



Lutheran Church & Christian School



Lenten Midweek V

March 13, 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.

Tonight's service centers on the spiritual practice of attending God's Word, which, for the disciple of Jesus is more than simply obedience to a command, but a gift - God's means of grace – spoken to and into us for our forgiveness, life and salvation. God's Word always accomplishes the purposes for which it is sent. (Isaiah 55:10, 11) So, welcome as we acknowledge yet one more gift, received from and returned to God, with full and joyful hearts.

PRELUDE

AWAKE MY SOUL (*Words & Music by Chris Tomlin, Daniel Carson, Jesse Reeves & Jason Ingram © 2012 A Thousand Generations Publishing | sixsteps Music | Sixsteps Songs | worshiptogether.com songs | Worship Together Music } Sony ATV/Timber Publishing | Open Hands Music*)

Verse 1: Solo

*Chorus: Awake, awake, awake my soul; God resurrect these bones;
 From death to life, for You alone, awake my soul.*

Verse 2: Speak to me, Word of God, speak to me. *(Repeat)*

I come alive, I'm alive when You speak to me. (Repeat)

(Chorus & repeat)

INTRODUCTION

OPENING PRAYER

Shine within our hearts, Glorious One, the pure light of your divine knowledge. And illumine our minds and hearts that we may understand and embrace the treasures of your Holy Word. 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 Word of God Incarnate"

LSB 523

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 CELEBRATION

Joshua 1:8

This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

Psalms 19:7-11, 14

⁷ The law of the LORD is perfect, reviving the soul;
the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple;

⁸ the precepts of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart;

the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes;
⁹ the fear of the LORD is clean, enduring forever;
the rules of the LORD are true, and righteous altogether.
¹⁰ More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold;
sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb.
¹¹ Moreover, by them is your servant warned;
in keeping them there is great reward. ...
¹⁴ Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart
be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my rock and my redeemer.

***Isaiah 55:1-3, 6-11**

¹ “Come, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters;
and he who has no money, come, buy and eat!
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.
² Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,
and your labor for that which does not satisfy?
Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,
and delight yourselves in rich food.
³ Incline your ear, and come to me; hear, that your soul may live;
and I will make with you an everlasting covenant,
my steadfast, sure love for David. ...
⁶ “Seek the LORD while he may be found; call upon him while he is near;
⁷ let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts;
let him return to the LORD, that he may have compassion on him,
and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon.
⁸ For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD.
⁹ For as the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.
¹⁰ “For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven
and do not return there but water the earth,
making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,
¹¹ so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty,
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

³¹ “Behold, the days are coming, declares the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah, ³² not like the covenant that I made with their fathers on the day when I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt, my covenant that they broke, though I was their husband, declares the LORD. ³³ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, declares the LORD: I will put my law within them, and I will write it on their hearts. And I will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And no longer shall each one teach his neighbor and each his brother, saying, ‘Know the LORD,’ for they shall all know me, from the least of them to the greatest, declares the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

Acts 2:42

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

Acts 17:10-11

The brothers immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea, and when they arrived they went into the Jewish synagogue. Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

Colossians 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

***2 Timothy 3:14-17**

¹⁴ But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it ¹⁵ and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. ¹⁶ All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Hebrews 4:12

For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

***Matthew 4:1-4**

¹ Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. ² And after fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. ³ And the tempter came and said to him, "If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." ⁴ But he answered, "It is written, "'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.'"

Matthew 13:1-8, 18-23

¹ That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat beside the sea. ² And great crowds gathered about him, so that he got into a boat and sat down. And the whole crowd stood on the beach. ³ And he told them many things in parables, saying: "A sower went out to sow. ⁴ And as he sowed, some seeds fell along the path, and the birds came and devoured them. ⁵ Other seeds fell on rocky ground, where they did not have much soil, and immediately they sprang up, since they had no depth of soil, ⁶ but when the sun rose they were scorched. And since they had no root, they withered away. ⁷ Other seeds fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked them. ⁸ Other seeds fell on good soil and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty. ⁹ He who has ears, let him hear."...

¹⁸ "Hear then the parable of the sower: ¹⁹ When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is what was sown along the path. ²⁰ As for what was sown on rocky ground, this is the one who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy, ²¹ yet he has no root in himself, but endures for a while, and when tribulation or persecution arises on account of the word, immediately he falls away. ²² As for what was sown among thorns, this is the one who hears the word, but the cares of the world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and it proves unfruitful. ²³ As for what was sown on good soil, this is the one who hears the word and understands it. He indeed bears fruit and yields, in one case a hundredfold, in another sixty, and in another thirty."

Mark 9:7

And a cloud overshadowed them, and a voice came out of the cloud, "This is my beloved Son; listen to him."

Mark 10:46-52

⁴⁶ And they came to Jericho. And as he was leaving Jericho with his disciples and a great crowd, Bartimaeus, a blind beggar, the son of Timaeus, was sitting by the roadside. ⁴⁶ And when he heard that it was Jesus of Nazareth, he began to cry out and say, "Jesus, Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁶ And many rebuked him, telling him to be silent. But he cried out all the more, "Son of David, have mercy on me!" ⁴⁶ And Jesus stopped and said, "Call him." And they called the blind man, saying to him, "Take heart. Get up; he is calling you." ⁵⁰ And throwing off his cloak, he sprang up and came to Jesus. ⁵⁰ And Jesus said to him, "What do you want me to do for you?" And the blind man said to him, "Rabbi, let me recover my sight." ⁵⁰ And Jesus said to him, "Go your way; your faith has made you well." And immediately he recovered his sight and followed him on the way.

Luke 1:1-4

¹ Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, ³ it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴ that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

Luke 11:28

[Jesus] said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

Luke 24:25-27

And he said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Was it not necessary that the Christ should suffer these things and enter into his glory?" And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he interpreted to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning himself.

MEDITATION

Notes:

REFLECTION QUESTIONS:

How has God’s love for you moved you and your faith from being a matter of belief to a real and lived experience?

What clutters your heart, hindering your capacity to receive God’s Word? What patterns of your past or present may be hindering your ability to listen deeply to God’s Word?

How and when have the Scriptures been the voice of God to you? How have they brought you into the presence of Christ?

How would you characterize the way you tend to read the Bible? What emotions, feelings and actions accompany that reading?

SPIRITUAL PRACTICES:

Small Group Bible Study

Personal Reading and Study

LUTHER: “First I shake the whole tree (Scripture as a whole) so that the ripest fruit would fall to the ground. Then, I climb the tree and shake each limb (each individual book). After I shake each limb, I shake each branch (chapter by chapter), and then, every twig (verse by verse). Finally, just to make sure I haven’t missed any good apples, I look under each leaf (word).

”Memorization (involving Scripture, hymns, poems, quotes, etc.)

Lectio Divina (Divine or Devotional Reading)

Choose a portion of Scripture that has been meaningful for you. Find a sacred space as you attend to a divine reading of that passage, using the following approach:

- Read/listen:

Read aloud a short passage of Scripture. As you read, listen for the word or phrase that speaks to you. What is the Spirit drawing attention to?

- Meditate:

Begin listening for the inner message of the passage. Where does it connect to your life? Weigh and consider the passage, from various angles, allowing certain phrases, or even individual words to settle into the heart.

- Pray:

Talk the passage out with God in “holy conversation.” Then, listen to what He may be saying to you. Take your thoughts and offer them back to God in prayer, giving thanks, asking for guidance, asking for forgiveness, and resting in God’s love. What is God leading you to pray?

- Contemplate:

Move from the activity of prayer to the stillness of contemplation. Simply rest in God’s presence. Stay open to God. Listen to God. Remain in peace and silence before God. How is God revealing himself to you?

As you enter the day, take the Scripture, and prayer with you. How might this Word of God be realized in your thoughts, words and actions throughout the day?

(Based on Richard Peace’s *Contemplative Bible Reading*)

HYMN OF RESPONSE “Speak, O Lord, Your Servant Listens”

LSB 589, St. 4

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 "Ancient Words" (*Words & Music by Lynn DeShazo © 2001 Integrity's Hosanna! Music*)

1. Solo
2. Words of life, words of hope, give us strength, help us cope
In this world where'er we roam, ancient words will guide us home.

*Chorus: Ancient words forever true, changing me, changing you,
We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.*

3. Holy words of our faith, handed down to this age,
Came to us through sacrifice,
O heed the faithful words of Christ. (*Chorus*)
4. Holy words long preserved for our walk in this world,
They resound with God's own heart, O let the ancient words impart.

(Chorus & Repeat)

LORD'S PRAYER

Please see PowerPoint or back of hymnal.

BENEDICTION *Colossians 3:16*

Pastor: Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Congregation: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN “Lord Jesus Christ, with Us Abide” *LSB 585, St. 1-3, 6*

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