

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

EVENING PRAYER FOR LENT
Midweek Lenten Service, March 17, 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: ““He Touched Me”

(Please hum or sing softly.)

1. Shackled by a heavy burden, 'Neath a load of guilt and shame. Then the hand of Jesus touched me, and now I am no longer the same.

Chorus: **He touched me, oh He touched me, and oh, the joy that floods my soul! Something happened, and now I know He touched me and made me whole.**

2. Since I met this blessed Savior, since He cleansed and made me whole, I will never cease to praise Him, I'll shout it while eternity rolls. (Chorus)

“He Touched Me,” words and music by William Gaither. ©1964 William J. Gaither, 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 within 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:

²⁹As soon as they left the synagogue, they entered the house of Simon and Andrew, with James and John. ³⁰Now Simon's mother-in-law was in bed with a fever, and they told him about her at once. ³¹He came and took her by the hand and lifted her up. Then the fever left her, and she began to serve them. ³²That evening, at sundown, they brought to him all who were sick or possessed with demons. ³³And the whole city was gathered around the door. ³⁴And he cured many who were sick with various diseases, and cast out many demons; and he would not permit the demons to speak, because they knew him.

BIBLE MONOLOGUE – Peter's Mother-in-Law

Carol Frerichs

The story of the healing of Peter's mother-in-law appears in three of the four gospels. There are both similarities and differences. For example, Mark and Luke mention that this healing took place after they left the synagogue; Matthew does not. All say she was sick with a fever. Mark and Matthew say Jesus either took or touched her hand and the fever left; in Luke, Jesus rebukes the fever. All say the fever left and she waited on them. Like many characters in the Bible, Peter's mother-in-law is someone about whom we know little (not even her name). Like many other healing stories in the New Testament, the focus is not on the individual who is healed, but on Jesus.

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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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 – Norm Flesner

Accompanist – Sandy Mahler