

**Our Saviour's Lutheran Church**  
**LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ)**  
**Pastor Ben Unseth**  
**Fourth Sunday in Lent**  
**March 22, 2020**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**Confession (Facing our inadequacy and God's sufficiency)**

P: In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us admit our deficiencies and trust God's sufficiency. Merciful Friend, most holy God, we are grateful that you love us and call us a life of boundless opportunities and unmeasured joys. Yet around us in this world, we see a desperate search for happiness in all the wrong places.

*Silence is kept for reflection*

**C: We humbly acknowledge that we have allowed ourselves to become caught up in the world's busy futility, exchanging: love for selfishness, encouragement for criticism, peace for conflict and alienation, wholeness for brokenness, contentment for dissatisfaction, and joy for brief splashes of superficial pleasure.**

**Loving God, we return to you for the spiritual blessing that is in short supply everywhere else in this age of arrogant promises and manifold disappointments. We are the lost who need a rescuer, the sick who need a physician, the offenders who need forgiveness, and the weak who need some exercise.**

**Most gracious God, please forgive each of us, and have mercy upon this wide world for whom Christ Jesus died.**

**Forgiveness**

P: It is written of Christ: "In him we have redemption through his shed blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace which he has lavished upon us." Now that really is good news! Believe it, trust it, and be free of shame and anxiety. You and I are forgiven!

**"We Believe" Newsboys**

**Prayer of the Day**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray together:

**All: God of the starry hosts, you are with us. God of waving corn and wheat, you are with us. God of lowing cows and grunting hogs, you are with us. God of healed lepers and forgiven sinners, you are with us. We pray for more of that creative grace which multiplies little into much, and brings glory out of sorrow. Through Christ Jesus our hope and joy, Amen!**

**Children's Message**

**Old Testament Reading: Jeremiah 29:1-14**

R: This is the text of the letter that the prophet Jeremiah sent from Jerusalem to the surviving elders among the exiles and to the priests, the prophets and all the other people Nebuchadnezzar had carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon. (This was after King Jehoiachin and the queen mother, the court officials and the leaders of Judah and Jerusalem, the skilled workers and the artisans had gone into exile from Jerusalem.) He entrusted the letter to Elasah son of Shaphan and to Gemariah son of Hilkiyah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to King Nebuchadnezzar in Babylon. It said: This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says to all those I carried into exile from Jerusalem to Babylon: "Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons and daughters; find wives for your sons and give your daughters in marriage, so that they too may have sons and daughters. Increase in number there; do not decrease. Also, seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile. Pray to the LORD for it, because if it prospers, you too will prosper." Yes, this is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: "Do not let the prophets and diviners among you deceive you. Do not listen to the dreams you encourage them to have.

They are prophesying lies to you in my name. I have not sent them," declares the LORD. This is what the LORD says: "When seventy years are completed for Babylon, I will come to you and fulfill my good promise to bring you back to this place. For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile."

R: This is the Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God!**

### **Holy Gospel Reading: Luke 18:1-8**

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 18<sup>th</sup> Chapter.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord!**

P: Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared what people thought. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, 'Grant me justice against my adversary.' "For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, 'Even though I don't fear God or care what people think, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she won't eventually come and attack me!'" And the Lord said, "Listen to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to him day and night? Will he keep putting them off? I tell you, he will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on the earth?"

P: This is the Gospel of our Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ!**

### **Message: "Life When Nothing Makes Sense"**

#### **Apostles' Creed**

**All: 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 Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

#### **Prayers of the Church**

*P: God of Mercy*

**C: Hear Our Prayer**

#### **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: Let us bless the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

P: The eternal God is your refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms. May the Lord bless all your skills, and be pleased with the work of your hands! May God ride across the heavens to help you! May you abound with the Lord's favor and be full of his blessing! Amen. *Deuteronomy 33:11, 23, 26-27*

### **"A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" Virtual Choir**

**Those serving today are:**

Pastor Ben Unseth

Jim Tinker

Tech Team: Patrick Hamilton, Jane Weber, Bob Weber