

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

EVENING PRAYER FOR LENT
Midweek Lenten Service, March 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: “I Want Jesus to Walk With Me” WOV 660

1. I want Jesus to walk with me. I want Jesus to walk with me. All along my pilgrim journey, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

2. In my trials, Lord, walk with me; In my trials, Lord, walk with me; When my heart is almost breaking, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

3. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me. When I'm in trouble, Lord, walk with me. When my head is bowed in sorrow, Lord, I want Jesus to walk with me.

Public Domain. African American spiritual.

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: Luke 5:17-26

¹⁷One day, while he was teaching, Pharisees and teachers of the law were sitting near by (they had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem); and the power of the Lord was with him to heal. ¹⁸Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; ¹⁹but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. ²⁰When he saw their faith, he said, "Friend, your sins are forgiven you." ²¹Then the scribes and the Pharisees began to question, "Who is this who is speaking blasphemies? Who can forgive sins but God alone?" ²²When Jesus perceived their questionings, he answered them, "Why do you raise such questions in your hearts? ²³Which is easier, to say, 'Your sins are forgiven you,' or to say, 'Stand up and walk'? ²⁴But so that you may know that the Son of Man has authority on earth to forgive sins" — he said to the one who was paralyzed — "I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go to your home." ²⁵Immediately he stood up before them, took what he had been lying on, and went to his home, glorifying God. ²⁶Amazement seized all of them, and they glorified God and were filled with awe, saying, "We have seen strange things today."

BIBLE MONOLOGUE – Paralytic

Norm Flesner

The story of the paralytic appears in Matthew, Mark and Luke. One major difference you will notice is that in both Mark and Luke the friends lower the paralytic through the roof of the house where Jesus is teaching. Matthew's account does not furnish this detail. This took place in Capernaum near the Sea of Galilee. We don't know the exact cause of the central character's paralysis. The character portrayal suggests that it was the result of a diving accident in the Sea of Galilee, which is only a guess. The man may have had an accident or may have been paralyzed since birth. The gospel stories simply don't tell us.

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 – Virgil Jobman

Accompanist – Sandy Mahler