior, has ransomed me.
And like a flood His mercy rains
Unending love, amazing grace.

The Earth shall soon dissolve like snow.
The sun forbear to shine.
But God, Who called me here below
Will be forever mine,
Will be forever mine.
You are forever mine.

So then, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. ²For in Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³Indeed, what the law was unable to do, because it was weakened by the flesh, God did, when he sent his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh to deal with sin. God condemned sin in his flesh, ⁴so that the righteous decree of the law would be fully satisfied in us who are not walking according to the flesh, but according to the spirit.

⁵To be sure, those who are in harmony with the sinful flesh think about things the way the sinful flesh does, and those in harmony with the spirit think about things the way the spirit does. ⁶Now, the way the sinful flesh thinks results in death, but the way the spirit thinks results in life and peace. ⁷For the mind-set of the sinful flesh is hostile to God, since it does not submit to God's law, and in fact, it cannot. ⁸Those who are in the sinful flesh cannot please God.

⁹But you are not in the sinful flesh but in the spirit, if indeed God's Spirit lives in you. And if someone does not have the Spirit of Christ, that person does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, but your spirit is alive because of righteousness.

See the Contrast Between the Old Self And the New Self!

- The problem comes with the sinful flesh
- The Spirit gives us a new mindset



SONG OF PRAISE

Still, my soul, be still,
 And do not fear
 Though winds of change may rage tomorrow.
 God is at your side,
 No longer dread
 The fires of unexpected sorrow.

Refrain: God, You are my God,
 And I will trust in You and not be shaken.
 Lord of peace renew
 A steadfast spirit within me
 To rest in You alone.

Still, My Soul, Be Still

By Keith & Kristen Getty

Still, my soul, be still,
Do not be moved
By lesser lights and fleeting shadows.
Hold onto His ways
With shield of faith
Against temptations flaming arrows.

Refrain: God, You are my God,
And I will trust in You and not be shaken.
Lord of peace renew
A steadfast spirit within me
To rest in You alone.

Still, my soul, be still
Do not forsake
The Truth you learned in the beginning.
Wait upon the Lord,
And hope will rise
As stars appear when day is dimming.

Refrain: God, You are my God,
And I will trust in You and not be shaken.
Lord of peace renew
A steadfast spirit within me
To rest in You alone.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: O Lord, we thank and praise you for coming to rescue us from slavery to sin, death, and the power of the devil.

C: We praise you for breaking the stranglehold of sin on our hearts and in our lives, and for overcoming the power of sin in us by the Holy Spirit.

M: Give us a better understanding of your holy will for our lives and guide our decisions and actions by your Word.

C: Fill us with the attitude of Jesus, whose only desire was to serve you and accomplish the mission which you gave to him.

M: We praise you for the sacrifice of Christ for our sin, and for the promise of eternal life through faith in him. Now continue to transform our lives by your Word so that more and more we reflect the truth that we belong to you.

C: Be the Master of all we think, believe, say and do. Be the reason for which we live, the One we seek to please.

M: Protect us, dear Lord, from COVID-19. Give us special patience as we navigate through the many and frequently changing rules and regulations.

C: As we socially distance ourselves from one another, bless our efforts to connect with each other and to continue to share your good news of forgiveness and life.

M: Protect those in our nation who are more susceptible to the harm of this virus and its complications, those with existing health conditions and those who are older.

C: Bless those who serve in medical professions, all those whose jobs put them at a higher risk, and whose work is indispensable for the peace and safety of our society.

M: Give wisdom and courage to our government leaders on all levels as they serve and make decisions to protect us.

C: Provide for the needs of those who may be facing reduced income. Help us all to be good stewards of what we have.

M: Bless students who are now required to learn at home and teachers who are adapting to serve their needs.

C: Renew the bonds and relationships inside our homes and families. Give patience and love to parents and children. Through your loving friendship, bring contentment to the lonely.

M: Fill our homes with the Holy Spirit and convict us of our need for Jesus.

C: Open our hearts to the truth and bring us all to trust in Christ, our Savior.

M: We praise you for the crosses you lay on our lives. Give us grace to receive them from your hand and to bear them with patience and peace. Remember in mercy all who suffer for the faith and strengthen them in their witness. Remember all who are sick or in pain and grant them faith to entrust themselves into your hands. Grant each of us the faith daily to pray: "your will be done." And for everything else we need, we pray ...

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

BLESSING

M: May the grace of the Lord Jesus sanctify us and keep us from all evil.
May Christ drive all hurtful things far from us and purify both our souls and bodies.
May Christ bind us to himself by the bond of love.
And may his peace abound in our hearts.

C: Amen.

OFFERINGS

The members of this congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Please recognize that it is vital for our continued ministry that we receive your ongoing support, even while we worship together in our homes. Please see our Love Notes for more information on ways to give your offerings.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Liturgist & Preacher: Pastor Dave Pries

How Can It Be

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Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)

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Still, My Soul, Be Still

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Holy Bible

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