



**Christ's
Gentleness:
His
Harnesses
Strength
for You**

+ Midweek Lenten 4 +
Wednesday, March 13, 2024



**Messiah Lutheran
Church**

1531 Townline Ave. Beloit, WI
(608) 365-3794

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

Midweek Lenten Meditative Worship

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

Fruit of the Spirit: Gentleness

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 Gentleness. Often this trait is seen as weak. In fact other words used to describe gentleness in the dictionary are "docile," "delicate," and "soft." But gentleness in the biblical sense is not those. In fact, it is the opposite. It has more of the idea of a "harnessed strength." What exactly is that? And how can you live Christ's harnessed strength in a world where it seems those with the most power have control over you? May the Holy Spirit through His Word help you tonight to possess Christ's powerful gentleness for your life.

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 18:30-36 ESV. A Psalm of David)

P: You O God—Your way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true;

You are a shield for all those who take refuge in You.

C: For who is God, but You O Lord? And who is a rock, except our God?—

P: the God who equipped me with strength

and made my way blameless.

C: You made my feet like the feet of a deer and set me secure on the heights.

P: You train my hands for war, so that my arms can bend a bow of bronze.

**C: You have given me the shield of your salvation,
and your right hand supported me,
and your gentleness made me great.**

P: You gave a wide place for my steps under me, and my feet did not slip.

(Please be seated)

HYMN OF THE NIGHT: "Softly and Tenderly" (Notes in Brown Hymnal #326)

1. Softly and tenderly Jesus is calling,
Calling for you and for me;
See, on the portals He's waiting and watching,
Watching for you and for me.

Refrain: Come home, come home,
You who are weary, come home;
Earnestly, tenderly, Jesus is calling,
Calling, O sinner, come home!

2. Why should we tarry when Jesus is pleading,
Pleading for you and for me?
Why should we linger and heed not His mercies,
Mercies for you and for me? [Refrain]
3. Time is now fleeting, the moments are passing,
Passing from you and from me;
Shadows are gathering, death's night is coming,
Coming for you and for me. [Refrain]
4. O for the wonderful love He has promised,
Promised for you and for me!
Though we have sinned, He has mercy and pardon,
Pardon for you and for me. [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: 1 Timothy 6:6-12 ESV

⁶ But godliness with contentment is great gain, ⁷ for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. ⁸ But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content. ⁹ But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation, into a snare, into many senseless and harmful desires that plunge people into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰ For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evils. It is through this craving that some have wandered away from the faith and pierced themselves with many pangs.

¹¹ But as for you, O man of God, flee these things. Pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, steadfastness, gentleness. ¹² Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

SCRIPTURE READING #3: Ephesians 4:1-6 ESV

¹ I therefore, a prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which you have been called, ² with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love, ³ eager to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit—just as you were called to the one hope that belongs to your call— ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism, ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

SCRIPTURE READING #4: Matthew 11:28-30 ESV

Jesus said: ²⁸ Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹ Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. ³⁰ For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

HOMILY: “Fruit of Gentleness: Harnessed Strength from Christ ”

Text: Matthew 11:28-30

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..... "Be Still My Soul"LSB 752

(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.)



1 Be still, my soul; the Lord is on your side; Bear pa - tient-
 2 Be still, my soul; your God will un - der - take To guide the
 3 Be still, my soul; though dear - est friends de - part And all is
 4 Be still, my soul; the hour is has - t'ning on When we shall



ly the cross of grief or pain; Leave to your God to or - der
 fu - ture as He has the past. Your hope, your con - fi - dence let
 dark - ened in this vale of tears; Then you will bet - ter know His
 be for - ev - er with the Lord, When dis - ap - point - ment, grief, and



and pro - vide; In ev - 'ry change He faith - ful will re -
 noth - ing shake; All now mys - te - rious shall be bright at
 love, His heart, Who comes to soothe your sor - rows and your
 fear are gone, Sor - row for - got, love's pur - est joys re -



main. Be still, my soul; your best, your heav'n - ly Friend
 last. Be still, my soul; the waves and winds still know
 fears. Be still, my soul; your Je - sus can re - pay
 stored. Be still, my soul; when change and tears are past,



Through thorn - y ways leads to a joy - ful end.
 His voice who ruled them while He dwelt be - low.
 From His own full - ness all He takes a - way.
 All safe and bless - ed we shall meet at last.

P: With the light of Christ, go in the peace of the Holy Spirit with the harnessed strength to live His gentleness.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ESV: English Standard Version

BROWN: The Hymnal for Worship and Celebration

RED: The Lutheran Hymnal

FINAL Wednesday Midweek Lenten Fellowship Supper

Wednesday, March 20 from 5:45-6:30pm in the Fellowship Hall. Hosted by Kolanders, Vickie Dansbury, Mary Lou Palmer and Susie Waters

Menu:

- Pulled Pork
- Cole Slaw
- Dessert
- Water, Punch, and Coffee



Upcoming Events at Messiah

- Fridays, March 15, and 22: **5-7pm – Fish Fry Dinners**
- Wednesdays, March 20: **5:45pm – Lenten Suppers concludes**
- Sunday, March 17: **Congregational Meeting** after 9am worship; no 11am service
- Sunday, March 17: LWML Hosts Fellowship Time
- Wed. March 20: **7pm – Midweek Lenten Services: Fruit of the Holy Spirit ends**
- 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
- Sunday, April 7 at 11am: Sunday School Children ring Handbells
- **Sunday, April 14 at 9:00 a.m. only.** (No 11a.m. service) Joint worship at St. John's, 1000 Bluff St. with joint fellowship discussion following worship. **Sunday School there as well.**
- **Sunday, April 21 at 9:00 a.m. only** (No 11 a.m. service) Joint worship at Trinity, 1850 Cranston Rd with joint fellowship discussion following worship. **Sunday School there as well.**
- **Sunday, April 28 at 9:00 a.m. only** (No 11 a.m. service). Joint worship at Messiah with joint fellowship discussion following worship. **Sunday School**

Messiah Lutheran Church

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YouTube Channel: **Messiah Lutheran Beloit**

Prayer Line: 608-365-4724

Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9am-Noon