

SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH (WELS)

7740 W. St. Joseph Highway Lansing, Michigan 48917

(517) 627-3913 • www.sothlansing.org

Pastor: Norman Burger, Jr....627-2532 (*Home*) • Pastor: Joel Tullberg.....798-6125 (*Mobile*)

5th Sunday In Lent • March 29, 2020

Our Service

THE WELCOME (*Pastor Joel Tullberg*)

ORDER OF SERVICE: Based on the Service of the Word (CW page 38)

INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Lord + Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

C: And also with you.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: We have come into the presence of God, who created us to love and serve him as his dear children. But we have disobeyed him and deserve only his wrath and punishment. Therefore, let us confess our sins to him and plead for his mercy.

C: Merciful Father in heaven, I am altogether sinful from birth. In countless ways I have sinned against you and do not deserve to be called your child. But trusting in Jesus, my Savior, I pray: Have mercy on me according to your unfailing love. Cleanse me from my sin, and take away my guilt.

P: God, our heavenly Father, has forgiven all your sins. By the perfect life and innocent death of our Lord Jesus Christ, he has removed your guilt forever. You are his own dear child. May God give you strength to live according to his will.

C: Amen.

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY:

P: Eternal God and Father, help us to remember Jesus, who obeyed your will and bore the cross for our salvation that through his anguish, pain, and death we may receive forgiveness of sins and inherit eternal life; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

THE CHILDREN'S OBJECT LESSON

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

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THE OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: EZEKIEL 37:1-14

The hand of the LORD was upon me. He brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of a valley, which was full of bones. ²He had me pass through them and go all over among them. There were very many on the valley floor, and they were very dry.

³He said to me, "Son of man, can these dry bones live?" I answered, "LORD God, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy to these bones and say to them, 'Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD.' "

⁵This is what the LORD God says to these bones.

I am about to make breath enter you so that you will live. ⁶I will attach tendons to you. I will put flesh back on you. I will cover you with skin and put breath in you, and you will live. Then you will know that I am the LORD.

⁷So I prophesied as I had been commanded, and as I was prophesying there was a noise, a rattling, as the bones came together, one bone connecting to another. ⁸As I watched, tendons were attached to them, then flesh grew over them, and skin covered them. But there was no breath in them.

⁹Then he said to me, “Prophesy to the wind. Prophesy, son of man, and say to the wind that this is what the LORD God says. From the four winds, come, O wind, and breathe into these slain so that they may live.”

¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me. Breath entered them, and they came back to life. They stood on their feet, a very, very large army.

¹¹Then he said to me, “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They are saying, ‘Our bones are dried up. Our hope is lost. We have been completely cut off.’ ¹²Therefore, prophesy and say to them that this is what the LORD God says. My people, I am going to open your graves and raise you up from your graves and bring you back to the soil of Israel. ¹³Then you will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and raise you up from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴I will put my Spirit in you, and you will live. I will settle you on your own land, and you will know that I, the LORD, have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.”

THE EPISTLE LESSON: ROMANS 8:11-19

¹¹And if the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will also make your mortal bodies alive through his Spirit, who is dwelling in you.

¹²So then, brothers, we do not owe it to the sinful flesh to live in harmony with it. ¹³For if you live in harmony with the sinful flesh, you are going to die. But if by the Spirit you put to death the actions of the body, you will live.

¹⁴Indeed, those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive a spirit of slavery so that you are afraid again, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we call out, “*Abba*, Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself joins our spirit in testifying that we are God’s children.

¹⁷Now if we are children, we are also heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, since we suffer with him, so that we may also be glorified with him.

¹⁸For I conclude that our sufferings at the present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is going to be revealed to us. ¹⁹In fact, creation is waiting with eager longing for the sons of God to be revealed.

THE GOSPEL LESSON: JOHN 11:17-27, 38-45

¹⁷When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days.

¹⁸Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles away. ¹⁹Many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them concerning their brother.

²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary was sitting in the house.

²¹Martha said to Jesus, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you.”

²³Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.”

²⁴Martha replied, “I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the Last Day.”

²⁵Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies.

²⁶And whoever lives and believes in me will never perish. Do you believe this?”

²⁷“Yes, Lord,” she told him. “I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world.”

³⁸Jesus was deeply moved again as he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.

³⁹“Take away the stone,” he said.

Martha, the dead man’s sister, told him, “Lord, by this time there will be an odor, because it has been four days.”

⁴⁰Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” ⁴¹So they took away the stone.

Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

⁴⁴The man who had died came out with his feet and his hands bound with strips of linen and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus told them, "Loose him and let him go."

⁴⁵Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him.

SERMON HYMN: 214 "Jerusalem the Golden"

Jerusalem the golden, with milk and honey blest—

The sight of it refreshes The weary and oppressed.

I know not, oh, I know not What joys await us there,

What radiancy of glory, What bliss beyond compare.

They stand, those halls of Zion, All jubilant with song

And bright with many an angel And all the martyr throng.

The Prince is ever in them; The daylight is serene;

The pastures of the blessed Are ever rich and green.

There is the throne of David, And there, from care released,

The shout of them that triumph, The song of them that feast;

And they who with their leader Have conquered in the fight

Forever and forever Are clad in robes of white.

Oh, sweet and blessed country, The home of God's elect!

Oh, sweet and blessed country That eager hearts expect!

Jesus, in mercy bring us To that dear land of rest;

You are with God the Father And Spirit ever blest.

THE SERMON TEXT (OLD TESTAMENT LESSON): EZEKIEL 37:1-14

THE SERMON

(Following the sermon)

P: The peace of God which transcends understanding will guard your hearts and minds through faith in Christ Jesus. Amen.

CONFESSION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty.

From there he will come 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.

THE PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: O Holy Spirit, we thank and praise you for the life you have given us. You have taken our dry and dead spiritual bones and clothed them with strength and hope. You have put joy in our hearts and peace in our souls by making that which Jesus did our own through faith in him.

C: Receive our hymns of praise and look with favor on your people.

P: Lord Jesus, we sometimes wrestle with the seeming conflict between what you have said and what we see before us in our lives. Like Mary and Martha who struggled to reconcile the fact that their brother was dead with your promise that his sickness would not end in death, we can find ourselves at a loss as to what we are to believe.

C: Remind us that you are the One who rose from the dead. Keep us hoping in you and trusting your promises even though our situation might seem hopeless. Enable us to see and believe that you always will be true to your word.

P: Heavenly Father, you have declared us to be your sons and daughters through the work of Jesus our Savior. Help us to be ones who live up to the name that you have given us. If there are sufferings that come to us because we believe in you, make us willing to bear them by reminding us of the greater glory that awaits us.

C: We are unable to gather for worship today as we usually do. Be with us in our various circumstances. Keep those in good health safe from contagion. Restore to wholeness those who are sick. Ease the concerns of those who worry because they are personally affected by these unsettled times. Use our present difficulties to move those who have wandered from your side to return to you. Protect from harm those who must on a daily basis serve those who are victims of the virus.

P: There have always been those, O Lord, who have used your name falsely to try to profit for themselves and in so doing have brought dishonor on your name. It is no different now as false prophets seek to profit from the spread of the coronavirus or mislead people as to what it means. Their words and actions distress us.

C: Enable us who know the truth to give answer to their errors. Do not let those who are ignorant of your Word be misled by what is false. Cause your glory to be known in the world.

P: Lord God, you have given us the privilege of calling you "Abba," and encouraged us to pray as boldly to you as some five-year olds do when they ask their earthly fathers for something they want or need. It is in that confidence that we pray as your Son has taught us:

LORD'S PRAYER: *(Spoken by the congregation)*

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.

THE CLOSING PRAYER

P: Dear Lord, thank you for comforting us with your gospel. Teach us to share your love and truth with others so that we can carry each other's burdens and be a blessing to those who do not yet know the rest which only you can give. Amen.

THE CLOSING BLESSING

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and +give you peace. Amen

CLOSING HYMN: 110 "My Song Is Love Unknown"

**My song is love unknown, / My Savior's love to me,
Love to the loveless shown / That they might lovely be,
Oh, who am I / That for my sake
My Lord should take / Frail flesh and die?**

**He came from his blest throne / Salvation to bestow,
But such disdain! / So few The longed- for Christ would know!
But oh, my friend, / My friend indeed,
Who at my need / His life did spend.**

**Sometimes they strew his way / And his sweet praises sing
Resounding all the day / Hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!" / Is all their breath,
And for his death / They thirst and cry.**

**Why? What has my Lord done? / What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run; / He gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries! / Yet they at these
Themselves displease / And 'gainst him rise.**

**They rise and needs will have / My dear Lord made away.
A murderer they save; / The Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he / To suffering goes
That he his foes / From death might free.**

**In life no house, no home / My Lord on earth might have;
In death no friendly tomb / But what a stranger gave.
What may I say? / Heav'n was his home
But mine the tomb / Wherein he lay.**

**Here might I stay and sing: / No story so divine,
Never was love, dear King, / Never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, / In whose sweet praise
I all my days / Could gladly spend!**

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Believing that God has called us to "Go and make disciples of all nations" (Matthew 28:19), we at Shepherd of the Hills will share God's Word through daily contacts and outreach to the community and beyond, while providing a caring and nurturing atmosphere in which to learn more about our Savior and to better serve Him.

PLEASE CONTACT PASTOR:

If you will be going into the hospital, please let either Pastor Burger or Pastor Tullberg know so that they can visit you. Please also let one of them know when any friends or acquaintances of the congregation are ill. If you would like a special prayer offered for a friend, relative, etc. during the worship service, please inform Pastor Burger or Pastor Tullberg. Both pastors are also available for counseling as needed.