



+ Midweek Lenten 5 +  
Wednesday, March 20, 2024



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

# Midweek Lenten Meditative Worship

Wednesday, March 20, 2024

## Fruit of the Spirit: Self-Control

**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."** Tonight we conclude our 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. You will receive the last piece of fruit to put on that tree.

This week, we explore the Holy Spirit's Fruit of Self-Control. We are tempted to take fleshy desires and give into them without any regard for the guardrails the Lord puts in place to keep us from trespassing, going where we shouldn't. Tonight, the Word of God will guide our restraint like a Shepherd Staff and Rod to offer us comfort and confidence as we face the desires of our bodies, minds, and spirits. May the Holy Spirit through His Word help you tonight to exercise self-control in showing that you're Christ's winner.

**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.**

### **HYMN OF THE NIGHT: "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" LSB 685 verses 1 and 2**

1. Let us ever walk with Jesus  
Follow His example pure  
Through a world that would deceive us  
And to sin our spirits lure  
Onward in His footsteps treading  
Pilgrims here our home above  
Full of faith and hope and love  
Let us do the Father's bidding

Faithful Lord, with me abide;  
I shall follow where You guide.

2. Let us suffer here with Jesus  
And with patience bear our cross.  
Joy will follow-all our sadness;  
Where He is, there is no loss.  
Though today we sow no laughter,  
We shall reap celestial joy:  
All discomforts that annoy  
Shall give way to mirth hereafter.  
Jesus, here I share Your woe;  
Help me there Your joy to know.

*(Please be seated)*

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

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

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

### **SCRIPTURE READING #2: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 ESV**

<sup>24</sup> Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. <sup>25</sup> Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable. <sup>26</sup> So I do not run aimlessly; I do not box as one beating the air. <sup>27</sup> But I discipline my body and keep it under control, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

### **SCRIPTURE READING #3: 2 Timothy 3:1-5 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> But understand this, that in the last days there will come times of difficulty. <sup>2</sup> For people will be lovers of self, lovers of money, proud, arrogant, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, <sup>3</sup> heartless, unappeasable, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not loving good, <sup>4</sup> treacherous, reckless, swollen with conceit, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, <sup>5</sup> having the appearance of godliness, but denying its power. Avoid such people.

## **SCRIPTURE READING #4: 2 Peter 1:1-9 ESV**

<sup>1</sup> Simeon Peter, a servant and apostle of Jesus Christ,

To those who have obtained a faith of equal standing with ours by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ:

<sup>2</sup> May grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.

<sup>3</sup> His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, <sup>4</sup> by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire. <sup>5</sup> For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge, <sup>6</sup> and knowledge with self-control, and self-control with steadfastness, and steadfastness with godliness, <sup>7</sup> and godliness with brotherly affection, and brotherly affection with love. <sup>8</sup> For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they keep you from being ineffective or unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. <sup>9</sup> For whoever lacks these qualities is so nearsighted that he is blind, having forgotten that he was cleansed from his former sins.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **HOMILY: "Exercising Self-Control: To Show You're Christ's Winner"**

**Texts: 1 Corinthians 9:24-27 and 2 Peter 1:1-9**

### **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: "Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus" LSB 685 verses 3 and 4**

*(Please turn and follow the light of Christ as the acolyte recesses.)*

3. Let us gladly die with Jesus.  
Since by death He conquered death  
He will free us from destruction  
Give to us immortal breath  
Let us mortify all passion  
That would lead us into sin;  
And the grave that shuts us in  
Shall but prove the gate to Heaven.  
Jesus, here with You I die  
There to live with You on high.

4. Let us also live with Jesus.  
He has risen from the dead  
That to life we may awaken  
Jesus, You are now our head.  
We are Your own living members;  
Where You live, there we shall be  
In Your presence constantly  
Living there with You forever.  
Jesus, let me faithful be  
Life eternal grant to me

P: With the light of Christ, go in the peace of the Holy Spirit with Self-Control to show others  
You're Christ's Winner.

**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

## **Upcoming Events at Messiah**

- **THIS Thurs** at 5:30pm: **Ladies Bible Study** in downstairs Conference Room
- **THIS Friday:** 5-7pm – **LAST Fish Fry Dinner. Lots of prizes being given away**
  
- **Palm Sunday** Services, March 24: 9am and 11am, and Wednesday, March 27 at 7pm  
**Theme: "Strength for the Weary"**
  
- Thursday, March 28: 3:30-5:30pm: **Food Pantry** open
  
- **Maundy Thursday**, March 28 at 7pm with Holy Communion and stripping of Altar  
**Theme: "Jesus Gets Me NOT to Forget Me!"**
  
- **Good Friday**, March 29: **Tre Ore** Noon to 3pm at Trinity in Beloit.  
**Pastor Dan preaching in the first hour "Father Forgive them for they know not what they're doing?"** Senior Choir singing
  
- **Good Friday Night - Tenebrae** Service at 7pm at Messiah.  
**Theme: "The Battle of Good and Evil."**

- **Easter Sunday**, March 31 at 9am and 11am, and Wednesday, April 3 at 7pm  
**Theme: "Do You Need to See Jesus to Know He's Alive?"**
- **Easter Brunch:** 10-11:15am: Hosted by Fellowship and Youth
- Sunday, April 7 at 11am: Sunday School Children ring Handbells. **LWML Hosting Fellowship**

**Unity Worship Services and Fellowship Time with St. John's and Trinity Together**

- **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**



Please join your fellow Lutheran brothers and sisters in Christ for our Community **Tre Ore** service, Good Friday, March 29 from Noon to 3pm at Trinity located at 1850 Cranston near Prairie here in Beloit.

Hear preachers from Messiah, St Johns, Trinity, Christ in Clinton, St. Andrews in Rockton, Christ our Savior in Roscoe, Good Shepherd in East Troy, and Our Redeemer in Delavan as they each preach on the Seven last Words Jesus spoke from the Cross during His crucifixion.

Pastor Dan will be preaching in the first hour on **"Father, Forgive them..."** Our Senior Choir will be singing, also.

Please join us for part or all of the three hours of this special service as we better appreciate the Passion of our Lord.

## Messiah Lutheran Church

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