

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

FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
March 21, 2021

MASKS ARE REQUIRED - PLEASE MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING.

Parking lot – service can be heard on radio station 107.1 FM. Facebook @ American Lutheran Church - Filley, NE. Financial contributions can be brought to Sunday morning worship or can be forwarded to American Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 66, Filley, NE 68357. You may also do on-line giving at www.filleylutheranchurch.com.

RINGING OF THE BELL

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: “Hymn of Promise”

1. In the bulb there is a flower, in the seed an apple tree. In cocoons a hidden promise butterflies will soon be free. In the cold and snow of winter there's a spring that waits to be, unrevealed until its season something God alone can see.

2. There's a song in every silence seeking word and melody. There's a dawn in every darkness bringing hope to you and me. From the past will come the future, what it holds a mystery. Unrevealed until its season something God alone can see.

3. In our end is our beginning, in our time infinity, in our doubt there is believing, in our life eternity. In our death a resurrection, at the last a victory. Unrevealed until its season something God alone can see.

“Hymn of Promise”, words & music by Natalie Sleeth. © 1986 Hope Publishing Company. Used by permission. CCLI License #2497574.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

We gather together in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Word of God is planted in our hearts.

May our hearts be receptive to the Word.

The Love of God rains down on us.

May our souls soak in the wonder of God's love.

The Breath of God blows softly within us.

May our minds be stirred by the power of God's spirit.

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (inspired by Jeremiah 31:31-34)

P: Covenant-making God, you use every possible means to reach us, breathing your Spirit in us, calling us by name, showing us symbols of your promise, offering us a new way of life.

C: **We confess that our hearts are hardened. We choose certainty over faith, anxiety over courage, independence over compassion. We turn our eyes from our neighbors in need, and from stories of despair, and from pleas for peace, and from anything that might bring tears to our eyes, for we prefer our own comfort. We get caught up in our own needs and desires, and forget you have made us to be your people, together.**

Forgive us, Lord. Engrave your word on our hard hearts, O God, that your word might sink in and become a part of us, so we might truly live as if you are our God and we are your people.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the † Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

All: O God, with steadfast love you draw us to yourself, and in mercy you receive our prayers. Strengthen us to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit, that through life and death we may live in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

CHILDREN'S SERMON

(Children are excused to go downstairs for Sunday School.)

FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹The days are surely coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. ³²It will not be like the covenant that I made with their ancestors when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt—a covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, says the Lord. ³³But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴No longer shall they teach one another, or say to each other, "Know the Lord," for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, says the Lord; for I will forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more.

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33

²⁰Now among those who went up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and said to him, "Sir, we wish to see Jesus." ²²Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. ²³Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly, I tell you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. ²⁵Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there will my servant be also. Whoever serves me, the Father will honor.

²⁷"Now my soul is troubled. And what should I say—'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it is for this reason that I have come to this hour. ²⁸Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and I will glorify it again." ²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said that it was thunder. Others said, "An angel has spoken to him." ³⁰Jesus answered, "This voice has come for your sake, not for mine. ³¹Now is the judgment of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." ³³He said this to indicate the kind of death he was to die.

MESSAGE

Pastor LuRae

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Here I Am, Lord"

1. "I, the Lord of sea and sky, I have heard my people cry. All who dwell in dark and sin my hand will save. I, who made the stars of night, I will make their darkness bright. Who will bear my light to them? Whom shall I send?"

Refrain: Here I am, Lord. Is it I, Lord? I have heard you calling in the night. I will go, Lord, if you lead me. I will hold your people in my heart.

2. "I, the Lord of snow and rain, I have borne my people's pain. I have wept for love of them. They turn away. I will break their hearts of stone, give them hearts for love alone. I will speak my word to them. Whom shall I send?" Refrain

3. "I, the Lord of wind and flame, I will tend the poor and lame. I will set a feat for them. May hand will save. Finest bread I will provide till their hearts be satisfied. I will give my life to them. Whom shall I send?" Refrain

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AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM

HOLY COMMUNION

P: Faithful God, you walk beside us in desert places, and you meet us in our hunger with bread from heaven. Accompany us in this meal, that we may pass over from death to life with Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Together we proclaim the mystery of the faith:

C. Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me. Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

We pray for the gift of your Spirit; in our gathering; within this meal; among your people; throughout the world. Blessing, praise and thanks to you, holy God, through Christ Jesus who taught us to pray...

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

THE DISTRIBUTION

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

P: Let us pray.

All: Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

BENEDICTION

P: May the Lord bless you and keep you. May his face shine upon you with grace and mercy. May He look upon you with favor and grant you peace. In the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN: Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee"

1. Joyful, joyful we adore Thee, God of glory, Lord of love. Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee, praising thee, their sun above. Melt the clouds of sin and sadness, drive the dark of doubt away. Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day.

3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest, wellspring of the joy of living, ocean-depth of happy rest! Thou our Father, Christ our Brother, all who live in love are Thine; teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

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SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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<http://liturgyoutside.net/CPr27.html>. Confession~ written by Rev. Terri Peterson and posted on *LiturgyLink*.

WELCOME TO WORSHIP! It's wonderful to gather as the body of Christ to worship and give thanks to God! Thanks be to God for all of you here in person, in the parking lot and on-line!

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Tanner Schmidt, our shut-ins.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Delores Baehr, Carol (Jim) Frerichs' sister-in-law, who passed away Friday, March 12. Funeral services were held March 15 at Zion Lutheran, Pickrell. We commend Delores to God's care and ask His blessings on her family and friends.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Carolyn Eltiste, Courtney (Jordan) Junker's grandmother, who passed away Monday, March 15. Funeral services will be held March 22 at St. Paul's United Church of Christ (Maple Grove), rural Tecumseh. We commend Carolyn to God's care and ask His blessings on her family and friends.

AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM: Congratulations to Kellen Anderson on your Confirmation Day! May the Holy Spirit be your guide and inspiration! Kellen's confirmation verse is Psalm 119:11 "I have hidden your word in my heart so that I might not sin against you."

CONGRATULATIONS to Courtney Eltiste and Jordan Junker who were married at American Lutheran yesterday. May God bless the two of you abundantly in love, joy, and happiness.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Mary Ann Harms (Mar 22), Shelly Lenner, Betty Norton, Kari Wilkinson, Kinley Whitlinger (Mar 23), Norman Mortensen, Michelle Mayfield (Mar 24), Ray Boevink, Taylor Baehr, Sarah Heideman (Mar 25), Don Van Eperen (Mar 26), Dustin Fritch (Mar 27).

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to Norm Mortensen who will celebrate his 85th birthday on March 24 and Ray Boevink who will celebrate his 89th birthday on March 25. God's richest blessings be with you!

HAPPY WEDDING ANNIVERSARY to Mike & Traci Baehr (3-22-03) and Tom & Jane Young (3-23-75).

PASSION READERS NEEDED: Please sign the sheet in the narthex if you can take part in the passion reading next Sunday, March 28.

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP: Wednesday, March 24. Midweek Lenten services are held each Wednesday at 7:00 p.m. Our emphasis this year is “Bible People: Monologues for Lent”. Each Wednesday evening, there will be a portrayal of a biblical figure by a member of our congregation. This Wednesday, March 24, will be The Paralytic, portrayed by Norm Flesner. It is a great series – hope you will make this final Wednesday evening worship service part of your Lenten journey!

HOLY WEEK/EASTER SCHEDULE:

Palm Sunday – March 28, 9:30 a.m.

Maundy Thursday – April 1, 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday – April 2, 7:00 p.m.

Easter Sunrise – Sunday, April 4, 7:00 a.m. at the cross

Easter Worship – Sunday, April 4, 9:30 a.m.

WITH WINTER ALMOST DONE -- start thinking if you or your kids have outgrown that coat or winter shoes. We are looking for gently used shoes, adults or kids. We will be collecting these items in July, but will start taking them now, so you can keep your closet clean. Just drop off at church.

PREPARE FOR A SEASON OF HOPE: LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF PERSONAL CARE KITS IN LENT

“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble.” Psalm 46:1-3

Lutheran World Relief has issued a call for help in the form of Personal Care Kits. They are critically short of these in this pandemic time.

This season of Lent, American Lutheran will walk with people around the world afflicted by the pandemic, war, displacement and poverty by collecting and assembling Lutheran World Relief Personal Care Kits. Each week, please bring in the featured kit item to Sunday morning or Wednesday evening worship so that we can reach out as Christ’s healing hand in the world. You can use the following schedule or bring them in any order you wish. There will be a container in the narthex for your donations. These are the items we will be collecting:

First Week of Lent – February 21/24: One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20”x 40” & 52” x 27”), dark color recommended.

Second Week of Lent – February 28/March 3: Two or three bath-size bars of gentle soap (3-5 ounces each) 8-9 oz., any brand, in original wrapping; no mini or hotel-size bars.

Third Week of Lent – March 7/10: One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging. Multi-packs may be used. Do not provide toothpaste; it will be provided by LWR.

Fourth Week of Lent – March 14/17: One **sturdy** comb. Remove packaging.

Fifth Week of Lent – March 21/24: One metal nail clippers (attached file optional). Remove packing

Palm Sunday – March 28: Any items that we are short of (we’ll let you know through bulletins and email!)

MINISTRY DOLLARS THROUGH THRIVENT CHOICE DESIGNATION: The deadline for directing Thrivent Choice Dollars for 2020 is 3/31/2021. If you are an eligible Thrivent member please consider directing some or all of your Thrivent Choice Dollars to American Lutheran Church. You can do it online or by calling 1-800-847-4836 and saying “Thrivent Choice” at the prompt. If you have any questions you may contact Thrivent or a council member.

SUNDAY SCHOOL: Sunday School begins each Sunday after the Children's Sermon and is held from approximately 9:45-10:30 a.m. Classes will be divided between Preschool-1st grade and Second-Fifth grade. We are looking for two teachers for each Sunday and would prefer to have parents of students. **Please sign the sheet in the narthex for the Sundays that you are willing to help.**

HELP NEEDED: We have quilt blocks downstairs on the table in the Fellowship for people who are willing to sew them together. Also, blankets for hemming. Thank you for your ministry!

SUNMART RECEIPTS: Thanks to everyone who has been saving their SunMart receipts! SunMart/Spartan Nash Co. supports a fundraising program called “Support Our Schools and Churches.” All you have to do is save your SunMart cash register receipt tapes and put them in the box in the Fellowship Hall (or give to a council person). When we have collected \$150,000 in receipt tapes Spartan Nash Company awards us a check for \$1000. We have reached our first goal of \$150,000 and received the first check for \$1000, so now we are starting over again! You can also ask your check-out person if they have any extra receipts. They save the ones that people don’t want and give them out – first come, first serve. Thank you to everyone who is helping with this ministry!

PLEASE DONATE TO OUR LOCAL FOOD PANTRY: American Lutheran Church gathers food donations for the Community Pantry and Emergency Services in Beatrice on an ongoing basis. The Food Pantry serves all of Gage County. If you would like to give to this ministry, please leave your donated items in the shopping cart in the Fellowship Hall at any time. Special items needed at this time are Chunky Soup, Catsup, Mustard, Jelly, Sugar, Flour, Pop Tarts, Popcorn, Fruit snacks, Snack crackers. NO glass jars, please. **THANK YOU for your continued support to this ministry!**

AMERICAN LUTHERAN CHURCH WEBSITE: You can find our church website at www.filleylutheranchurch.com or by scanning this QR code:



BULLETIN ITEMS are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call Sandy or email her at smahleris@gmail.com.

BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND on Facebook and on our website, filleylutheranchurch.com. Bulletins are also being sent out by email to everyone that we have an email address for. If you are not receiving the bulletin by email and would like it, please email Sandy at smahleris@gmail.com with your email address.

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/Susan Frerichs

Audio/Video – Norm Flesner

Musicians: Carlyne Wolken, Tom Karlin, Alycia Fritzen, Lodene Kaufman, Dave Norton, Virgil Jobman, DeeAnn Schmidt, Linda Searcey, David Wolken, Tom Young