

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

EVENING PRAYER FOR LENT
Midweek Lenten Service, March 3, 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: “Oh, How He Loves You and Me”

(Please hum or sing softly.)

1. Oh, how He loves you and me. Oh, how He loves you and me. He gave His life, what more could He give. Oh, how He loves you. Oh, how He loves me. Oh, how He loves you and me.

2. Jesus to Calv’ry did go. His love for sinners to show. What He did there brought hope from despair. Oh, how He loves you. Oh, how He loves me. Oh, how He loves you and me.

“Oh, How He Loves You and Me,” words and music by Kurt Kaiser. ©1975 Word Music, Inc. Used by permission. CCLI License #2452533.

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 20:1-18

¹Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene came to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the tomb. ²So she ran and went to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid him." ³Then Peter and the other disciple set out and went toward the tomb. ⁴The two were running together, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first. ⁵He bent down to look in and saw the linen wrappings lying there, but he did not go in. ⁶Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb. He saw the linen wrappings lying there, ⁷and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not lying with the linen wrappings but rolled up in a place by itself. ⁸Then the other disciple, who reached the tomb first, also went in, and he saw and believed; ⁹for as yet they did not understand the scripture, that he must rise from the dead. ¹⁰Then the disciples returned to their homes.

¹¹But Mary stood weeping outside the tomb. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb; ¹²and she saw two angels in white, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. ¹³They said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "They have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid him." ¹⁴When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you looking for?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." ¹⁶Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to him in Hebrew, "Rabbouni!" (which means Teacher). ¹⁷Jesus said to her, "Do not hold on to me, because I have not yet ascended to the Father. But go to my brothers and say to them, 'I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.'" ¹⁸Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord"; and she told them that he had said these things to her.

BIBLE MONOLOGUE – Mary Magdalene

Michelle Mayfield

Unlike some of the other characters portrayed in this series (such as the paralytic and Peter's mother-in-law), multiple scripture passages make reference to Mary Magdalene. We'll look at several of them together to try to paint a picture of what we know about Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalene is described as having been cured of seven demons, and as one of the women who followed Jesus and provided for him out of her resources (Luke 8:1-3). We don't have a firsthand account of Jesus healing Mary of demon possession, only a passing reference to something that had already happened. Another reference to this healing is found in Mark 16:9. Perhaps most significantly, in the Gospel of John, Mary Magdalene is the first witness to Jesus' resurrection.

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

Permission to reprint/podcast/stream portions of this service obtained from One License with license #A-724367, CCLI with license #2497574 and Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB163629. Excerpts of this service ©2021 – Godspacelight.com. All Rights reserved

=====

WELCOME TO OUR MIDWEEK LENTEN SERVICE: The word Lent comes from the Anglo Saxon word *lencten* which means “spring.” Lent is the springtime of the church, a time of new life and growth that, in the Northern hemisphere, corresponds with the springtime awakening of the earth. In Lent, the community “prepares with joy for the Easter feast; that, fervent in prayer and in works of mercy, and renewed by Word and Sacrament, we may come to the fullness of grace prepared for those who love God.” In Lent, we are a community on pilgrimage. **Join us as we rejoice again in God’s forgiveness and mercy, traveling toward Holy Week and Easter, offering ourselves to be born anew, an Easter people.**

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

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