

Fifth Sunday in Lent

April 3, 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 126)

P: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion, we were like those who dream.

C: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy; then it was said among the nations, "The LORD has done great things for them."

P: The LORD has done great things for us, and we rejoiced.

C: Restore our fortunes, O LORD, like the watercourses in the Negeb.

P: May those who sow in tears reap with shouts of joy.

C: Those who go out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing, shall come home with shouts of joy, carrying their sheaves.

LENTEN REFLECTION/CANDLES: Week Five - Forgiveness

Reader: Jesus has taught us that we must forgive, but at times we find this hard to do. We have been hurt, and we have hurt others. At times we have become angered by the actions of another to the point that we carry a grudge, and sometimes, this grudge can define who we are. We light this candle as a symbol of our faith in Jesus Christ to help us to forgive as we are forgiven, to help us love as we are loved.

Congregation: **Faithful God, forgive us for our shortcomings and help us to forgive others. As we journey towards the cross this Lenten season, help us to let go of our grudges and to forgive, and to seek forgiveness where we have gone wrong. Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN: "Be Thou My Vision" #776 WOV vv. 1,2

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: Creator God, you prepare a new way in the wilderness, and your grace waters our desert. Open our hearts to be transformed by the new thing you are doing, that our lives may proclaim the extravagance of your love given to all through your Son, 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 43:16-21

¹⁶Thus says the LORD, who makes a way in the sea, a path in the mighty waters,¹⁷who brings out chariot and horse, army and warrior; they lie down, they cannot rise, they are extinguished, quenched like a wick: ¹⁸Do not remember

the former things, or consider the things of old. ¹⁹I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.²⁰The wild animals will honor me, the jackals and the ostriches; for I give water in the wilderness, rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people,²¹the people whom I formed for myself so that they might declare my praise.

SECOND READING: Philippians 3:4b-14

[Paul writes:] ^{4b}If anyone else has reason to be confident in the flesh, I have more: ⁵circumcised on the eighth day, a member of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew born of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ⁶as to zeal, a persecutor of the church; as to righteousness under the law, blameless.

⁷Yet whatever gains I had, these I have come to regard as loss because of Christ. ⁸More than that, I regard everything as loss because of the surpassing value of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things, and I regard them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ ⁹and be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but one that comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God based on faith. ¹⁰I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the sharing of his sufferings by becoming like him in his death, ¹¹if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

¹²Not that I have already obtained this or have already reached the goal; but I press on to make it my own, because Christ Jesus has made me his own. ¹³Beloved, I do not consider that I have made it my own; but this one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, ¹⁴I press on toward the goal for the prize of the heavenly call of God in Christ Jesus.

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

(Noisy offering is taken at this time.)

GOSPEL: John 12:1-8

¹Six days before the Passover Jesus came to Bethany, the home of Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. ²There they gave a dinner for him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those at the table with him. ³Mary took a pound of costly perfume made of pure nard, anointed Jesus' feet, and wiped them with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. ⁴But Judas Iscariot, one of his disciples (the one who was about to betray him), said, ⁵"Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?" ⁶(He said this not because he cared about the poor, but because he was a thief; he kept the common purse and used to steal what was put into it.) ⁷Jesus said, "Leave her alone. She bought it so that she might keep it for the day of my burial. ⁸You always have the poor with you, but you do not always have me."

MESSAGE

Pastor Jonathan Jensen

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Take My Life, that I May Be" LBW vv. 1,3,5,6

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: Do a new thing in the church. Free us from paradigms that no longer serve the gospel and bring forward leaders who imagine fresh ways of doing ministry. Give us courage in the face of change. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Do a new thing for creation. Reverse the trajectory of climate change and environmental catastrophe. Revive habitats already impaired by human disregard. Amplify the voices of climate scientists and researchers working to chart a new course. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Do a new thing in our world. Break barriers that prevent political enemies from working together for the well-being of all. Make a way for peace and collaboration among the nations. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Do a new thing for those who suffer. Reveal a path for any who are unemployed or underemployed, for those experiencing homelessness, and for all who struggle with money. Comfort those who grieve and restore those who are sick. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Do a new thing within us. Direct us into encounters that broaden our understanding of the human experience. Amplify voices that are ignored or devalued. Deliver us especially from the scourge of racism. Merciful God,

C: receive our prayer.

P: Do a new thing in our death. Fill us with the knowledge of Christ and the power of his resurrection as we give thanks for all the saints who have attained the prize of their heavenly call. 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: (spoken) 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: "Now We Join in Celebration" #203 LBW, "Come, Let Us Eat" #214 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: "Lead On, O King Eternal" #495 LBW

SENDING

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God!

Permission to reprint/podcast/stream portions of this service obtained from One License with license #A-724367, CCLI with license #2497574 and Augsburg Fortress License #13855-L. Excerpts of this service are taken by permission from "Worship Resources, Making it Work in the Parish" by Rev. Jerry Nelson.

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Waylon Shultz (Apr 3), Wyatt Schultz (Apr 4), Erin Lenners, Austin Nouzovsky (Apr 9).

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.

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

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 Arlys Jurgens, Sandy Flesner, or Velda Lenners with any questions.

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.

BeLOVED sings next Sunday at the 9:30 a.m. worship.

EASTERN EUROPE CRISIS RESPONSE you can leave a donation in the bowl in the back of church, this will be available thru Easter Sunday. We will get matching dollars to help with this disaster from Lutheran World Relief.

WELCA April meeting is Wednesday, April 6 at 9:30 a.m. at church. Bible study leader is Jolene Huls on the lesson of Rachel, page 32. Hostess is Carol Frerichs.

COMING UP:

Every Wednesday – BeLOVED/Confirmation, 4:00-5:30 p.m.
April 6- Mid week Lenten services at 6:00 p.m.
April 10 – Palm Sunday/ BeLOVED sings at 9:30 a.m. 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 9:30 a.m.
May 1 – BeLOVED sings at 9:30 a.m. worship

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 \$21,000.00. 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: Susan Frerichs Next Week:

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

Audio/Video: Randy Schmidt Next Week: Brad Frerichs

Accompanist: Sarah Harder Next Week: Sandy Mahler

Fellowship: Dave & Betty Norton Next Week: Denise Blaker & DeeAnn Schmidt