



+ Midweek Lenten 3 +
Wednesday, March 6, 2024



Welcome! We are glad you are worshipping the Lord with us today!

Midweek Lenten Meditative Worship

Wednesday, March 6, 2024

Fruit of the Spirit: Faithfulness

FROM THE LAY ELDER-DEACONS: Welcome to Messiah. We want to make sure your worship experience goes well. So just as a reminder, ***please have cellphones ringers off during worship. Please remove hats, no earbuds, no gaming, no texting, and no social media. If you need to use your phone or have a conversation with someone, please excuse yourself from the sanctuary. Thank you.***

FOR YOUR CONVENIENCE: Live audio of the worship service is available in the room next to the Narthex. It is located just off the Narthex in the back of the sanctuary. The room has a bathroom. This room is a safe place for anxious children (or adults) to go and still be a part of the worship service.

Prayer before worship: (Please pray silently): *O Heavenly Father, as we gather in Your house to receive the gift of forgiveness through Your Word, guard us from vain and distracting thoughts. Grant us pause from our busy lives. Open our hearts so that we are receptive to the proclamation of life with Your Son, and do not close our ears to the offering of salvation. In Jesus' Name I pray. Amen.* (Adapted from **Right Worship of God** prayer in *Portals of Prayer*, April through June, 2011)

PRELUDE

WORSHIP THEME: Lent is a time of internal reflection on our lives: our thoughts, words, and deeds. You look inwardly to see the real you, and to have the Word of God help you focus on better ways to live more obedient lives for Christ's glory.

"Dining on the Fruit of Spirit." We continue to explore 9 characteristics that make up the Fruit of the Holy Spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23. These are how the Holy Spirit is working in us to be more like Jesus. Tonight, you will receive a fruit tree and a piece of fruit to put on that tree.

This week, we explore the Holy Spirit's Fruit of Faithfulness. What exactly is faithfulness? How does the Lord show His faithfulness to you? And how can you show His faithfulness to others? Let the Holy Spirit help you discern these for your life today, so you can see God's faithfulness working in you, every day.

OFFERING: ***Please put your offering in the plates at the entrance. Thank you for your support.***

PRELUDE

WELCOME – WORSHIP THEME – GREETING OTHERS WITH THE KINDNESS OF CHRIST

Bible Verse for Lent: *James 1:12 NIV*

P: Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test,

C: that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.

P: God love you as you worship Him to persevere, being blessed with a stronger faith.

(Lighting of the candles...to symbolize the special presence of Christ when we invoke the Name of God in which we were baptized.)

Adapted from the Order of Vespers from the Lutheran Service Book

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

C: Amen.

P: O Lord, open my lips.

C: And my mouth will declare Your praise.

P: Make haste, O God to deliver me.

C: Make haste to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever.

P: World without end.

C: Amen.

P: Praise to You, O Christ.

C: The King who comes to save us.

(Adapted from Psalm 40 ESV. A Psalm of David)

P: I waited patiently for You, O Lord; You inclined to me and heard my cry.

**C: You drew me up from the pit of destruction, out of the miry bog,
and set my feet upon a rock, making my steps secure.**

P: You put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear,
and put their trust in You.

**C: Blessed is the one who makes the Lord their trust, who does not turn to the proud,
to those who go astray after a lie!**

P: You have multiplied, O Lord my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us;
none can compare with You!

C: I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.

P: I have told the glad news of deliverance in the great congregation; behold, I have

not restrained my lips, as You know, O Lord.

C: I have not hidden Your deliverance within my heart;

I have spoken of Your faithfulness and Your salvation;

P: I have not concealed Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness from the great congregation.

C: As for you, O Lord, You will not restrain your mercy from me; Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness will ever preserve me!

P: For evils have encompassed me beyond number; my iniquities have overtaken me, and I cannot see; they are more than the hairs of my head; my heart fails me.

C: Be pleased, O Lord, to deliver me! O Lord, make haste to help me!

P: But may all who seek You rejoice and be glad in You; may those who love Your salvation say continually, "Great is the Lord!"

C: As for me, I am poor and needy, but You, O Lord, take thought for me.

P: You are my help and my deliverer; do not delay, O my God!

HYMN OF THE NIGHT....."Great is Thy Faithfulness"....BROWN 43 (To read the notes)

1. Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,
There is no shadow of turning with Thee;
Thou changest not, Thy compassions, they fail not;
As Thou hast been Thou for ever wilt be.

Refrain:

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Great is Thy faithfulness!

Morning by morning new mercies I see;

All I have needed Thy hand hath provided —

Great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!

2. Summer and winter, and springtime and harvest,
Sun, moon and stars in their courses above
Join with all nature in manifold witness
To Thy great faithfulness, mercy and love. [Refrain]
3. Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thy own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside! [Refrain]

SCRIPTURE READING #1: Galatians 5:22-25 ESV

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³ gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law. ²⁴ And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

²⁵ If we live by the Spirit, let us also keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶ Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another.

SCRIPTURE READING #2: Psalm 89:1-9, 24-26 ESV

¹ I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever;
with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.

² For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever;
in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."

³ You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one;
I have sworn to David my servant:

⁴ "I will establish your offspring forever,
and build your throne for all generations."

⁵ Let the heavens praise your wonders, O LORD,
your faithfulness in the assembly of the holy ones!

⁶ For who in the skies can be compared to the LORD?
Who among the heavenly beings is like the LORD,

⁷ a God greatly to be feared in the council of the holy ones,
and awesome above all who are around him?

⁸ O LORD God of hosts,
who is mighty as you are, O LORD,
with your faithfulness all around you?

⁹ You rule the raging of the sea;
when its waves rise, you still them.

²⁴ My faithfulness and my steadfast love shall be with him,
and in my name shall his horn be exalted.

²⁵ I will set his hand on the sea
and his right hand on the rivers.

²⁶ He shall cry to me, 'You are my Father,
my God, and the Rock of my salvation.'

SCRIPTURE READING #3: Lamentations 3:19-26 ESV

¹⁹ Remember my affliction and my wanderings,
the wormwood and the gall!

²⁰ My soul continually remembers it
and is bowed down within me.

- ²¹ But this I call to mind,
and therefore I have hope:
²² The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases;
his mercies never come to an end;
²³ they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
²⁴ "The LORD is my portion," says my soul,
"therefore I will hope in him."
²⁵ The LORD is good to those who wait for him,
to the soul who seeks him.
²⁶ It is good that one should wait quietly
for the salvation of the LORD.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY: "The Promises of God's Faithfulness" Text: Lamentations 3:19-26

RESPONSORY FOR LENT:

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God for You are the God of my salvation.

C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

P: In You O Lord, do I put my trust, leave me not, O Lord, my God.

C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

P: Deliver me, O Lord, my God, for You are the God of my salvation.

C: Rescue me from my enemies, protect me from those who rise against me.

(Please be seated)

PRAYERS FROM THE PEW

(At the end of each prayer petition)

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense.

C: And the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice.

At the conclusion of the prayers, if you are able, please stand)

KYRIE (as sung to the tune in RED page 7)

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom as you have taught us to pray:

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.

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.

COLLECT FOR PEACE

ANNOUNCEMENTS: *Now that we better appreciate God's everlasting blessings, here are some suggestions for ways we can show that thanksgiving through service and participating in our congregation.*

BENEDICTION

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God the Father and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN..... "I Will Sing of the Mercies of the Lord".....BROWN 457

(As the candles are extinguished, the acolyte/elder lights the taper from one of the candles to symbolize the light of Christ going with us as we leave to live our vocations in life, taking Christ's love out into the world. Please follow the light and the cross as they recess.)

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord, forever

I will sing, I will sing

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord, forever

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

With my mouth will I make known Thy faithfulness, Thy faithfulness

With my mouth will I make known, Thy faithfulness to all generations

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord, forever

I will sing, I will sing

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord, forever

I will sing of the mercies of the Lord.

P: With the light of Christ, go with the peace of the Holy Spirit to live His faithfulness to others.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Today's hymns used by permission of CCLI License # 11015399

ESV: English Standard Version

BROWN: The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration

RED: The Lutheran Hymnal

Wednesday Midweek Lenten Fellowship Suppers

Wednesdays, March 13, and 20 from 5:45-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall.

Menu for Wednesday, March 13 hosted by the Evangelism Committee

- Lasagna
- Salad
- Garlic Bread
- Dessert
- Water and Coffee



Upcoming Events at Messiah

- Fridays, March 8, 15, and 22: **5-7pm – Fish Fry Dinners**
- Saturday, March 9 at 9am – Men's Group in Downstairs Conference Room
- Sunday, March 10 at 2pm: Merger Consideration Meeting at Trinity
- Tuesday, March 12 at 7pm: **Parish Planning Council Meeting** – downstairs Conference Room
- Wednesdays, March 13, and 20: **5:45pm – Lenten Suppers**
- Weds. March 13, and 20: **7pm – Midweek Lenten Services:**
Fruit of the Holy Spirit continues
- Sunday, March 17: **Congregational Meeting** after 9am worship; no 11am service
- Sunday, March 17: LWML Hosts Fellowship Time
- Thurs, March 21 at 5:30pm: **Ladies Bible Study** in downstairs Conference Room
- **Palm Sunday** Services, March 24: 9am and 11am, and Wednesday, March 27 at 7pm
- **Maundy Thursday**, March 28 at 7pm with Holy Communion and stripping of Altar
- **Good Friday**, March 29: **Tre Ore** Noon to 3pm at Trinity in Beloit
Tenabrae Service at 7pm at Messiah
- **Easter Sunday**, March 31 at 9am and 11am, and Wednesday, April 3 at 7pm

Messiah Lutheran Church

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-Noon