



LORD OF LIFE
LUTHERAN CHURCH

*SEVEN WORDS: SIMPLE, POWERFUL,
RENEWING WORDS,
IN GRACE ALONE!*

THE FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 22, 2020



LORD OF LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH
“MAKING GOD FIRST THROUGH HOPE, GROWTH & TOGETHERNESS”

Sunday Worship: 9:30 a.m.-16200 Dodd Lane, Lakeville, MN 55044-(952)-953-4484
Pastor Jamie Thompson Email: info@lordoflifemn.org Website: www.lordoflifemn.org



**“SEVEN WORDS: SIMPLE, POWERFUL RENEWING WORDS,
IN GRACE ALONE!”**



The Fourth Sunday In Lent

March 22, 2020

Litany Trusting God’s Grace In Jesus Christ – Psalm 116

Pastor: Today as we share our Lenten journey, we take hold of power and grace even when we cry out like Jesus, “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me,” so in assurance and trust, we worship in the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit.

All: Amen. I take glory in the Lord. He protects me. When I was brought low, he saved me. My soul rests in the Lord. He has delivered my soul from death, my eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling. The Lord calls me to live in the land of the living.

Pastor: People of Faith: Love the Lord; he hears your voice when you cry out to him. He inclines his ear to hear you! Call on him and glorify his name. Let us take a moment of silence to confess our sins and those times we have not trusted the Lord’s power and grace.

(silence for reflection) Friends, the Lord is our salvation, we can cry out to him, question him, and call on him, for we are precious in his sight. Today, fear not, Jesus saves; trust in the grace in these seven simple, powerful, renewing words: Jesus Christ forgives you all your sins. Though the snares of death encompass us, though we suffer distress, we have nothing to fear!

Song of Absolute Trust “Fear Not”

**“Fear not, for I am with you; Fear not, for I am with you;
Fear not, for I am with you,” says the Lord. *(repeat)***

All: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful. The Lord preserves the simple; when I wandered off, when I was brought low, he saved me. Return, O my soul, to your rest.

Pastor: People of great faith: The Lord has delivered your soul from death, your eyes from tears, your feet from stumbling; together, let us walk before the Lord in the land of the living.

All: Gracious is the Lord, and righteous. I kept my faith, even when I said, “I am greatly afflicted;” even when I said in fear, “no one can be trusted.”

Song of Absolute Trust “Fear Not”

**“Fear not, for I am with you; Fear not, for I am with you;
Fear not, for I am with you,” says the Lord. *(repeat)***

Prayer of The Day

All: Almighty and loving God, out of compassion, you broke into our troubled world through the life, death and resurrection of your Son. In your mercy, may we fear not and know you are with us, hearing our every cry, weeping with us, raising us up, never forsaking us, no matter what we face. With your presence and power, open our eyes and spirits, to trust anew, your grace is in the midst of our every “why.” In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen.

Hearing The Word of God

Old Testament Lesson

1 Samuel 16:1-13

(all read bold print)

The Lord said to Samuel, “How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons.” Samuel said, “How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me.” And the Lord said, “Take a heifer with you, and say, ‘I have come to sacrifice to the Lord.’ Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do; and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you.” Samuel did what the Lord commanded, and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling, and said, “Do you come peaceably?” He said, “Peaceably; I have come to sacrifice to the Lord; sanctify yourselves and come with me to the sacrifice.” And he sanctified Jesse and his sons and invited them to the sacrifice. When they came, he looked on Eliab and thought, “Surely the Lord’s anointed is now before the Lord.” But the Lord said to Samuel, “Do not look on his appearance or on the height of his stature, because I have rejected him; **for the Lord does not see as mortals see; they look on the outward appearance, but the Lord looks on the heart.**” Then Jesse called Abinadab, and made him pass before Samuel. He said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Then Jesse made Shammah pass by. And he said, “Neither has the Lord chosen this one.” Jesse made seven of his sons pass before Samuel, and Samuel said to Jesse, “The Lord has not chosen any of these.” Samuel said to Jesse, “Are all your sons here?” And he said, “There remains yet the youngest, but he is keeping the sheep.” And Samuel said to Jesse, “Send and bring him; for he will not sit down until he comes here.” He sent and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and had beautiful eyes, and was handsome. The Lord said, “Rise and anoint him for this is the one.” Then Samuel took the horn of oil and anointed him in the presence of his brothers; and the spirit of the Lord came mightily upon David from that day forward. Samuel then set out and went to Ramah.

(New Revised Standard Version)

New Testament

Ephesians 5:8-14

(all read bold print)

For once you were darkness, but now in the Lord you are light. **Live as children of light – for the fruit of the light is found in all that is good and right and true.** Try to find out what is pleasing to the Lord. Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. For it is shameful even to mention what such people do secretly; but everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, **“Sleeper, awake! Rise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.”** (New Revised Standard Version)

They answered him, “You were born entirely in sins, and are you trying to teach us?” And they drove him out. Jesus heard that they had driven him out, and when he found him, he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered, “**And who is he, sir? Tell me, so that I may believe in him.**” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “**Lord, I believe.**” **And he worshiped him.** Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment so that those who do not see may see, and those who do see may become blind.” Some of the Pharisees near him heard this and said to him, “Surely we are not blind, are we?” Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would not have sin. But now that you say, ‘We see,’ your sin remains.” (New Revised Standard Version)

Statement of Faith During Lent Based on Psalm 116:1-11

**All: I love the Lord because he has heard my voice
and my supplications.
Because he inclined his ear to me,
Therefore I will call on him as long as I live.
The snares of death encompassed me;
The pangs of Sheol laid hold on me;
I suffered distress and anguish.
Then I called on the name of the Lord:
“O Lord, I beseech thee, save my life!”
Gracious is the Lord, and righteous; our God is merciful.
The Lord preserves the simple;
When I was brought low, he saved me.
Return, O my soul, to your rest;
For the Lord has dealt bountifully with you.
For you have delivered my soul from death,
My eyes from tears, my feet from stumbling;
I walk before the Lord in the land of the living. I kept my faith,
Even when I said, “I am greatly afflicted”;
Even when I said in fear, “No one can be trusted.” Amen.**

Sermon **“Grace Is In Every Why!”**
(see the sermon notes following the end of the service)

Pastor Jamie Thompson

Song of Grace Anew **“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”**

Tomlin

vs. 1 **Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
Was blind, but now I see.**

vs. 2 **‘Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved.
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!**

ref: **My chains are gone, I've been set free.
My God, my Savior has ransomed me.
And like a flood, His mercy rains unending love,
Amazing grace.**

vs. 3 **The Lord has promised good to me;
His Word my hope secures.
He will my shield and portion be
As long as life endures. (*refrain twice*)**

vs. 4 **The earth shall soon dissolve like snow,
The sun forbear to shine.
But God, who called me here below
Will be forever mine, will be forever mine.

You are forever mine.**

Sharing Prayer with sung response "The Spirit Intercedes For Us"

Pastor: As God's people, gifted to trust and to call on God's simple, renewing, power and grace,
let us pray for the needs of all God's people. . . (*insert your own prayer petitions here*)

Pastor: ... as we pray to you, Jesus,

**All sing: The Spirit, intercedes for us,
With sighs too deep for words to express, oh, oh, oh, ...**

Pastor: All these things and whatever else you see we need, grant to us we pray, for into your
hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy through your
Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

**All: 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.**

**There’s nothing worth more that will ever come close.
No thing can compare; You’re our living hope.
Your Presence, Lord.**

**I’ve tasted and seen of the sweetest of loves,
Where my heart becomes free and my shame is undone,
In Your Presence, Lord.**

**Holy Spirit, You are welcome here;
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere;
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for,
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord. Your presence, Lord.**

bridge: **Let us become more aware of Your Presence;
Let us experience the glory of Your goodness.**
(repeat bridge 3x)

**Holy Spirit, You are welcome here;
Come flood this place and fill the atmosphere;
Your glory, God, is what our hearts long for,
To be overcome by Your presence, Lord.**

Strengthened to Live Today, and All Our Days, In The Grace of Christ

Pastor: Friends, return to The Lord your God with all your heart; take hold of the simple, renewing power of God’s saving Word and grace! 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. In the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

Song Going In Grace & Hope “Soon and Very Soon” WOV #744

- vs. 1 **Soon and very soon, we are goin’ to see the King,
Soon and very soon, we are goin’ to see the King,
Soon and very soon, we are goin’ to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!**
- vs. 2 **No more cryin’ there; we are goin’ to see the King,
No more cryin’ there; we are goin’ to see the King,
No more cryin’ there; we are goin’ to see the King,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!**
- vs. 3 **No more dyin’ there; we are goin’ to see the King,
No more dyin’ there; we are goin’ to see the King,
No more dyin’ there; we are goin’ to see the King,
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we’re goin’ to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

vs. 4 **Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King,
Soon and very soon, we are goin' to see the King.
Hallelujah, hallelujah, we're goin' to see the King!
Hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah, hallelujah.**

*During these truly different and challenging times,
we at Lord of Life are committed to praying for you and to serving you and your loved ones!
Please let Pastor Jamie know if he can serve you or support you in any way!
jamie.thompson@lordoflifemn.org*

We hope having the service provided for you in this way, will touch you, comfort you, reassure you, and grace you in some way! If you believe others you know would be blessed in any way to receive this bulletin and the sermon notes that follow, please forward this to them. If you know someone who might be blessed to receive our daily devotions, you can forward those, too, or you can email Pastor Jamie and he will have Marne add them to our contacts.

*As Palm Sunday quickly approaches, watch for Lord of Life
to provide unique and creative opportunities to still have us experience
these blessed days before us, including some form of online worship, and more!*

*In this time of social distancing, please trust that we are committed to doing everything possible
to slow the spread of the coronavirus, and yet, please also trust that we are equally committed
to keeping us socially and spiritually connected!
On behalf of the very Kingdom of God, thank you for the many ways you make God first!*

Acknowledgments for this morning's service include: Litany Trusting God's Grace In Jesus Christ, written based on Psalm 116. "I Love To Tell The Story" "Soon and Very Soon" © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship (LBW) and With One Voice Hymnal Supplement, © 1995 Augsburg Publishing House, Minneapolis & Board of Publication, Lutheran Church In America, Philadelphia; and Evangelical Lutheran Worship, © 2006 Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis, MN. Used with permission. "Prayer of The Day," "The Lord's Prayer," "Post-Communion Blessing, Prayer, & Benediction," based on the LBW. "Fear Not" © 1984 C3 Music Publishing CCLI #13508 "Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)" © 2006 sixsteps Music CCLI # 4768151 "The Spirit Intercedes For Us" © 1989 Dakota Road Music "Holy Spirit" © 2011 Jesus Culture, CCLI #6087919 All rights reserved. All songs used with permission. CCLI License #1380826 & OneLicense #A-724016.

"GRACE IS IN EVERY WHY!"- FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT
MARCH 22, 2020 - 1 SAMUEL 16:1-13; EPHESIANS 5:8-14; JOHN 9:1-17, 34-41
Promises for your pocket or purse - Take notes and carry them with you.

Do you like knowing why things happen? We all have things that blind us along the way, those things that keep us from seeing God. We all have times that leave us feeling broken and forsaken, lost and alone, asking God, 'Why,' 'Why, God,' 'Why this,' 'Why now,' 'Why when I need you most, have you forsaken me?' Today our journey through Jesus' seven last words points us to Jesus crying out on the cross, "My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?" Today we also hear Jesus coming to a blind man, a man who in ways felt forsaken from birth. The man is given sight, and we hear the simple power of these seven words: "Lord, I believe." And he worshiped him.' In the midst of all that can leave us feeling forsaken, our purpose, our sin, our human circumstance, let us like Jesus call on the simple renewing power of the only One who is in the midst of every 'why,' the only One who can come and help, the One who never forsakes us, The One who graces us, "My God, My God!"

1. When you ask "why," feel blind as to how God is using you, calling you, when you feel lost and forsaken, like you are on your own when it comes to making God first, trust and call on Who never forsakes you, Who graces you!
1 Samuel 16:1-13; John 9:1-4,13-17,34-38; Matthew 27:46
 - A. The temple leaders blindly led themselves, rather than calling on the simple renewing power of God to open their eyes and hearts.
 - B. Even Samuel at times felt forsaken in his calling. Like Samuel, hear Who is faithfully leading you, 'My God, My God.'
 - C. Jesus' calling led him to the cross, alone, away from the Father and Holy Spirit. He felt what it was to be forsaken.
 - D. As Jesus came to the blind man, as Jesus came to the cross, Jesus and The Holy Spirit come to lead us, to grace us and to never forsake us!

2. When you ask "why" and feel blind in the midst of the darkness of your sin, when you feel lost and forsaken like you cannot save yourself, trust Who you can call on, Who never forsakes you, Who saves you, graces you! Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-4, 13-17; Matthew 27:46
 - A. The temple leaders were blind to their own sin, trying to judge others, rather than allowing God to be God. This is darkness.
 - B. Jesus goes to the cross on his own to save us from our sin and our sins. This is light, The Light of the world!

- C. As Jesus came to the blind man, as Jesus came to the cross, Jesus comes to us, to forgive us, to give us light, to never forsake us, to save us, to grace us!
3. When you ask “why,” and feel blind in the midst of your own human circumstance and condition, during times like these that we face today, when you feel lost and forsaken, like there is no hope, see Who comes to you to restore hope, Who never forsakes you, Who graces you! John 9:1, 35-38; Matthew 27:46
- A. As Jesus came to the blind man to help him see what he had never seen before, trust the One who comes to you, to heal you!
 - B. As Jesus came to the cross, true God, true man, he experienced the pain of human suffering on his own. Call on him!
 - C. When you feel most forsaken, see Who comes to you to open your eyes to the One you can call on, and then point others to the One who will never forsake you, Who graces you!
4. When you ask “why” and feel blind, when you feel lost and forsaken, call on the only One who has the simple, yet, incredible renewing power, to come to you, to save you. Trust God’s grace is in the midst of every why! Like the blind man, let us then share these seven simple powerful words, “Lord I believe ... And I worship you!”