

Third Sunday in Lent

March 20, 2022

American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska
Rev. Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

Amen.

CALL TO WORSHIP (Psalm 63:1-8)

P: O God, you are my God, I seek you my soul thirsts for you; my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water.

C: So I have looked upon you in the sanctuary, beholding your power and glory.

P: Because your steadfast love is better than life, my lips will praise you.

C: So I will bless you as long as I live; I will lift up my hands and call on your name.

P: My soul is satisfied as with a rich feast, and my mouth praises you with joyful lips

C: when I think of you on my bed, and meditate on you in the watches of the night;

P: for you have been my help, and in the shadow of your wings I sing for joy.

C: My soul clings to you; your right hand upholds me.

LENTEN REFLECTION/CANDLES: Week Three – Trust

Reader: God has proven trustworthy throughout history, but at times we question and doubt, and even deny, God's presence in our lives. We forget the larger picture at times and focus only on that moment, that period of time, when we experience God's absence. We worry and fret about what is happening and what will happen next, rather than trusting in our Savior.

Congregation: God of hope, help us to remember the promise that you will never leave us or forsake us.

As we journey towards the cross this Lenten season, remind us of your presence, and help us to remember to trust in you. Amen.

GATHERING HYMN: "Thy Loving Kindness" #239 OSB

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: In the name of God, who makes a way in the wilderness, walks with us, and guides us in our pilgrimage.

C: Amen.

(silence for reflection and self-examination)

P: Holy One,

C: we confess that we have wandered far from you: we have not trusted your promises, we have ignored your prophets in our own day, we have squandered our inheritance of grace, we have failed to recognize you in our midst. Have mercy on us! Forgive us and turn us again to you. Teach us to follow in your ways, assure us again of your love, and help us to love our neighbor. Amen.

P: Beloved in Christ, the Word draws near to you, and all who call out to God shall be saved. In Jesus, God comes to you again and again and gathers you under wings of love. In † Jesus' name, your sins are forgiven. God journeys with you and teaches you how to live in love.

C: Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Let us pray...

C: Eternal God, your kingdom has broken into our troubled world through the life, death, and resurrection of your Son. Help us to hear your word and obey it, and bring your saving love to fruition in our lives, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

FIRST READING: Isaiah 55:1-9

¹Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. ²Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. ³Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. ⁴See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. ⁵See, you shall call nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you. ⁶Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; ⁷let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. ⁸For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, say the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 10:1-13

¹I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, ²and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, ³and all ate the same spiritual food, ⁴and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank from the spiritual rock that followed them, and the rock was Christ. ⁵Nevertheless, God was not pleased with most of them, and they were struck down in the wilderness. ⁶Now these things occurred as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil as they did. ⁷Do not become idolaters as some of them did; as it is written, "The people sat down to eat and drink, and they rose up to play." ⁸We must not indulge in sexual immorality as some of them did, and twenty-three thousand fell in a single day. ⁹We must not put Christ to the test, as some of them did, and were destroyed by serpents. ¹⁰And do not complain as some of them did, and were destroyed by the destroyer. ¹¹These things happened to them to serve as an example, and they were written down to instruct us, on whom the ends of the ages have come. ¹²So if you think you are standing, watch out that you do not fall. ¹³No testing has overtaken you that is not common to everyone. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond your strength, but with the testing he will also provide the way out so that you may be able to endure it.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Noisy offering is taken at this time.)

GOSPEL: Luke 13:1-9

¹At that very time there were some present who told him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. ²[Jesus] asked them, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were worse sinners than all other Galileans?" ³No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish as they did. ⁴Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them—do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others living in Jerusalem? ⁵No, I tell you; but unless you repent, you will all perish just as they did." ⁶Then he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came looking for fruit on it and found none. ⁷So he said to the gardener, 'See here! For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none. Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?' ⁸He replied, 'Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig around it and put manure on it. ⁹If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Here, I Am Lord" #752 WOV

Offering will be received at this time.

OFFERING PRAYER

P: Extravagant God,

C: you have blessed us with the fullness of creation. Now we gather at your feast where you offer us the food that satisfies. Take and use what we offer here, come among us, and feed us with the body and blood of Christ, in whose name we pray. Amen.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE:

P: Drawn close to the heart of God, we offer these prayers for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

P: We pray for the church around the world in all its forms: for pastors, deacons, bishops, chaplains, and mission developers; for church councils, committee chairs, and all lay ministry leaders; for congregations that contemplate difficult decisions about the future of their ministry. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For the health of this planet and the well-being of its creatures: for lands impacted by droughts and at risk of wildfires; for fig trees and vineyards that produce fruit for our nourishment and delight; for animal habitats threatened by climate change. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For those called into positions of civic responsibility: for judges, attorneys, and court administrators tasked with uncovering truth and delivering justice; for activists and community leaders who cast a vision of a more compassionate and equitable society. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For those who call upon you for mercy: for all who live in poverty and experience hunger; for any who feel tested beyond their strength; for those who are hospitalized or near death, and for all in need of healing. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For the advocacy efforts of this congregation: for those whose faith leads them to speak difficult truths and engage in difficult conversations with policymakers; for those who promote mercy over vengeance or retaliation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: For those whose earthly journeys have ended, we give thanks. With all the saints, we praise you for the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Accept the prayers we bring, O God, on behalf of a world in need, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

P: It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. You bid your people cleanse their hearts and prepare with joy for the paschal feast. Renew our zeal in faith and life, and bring us to the fullness of grace that belongs to the children of God. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

All: (sung) Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might: Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna. Hosanna. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

WORDS OF INSTITUTION

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

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

COMMUNION HYMNS: "Lamb of God", p.72, #212 LBW, #197 LBW

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: Blessed Jesus, in this rich meal of grace, you have fed us with your body, the bread of life. Now send us forth to bear your life-giving hope to a world in need.

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.

SENDING HYMN: "Precious Lord, Take My Hand" #731 WOV

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

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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! If you are a visitor, please sign the guest book and feel welcome to come again. You are invited to come downstairs for refreshments and fellowship following worship.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS: Dustin Fritch, Pastor Jensen and our shut-ins.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Tyler Tremain (Mar 19), Whitney Antons (Mar 20), MaryAnn Harms (Mar 22), Shelly Lenner, Betty Norton, Kinley Whitlinger (Mar 23), Norm Mortenson, Michelle Mayfield (Mar 24), Ray Boevink, Sarah Heideman (Mar 25).

SPECIAL BIRTHDAY GREETINGS to Norm Mortensen who will celebrate his 86th birthday on March 24. Ray Boevink who will celebrate his 90th birthday on March 25. God's richest blessings be with you!

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to Jordan and Courtney Junker (Mar 20, 2021), Mike and Traci Baehr (Mar 22, 2003), Tom and Jane Young (Mar 23, 1975).

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP services will be held every Wednesday at 6:00 p.m. at American Lutheran.

OUR SYMPATHY to the family of Enid Jensen who passed away Monday, March 14. We commend Enid to God's care and ask His blessing's on her family and friends.

EASTER LILIES: There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church for Easter Lilies for our Easter Sunday Service. Cost this year is \$16.50. Please pay Denise Blaker or Brenda Hippen.

SUNDAY SCHOOL will meet only on non-communion Sundays.

SPRING FLING LUNCHEON & STYLE SHOW Saturday, April 9, 2022, 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. RSVP by March 27, 2022. Email: alcfilley@hotmail.com or call Pat Jobman 402-239-2476 or Carol Frerichs 402-223-7919. Hosted by the Women of American Lutheran Church. Come and fill your heart with fellowship and laughter.

EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE bulletin insert tells how to help and send your donation or you can leave a donation in the plate in the back of church.

COMING UP:

Every Wednesday – BeLOVED/Confirmation, 4:00-5:30 p.m.
March 23, 30, April 6- Mid week Lenten services at 6:00 p.m.
April 10 – Palm Sunday/ BeLOVED sings at 9:30 worship
April 14 – Maundy Thursday service 6:00 p.m.
April 15 - Good Friday service 6:00 p.m.
April 17 – Easter Sunrise service at 7:00 a.m. breakfast to follow at church
April 17 – Easter service 9:30 a.m.

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 goal of \$150,000 three times so far and are starting over again with a balance of about \$10,000.00. 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!

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER If anyone would like something published in the monthly newsletter email Dave Norton at norton_dan@yahoo.com by the third Sunday of the month.

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



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*

This season of Lent, American Lutheran will once again walk with people around the world afflicted by the pandemic, war, displacement and poverty by collecting and assembling Lutheran World Relief (LWR) Personal Care Kits. Each week, please bring the featured item to worship. Thank you for participating in this ministry!

First Week of Lent – March 6: One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"x40" & 52"x27"), dark color recommended.

Second Week of Lent – March 13: 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 20: 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 27: One **sturdy** comb. Remove packaging.

Fifth Week of Lent – April 3: One metal nail clippers (attached file optional). Remove packaging.

Palm Sunday – April 10: 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 2021 Thrivent Choice Dollars is March 31, 2022. 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 prompt. If you have any questions you may contact Thrivent or the church office.

BULLETIN ITEMS are due by Tuesday evenings. Please call Brenda Hippen or email her at filleylutheranchurch@gmail.com

BULLETINS EACH WEEK CAN BE FOUND 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 Brenda at filleylutheranchurch@gmail.com with your email address.

WORSHIP HELPERS

Transitional Minister – Pastor Jonathan Jensen, 402-768-3665

Council – Virgil Jobman – President (402-310-6339), Stanley Fritzen – Vice President (402-239-2254), Linda Searcey – (402-223-8237), Brenda Hippen- Treasurer (402-688-4466), Ross Kaufman – at large (402-239-7845).

Reader: Glenda VanEperen Next Week:

PowerPoint Preparer/Presenter – Brenda Hippen/Tanner Schmidt Next Week: Brenda Hippen/DeeAnn Schmidt

Audio/Video: Norm Flesner Next Week: Tanner Schmidt

Accompanist: Sandy Mahler Next Week: Contemporary Group

Fellowship: Jim & Carol Frerichs Next Week: Leon & Carlyne Wolken