



*“Grow in the grace and knowledge of our
Savior Jesus Christ.”*

2 Peter 3:18

Fourth Sunday in Lent

March 26, 2017



TREE OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH

A member of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

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Welcome!

Thank you for joining us for worship this morning. In our service today we gather before our heavenly Father to offer him our worship and praise. We also gather to strengthen ourselves through the study of God's holy and powerful Word. May he bless our worship and study today!

For Your Convenience

- Kid's church is available for children 3 years old to 2nd grade prior to the sermon.
- Restrooms are available down the hallway on the right.
- If you would like a hearing device to assist you for worship, please speak with one of the ushers.
- The ushers are at the entrance of the sanctuary to answer any other questions you might have.

Today's Focus

Jesus calls us from sinful selfishness to selfless service. We can view the world from the perspective of selfishness or selflessness. Selfishness puts self before all and leads to favoritism, pride and envy. Repentance, however, means despairing of self, trusting in Christ's substitutionary sacrifice and leading lives of selfless service modeled after our Savior who came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for us.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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OPENING HYMN

Brothers, Sisters, Let Us Gladly
Christian Worship Hymn 484

Brothers, sisters, let us gladly
Give to God our all, our best—
Service hearty, thorough, honest,
With a living love impressed.
All our duty, all our striving,
All our time to him belong;
Praise him, then, with true devotion;
Come before him with a song.

Gracious Lord, accept our service
For the sake of Christ, your Son;
Lo, our hope abides now only
In the righteousness he won.
Bless and save us; help and guide us;
Watch to comfort and restore
Till in heav'n we rest rejoicing,
Praising you forevermore.

By his mercy, by his bounty,
By the gift of Christ, his Son,
What great goodness he has shown us,
What high marvels he has done!
Let us to him promptly, freely,
Yield our bodies and our souls,
Thankful that his love protects us,
That his wisdom all controls.

INVOCATION

L: In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

L: Although we have learned to know the love of God, our sinful nature often leads us to sin against him by the thoughts that we have, the words that we say, and the things that we do. Our sinfulness saddens us because we know that sin separates us from God. Graciously though, we have also come to know the power and love of God who sent his Son to save us from our sins. He invites us to confess our sins and have them washed away. We join in accepting our Lord's invitation to repent.

C: Lord God, heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and placed our souls in eternal danger. But you have promised that you will purify those who confess their sins and turn from them. We pray for your forgiveness, trusting your faithfulness and believing your promise. Have mercy on us for Jesus' sake.

ABSOLUTION OF SINS

L: Jesus died so that we could be forgiven. He willingly gave his life to save us from our sins. He has heard your cry for mercy and assures you that you are forgiven. By the power of my Lord Jesus Christ, I forgive you all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son †, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen

HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory Be to Jesus
Christian Worship Hymn 103; st 1, 2

Glory be to Jesus, Who in bitter pains
Poured for me the lifeblood From his sacred veins.

Grace and life eternal In that blood I find;
Blest be his compassion, Infinitely kind.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Let us pray...

Almighty God, we confess that we deserve to be punished for our evil deeds. But we ask you graciously to cleanse us from all sin and to comfort us with your salvation; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

FIRST LESSON

Hosea 5:15-6:3

¹⁵ Then I will go back to my place until they admit their guilt. And they will seek my face; in their misery they will earnestly seek me.”

¹ “Come, let us return to the LORD. He has torn us to pieces but he will heal us; he has injured us but he will bind up our wounds. ² After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will restore us, that we may live in his presence. ³ Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.” (NIV 1984)

PSALM OF THE DAY

Psalm 42-43

Christian Worship page 82

As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God.

My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Where can I go and meet with God?

Why are you downcast, O my soul? Why so disturbed within me?

Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise him, my Savior and my God.

Send forth your light and your truth, let them guide me; let them bring me to the place where you dwell.

Then will I go to the altar of God, my joy and my delight. I will praise you with the harp, O God, my God.

SECOND LESSON

Romans 8:1-10

¹ Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus, ² because through Christ Jesus the law of the Spirit of life set me free from the law of sin and death. ³ For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man, ⁴ in order that the righteous requirements of the law might be fully met in us, who do not live according to the sinful nature but according to the Spirit.

⁵ Those who live according to the sinful nature have their minds set on what that nature desires; but those who live in accordance with the Spirit have their minds set on what the Spirit desires. ⁶ The mind of sinful man is death, but the mind controlled by the Spirit is life and peace; ⁷ the sinful mind is hostile to God. It does not submit to God's law, nor can it do so. ⁸ Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God. ⁹ You, however, are controlled not by the sinful nature but by the Spirit, if the Spirit of God lives in you. And if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to Christ. ¹⁰ But if Christ is in you, your body is dead because of sin, yet your spirit is alive because of righteousness. (NIV 1984)

VERSE OF THE DAY

John 3:16

L: For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

GOSPEL

Matthew 20:17-28

¹⁷ Now as Jesus was going up to Jerusalem, he took the twelve disciples aside and said to them, ¹⁸ "We are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and the teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death ¹⁹ and will turn him over to the Gentiles to be mocked and flogged and crucified. On the third day he will be raised to life!"

²⁰ Then the mother of Zebedee's sons came to Jesus with her sons and, kneeling down, asked a favor of him.

²¹ "What is it you want?" he asked.

She said, "Grant that one of these two sons of mine may sit at your right and the other at your left in your kingdom."

²² "You don't know what you are asking," Jesus said to them. "Can you drink the cup I am going to drink?"

"We can," they answered.

²³ Jesus said to them, "You will indeed drink from my cup, but to sit at my right or left is not for me to grant. These places belong to those for whom they have been prepared by my Father."

²⁴ When the ten heard about this, they were indignant with the two brothers. ²⁵ Jesus called them together and said, "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them, and their high officials exercise authority over them. ²⁶ Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant, ²⁷ and whoever wants to be first must 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." (NIV 1984)

CONFESSION OF FAITH ¹

I believe that I cannot by my own thinking or choosing believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to him.

But the Holy Spirit has called me by the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way he calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian church he daily and fully forgives all sins to me and all believers.

On the Last Day he will raise me and all the dead and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ.

This is most certainly true.

¹ For our Confession of Faith this morning we use Martin Luther's explanation to the Third Article of the Apostles' Creed.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us
Christian Worship Hymn 486; 1, 2 & 5

Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice,
And with that have freely given Blessings countless as the sand
To th' unthankful and the evil With your own unsparing hand.

Grant us hearts, dear Lord, to give you Gladly, freely, of your own.
With the sunshine of your goodness Melt our thankless hearts of stone
Till our cold and selfish natures, Warmed by you, at length believe
That more happy and more blessed 'Tis to give than to receive.

Lord of glory, you have bought us With your lifeblood as the price,
Never grudging for the lost ones That tremendous sacrifice.
Give us faith to trust you boldly, Hope, to stay our souls on you;
But, oh, best of all your graces, With your love our love renew.

SERMON

Romans 8:1-10

“Protect Yourselves from Sin”

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

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.

THE SACRAMENT

THE PREFACE

L: The Lord be with you

C: And also with you.

L: Jesus said, "Come unto me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

C: We come to the Lord to receive rest for our souls.

L: Along with the bread and wine of the sacrament, Jesus gives us his body and blood to wash away our sin and its guilt.

C: We come to the Lord to receive the comfort of his forgiveness.

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table
Christian Worship Hymn 301; st 1

**C: I come, O Savior, to your table, For weak and weary is my soul;
O Jesus, you alone are able To satisfy and make me whole.
Lord, may your body and your blood Be for my soul the highest good!**

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

L: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night he was betrayed, took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, which is poured out for you for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me."

L: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

The Lord's Supper is a blessing from God through which he strengthens our faith.

It is also an expression of our faith.

If we have not had the opportunity to talk to you about our beliefs, we ask that you wait before you join us for the Lord's Supper.

SONG OF SIMEON

Nunc Dimittis

C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the

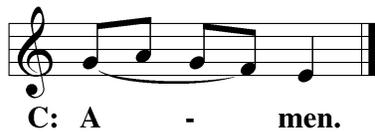


L: O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.

C: **And his mercy endures forever.**

CLOSING PRAYER

L: We give thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us with this Holy Supper. We pray that through it you will strengthen our faith in you and increase our love for one another. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.



BLESSING

L: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look on you with favor and † give you peace.



CLOSING HYMN

Go, My Children, with My Blessing
Christian Worship Hymn 332

Go, my children, with my blessing, Never alone.
Waking, sleeping, I am with you; You are my own.
In my love's baptismal river I have made you mine forever.
Go, my children, with my blessing—You are my own.

Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.
Here you learned how much I love you, What I can cure.
Here you heard my dear Son's story; Here you touched him, saw his glory.
Go, my children, sins forgiven, At peace and pure.

Go, my children, fed and nourished, Closer to me;
Grow in love and love by serving, Joyful and free.
Here my Spirit's power filled you; Here his tender comfort stilled you.
Go, my children, fed and nourished, Joyful and free.

I the Lord will bless and keep you And give you peace;
I the Lord will smile upon you And give you peace;
I the Lord will be your Father, Savior, Comforter, and Brother.
Go, my children; I will keep you And give you peace.

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