

ST. JOHN EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Pastor Jim Hicks-Interim Pastor
Trey Davis-Musician Tyler Wood-Video

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT ONLINE SERVICE

March 29, 2020

GREETING

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

People: **And Also With You.**

GATHERING HYMN

Change My Heart Oh God

Change my heart oh God
Make it ever true
Change my heart oh God
May I be like You (*repeat*)

You are the Potter
I am the clay
Mold me and make me
This is what I pray (*repeat*)
By Eddie Espinosa

CALL TO WORSHIP

Pastor: We move towards Jerusalem and the Cross;

People: **uncertainty grips us, as it did the disciples.**

Pastor: We know that enthusiasm will turn into rejection;

People: **what will it take to keep our commitment strong?**

Pastor: The powers of evil and self-serving entrap us.

People: **Will we have the courage to stay faithful?**

Pastor: The sacrifice of God's Beloved Son appears inevitable.

People: **Are we ready to be worthy of the name, Christian?**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Almighty God, your Son came into the world to free us all from sin and death. Breathe upon us the power of your Spirit, that we may be raised to new life in Christ and serve you in righteousness all our days,

through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

SCRIPTURE READINGS

Psalm 130

I wait for you, O LORD; in your word is my hope. (Ps. 130:5)

¹Out of the depths

I cry to you, O LORD;

²O LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive to the voice of my supplication.

³If you were to keep watch over sins,

O LORD, who could stand?

⁴Yet with you is forgiveness,

in order that you may be feared.

⁵I wait for you, O LORD; my soul waits;

in your word is my hope.

⁶My soul waits for the Lord more than those who keep watch for the morning,

more than those who keep watch for the morning.

⁷O Israel, wait for the LORD, for with the LORD there is steadfast love;

with the LORD there is plenteous redemption.

⁸For the LORD shall redeem Israel

from all their sins.

READING:

Ezekiel 37:1-14

Ezekiel's vision of the valley of dry bones is a promise that Israel as a nation, though dead in exile, will live again in their land through God's life-giving spirit. Three times Israel is assured that through this vision they will know that "I am the LORD."

¹The hand of the LORD came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ²He led me all around them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. ³He said to me, "Mortal, can these bones live?" I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophesy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly

there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophesy to the breath, prophesy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the LORD, have spoken and will act, says the LORD."

Pastor: Word of God, word of life.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

HOMILY

HYMN OF THE DAY

Bless Now, O God, the Journey

ELW#326

1 Bless now, O God, the journey
that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence,
the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert
and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters,
the road where faith is found.

2 Bless sojourners and pilgrims
who share this winding way;
your hope burns through the terrors,
your love sustains the day.
We yearn for holy freedom
while often we are bound;
together we are seeking
the road where faith is found.

3 Divine eternal lover,
you meet us on the road.

We wait for land of promise
where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places,
you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written
on roads, as faith is found.

Text: Sylvia G. Dunstan, 1955-1993

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With the baptized of every time and place we profess the faith

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**
I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord.
**who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.**
**On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**
**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

Reader: Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for
the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

Reader: God of life, bind your faithful people into one body. Enliven the
church with your Spirit and bless the work of those who work for its
renewal. Accomplish your work of salvation in us and through us,
for the sake of the world. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: God of life, you love the world you have made and you grieve when creation suffers. Restore polluted lands and waterways. Heal areas of the world ravaged by storms, floods, wildfires, droughts, or other natural disasters. Bring all things to new life. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: God of life, show redemption to all who watch and wait with eager expectation: those longing for wars to cease, those waiting for immigration paperwork to finalize, those seeking election, and those in dire need of humanitarian relief. Come quickly with your hope. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: God of life, you weep with those who grieve. Unbind all who are held captive by anxiety, despair, or pain. Fill us with compassion and empathy for those who struggle, and keep us faithful in prayer. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: God of life, we give thanks for opportunities for this congregation to collaborate with our community in caring for the needs of our neighbors. (especially those we name out loud or in our hearts) Strengthen our ties with other local congregations, agencies, and services. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: Accept our thanksgiving for the people you surround us with, especially:

29 Macy Olsen

1 Ben Martinez

2 Ann LaHue

2 Linda Morton

4 Cindy Nieman

enrich them with a sense of your and grace and comfort. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: We pray for the Arkansas-Oklahoma Synod, our Bishop/Synod Staff, and its congregations, today we pray for Faith Lutheran Church in

Booneville, AR that together we will boldly proclaim your Good News in Jesus Christ, Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: For those fighting cancer and other serious illnesses, grant strength and grace. We pray for doctors, nurses, technicians, researchers and all who work toward treatments and cures, Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: For those we know and love who serve in our military and their families, especially Evan Bias, Robert Marulli, Kaitlyn Tschida, Adam Shepherd, David Powell, Robert Woodrey, Bill Shaver, Saxon Corley, Nick Coleman, Mark Pritchard, James Wagoner, Jonathan Wagoner, Shawn Werchan, Kevin Spurgin, Daniel Picazo, Michael Morton, Daniel Mock, Nathan Statts, Adam Carr, Dustin Miller, Rudy Palomares, Tyler Starkey, Jonathan Young, Austin Watlington, Cory Mixon, Kyle Manley, Yahola Jones, Megan Sawyer, Tanner Faulkner, Layne Todd, Josh Todd, John Winsworth, James Winsworth, Justin Smith, Kobe Coker, John Burns III, Garrick West, Logan West, Brenden Salvador, Jordyn Scott, Jesse Mauricio, Daniel Mauricio and Cheyne Jones. Grant them grace that is sufficient. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: God of life, you are our resurrection. We remember all those who have died and trust that, in you, they will live again (*especially*). Breathe new life into our dry bones, that we, too, might live with you forever. Hear us, O God.

People: **Your mercy is great.**

Reader: According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

People: **Amen.**

THE 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.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen

SENDING HYMN

He's Got The Whole World In His Hands

(Refrain) He's got the whole world — in His hands.

He's got the whole wide world — in His hands.

He's got the whole world — in His hands.

He's got the whole world in His hands.

He's got the little tiny baby — in His hands.

He's got the little tiny baby — in His hands.

He's got the little tiny baby — in His hands.

He's got the whole world in His hands. *(Refrain)*

He's got you and me brother — in His hands.

He's got you and me sister — in His hands.

He's got you and me brother — in His hands.

He's got the whole world in His hands. *(Refrain)*

He's got ev'rybody here — in His hands.

He's got ev'rybody here — in His hands.

He's got ev'rybody here — in His hands.

He's got the whole world in His hands. *(Refrain)*

Hal Leonard Publishing

BLESSING

Pastor: Almighty God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit bless us now and forever.

People: **Amen.**

Pastor: Go in peace. Share the good news.

People: **Thanks be to God. Amen.**

COMMEMORATIONS

Hans Nielsen Hauge, renewer of the church, died 1824 Sunday, March 29, 2020 Hauge was a layperson who wished to revitalize the church in Norway. As a result of a mystical experience, he felt called to preach. Many professionals in the church feared his motives and influence, and he was imprisoned for leading unauthorized gatherings.

John Donne, poet, died 1631 Tuesday, March 31, 2020 After finishing his education at Oxford University, Donne seemed headed for a career in the English public service. But a series of circumstances led him into the ordained ministry. He is well known as a writer of both secular and sacred poetry.

Benedict the African, confessor, died 1589 Saturday, April 4, 2020 Born a slave on the island of Sicily, Benedict lived as a hermit until the pope ordered all hermits to attach themselves to a monastery, at which time Benedict joined the Franciscans. Though illiterate, he was highly respected as a confessor and later superior of his community. From sundaysandseasons.com.

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