

SERVICE ORDER AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARCH 7, 2021

THE THIRD SUNDAY IN LENT

SERVICE ORDER

Opening Music: # 324 vs. 1,2,4 “In the Cross of Christ I Glory”

Welcome and Announcements

Prayer of the Day: Holy God, through your Son you have called us to live faithfully and act courageously. Keep us steadfast in your covenant of grace, and teach us the wisdom that comes only through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Lesson John 2:13-22

¹³The Passover of the Jews was near, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem. ¹⁴In the temple he found people selling cattle, sheep, and doves, and the money changers seated at their tables. ¹⁵Making a whip of cords, he drove all of them out of the temple, both the sheep and the cattle. He also poured out the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. ¹⁶He told those who were selling the doves, “Take these things out of here! Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace!” ¹⁷His disciples remembered that it was written, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” ¹⁸The Jews then said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” ¹⁹Jesus answered them, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” ²⁰The Jews then said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and will you raise it up in three days?” ²¹But he was speaking of the temple of his body. ²²After he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this; and they believed the scripture and the word that Jesus had spoken.

Bell Anthem: “I Love You, Lord”

Sermon

Sermon hymn: # 801 “Change My Heart, O God” (sing twice)

Prayer: Relying on the promises of God, we pray boldly for the church, the world, and all in need.

You call us to proclaim Christ crucified. Give clarity to this congregation and our leaders, so that we might follow Christ beyond our own habits and comfort. Clear out anything in our common life that would obscure the gospel or that serves our own interests. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

The heavens declare your glory. Renew your creation. Provide leaders in the struggle for clean air and water; protect creatures and crops that rely on healthy ecosystems; give all people the willingness to repent when our way of life pollutes the earth and skies. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your foolishness is wiser than human wisdom. Fill leaders with the foolishness of your peace and mercy. Your law defends the vulnerable. Work through legislators, judicial systems, and systems of law enforcement to protect the wellbeing and freedom of all. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Your weakness is stronger than human strength. Protect those who are vulnerable and give courage to all who are suffering. Give sabbath rest to all who labor. Bring peace and healing to those battling illnesses and deep consolation to those who are grieving. Bring an end to this global pandemic and restore the health of this world. Hear us, O God.

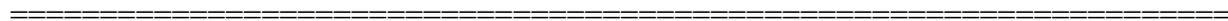
Your mercy is great.

We entrust ourselves and all our prayers to you, O faithful God, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Benediction

Closing Music: # 342, vs. 1,4,6 “There in God’s Garden”



WORSHIP LEADERS

Pastor Susan Berge Church Musicians: Lawrence Burkhard and Karen Johnson
Lector: Phil Berge Videographer: Scott Shelerud
Special Music: Knife River Ringers; Sam Black, director



ANNOUNCEMENTS:

KNIFE RIVER PRAYER LIST

In need of healing: Veronica Persons, Susan Anderson, Elsa Keeler, Becca Kuechle, Les Bolen, Fred Wright, Reid Carson, Kayla Davidson, Archie Moore, Pastor John Reppe, Faith Swanson, Seth Goodnature, Pat Hovis, Sarah Monaghan, Melyssa Bloom, DeWayne and Maurine Rubedor, Bill Crandall, Ella Jackson, Miranda and baby David Jackson, Blair Raycraft, Del Hubbartt, Susan Hubbartt, Phil Berge, Harriet Dahl, Sara Ojard, Amy Hatton-Walters, Carol Carlson, Tom Gould, Dick Sigel, Gail Safstrom, Diane Friebe, Dave Olin, Kevin Roby, Yanco and Acuzio Bissell

Long Term Concerns: Sue Sigel, Laurie Jackson, David Pierce, Jan Moon, Pat Hanson, Dani Mattson, Lyle Northey, Leif Zmolek, Kane Bolen, Aspen Winbigler, Deb Allert, Peggy B., Corine Sutherland, Dennis Swanson

OPPORTUNITIES THIS WEEK

Today, Sunday, March 7: Virtual Worship

10:00 AM -Council Meeting

1:00 PM-Bell rehearsal (at church)

Monday, March 8-Lenten email study(see below)

Tuesday, March 9: 9 AM - Lectio Divina/Dig Deeper online

6:PM-W/ELCA meets online (see below)

Wednesday, March 10-Midweek devotion

6 PM-Lenten evening study online (see below)

Sunday, March 14- Virtual Worship

W/ELCA MEETS TUESDAY EVENING

Our Women's Group will meet Tuesday evening at 6 PM. We'll look at the study on Angels in your March Gather magazine. If you don't receive the online link to join us via email, contact Sandra Bjorum or Kay Bloom. All are welcome, whether you have the study in hand or not!

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SMART TEAM/COUNCIL UPDATE

In February, our Council passed two important recommendations from our Smart Team. These recommendations were made –after thoughtful deliberation and considerable discussion--as a result of the greatly reduced number of cases of Covid-19 both statewide and in our area, the greatly reduced positivity rate of the virus in the state and in our area, and the increasing number of those vaccinated in our state and area. These recommendations, made by the Smart Team and approved by the Council, are as follows:

Recommendation 1: We recommend that our church building be once again open to use by small groups of 10 or less under the precautions set forth in earlier approved recommendations, including safe distancing, wearing masks, signing in, using hand sanitizer, no food consumed or kitchen use, meeting downstairs in lower level and using that door whenever possible. This would take effect Feb. 21.

Recommendation 2: We recommend that we proceed on the idea of in-building worship starting up again the Sunday following Easter, April 11, under appropriate precautions and guidelines similar to those of recommendation 1, but allowing for greater numbers. If this is approved by the council as a tentative goal, then the Smart Team, the Worship Committee, and the Tech Team will all go ahead and make concrete plans to be provided to the council by the March 7 meeting for further discussion. This recommendation also allows for funerals and Holy Baptisms for groups of 25 or less to occur, as had earlier been adopted by the Council, prior to the surge of the virus in November and December.

IMPORTANT NOTES ABOUT THESE RECOMMENDATIONS:

Here are some things that we will be considering as a Smart Team, a Worship Committee, a Church Council, and a congregation as we move forward with these recommendations: we will need to find and train ushers specifically for this time of transitional worship; we will need to find a way to continue our online worship services for those unable to attend; we will need to determine safe arrangements for seating in the sanctuary; we will need to find the best ways to slowly phase back into activities like hand shaking, coffee fellowship, children's involvement, and so on.

FURTHERMORE, if the situation changes and coronavirus numbers begin to surge again, we will immediately step back from these recommendations.

ABOVE ALL, KEEP IN MIND:

*Our initial worship experience will NOT be just like worship had been prior to March of 2020. We will be masked, distanced, unable to sing hymns, unable to share coffee time afterwards. We need to have realistic expectations and be patient with the process that over time will eventually and safely allow for all of those wonderful things we so miss!

*Many will not feel initially comfortable with returning to in-building worship, and that is completely understandable and, in some cases, wise! No one is going to be judged for the choice they make, and no one is going to be overlooked! WE WILL CONTINUE to provide online worship services for those unable to attend in-building. These online services will also likely be different at first as we figure out how to do things differently. Again, patience and more realistic expectations will be essential!

START-UP USHERS/LECTORS:

An important component of the safety and success of the start up will be finding and training ushers specifically for the time of transitional worship. If you might envision yourself as one of those specially trained ushers, please contact Melanie at mc100000@aol.com at your earliest convenience. We am in no way encouraging anyone who does not feel initially comfortable with returning to in-building worship to consider serving as a transitional usher. However, if you are comfortable and able to participate in the training, please do let Melanie know!

In addition, if you are currently on the lector list and would consider in-house lectoring once we re-start in April, please also let Melanie know at your earliest convenience. (No special training needed.)

LENTEN STUDY OPPORTUNITIES:

Wednesday Evening Lenten Book Study on Zoom Meeting at Six

There is still plenty of room and time to join the study of **Plenty Good Room: A Lenten Bible Study Based on African American Spirituals** by Marilyn E. Thornton and Lewis V. Baldwin. The first of six **one-hour meetings** is **February 24th**. If you can't join right at **6:00 pm**, that is okay. During the meeting, we will visit, listen to spiritual music and reflect on the reading (seven

pages/week). Past Lenten studies at Knife River Lutheran Church included a simple soup supper. In that tradition, participants are welcome to eat dinner during the Zoom meeting.

The book is available in paperback and in Kindle format from AMAZON (\$9.99). Barnes & Noble at the Duluth location estimates delivery time to be less than two weeks. Local booksellers may also be able to order the book

If you are interested in joining the Zoom meetings, please send e-mail to randi.alreck@gmail.com or text to 218-349-3788. The Zoom ID and password will be sent to you.

LENTEN STUDY FROM LYLE NORTHEY

Due to the pandemic, we will not have in-person Lenten Bible studies, but 4 revised lessons on the Gospel of Mark will be available to anyone who wishes to receive one. Ash Wednesday begins early this year, February 17th, and our first of four will go out on Monday, February 22nd with the others on the three succeeding Mondays. If interested please send Lyle Northey (northeys@frontiernet.net) your desire to have a copy sent to your e-mail box.

NEW OPTION FOR ONLINE OFFERING

We are now offering the option to submit your weekly offerings online. Simply click on the link on the church's home page that states "NEW: Make online donation here via Subsplash" and watch for the link on upcoming YouTube videos. Make a one-time donation, or set up a recurring offering that allows you to support the church even when you're away.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

In order to be united with your offering envelopes, please call Melanie and arrange a pick up time. Thanks!

PHOTO REQUESTS FOR ONLINE WORSHIP

We are asking people NOT to submit pictures of children without parents' permission. It is also important NOT to submit pictures from magazines, websites or sources that may be under copyright or ownership of others. Original photos preferred. Thank you!!

WHO ARE WE MISSING?

We are attempting to cast our net wide in sending out these emails, along with postings on Facebook and our church website. Additionally, we are sending snail mail copies to those who are without online resources. If you know of someone we are missing, please let us know, so we may include them too!

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MASK MESSAGE FROM JOANIE LEE We continue to make masks, and realize that masks wear out from wearing and washing. Please don't hesitate to ask for replacements. We have plenty. Contact at joanielee14@gmail.com

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