



Shepherd of the Hill Lutheran Church – ELCA

"Encouraging faith and proclaiming God's love by Gathering, Growing and Giving."

5th Sunday of Lent

Service the Word

March 21, 2021

If you are a VISITOR with us today, we are so grateful that God brought you here. Please sign our Guest Book in the church, or send an email to sothlc@sothem.org Feel free to add your prayer requests on our Facebook page.

NOTE: Bold text indicates worshippers' response, and *' means please stand as able

PRELUDE

J

Jennifer Kinblom

WELCOME & MINISTRY MESSAGES

GATHERING

* CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS Blessed be the holy Trinity, † the one God who is a source of unwavering love and divine treasures, who is our rock and our redeemer. **Amen.** God encourages us to admit our sins, in the faith practice of confession; then God offers us divine forgiveness, renewing our relationship with God. **In obedience to God, we humbly turn our hearts, minds, and lives to you.** *Silence is kept for reflection.* Fountain of living water, **wash away our sins which weigh us down, so we may feel the freedom of your forgiveness. Help us to understand and appreciate the visible and invisible treasures you have given us. Lead our hearts to desire things that do NOT easily lose their value, break, or distract us away from you. Forgive us for the times we have ignored you, or have not been willing to make our relationship with you a priority in our lives.** Beloved of God, hear this Good News...God's love and forgiveness never fails. By the grace of God, and the saving love of Jesus Christ, your sins are † forgiven, and God remembers them no more. Journey in the way of Jesus. **Amen.**

* P: The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

* PRAYER OF THE DAY Let us pray. Loving Creator, **you have made each of us, giving us unique talents and desires. You have offered us a place and a purpose within your kingdom. Help us to recognize what a precious gift you are in our lives, and no longer be distracted by desires of the world around us. Amen.**

Psalm 119:129-144

¹²⁹ Your laws are wonderful! That's why I guard them.

¹³⁰ **Access to your words gives light, giving simple folk understanding.**

¹³¹ I open my mouth up wide, panting, because I long for your commandments.

¹³² **Come back to me and have mercy on me; that's only right for those who love your name.**

¹³³ Keep my steps steady by your word; don't let any sin rule me.

¹³⁴ **Redeem me from the people who oppress me so I can keep your precepts.**

¹³⁵ Shine your face on your servant,
and teach me your statutes.

¹³⁶ **Rivers of tears stream from my eyes because your instruction isn't being kept.**

¹³⁷ Lord, you are righteous, and your rules are right.

138 The laws you commanded are righteous, completely trustworthy.

¹³⁹ Anger consumes me because my enemies have forgotten what you've said.

140 Your word has been tried and tested; your servant loves your word!

¹⁴¹ I'm insignificant and unpopular, but I don't forget your precepts.

142 Your righteousness lasts forever! Your Instruction is true!

¹⁴³ Stress and strain have caught up with me, but your commandments are my joy!

144 Your laws are righteous forever. Help me understand so I can live!

Jesus uses a series of parables to explain to his disciples what a valuable treasure God's kingdom is for all who believe; for all who are willing to put their trust in what God offers us; for this life and our eternal life.

The Gospel according to Matthew, the 13th chapter. **All: Glory to you O Lord.**

"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; on finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it." The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you O Christ.**

SERMON *How much do we value a relationship with God?*

Pastor Mary Eide

MUSIC TO MEDITATE ON *Listen and be filled with God's peace.*

Jennifer Kinblom

*THE APOSTLES' CREED (*professed together*)

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

*Or, He descended to the dead.

* PRAYERS AND PETITIONS (Pastor: As one people we pray, **ALL: Have mercy, O God.**)

GIVING

* OFFERING PRAYER Dear Jesus, **you have created, and you have lived among the created. We thank you for the love, life and light you've given us. We give of our time, talents and treasures to support your work that is being done in and through this congregation. We give as a faith practice and an act of trust in you. Amen.**

*NOTE: Giving to support God's ministry at Shepherd of the Hill can be mailed to (Mailing address: 207 University St., Elk Mound, WI 54739 – OR – by going on our website (www.bothem.org) to **GIVE** tab to make a one time or reoccurring donation. Setting up an account with GivePlus is easy!*

*GREAT THANKSGIVING The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise**

*WORDS OF INSTITUTION

***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, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen

HOLY COMMUNION – *All who are baptized and believe in the real presence of Jesus Christ in the bread and wine are welcome to commune with us. Gluten-free wafers available, and give "thumbs up" for grape juice. Children who do not yet receive Holy Communion may come forward for a blessing.*

(Waylon Topper will be receiving Holy Communion for the first time, so he and his families will be asked forward to receive communion first.)

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** God of steadfast love, at this table you gather your people into one body for the sake of the world. Send us in the power of your Spirit, that our lives bear witness to the love that has made us new in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen**

*** ANNOUNCEMENTS/BLESSING** You are what God made you to be: holy and loved, free to serve your neighbor. God bless you ☩ that you may be a blessing to others, in the name of the holy and life-giving Trinity. **Amen.**

*** ELW #339 LBW #97 SENDING HYMN** "*Christ the Life of All the Living*" next page

*** DISMISSAL** Go in peace. Share the Good News. **Thanks be to God.**

*** POSTLUDE**

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SCHEDULE/ANNOUNCEMENTS

| | | |
|--------------|--|--|
| Today | 10:00am | - Holy Communion/1 st Communion Worship |
| | 10:45-11:15 | - Drive thru Communion (parking lot) |
| | Sunday School Stories for 3's to Kindergarten www.sothem.org (Faith Formation/Sunday School) | |
| Monday | 7pm | - AA Meeting |
| Tuesday: | 4-6 pm | - Food Pantry |
| Wednesday | "Wednesday's Word from God" (pre-recorded devotional) | |
| Friday: | 10 am-noon | - Food Pantry |
| Next Sunday: | 10:00 am | - Palm Sunday Worship/1 st Communion |

HOLY WEEK PLANS: Mar. 28th Palm Sunday;
Mar. 31st 1pm 70+ Holy Week Worship;
Apr. 1st 7pm Maundy Thursday Worship;
Apr. 2nd 3pm Good Friday worship [HERE](#)
6pm at **IRON CREEK UMC**
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Sunday School Coordinators: Chris Miller at chrisbenelli.miller@gmail.com or Jaime Folczyk mjfolczyk@yahoo.com
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Christ, the Life of All the Living

1 Christ, the life of all the liv - ing, Christ, the death of death, our foe,
2 You have suf - fered great af - flic - tion and have borne it pa - tient - ly,
3 Then, for all that bought my par - don, for the sor - rows deep and sore,

Christ, your - self for me once giv - ing to the dark - est depths of woe:
e - ven death by cru - ci - fix - ion, ful - ly to a - tone for me;
for the an - guish in the gar - den, I will thank you ev - er - more;

through your suf - f'ring, death, and mer - it life e - ter - nal I in - her - it.
for you chose to be tor - ment - ed that my doom should be pre - vent - ed.
thank you for the groan - ing, sigh - ing, for the bleed - ing and the dy - ing,

Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
Thou - sand, thou - sand thanks are due, dear - est Je - sus, un - to you.
for that last tri - um - phant cry, praise you ev - er - more on high.