

Fourth Sunday in Lent
March 27, 2022
American Lutheran Church, Filley, Nebraska
Rev. Jonathan Jensen, Transitional Minister, 402-768-3665

PRELUDES: "I Want Jesus to Walk with Me", "Are You Washed in the Blood"

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 32)

P: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered.

C: Happy are those to whom the LORD imputes no iniquity, and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

P: While I kept silence, my body wasted away through my groaning all day long.

C: For day and night your hand was heavy upon me; my strength was dried up as by the heat of summer.

P: Then I acknowledged my sin to you, and I did not hide my iniquity; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

C: Therefore let all who are faithful offer prayer to you; at a time of distress, the rush of mighty waters shall not reach them.

P: You are a hiding place for me; you preserve me from trouble; you surround me with glad cries of deliverance.

C: I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will counsel you with my eye upon you.

P: Do not be like a horse or a mule, without understanding, whose temper must be curbed with bit and bridle, else it will not stay near you.

C: Many are the torments of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the LORD.

P: Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, O righteous, and shout for joy, all you upright in heart.

LENTEN REFLECTION/CANDLES: Week Four – Repentance

Reader: We have been born into a world of sin. We try to do the right thing, but at times we fail, and temptation seems to win. At other times, we seem to drown in our failures, believing nothing good can come from us. We forget that God has called us to repent, and that God remembers our sins no more.

Congregation: **Loving God, help us to turn back to you when we stray. As we journey towards the cross this Lenten season, help us to repent from where we have gone wrong. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: "For Those Tears I Died" #46 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: God of compassion, you welcome the wayward, and you embrace us all with your mercy. By our baptism clothe us with garments of your grace, and feed us at the table of your love, 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: Joshua 5:9-12

⁹The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away from you the disgrace of Egypt." And so that place is called Gilgal to this day. ¹⁰While the Israelites were camped in Gilgal they kept the passover in the evening on the fourteenth day of the month in the plains of Jericho. ¹¹On the day after the passover, on that very day, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. ¹²The manna ceased on the day they ate the produce of the land, and the Israelites no longer had manna; they ate the crops of the land of Canaan that year.

SECOND READING: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶From now on, therefore, we regard no one from a human point of view; even though we once knew Christ from a human point of view, we know him no longer in that way. ¹⁷So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation: everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new! ¹⁸All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; ¹⁹that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us. ²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Noisy offering is taken at this time.)

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

GOSPEL: Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32

¹Now all the tax collectors and sinners were coming near to listen to [Jesus.] ²And the Pharisees and the scribes were grumbling and saying, "This fellow welcomes sinners and eats with them."

³So he told them this parable: ^{11b}"There was a man who had two sons. ¹²The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of the property that will belong to me.' So he divided his property between them. ¹³A few days later the younger son gathered all he had and traveled to a distant country, and there he squandered his property in dissolute living. ¹⁴When he had spent everything, a severe famine took place throughout that country, and he began to be in need. ¹⁵So he went and hired himself out to one of the citizens of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed the pigs. ¹⁶He would gladly have filled himself with the pods that the pigs were eating; and no one gave him anything. ¹⁷But when he came to himself he said, 'How many of my father's hired hands have bread enough and to spare, but here I am dying of hunger! ¹⁸I will get up and go to my father, and I will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; ¹⁹I am no longer worthy to be called your son; treat me like one of your hired hands.' ²⁰So he set off and went to his father. But while he was still far off, his father saw him and was filled with compassion; he ran and put his arms around him and kissed him. ²¹Then the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you; I am no longer worthy to be called your son.' ²²But the father said to his slaves, 'Quickly, bring out a robe—the best one—and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³And get the fatted calf and kill it, and let us eat and celebrate; ²⁴for this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found!' And they began to celebrate.

²⁵"Now his elder son was in the field; and when he came and approached the house, he heard music and dancing. ²⁶He called one of the slaves and asked what was going on. ²⁷He replied, 'Your brother has come, and your father has killed the fatted calf, because he has got him back safe and sound.' ²⁸Then he became angry and refused to go in. His father came out and began to plead with him. ²⁹But he answered his father, 'Listen! For all these years I have been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your command; yet you have never given me even a young goat so that I might celebrate with my friends. ³⁰But when this son of yours came back, who has devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fatted calf for him!' ³¹Then the father said to him, 'Son, you are always with me, and all that is mine is yours. ³²But we had to celebrate and rejoice, because this brother of yours was dead and has come to life; he was lost and has been found.' "

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Lamb of God"
Offering will be received at this time.

- 1. Your only Son, no sin to hide; But You have sent Him from Your side, to walk upon this guilty sod, and to become the Lamb of God.**
- 2. Your gift of love they crucified; They laughed and scorned Him as He died. The humble King they named a fraud, and sacrificed the Lamb of God. Oh, Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God, Oh, wash me in His precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**
- 3. I was so lost I should have died; But You have brought me to Your side to be led by Your staff and rod, and to be called a lamb of God. Oh, Lamb of God, sweet Lamb of God, I love the holy Lamb of God, Oh, wash me in His precious blood, my Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God.**

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OFFERING PRAYER

P: Merciful Father,

C: we offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us—our selves, our time, and our possessions, signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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: Jesus formed the disciples in the ways of extravagant mercy and profound welcome. Lead your church to be a community marked by forgiveness, hospitality, and celebration. Send us to transform a world plagued by fear and condemnation. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: You make the land to produce a harvest that sustains your entire creation. Equip farmers and farm workers who till the soil. Nourish the earth with ample rainfall and abundant sunshine. Heal grounds tainted by pollution or misuse. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Countries are divided and leaders often harbor grudges. Reconcile nations that experience conflict. Act quickly to bring an end to war. Anoint peacemakers trained in the art of diplomacy and foster a spirit of collaboration among political rivals. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Your people cry for help in times of distress. Resolve disagreements among family members. Save those experiencing financial hardship. Hear our prayers for those who are sick or grieving. Console us with the promise that everything can become new. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Your love comes to us when a table is set and a feast is prepared. Bless the feeding ministries of this congregation. Bring an end to hunger in our community and around the world. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: The one who was dead is alive again. We give thanks for those who have died, confident that steadfast love surrounds them. Shelter them in your love until we are gathered at your heavenly banquet. 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 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.

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: "Thy Word"

Refrain: **Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

1. When I feel afraid, think I've lost my way, still you're there right beside me. And nothing will I fear, as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end. Refrain.

2. I will not forget your love for me and yet, my heart forever is wandering. Jesus, be my guide, and hold me to your side, and I will love you to the end. Refrain.

3. Nothing will I fear, as long as you are near. Please be near me to the end. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path. You're the light unto my path.

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SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

POSTLUDE: "There is Power in the Blood"

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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, Elva Parde, LaVonna Baehr and our shut-ins.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Dustin Fritch (Mar 27), Joey Burd, Cari Howell (Mar 29), Stephanie Hill (Apr 2).

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to Eliot and Emily Bohling (April 2, 2016).

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

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.

THANK YOU to American Lutheran of Filley for all the food you donated to the Community Food Pantry. We are so busy, so all the food filled our shelves. Your generosity is truly appreciated. Karen Mains Food Pantry Coordinator.

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.

COMING UP:

Every Wednesday – BeLOVED/Confirmation, 4:00-5:30 p.m.
March 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.
April 24 – Confirmation
May 1 – BeLOVED sings at 9:30 worship

THRIVENT ACTION TEAM PROJECT FOR APRIL IS CASA ideas for items for children are: activity kits, books, puzzles, art supplies, book bags, socks, underwear, gift cards for the movies, skating or mini golf. Items for adults are: soap, shampoo, deodorant or any personal items. They are grateful for any items received. The Thrivent card for this project is sponsored by Glenda VanEperen.

SPRING IS HERE start thinking about kids outgrown coats and shoes. We will be collecting these items in July. Start garage sale shopping for any useful items for kids or adults. Just drop off at church.

SIGN-UP SHEET FOR THE SPRING FLING LUNCHEON There is a sign-up sheet in the back of the church for those who would like to make a dessert or sign-up to help with the Ladies Luncheon on April 9th. Contact Arly Jurgens, Sandy Flesner, or Velda Lenners with any questions.

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

EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE you can leave a donation in the bowl in the back of church.

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: Virgil Jobman Next Week:

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

Audio/Video: Tanner Schmidt Next Week:

Accompanist: Contemporary Group Next Week: Sarah Harder

Fellowship: Leon & Carlyne Wolken Next Week: Dave & Betty Norton