



Lutheran Church & Christian School



February 14, 2024

Lenten Midweek II

February 21, 2024

Redeemed, Restored, & Rejoicing in Jesus!

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Mission Statement

[Who We Are]

Leading with the Gospel, we at Trinity Lutheran Church and School strive to:

**HUMBLY AND KNOWINGLY FOLLOW JESUS,
SEEKING JOY THROUGH HIM IN WORSHIP,
TEACHING, AND PRAYER.**



Vision Statement

[Who We Endeavor to Be]

Leading with the Gospel, we at Trinity Lutheran Church and School endeavor to:

**LIVE [up] BY FAITH, BE KNOWN [out] BY
CHRIST'S LOVE, and REJOICE [in] HIS
FORGIVENESS.**

"Redeemed and restored, we are rejoicing in Jesus!"

AS WE GATHER

By way of God's grace, and the Holy Spirit, the Lord equipped His people for a vibrant life with Him and lived out in the world. One of the ways He did this was through various spiritual practices, or disciplines. Each drawn from God's Word, these faith strengthening practices, governed by the movement of the Holy Spirit, accompanied the 1st Century Christians, propelling them into a life of witness and service.

This service's practice centers on prayer, a gift of the Lord that pertains to our deep and abiding relationship with Him. Prayer is dialogue. Prayer is encounter with God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, driven not so much by a command, but a deep desire to dwell in God's presence, to commune with Him. Prayer is life, an expression of faith. It is life for the follower of Christ. It is another of God's gifts to us, with the promise that for those who pray, they will be heard. They will be answered. Welcome to worship.

PRELUDE

PRE-SERVICE SONG "The Heart of Worship" (*Words & Music by Matt Redman © 1997
Kingsway's Thankyou Music/PRS*)

When the music fades, all is stripped away, and I simply come;
Longing just to bring something that's of worth that will bless Your heart.

I'll bring you more than a song, for a song in itself is not what you have required.
You search much deeper within through the way things appear;
You're looking into my heart.

*Refrain: I'm coming back to the heart of worship, and it's all about
You, all about You, Jesus.
I'm sorry, Lord, for the thing I've made it, when it's all about
You, all about You, Jesus.*

King of endless worth, no one could express how much You deserve.
Though I'm weak and poor, all I have is Yours, ev'ry single breath.

I'll bring you more than a song, for a song in itself is not what you have required.
You search much deeper within through the way things appear;
You're looking into my heart. (*Refrain, Repeat*)

INTRODUCTION

OPENING PRAYER

O blessed Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who has gifted us with prayer, bring us into Your presence through Your precious Word, so that we might grow in confidence to approach You, knowing that our prayers are both heard and answered for our good. Teach us this day what it is You would have us to know and believe, so that being led to pray we might do so according to Your will, both for our benefit, and that of all for whom we pray; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who with You Father and the Holy Spirit dwell and live together, one God, now and forever. Amen.

SERVICE OF LIGHT

Pastor: Now is the time of God's favor;

Congregation: now is the day of salvation.

Pastor: Turn us again, O God of our salvation,

Congregation: that the light of Your face may shine on us.

Pastor: May Your justice shine like the sun;

Congregation: and may the poor be lifted up.

HYMN OF PREPARATION "O Light Whose Splendor"

LSB 891

For this and all subsequent hymns, please see PowerPoint slides or the hymnal.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of the universe, who led Your people Israel by a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of Your Christ; may His Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path; for You are merciful, and You love Your whole creation and we, Your creatures, glorify You, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Congregation: Amen.

VARIOUS READINGS ON PRAYER

*1 Samuel 1:10-20

Now Eli the priest was sitting on the seat beside the doorpost of the temple of the LORD. ¹⁰ She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. ¹¹ And she vowed a vow and said, “O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head.”

¹² As she continued praying before the LORD, Eli observed her mouth. ¹³ Hannah was speaking in her heart; only her lips moved, and her voice was not heard. Therefore Eli took her to be a drunken woman. ¹⁴ And Eli said to her, “How long will you go on being drunk? Put your wine away from you.” ¹⁵ But Hannah answered, “No, my lord, I am a woman troubled in spirit. I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but I have been pouring out my soul before the LORD. ¹⁶ Do not regard your servant as a worthless woman, for all along I have been speaking out of my great anxiety and vexation.” ¹⁷ Then Eli answered, “Go in peace, and the God of Israel grant your petition that you have made to him.” ¹⁸ And she said, “Let your servant find favor in your eyes.” Then the woman went her way and ate, and her face was no longer sad.

¹⁹ They rose early in the morning and worshiped before the LORD; then they went back to their house at Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the LORD remembered her. ²⁰ And in due time Hannah conceived and bore a son, and she called his name Samuel, for she said, “I have asked for him from the Lord.”

2 Chronicles 7:13-15

¹³ When I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among my people, ¹⁴ if my people who are called by my name humble themselves, and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven and will forgive their sin and heal their land. ¹⁵ Now my eyes will be open and my ears attentive to the prayer that is made in this place.

Proverbs 15:29

The Lord is far from the wicked, but he hears the prayer of the righteous.

Acts 2:42

And [the disciples] devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.

Acts 21:5-6

When our days there were ended, we departed and went on our journey, and they all, with wives and children, accompanied us until we were outside the city. And kneeling down on the beach, we prayed and said farewell to one another. Then we went on board the ship, and they returned home.

Romans 8:26-27

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God.

Romans 12:12

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer.

Ephesians 6:18

In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out. (*The Message*)

Philippians 4:6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

***James 5:13-18**

¹³ Is anyone among you suffering? Let him pray. Is anyone cheerful? Let him sing praise. ¹⁴ Is anyone among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord. ¹⁵ And the prayer of faith will save the one who is sick, and the Lord will raise him up. And if he has committed sins, he will be forgiven. ¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷ Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸ Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

Jude 1:20-21

²⁰ But you, beloved, building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, ²¹ keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life.

Matthew 5:44-45

But I say to you, Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may be sons of your Father who is in heaven.

***Matthew 6:5-15**

⁵ “And when you pray, you must not be like the hypocrites. For they love to stand and pray in the synagogues and at the street corners, that they may be seen by others. Truly, I say to you, they have received their reward. ⁶ But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

⁷ “And when you pray, do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do, for they think that they will be heard for their many words. ⁸ Do not be like them, for your Father knows what you need before you ask him. ⁹ Pray then like this:

“Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name.

¹⁰ Your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

¹¹ Give us this day our daily bread,
¹² and forgive us our debts,
as we also have forgiven our debtors.

¹³ And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

¹⁴ For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you,
¹⁵ but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Luke 6:12

In these days he went out to the mountain to pray, and all night he continued in prayer to God.

Luke 10:2

And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the laborers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into his harvest.

Luke 18:1-8

And he told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. ² He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. ³ And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' ⁴ For a while he refused, but afterward he said to himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, ⁵ yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" ⁶ And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. ⁷ And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? ⁸ I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

Great Prayers of the Bible:

Hannah's Prayer of Thanks for God Blessing Her with a Son (1 Samuel 2:1-10)

David's Prayer of Gratitude to God for Making Him King (2 Samuel 7:18-29)

Solomon's Prayer for Wisdom as He Ascended the Throne (1 Kings 3:6-9)

Solomon's Prayer at the Dedication of the Temple (1 Kings 8:22-53)

Hezekiah's Prayer for Deliverance (Isaiah 37:1-20)

Nehemiah's Prayer of Joy in Returning to the Promised Land (Nehemiah 1:4-11)

Jeremiah's Prayer for Deliverance (Jeremiah 17:14-18)

Daniel's Prayer for His People (Daniel 9:1-19)

Jonah's Prayer from the Belly of the Whale (Jonah 2:1-9)

Jesus' Prayer for His Disciples, and All Who Would Believe in Him (John 17)

Peter and the Disciples' Prayer for Deliverance and Faith (Acts 4:23-31)

HYMN "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"

LSB 770

MEDITATION "Prayer as Life"

Notes:

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

Do you view prayer as a burdensome obligation or an invitation? Why?

What is it that gets in the way of your own praying? Sin? Life's distractions? Demands on your time? Family obligations? Inexperience? What in your life might need to change in order for you to spend more quality time with the Lord?

As a whole, are your prayers mostly a one-sided dialogue with God? Do your prayers tend to dictate to God what you would like to see happen? Are your prayers a response to God's initiative in your life? What does this tell you about your understanding of prayer?

What is the experience of praying with others like for you? Where is it life-giving? Where is it frustrating?

What do your requests to God reveal about your priorities, goals, desires and heart? If God asked you to pray for something, what do you think He would ask you to pray for?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES:

Read and reflect on one or more of the verses listed above. Read each verse slowly. Where are you noticing God in the verse? Where is He moving your spirit to do something?

Settle into a time of quietness with God (if it is hard for you to sit still in God's presence, go for a walk). Say to God, "Here I am." Be with God. Welcome Him into your space. Be in the moment without controlling or influencing it. Give God the gift of your time and your presence. Do not strive. There is nothing to achieve, but simply to "abide" (John 15:1-5). Leave His presence gently when you sense you must go.

When we find ourselves talking to a friend – Christian or otherwise – about matters or concerns of the heart or life, we often say that "I will be praying for you." During one of those times, suggest that the two of you pray together right at that moment.

There was only one time that Jesus' disciples asked Jesus to teach them something: "*Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples.*" (Luke 11:1) What Jesus then taught them was The Lord's Prayer. Take a moment to pray it. Now, using the prayer as a pattern for intercession, pray it more slowly, taking time to meditate on each of the petitions. Which petition is occupying space in your heart? Center in on it, praying it, and whatever else the Spirit is moving in you.

If you don't already have one, purchase a journal that you might use in your intercessory prayer for yourself and others. Record concerns for which you wish to pray. Revisit those concerns, recording God's answers.

Grab a copy of the latest directory of your church family. Using it as a guide, pray it through. (This is also a great way to get to know those you don't know 😊!)

The Psalms are often referred to as the Prayer or Hymn Book of Israel. Each of them are prayers borne out of need and concern, many also out of joy for blessings received. Commit to reading and meditating on one (or a portion of the longer ones) each day. Journal your prayers. What are you observing as you learn the language of prayer?

The *Didache* (a 1st Century manual on how to “do church”) commends the following as a useful prayer. What does it evoke in your spirit? Follow the Spirit's lead.

We give you thanks Holy Father, for your holy name which You have caused to dwell in our hearts, and for the knowledge and faith and immortality which You have made known to us through Jesus Your servant; to You be the glory forever.

You, almighty Master, created all things for Your name's sake, and gave food and drink to men to enjoy, that they might give You thanks; but to us You have graciously given spiritual food and drink, and eternal life through Your servant [Jesus]. Above all we give thanks because You are mighty; to You be the glory forever.

Remember Your church, Lord, to deliver it from all evil and to make it perfect in Your love; and gather it, the one that has been sanctified, from the four winds into Your kingdom, which You have prepared for it; for Yours is the glory forever.

May grace come, and may this world pass away. Hosanna to the God of David. If anyone is holy, let him come; if anyone is not, let him repent. [Come quickly, Lord!] Amen.



PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: As we mark the forty days of Lent with repentance and forgiveness, let us pray for the renewal of the Church and the restoration of the world to the life of God in Christ.

Silence for time of personal reflection.

Various petitions and praises may be offered.

Pastor: Gracious Father, please hear the prayers that flow from our lips, and sustain us with the forgiveness won by Jesus' death and resurrection; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Congregation: Amen.

Sharing of God's peace.

OFFERTORY "Create in Me"

LSB 956

LORD'S PRAYER

Please see PowerPoint or back of hymnal.

BENEDICTION Numbers 6:24–26

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.

Congregation: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN "Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow"

LSB 880, St. 1-3, 5

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