



Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 29, 2020

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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

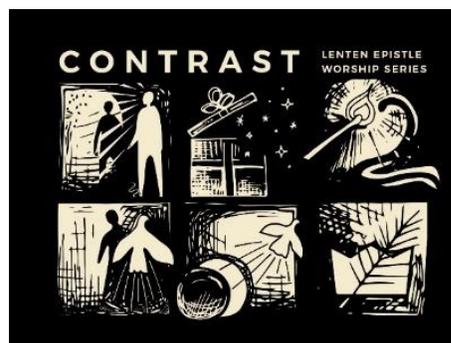
INSTRUCTIONS FOR OUR ONLINE IN-HOME WORSHIP SERVICE

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 are 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 Psalm 62; Acts 4:12; Titus 2:11

Minister: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

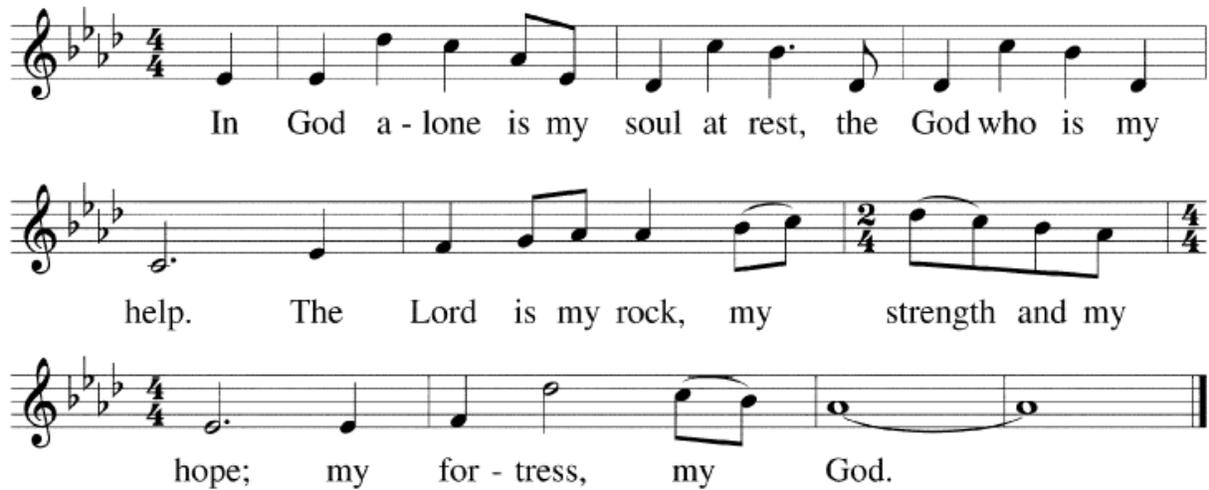
Congregation: Amen.

M: My soul finds rest in God alone. My salvation comes from him.

C: My salvation depends on God. He is my fortress, my mighty Rock.

M: Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him. for God is our Refuge.

C: *All Sing*



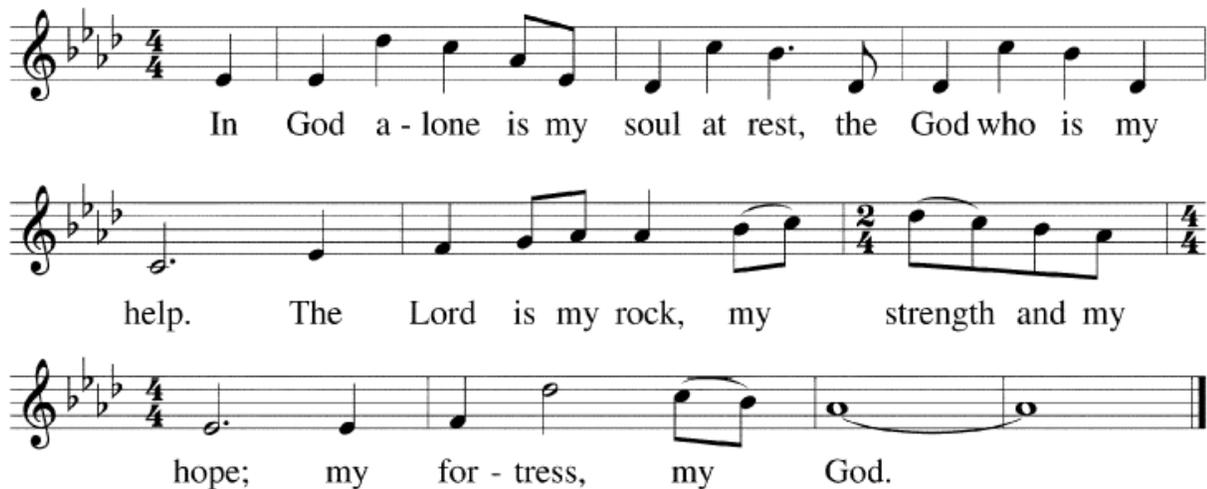
In God a - lone is my soul at rest, the God who is my
help. The Lord is my rock, my strength and my
hope; my for - tress, my God.

M: Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

C: **The grace of God that brings salvation has appeared to all men.**

M: Trust in him at all times, O people; pour out your hearts to him, for God is our Refuge.

C: *All Sing*



In God a - lone is my soul at rest, the God who is my
help. The Lord is my rock, my strength and my
hope; my for - tress, my God.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: As we approach God in worship, we must come humbly, recognizing our sinfulness and acknowledging our unworthiness. Let us confess our sin to God and then let us rejoice together in God's Word of forgiveness.

C: **Lord God, I am a poor and damnable sinner, for I have broken your commandments repeatedly with sinful thoughts, sinful words, and sinful actions. I deserve your anger and eternal punishment. But I am sincerely sorry for my sin. And I plead for your mercy for the sake of Jesus Christ, my Savior.**

ABSOLUTION

M: If the Lord kept a record of our sins, who could stand? But with him there is forgiveness. That's why God is feared. God is faithful and just and, if we confess our sins, he will forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. In Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting our sins against us. So, take heart, your sins are forgiven. Go now and forsake your life of sin. Serve your God in peace.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

M: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

M: Let us pray.

Abba, dear Father, pour out your Spirit on our hearts and lives that we may trust in Jesus alone for the forgiveness of our sins. And, when we must share in the sufferings of our Savior, strengthen us to bear our crosses with patience and faith, so that one day we may also share in the glory of heaven, the marvelous inheritance that you have prepared for all your sons and daughters, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit

C: One God, forever and ever. Amen.

THE WORD

FIRST LESSON

2 Kings 4:18-37

The story is heartbreaking: a barren woman gives birth to a promised child. All her hopes and love wrapped themselves up in this little boy, until the day his head hurt. He died in his mother's lap while she rocked him. Can you imagine the tears? Death is the bitter lot we inherited from Adam. But God wants us to know that even in the face of a death as heartrending as this, he promises that whoever believes in him will live, even though he dies. So, he lets Elisha pay an advance on the inheritance waiting for the coheirs of Christ, that we might know and believe that Jesus one day will raise us from death to life.

¹⁸The boy grew up, and one day he went out to his father, who was with the reapers.

¹⁹Then he said to his father, "My head! My head!"

His father said to his servant, "Carry him to his mother." ²⁰So he picked him up and carried him to his mother, and the boy sat on her lap until noon. Then he died.

²¹Then she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God. She shut the door behind her and went out. ²²Then she called to her husband and said, "Send one of the servants to me with one of the donkeys, so that I can run to the man of God and come back."

²³He said, "Why are you going to him today? It's not the new moon, and it's not the Sabbath."

But she said, "It's all right."

²⁴Then she saddled the donkey and said to her servant, "Lead the way. Don't slow down for me unless I tell you."

²⁵So she went to the man of God at Mount Carmel.

When the man of God saw her from a distance, he said to his servant Gehazi, “Look! That’s the woman from Shunem!”²⁶ Now run to meet her and say, ‘Are you all right? Is your husband all right? Is your son all right?’”

She answered, “We’re all right.”

²⁷ Then she came to the man of God at the mountain, and she grasped his feet. Gehazi stepped forward to push her away, but the man of God said, “Leave her alone, for her soul is in distress, but the LORD has hidden it from me. He has not told me.”

²⁸ Then she said, “Did I ask my lord for a son? Didn’t I say, ‘Don’t give me false hope?’”

²⁹ Then Elisha said to Gehazi, “Hike up your garments for travel, and take my staff in your hand and go! If you meet someone, do not greet him, and if someone greets you, do not answer. Put my staff on the boy’s face.”

³⁰ But the boy’s mother said, “As surely as the LORD lives and your soul lives, I will not leave you.” So he got up and followed her. ³¹ Gehazi went ahead of them and put the staff on the boy’s face. But there was no sound, and there was no response. So he went back to Elisha and told him, “The boy did not wake up.”

³² When Elisha came to the house, there the boy was—dead, lying on his bed. ³³ So he went in and he shut the door behind the two of them. Then he prayed to the LORD. ³⁴ He got up and lay down on top of the boy. He put his mouth to the boy’s mouth, his eyes to the boy’s eyes, his palms to the boy’s palms. Then he bent down over him, and the boy’s flesh became warm. ³⁵ He went back into the house and paced back and forth. Then he went up and bent down over him, and the boy sneezed seven times. Then the boy opened his eyes.

³⁶ Then Elisha called Gehazi and said, “Call the woman of Shunem!” So he called her, and she came in. He said, “Pick up your son.” ³⁷ So she came in and fell at Elisha’s feet and bowed down to the ground. Then she picked up her son and went out.

GOSPEL

John 11:17-27, 38-45

Jesus performed the greatest miracle of his ministry to prove to us the certainty of his greatest promise. He has defeated death and we will all rise from death to live eternally with him in heaven.

¹⁷ When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

¹⁸ Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. ¹⁹ Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them concerning their brother.

²⁰ When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary was sitting in the house.

²¹ Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

²² But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”

²³ Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴ Martha replied, “I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the Last Day.”

²⁵ Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies. ²⁶ And whoever lives and believes in me will never perish. Do you believe this?”

²⁷ “Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

...

³⁸ Jesus was deeply moved again as he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹ “Take away the stone,” he said.

Martha, the dead man’s sister, told him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, because it has been four days.”

⁴⁰ Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” ⁴¹ So they took away the stone.

Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me.” ⁴³ After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!”

⁴⁴ The man who had died came out with his feet and his hands bound with strips of linen and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus told them, “Loose him and let him go.”

⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.

CHILDREN’S MESSAGE

SONG OF PRAISE

In Rags (Righteous Robes)

By Bethany Kempfert

1. In rags I come to find you
And blame you for the misery I'm in
But you say I don't need riches
Or a closet full of clothes
You say Jesus turns my rags to righteous robes.
2. In rags you came to live here
And know the misery we're in
You took our sins and paid them
On the cross in tattered clothes
That's how Jesus turned our rags to righteous robes

Refrain: Righteous ro-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-obes, righteous robes!
Righteous ro-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-obes!

3. In rags of sin I seek you
In sorrow for the misery I cause you
You take me in and soothe me
And clothe me in new clothes
Now these rags have been replaced with righteous robes.

Refrain: Righteous ro-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-obes, righteous robes!
Righteous ro-oh-oh-oh-oh-oh-obes!

Now these rags have been replaced with righteous robes!

¹¹ And if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies alive through his Spirit, who is dwelling in you.

¹² So then, brothers, we do not owe it to the sinful flesh to live in harmony with it. ¹³ For if you live in harmony with the sinful flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live.

¹⁴ Indeed, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you are afraid again, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we call out, “*Abba, Father!*” ¹⁶ The Spirit himself joins our spirit in testifying that we are God’s children.

¹⁷ Now if we are children, we are also heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, since we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸ For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹ In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed.



SONG OF PRAISE

Morning Lullaby
By Bethany Kempfert

1. Sun coming up I feel your glory
Sun coming up I feel your grace
Jesus the one who came to take my place!
Sun coming up I rise to meet you
My Savior still the same
Every morn I'll rise to sing your glorious name.

Refrain: Every morning new, make my faith in you
Ever bright like the morning sun!
And all through the day, guide me on my way
Till I lay me down at night.

2. Sun coming up, the tomb is empty
Who rolled the stone away?
Angel says, "He's risen" now go on your way.
Run now and tell the good news
Christ won the victory
Death is defeated, now our souls are free!

Refrain: Every morning new, make my faith in you
Ever bright like the morning sun!
And all through the day, guide me on my way
Till I lay me down at night.

3. And when my life is ending
The years have flown away
I'll finally meet my Savior face to face!
There will be no more sadness
He'll wipe my tears away
Forever with the Lord begins that day! Until then...

Refrain: Every morning new, make my faith in you
Ever bright like the morning sun!
And all through the day, guide me on my way
Till I lay me down at night.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

M: Heavenly Father, we praise you for our adoption into your family, the Christian Church. We celebrate today the grace and power that desired us as your own and that accomplished our salvation.

C: We praise you for Word and Sacrament by which you have given us rebirth as your sons and daughters.

M: We offer our thanks and praise for the gift of your Son to be our Savior. For his sharing of our humanity, for his taking on of our guilt, for his carrying of our sin, for his words of forgiveness, for his gift of hope and for his guarantee of life in glory after death.

C: We give our thanks and devote ourselves anew to your glory and service.

M: Use us, your adopted sons and daughters, to demonstrate to the community in which we live the love, the cooperation, the respect, and the faith which the world needs so much.

C: Govern our speech and our actions that those around us may see your qualities in our lives.

M: Keep your Church, which you have cleansed with the blood of Christ, free from the power and influence of the devil.

C: Fill us all with love, a spirit of mercy, and of self-sacrifice, that we may never tire of doing your will and proclaiming your salvation.

M: Father, carefully protect us, our families, and all the citizens of our world. Grant us patience as we await the passing of this virus. Keep us mindful that this is more than just a natural disaster, but again another sign that we are in the last days, so that we will be ready when the Savior returns.

C: Keep us ever watchful for the return of Jesus. Move us to show love and compassion toward all, especially to those whose lives are threatened by the Coronavirus or other illness.

M: Hear us now, as we bring the concerns of our hearts before your throne of grace.

(silent prayer)

M: Hear our requests and grant us a share in heavenly glory by keeping us in the Christian faith. Bless us through the message of victory in Jesus and grant us the joy of living in the light of truth. Hear us as we also join and pray:

C: 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: Go in peace and ponder God's mercy to you.

Go in love and put your faith into practice.

Go in joy and give glory to God.

May the Holy Spirit keep you in the true faith. May God the Son + be with you. May God the Father protect you and bless you.

C: Thanks be to God. 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 the continued ministry we carry out together to continue to support our ministry with regular giving, 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 Backus

In God Alone (Psalm 62)

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In Rags (Righteous Robes) Words and music written and sung by Bethany Kempfert – a member here at Eternal Love Lutheran Church.

Morning Lullaby

Words and music written and sung by Bethany Kempfert – a member here at Eternal Love Lutheran Church

Holy Bible

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