

Midweek
Lenten
Services
Wed at
7pm

Heroes of
the Faith:
Samson- Last
Act Done in
Faith

+ Midweek Lent 5+
Wednesday, March 29, 2023



**Messiah Lutheran
Church**

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

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

Midweek Lenten Meditative Worship

Wednesday, March 29, 2023

Heroes of the Faith – the Sequel – Samson

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, hats off, no, ear buds, no gaming, no texting, or 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 our Crying Room. 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.

Tonight's Midweek Lenten service concludes the **Heroes of the Faith** series as described in Hebrews 11. Our last hero is Samson, who does not act like a hero but a bully, who has anger management issues. However, Samson was strong, but even his power came from the Lord as will be illustrated tonight. Our prayer is that you can see where your true strength resides. And how even sinful people can end their lives in the faith of the Lord.

Thank you to Emil Benz for playing the role of Samson, tonight.

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

WELCOME – WORSHIP THEME – GREET ONE ANOTHER IN THE NAME OF THE LORD

(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 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.

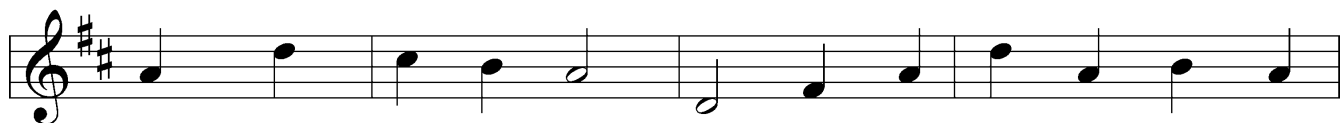
P: Praise to You, O Christ.

C: Lamb of our salvation.

HYMN OF THE DAY: "Thee Will I Love, My Strength, My Tower" LSB 694



1 Thee will I love, my strength, my tow - er; Thee will I
2 Thee will I love, my life, my Sav - ior, Who art my
3 I thank Thee, Je - sus, Sun from heav - en, Whose ra - diance
4 O keep me watch - ful, then, and hum - ble; Per - mit me



love, my hope, my joy. Thee will I love with all my
best and tru - est friend. Thee will I love and praise for -
hath brought light to me; I thank Thee, who hast rich - ly
nev - er - more to stray. Up - hold me when my feet would



pow - er, With ar - dor time shall ne'er de - stroy. Thee will I
 ev - er, For nev - er shall Thy kind - ness end. Thee will I
 giv - en All that could make me glad and free; I thank Thee
 stum - ble, And keep me on the nar - row way. Fill all my



love, O Light di - vine, So long as life is mine.
 love with all my heart— Thou my Re - deem - er art!
 that my soul is healed By what Thy lips re - vealed.
 na - ture with Thy light, O Ra - diance strong and bright!

5 Thee will I love, my crown of gladness;
 Thee will I love, my God and Lord,
 Amid the darkest depths of sadness,
 And not for hope of high reward,
 For Thine own sake, O Light divine,
 So long as life is mine.

SCRIPTURE READING #1: Judges 13:1-5 and 24 ESV

¹And the people of Israel again did what was evil in the sight of the LORD, so the LORD gave them into the hand of the Philistines for forty years.

²There was a certain man of Zorah, of the tribe of the Danites, whose name was Manoah. And his wife was barren and had no children. ³And the angel of the LORD appeared to the woman and said to her, "Behold, you are barren and have not borne children, but you shall conceive and bear a son. ⁴Therefore be careful and drink no wine or strong drink, and eat nothing unclean, ⁵for behold, you shall conceive and bear a son. No razor shall come upon his head, for the child shall be a Nazirite to God from the womb, and he shall begin to save Israel from the hand of the Philistines."

²⁴And the woman bore a son and called his name Samson. And the young man grew, and the LORD blessed him.

SCRIPTURE READING #2: Judges 14:5-8, 10-20 ESV

Samson picks a wife among the Philistines, Israel's enemies, to irritate them.

⁵ Then Samson went down with his father and mother to Timnah, and they came to the vineyards of Timnah. And behold, a young lion came toward him roaring. ⁶ Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and although he had nothing in his hand, he tore the lion in pieces as one tears a young goat. But he did not tell his father or his mother what he had done. ⁷ Then he went down and talked with the woman, and she was right in Samson's eyes.

⁸ After some days he returned to take her.

¹⁰ His father went down to the woman, and Samson prepared a feast there, for so the young men used to do. ¹¹ As soon as the people saw him, they brought thirty companions to be with him. ¹² And Samson said to them, "Let me now put a riddle to you. If you can tell me what it is, within the seven days of the feast, and find it out, then I will give you thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothes, ¹³ but if you cannot tell me what it is, then you shall give me thirty linen garments and thirty changes of clothes." And they said to him, "Put your riddle, that we may hear it." ¹⁴ And he said to them,

"Out of the eater came something to eat.
Out of the strong came something sweet."

And in three days they could not solve the riddle.

¹⁵ On the fourth day they said to Samson's wife, "Entice your husband to tell us what the riddle is, lest we burn you and your father's house with fire. Have you invited us here to impoverish us?" ¹⁶ And Samson's wife wept over him and said, "You only hate me; you do not love me. You have put a riddle to my people, and you have not told me what it is." And he said to her, "Behold, I have not told my father nor my mother, and shall I tell you?" ¹⁷ She wept before him the seven days that their feast lasted, and on the seventh day he told her, because she pressed him hard. Then she told the riddle to her people. ¹⁸ And the men of the city said to him on the seventh day before the sun went down,

"What is sweeter than honey?
What is stronger than a lion?"

And he said to them,

"If you had not plowed with my heifer,
you would not have found out my riddle."

¹⁹ And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon and struck down thirty men of the town and took their spoil and gave the garments to those who had told the riddle. In hot anger he went back to his father's house. ²⁰ And Samson's wife was given to his companion, who had been his best man.

SCRIPTURE READING #3: Judges 15:1-17 ESV

¹After some days, at the time of wheat harvest, Samson went to visit his wife with a young goat. And he said, "I will go in to my wife in the chamber." But her father would not allow him to go in. ² And her father said, "I really thought that you utterly hated her, so I gave her to your companion. Is not her younger sister more beautiful than she? Please take her instead." ³ And Samson said to them, "This time I shall be innocent in regard to the Philistines, when I do them harm." ⁴ So Samson went and caught 300 foxes and took torches. And he turned them tail to tail and put a torch between each pair of tails. ⁵ And when he had set fire to the torches, he let the foxes go into the standing grain of the Philistines and set fire to the stacked grain and the standing grain, as well as the olive orchards. ⁶ Then the Philistines said, "Who has done this?" And they said, "Samson, the son-in-law of the Timnite, because he has taken his wife and given her to his companion." And the Philistines came up and burned her and her father with fire. ⁷ And Samson said to them, "If this is what you do, I swear I will be avenged on you, and after that I will quit." ⁸ And he struck them hip and thigh with a great blow, and he went down and stayed in the cleft of the rock of Etam.

⁹ Then the Philistines came up and encamped in Judah and made a raid on Lehi. ¹⁰ And the men of Judah said, "Why have you come up against us?" They said, "We have come up to bind Samson, to do to him as he did to us." ¹¹ Then 3,000 men of Judah went down to the cleft of the rock of Etam, and said to Samson, "Do you not know that the Philistines are rulers over us? What then is this that you have done to us?" And he said to them, "As they did to me, so have I done to them." ¹² And they said to him, "We have come down to bind you, that we may give you into the hands of the Philistines." And Samson said to them, "Swear to me that you will not attack me yourselves." ¹³ They said to him, "No; we will only bind you and give you into their hands. We will surely not kill you." So they bound him with two new ropes and brought him up from the rock.

¹⁴ When he came to Lehi, the Philistines came shouting to meet him. Then the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him, and the ropes that were on his arms became as flax that has caught fire, and his bonds melted off his hands. ¹⁵ And he found a fresh jawbone

of a donkey, and put out his hand and took it, and with it he struck 1,000 men. ¹⁶ And Samson said,

“With the jawbone of a donkey,
 heaps upon heaps,
with the jawbone of a donkey
 have I struck down a thousand men.”

¹⁷ As soon as he had finished speaking, he threw away the jawbone out of his hand. And that place was called Ramath-lehi.

SCRIPTURE READING #4: Judges 16:4-31 ESV

After Samson was with a prostitute, he continued his conquest literally pulling up and using the city gates and posts as weapons. Here Samson is deceived by Delilah.

⁴ After this he loved a woman in the Valley of Sorek, whose name was Delilah. ⁵ And the lords of the Philistines came up to her and said to her, “Seduce him, and see where his great strength lies, and by what means we may overpower him, that we may bind him to humble him. And we will each give you 1,100 pieces of silver.” ⁶ So Delilah said to Samson, “Please tell me where your great strength lies, and how you might be bound, that one could subdue you.”

⁷ Samson said to her, “If they bind me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been dried, then I shall become weak and be like any other man.” ⁸ Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been dried, and she bound him with them. ⁹ Now she had men lying in ambush in an inner chamber. And she said to him, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” But he snapped the bowstrings, as a thread of flax snaps when it touches the fire. So the secret of his strength was not known.

¹⁰ Then Delilah said to Samson, “Behold, you have mocked me and told me lies. Please tell me how you might be bound.” ¹¹ And he said to her, “If they bind me with new ropes that have not been used, then I shall become weak and be like any other man.” ¹² So Delilah took new ropes and bound him with them and said to him, “The Philistines are upon you, Samson!” And the men lying in ambush were in an inner chamber. But he snapped the ropes off his arms like a thread.

¹³ Then Delilah said to Samson, “Until now you have mocked me and told me lies. Tell me how you might be bound.” And he said to her, “If you weave the seven locks of my head with the web and fasten it tight with the pin, then I shall become weak and be

like any other man." ¹⁴ So while he slept, Delilah took the seven locks of his head and wove them into the web. And she made them tight with the pin and said to him, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" But he awoke from his sleep and pulled away the pin, the loom, and the web.

¹⁵ And she said to him, "How can you say, 'I love you,' when your heart is not with me? You have mocked me these three times, and you have not told me where your great strength lies." ¹⁶ And when she pressed him hard with her words day after day, and urged him, his soul was vexed to death. ¹⁷ And he told her all his heart, and said to her, "A razor has never come upon my head, for I have been a Nazirite to God from my mother's womb. If my head is shaved, then my strength will leave me, and I shall become weak and be like any other man."

¹⁸ When Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called the lords of the Philistines, saying, "Come up again, for he has told me all his heart." Then the lords of the Philistines came up to her and brought the money in their hands. ¹⁹ She made him sleep on her knees. And she called a man and had him shave off the seven locks of his head. Then she began to torment him, and his strength left him. ²⁰ And she said, "The Philistines are upon you, Samson!" And he awoke from his sleep and said, "I will go out as at other times and shake myself free." But he did not know that the Lord had left him. ²¹ And the Philistines seized him and gouged out his eyes and brought him down to Gaza and bound him with bronze shackles. And he ground at the mill in the prison. ²² But the hair of his head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

²³ Now the lords of the Philistines gathered to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god and to rejoice, and they said, "Our god has given Samson our enemy into our hand." ²⁴ And when the people saw him, they praised their god. For they said, "Our god has given our enemy into our hand, the ravager of our country, who has killed many of us." ²⁵ And when their hearts were merry, they said, "Call Samson, that he may entertain us." So they called Samson out of the prison, and he entertained them. They made him stand between the pillars. ²⁶ And Samson said to the young man who held him by the hand, "Let me feel the pillars on which the house rests, that I may lean against them." ²⁷ Now the house was full of men and women. All the lords of the Philistines were there, and on the roof there were about 3,000 men and women, who looked on while Samson entertained.

²⁸ Then Samson called to the Lord and said, "O Lord God, please remember me and please strengthen me only this once, O God, that I may be avenged on the Philistines for my two eyes." ²⁹ And Samson grasped the two middle pillars on which the house

rested, and he leaned his weight against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the other. ³⁰ And Samson said, "Let me die with the Philistines." Then he bowed with all his strength, and the house fell upon the lords and upon all the people who were in it. So the dead whom he killed at his death were more than those whom he had killed during his life. ³¹ Then his brothers and all his family came down and took him and brought him up and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had judged Israel twenty years.

SCRIPTURE READING #5: Hebrews 11:32-34 ESV

³² And what more shall I say? For time would fail me to tell of Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, of David and Samuel and the prophets— ³³ who through faith conquered kingdoms, enforced justice, obtained promises, stopped the mouths of lions, ³⁴ quenched the power of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, were made strong out of weakness, became mighty in war, put foreign armies to flight.

P: O Lord, have mercy on us.

C: Thanks be to God.

SERMON MEDITATION: "The Last Act Done in Faith"

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.

PRAYERS FROM THE PEW

P: Let my prayer rise before You as incense.

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

KYRIE (as sung to the tune in The Lutheran Hymnal, 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

BENEDICTION

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

C: Amen.

SENDING HYMN..... "I Am Trusting Thee, Lord Jesus".....LSB 729



1 I am trust-ing Thee, Lord Je - sus, Trust - ing on - ly Thee;
2 I am trust-ing Thee for par - don; At Thy feet I bow,
3 I am trust-ing Thee for cleans - ing In the crim - son flood;
4 I am trust-ing Thee to guide me; Thou a - lone shalt lead,



Trust - ing Thee for full sal - va - tion, Great and free.
For Thy grace and ten - der mer - cy Trust - ing now.
Trust - ing Thee to make me ho - ly By Thy blood.
Ev - 'ry day and hour sup - ply - ing All my need.

5 I am trusting Thee for power;
Thine can never fail.
Words which Thou Thyself shalt give me
Must prevail.

6 I am trusting Thee, Lord Jesus;
Never let me fall.

I am trusting Thee forever
And for all.

P: Go in peace to serve the Lord, imitating the Heroes of the Faith.

C: Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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ESV: English Standard Version

LSB: Lutheran Service Book

Thank you to Elvia Reid, Vickie Dansbury, Kim Gowman, and Georgia Laidig for tonight's meal.

LAST FISH FRY DINNER IS THIS FRIDAY FROM 5-7PM

Please join us Holy Week for the Following Services

- **Palm Sunday** at 9am or 11am or next Wednesday at 7pm
 - LWML Bake Sale
- **Maundy Thursday** with Holy Communion and the Stripping of the Altar at 7pm
- **Good Friday TreOre** from Noon to 3pm at St Andrew Lutheran Church on 511 West Rockton Rd in Rockton, IL. Pastor Dan will be preaching on Jesus Word: ***"My God, My God Why have You Forsaken Me?"***
- **Good Friday Night *Tenabrae*** Service at 7pm at Messiah
- **Easter Sunday**, April 9 at 9am and 11am and Wednesday, April 12 at 7pm
- **Easter Brunch**: Sunday, April 9: 9:45-11:15am in Fellowship Hall



Another Way to Give Offerings to Messiah: If you don't carry much cash or write checks then this is an easy way to give your offerings to Messiah. Simply download the app at the *Google Play Store* or *Apple App Store*. It is safe and secure. If you need help setting up the app, please contact Jim Shellenberger at (815) 275-2081 or Carl Creedy at (608) 201-2466.

Congregational Meeting Handouts: Are in the Narthex in case you missed the meeting and/or wish to have copies of the handouts.



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Attention Thrivent Members: Choice dollars are charitable grants to support congregations like Messiah without costing you any money. If you have certain life insurance or financial products with Thrivent you may be able to designate your Choice Dollars to support the ministry work here at Messiah. Please see Pastor Dan for details. You have until THIS FRIDAY March 31 to designate your 2022 Choice Dollars.



The Dessert Auction Is Back!

Sunday, April 30, 2023, 10:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. (during coffee hour)

Homemade pies, cakes, pastries, and (back by popular demand) Keith's Famous Fudge!

****Live and silent auction items**** All proceeds benefit Capstone Ministries.

Open to anyone who wants to bid on a delicious treat, and support a marvelous organization, so please invite your family, friends, and neighbors!

Those who wish to contribute a baked good, please use the sign-up sheet in the Narthex!