

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH
305 Livingston St, Filley, NE
Pastor LuRae Hallstrom

EVENING PRAYER FOR LENT
Midweek Lenten Service, February 24, 2021

CALL TO WORSHIP: Psalm 78:1-8 NLT

P: O my people, listen to my instructions. Open your ears to what I am saying, for I will speak to you in a parable. I will teach you hidden lessons from our past—

C: stories we have heard and known, stories our ancestors handed down to us.

We will not hide these truths from our children; we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the Lord, about his power and his mighty wonders.

P: For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel.

C: He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children,

P: so the next generation might know them—even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children.

C: So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands.

P: Then they will not be like their ancestors—stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.

HYMN: “Jesus, Refuge of the Weary” #93 LBW vv. 1-2

(Please hum or sing softly. Tune: #423 Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service)

1. Jesus, refuge of the weary, blest redeemer, whom we love, fountain in life’s desert dreary, Savior from the world above: often have your eyes, offended, gazed upon the sinner’s fall; yet upon the cross extended, you have borne the pain of all.

2. Do we pass that cross unheeding, breathing no repentant vow, though we see you wounded, bleeding, see your thorn-encircled brow? Yet your sinless death has brought us life eternal, peace, and rest; only what your grace has taught us calms the sinner’s deep distress.

Public Domain. Text: Girolamo Savonarola, 1452-1498; tr. Jane F. Wilde, 1826-1896, alt.

CONFESSION

P: Let us seek the living God whose love is close at hand.

Let us pray to the One who waits patiently to be found.

C: May we abandon our dishonest ways, and give up our unrighteous thoughts.

P: Let us come back to God with repentant hearts. Let us come fasting and weeping, sorry for your sins.

C: God is merciful and kind to those who return, God’s love is extravagant and forgiving to all who come near.

P: Let us change our lives and not our clothes,

Let us come back to the God who never leaves us.

**C: Though our sins are like scarlet wounds,
They will be washed away and become white as snow.**

(Pause to remind yourself of the places in which you have experienced God’s forgiveness and redemptive love)

P: Have mercy on us, O God, because of your unfailing love.

C: Because of your great compassion, blot out the sins that stain us.

P: Wash us clean from our guilt, and purify our hearts from our sin.

C: Renew our inner spirit to become steadfast and unswerving, so that we will be willing to obey you.

P: Do not turn us away from your loving presence O God, restore the joy of your salvation within us.

**C: The sacrifice you desire is a penitent spirit,
You will not reject a broken and repentant heart, O God**

P: God may we reach within this night, to the hidden places of our souls.

C: May we uncover the sins that bind us.

P: May we reach without this night, into the brokenness of our world.

C: May we expose our indifference to its cries.

P: May we reach down this night, into the pollution of creation.

C: May we admit to our part in its contamination.

P: God may we reach upward this night, into your forgiving embrace.

C: May we find the joy of eternal life. Amen.

GOSPEL: John 29:19-31

¹⁹When it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and the doors of the house where the disciples had met were locked for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁰After he said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord. ²¹Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." ²²When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. ²³If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained."
²⁴But Thomas (who was called the Twin), one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. ²⁵So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands, and put my finger in the mark of the nails and my hand in his side, I will not believe."
²⁶A week later his disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were shut, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." ²⁷Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it in my side. Do not doubt but believe." ²⁸Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" ²⁹Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have come to believe."
³⁰Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. ³¹But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.

BIBLE MONOLOGUE – Thomas

Brady Bledsaw

TIME FOR REFLECTION

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

P: Lord we have denied you, each time we refused to see you in the faces of the hungry and the homeless.

C: May the old in us pass away and all things become new.

P: Lord we have betrayed you, each time we have kept our distance from the anguish of the oppressed and the persecuted.

C: May the old in us pass away and all things become new.

P: Lord we have mocked you, each time we have pretended we do not know how radically you call us to live.

C: May the old in us pass away and all things become new.

P: Lord we are lost and have strayed, reconcile us to your image and make us new.

C: May the old in us pass away and all things become new.

P: All merciful One, God of infinite love and compassion, though we have strayed you have never abandoned us. In this season of repentance we come confessing our sins and reaching out for the healing power of your forgiveness. Through Christ our Lord, give us renewed and truthful hearts that will follow you in all of our ways.

Let us pray together the prayer that Jesus taught us...

LORD'S PRAYER

BENEDICTION

P: Righteous God, compassionate and generous one who forgives our sins and has mercy on us

C: Fill our hidden places with your healing light. Breathe on us afresh this night and grant us rest.

P: May your compassion bloom in us. May your righteousness bear fruit. May your generosity encourage us to share.

All: May your love grow strong and deep within us. Breathe on us afresh this night and grant us rest. Amen

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Please leave your offerings in the offering plate at the back of church following worship.

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WORSHIP HELPERS:

Council – Dave Norton-President, Virgil Jobman-Vice President, Carol Frerichs-Secretary, Brenda Hippen-Treasurer, Linda Searcey-at large

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen

Audio/Video – Brad Frerichs

Accompanist – Sandy Mahler