

*Pastor's Copy*



TO DEVELOP DEVOTED DISCIPLES BY REACHING,  
BUILDING AND SENDING

**March 7, 2021**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN LENT**



*Mt. Olive Lutheran Church*

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**\*\*All music this folder used with permission CCLI125733**

## **OPENING HYMN**

Steady in the Lord

**My life is in my Father's hand**

**It does not bend with doubt or fear**

**My fortune does not rise and fall like the wind**

**Its ever steady within Him**

**My daily bread is in His hand**

**I drink from Him and thirst no more**

**My weakness matters not when He is my strength**

**My way is steady with my Lord**

## **CHORUS**

**Oh lift your voice and thank the Lord**

**His love is all your searching for**

**There is no firmer ground than at His feet**

**Oh come and worship Him with me**

## **INVOCATION**

P: In the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**C: Amen.**

P: My eyes are ever toward the Lord,

**C: for He will pluck my feet out of the net.**

P: Nets of temptation and snares of Satan surround us. Despite our intention, we regularly fall into the trap of sin. We reflect on those sins which have ensnared us, confess them to God and to one another, and ask for forgiveness and deliverance.

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

P: Most merciful God,

**C: We have fallen into the snare of sin again and again. We have disobeyed You by what we have done and by what we have not done. We have not honored You with our words and**

**actions, and we have not loved those around us as You have loved us. For the sake of Jesus Christ, forgive our sins. Deliver us from the snare of sin that enslaves us and empower us to live as Your children.** *(a moment of silence to reflect on our own personal sins)*

P: We lift our eyes to the Lord, for He does free us from the net of sin. Therefore, as a servant of the Word, I announce that our sins are forgiven in the name of the Father and of the † Son and of the Holy Spirit. Live in peace and serve the Lord!

C: **Amen.**

### **SALUTATION**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And with your spirit.**



### **PRAYER OF THE DAY**

P: *(We pray together)* **Almighty God, because You know that we of ourselves have no strength, keep us both outwardly and inwardly that we may be defended from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ, Your † Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

### **THE OLD TESTAMENT READING**

Reader: Exodus 20:1-17 Then God spoke all these words:

<sup>2</sup>I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of slavery in Egypt. <sup>3</sup>Never have any other god.

<sup>4</sup>Never make your own carved idols or statues that represent any creature in the sky, on the earth, or in the water. <sup>5</sup>Never worship them or serve them, because I, the LORD your God, am a God who does not tolerate rivals. I punish children for their

parents' sins to the third and fourth generation of those who hate me. <sup>6</sup>But I show mercy to thousands of generations of those who love me and obey my commandments. <sup>7</sup>Never use the name of the LORD your God carelessly. The LORD will make sure that anyone who carelessly uses his name will be punished. <sup>8</sup>Remember the day of rest by observing it as a holy day. <sup>9</sup>You have six days to do all your work. <sup>10</sup>The seventh day is the day of rest—a holy day dedicated to the LORD your God. You, your sons, your daughters, your male and female slaves, your cattle, and the foreigners living in your city must never do any work on that day. <sup>11</sup>In six days the LORD made heaven, earth, and the sea, along with everything in them. He didn't work on the seventh day. That's why the LORD blessed the day he stopped his work and set this day apart as holy. <sup>12</sup>Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live for a long time in the land the LORD your God is giving you. <sup>13</sup>Never murder. <sup>14</sup>Never commit adultery. <sup>15</sup>Never steal. <sup>16</sup>Never lie when you testify about your neighbor. <sup>17</sup>Never desire to take your neighbor's household away from him. "Never desire to take your neighbor's wife, his male or female slave, his ox, his donkey, or anything else that belongs to him."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **THE EPISTLE READING**

Reader: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31 The message about the cross is nonsense to those who are being destroyed, but it is God's power to us who are being saved.

<sup>19</sup>Scripture says, "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise. I will reject the intelligence of intelligent people." <sup>20</sup>Where is the wise person? Where is the

scholar? Where is the persuasive speaker of our time? Hasn't God turned the wisdom of the world into nonsense? <sup>21</sup>The world with its wisdom was unable to recognize God in terms of his own wisdom. So God decided to use the nonsense of the Good News we speak to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup>Jews ask for miraculous signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but our message is that Christ was crucified. This offends Jewish people and makes no sense to people who are not Jewish. <sup>24</sup>But to those Jews and Greeks who are called, he is Christ, God's power and God's wisdom. <sup>25</sup>God's nonsense is wiser than human wisdom, and God's weakness is stronger than human strength. <sup>26</sup>Brothers and sisters, consider what you were when God called you to be Christians. Not many of you were wise from a human point of view. You were not in powerful positions or in the upper social classes. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what the world considers nonsense to put wise people to shame. God chose what the world considers weak to put what is strong to shame. <sup>28</sup>God chose what the world considers ordinary and what it despises—what it considers to be nothing—in order to destroy what it considers to be something. <sup>29</sup>As a result, no one can brag in God's presence. <sup>30</sup>You are partners with Christ Jesus because of God. Jesus has become our wisdom sent from God, our approval, our holiness, and our ransom from sin. <sup>31</sup>As Scripture says, "Whoever brags must brag about what the Lord has done."

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## THE HOLY GOSPEL

P: Today's Gospel reading is from the book of John, chapter 2 beginning at the 13<sup>th</sup> verse.

**C: Glory to You, O Lord.**

P: <sup>13</sup>The Jewish Passover was near, so Jesus went to Jerusalem. <sup>14</sup>He found those who were selling cattle, sheep, and pigeons in the temple courtyard. He also found moneychangers sitting there. <sup>15</sup>He made a whip from small ropes and threw everyone with their sheep and cattle out of the temple courtyard. He dumped the moneychangers' coins and knocked over their tables. <sup>16</sup>He told those who sold pigeons, "Pick up this stuff, and get it out of here! Stop making my Father's house a marketplace!" <sup>17</sup>His disciples remembered that Scripture said, "Devotion for your house will consume me." <sup>18</sup>The Jews reacted by asking Jesus, "What miracle can you show us to justify what you're doing?"

<sup>19</sup>Jesus replied, "Tear down this temple, and I'll rebuild it in three days." <sup>20</sup>The Jews said, "It took forty-six years to build this temple. Do you really think you're going to rebuild it in three days?" <sup>21</sup>But the temple Jesus spoke about was his own body. <sup>22</sup>After he came back to life, his disciples remembered that he had said this. So they believed the Scripture and this statement that Jesus had made. <sup>23</sup>While Jesus was in Jerusalem at the Passover festival, many people believed in him because they saw the miracles that he performed. <sup>24</sup>Jesus, however, was wary of these believers. He understood people <sup>25</sup>and didn't need anyone to tell him about human nature. He knew what people were really like.

**P:** This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**C:** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

## **AFFIRMATION OF FAITH-NICENE CREED**

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth. And of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of his Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And he will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets.**

**And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

## **SONG OF PREPARATION**

**GUEST WORSHIP LEADERS:** "Peace"

Joel and Rebecca Mailand

Though we're strangers, still I love you  
I love you more than your mask  
And you know you have to trust this to be true  
And I know that's much to ask  
But lay down your fears  
Come and join this feast  
He has called us here  
You and me

### **Chorus**

And may peace rain down from Heaven  
Like little pieces of the sky  
Little keepers of the promise  
On these souls this drought has dried  
In His Blood and in His Body  
In this Bread and in this Wine  
Peace to you  
Peace of Christ to you

And though I love you, still we're strangers  
Prisoners in these lonely hearts  
And though our blindness separates us  
Still His light shines in the dark  
And His outstretched arms  
Are still strong enough to reach  
Behind these prison bars  
To set us free

### **Chorus**

**SERMON...**"Listening but refusing to heed". Part 1

Rev. Kenneth L. Williamson

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

P: Faithful God, we come with our failed intentions,  
disappointments, and broken promises. Restore us by  
Your grace and give us confidence in Your

faithfulness. O faithful Lord, You seek not to condemn us but to save us. Give us Your Holy Spirit that we may hear the voice of Your calling, respond with faith, repent of our sinful ways, and live in the joy of Your faithfulness and steadfast love. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O faithful Lord, we live in a faithless world filled with doubt and fear. Keep us from becoming victims of our own doubts and fears and raise us up in hope because of Your faithfulness. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O faithful Lord, when tragedy causes us to question, help us run to the shelter of Your love to find peace, security, and grace to answer our questions. Give us confidence in Your faithfulness that we may give answer to those who question our hope. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O faithful Lord, bless Your Church and all servants of Your Church that Your good and gracious will may be done among us and through us and that many would be called to life in Your Son, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O faithful Lord, raise up good and faithful leaders in this nation and over all the world, that people may live without fear or violence and know the comfort of peace between all nations. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O faithful Lord when tragedy, illness, grief, or terror threatens, comfort us with Your steadfast love. Give to the sick and those who suffer the full measure of Your grace for healing, strength, and peace, especially... and for those we name in our hearts (*Pause*) that all who cry to You in their need may

know the answer of Your grace in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O faithful Lord, forgive our infatuation with things, our questioning hearts, and our self-centered ways. Teach us to love You without fear and to serve You by serving our neighbors in Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: hear our prayer.**

P: O faithful Lord, we come to You in prayer as we come to Your table, trusting in Your mercy and confident that Your grace is sufficient for all our needs. Hear us for the sake of Jesus Christ, who has made know to us Your faithfulness by His death and resurrection.

**C: Amen.**

P: These things we pray in the name of Jesus, who taught us to pray:

### **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

**All: 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; and 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.**

### **A SENDING PRAYER**

**All: Our Father, we have listened to Your word, and loved it; we have found comfort and inspiration in song and psalter; we have enjoyed the companionship, of those who, with kindred minds and hearts, have praised and worshiped you. Now help us understand that, as we leave this sacred House of God, we shall become your church in the street. Amen**

## **THE BLESSING**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His Face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with His favor and give you His peace.

**C: Amen!**

## **DISMISSAL**

P. Go in peace and serve the Lord.

**C. We will be devoted disciples by reaching, building, and sending.**

## **THE CLOSING SONG**

God Will Take Care Of You

**Be not dismayed whate'er betide**

**God will take care of you**

**Beneath His wings of love abide**

**God will take care of you**

## **CHORUS**

**God will take care of you**

**Through every day o'er all the way**

**He will take care of you**

**God will take care of you**

**Through days of toil when heart doth fail**

**God will take care of you**

**When dangers fierce your path assail**

**God will take care of you**

**All you may need He will provide**

**God will take care of you**

**Nothing you ask will be denied**

**God will take care of you**

**No matter what may be the test**

**God will take care of you**

**Lean weary one upon His breast  
God will take care of you**



*March 10, 2021  
March 17, 2021  
March 24, 2021  
Worship Time 7PM*



**PALM SUNDAY**  
*March 28, 2021 @ 8AM & 10AM*



**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
*April 1, 2021 @ 7PM*



# GOOD FRIDAY

*April 2, 2021 @ 7PM*