

ST. JOHN'S LUTHERAN CHURCH

Helen Township, Minnesota

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

Dennis Reichow, Pastor (320) 864-3093

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Fourth Sunday In Lent

April 3, 2011

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WELCOME: *"Have Mercy on me, O God, according to your unfailing love; according to your great compassion blot out my transgressions"* (Psalm 51:1) *Welcome to all in the name of our gracious God. May his blessings rest on you. If you are visiting with us today, we would enjoy the opportunity to get to know you. Please sign our guest book.*

Theme: Our Lord calls us to repent and be renewed daily.

Thoughts for a Prayer Before Worship: God causes pain to touch the lives of people. It's not because he is mean but because he loves his people. It's designed to produce a healthier faith life. Pray that the Lord draws you closer to him through all the events in your life.

SILENT PRAYER AND MEDITATION

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Order of Worship: Service of Word and Sacrament (p. 26)

OPENING HYMN: 226 "To Your Temple I Draw Near"

Lesson: Romans 8:1-10 (P. Bible p. 1700)

How beautiful the gospel is! "There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus." Christ has accomplished salvation by meeting the righteous demands of the law in our place. We now have a new spirit who is led by the Holy Spirit. The result: Christians, led by the Spirit of God, living lives of grateful devotion.

Lesson: Matthew 20:17-28 (Pew Bible p. 1483)

After the Savior speaks to his disciples of his approaching Passion, the mother of James and John comes to him to request special honors for her sons in the kingdom. But Jesus responds by teaching them all the true meaning of greatness and honor before

God. Greatness comes in service, as the Son of Man demonstrates.

HYMN OF THE DAY: 486 "Lord of Glory, You Have Bought Us"

SERMON: Hosea 5:15-6:3 (Pew Bible p. 1360)

"What Is God's Purpose For Pain In The Lives of People?"

1. God declares that sin is serious
2. Christ is my salvation

NICENE CREED

OFFERING

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

THE SACRAMENT

DIST. HYMNS: 313 "Jesus Christ, Our Blessed Savior"

376 "Jesus, Your Blood and Righteousness"

PRAYER

BLESSING

CLOSING HYMN: 492 v. 1 "Son of God, Eternal Savior"

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Organist: Christy Ittel

A MEASURE OF OUR FAITHFULNESS

At worship, Sunday, March 27th: 101 Wed., Mar 30th: 112

Attendance at weekly Bible Studies: 31

THE LORD'S SUPPER: *We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. All those planning to partake, please review the information about the Lord's Supper printed on the laminated sheet in the hymnal racks or pews in the balcony.*

LENTEN SUPPERS: *are served before services Wednesday from 5:45-6:45pm. Free-will donations are accepted. We appreciate your support for our church groups. Come and fill up your stomach before the service with a meal. Then stay for worship to get soup for the soul. See ya there. **Fundraiser Committee serves this week, followed by the Ladies Aid.***

THIS WEEK IF GOD WILLS

Today	9:00 am	Worship w/ Communion
	10:00am	Sunday School
	10:20am	Bible Class
Monday	6:30 pm	Ladies Aid
	6:35 pm	Elders
	7:00 pm	Church Council
Tuesday	7:00 pm	Chimes
	7:00 pm	Table Talk
Wednesday	2:00pm	Worship-Mille B.
	3:45 pm	Jr. Catechism
	4:20 pm	Sr. Catechism
	5:45 pm	Lenten Supper
Sunday	7:00 pm	Lenten Worship
	9:00 am	Worship
	10:00 am	Sunday School
	10:20am	Bible Class

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING *originally scheduled for Sunday April, 10th will be postponed to a later date. We ran into some issues concerning the bids and will need more time to put together final numbers.*

NEWSLETTERS AND FORWARD IN CHRIST *magazines for the month of April are available. Please pick up your copy today. Thank you*

LADIES AID: The MLC Ladies' Auxiliary Mankato *Conference spring area meeting is being held on Thursday, April 7th at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Arlington. Please see Ruth Lange if you plan to attend. We need to RSVP by Mon. April 4th.*

LEFTOVER CRAFTS: *Check out the table downstairs with crafts left over from all of our craft fairs. Please take a look and if you see something you want, take it and leave a free will donation. If there is something on the table you donated and would like back, please just take it. Thank you for all your continued support. Any questions contact Laurie Litzau*

SERMON NOTES

List times when “No Pain. No Gain” is the motto of the day.

What Is God’s Purpose For Pain In The Lives Of People?

1. God declares that sin is serious

God sends tough troubles to people because . . .

I am like adulterous Israel when I . . .

Evaluate your sincerity and honesty when speaking to God about your sins.

2. Christ is my salvation

Lent’s focus of Christ on the cross is special to me because . . .

JCM NEWS: *Our JCM group met last Thursday evening with a group of 27 people. We had people from Arlington, Gaylord, Glencoe, Henderson, Hutchinson and Watertown. We opened our evening with a story about Jesus’ crucifixion using the various items used in Jesus death – the rope, the blindfold, the whips used to beat him, the crown of sharp thorns, and concluding with nails used in nailing him to the cross. We then used a caricature of Jesus and actually nailed Jesus to the wooden cross. We held the interest of everyone. We concluded our Bible study with the application of this story to each of our lives! Our prayers included requests from our guests, for loved ones.*

Joyce led us in our craft project for the evening. Everyone made a cross and colored or painted them. After that came a rousing sing-a-long. And of course we had a snack and more Happy Birthday singing. We thank our volunteers, Elenora, Mavis, Kayla, Joyce, Judy and Arvid. Our next get together is April 28th, then May 19th. Our summer picnic is on June 22nd.

SERMON OF THE FUTURE: *What comes to mind when you see a skull and scattered bones? The harsh reality of death? God uses the same visual to bring us an important message. Join us next week as we hear more. In preparation read, Ezekiel 37:1-14*

The Valley of Dry Bones

¹ The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out by the Spirit of the LORD and set me in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. ² He led me back and forth among them, and I saw a great many bones on the floor of the valley, bones that were very dry. ³ He asked me, “Son of man, can these bones live?”

I said, “O Sovereign LORD, you alone know.”

⁴ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to these bones and say to them, ‘Dry bones, hear the word of the LORD!’ ⁵ This is what the Sovereign LORD says to these bones: I will make breath enter you, and you will come to life. ⁶ I will attach tendons to you and make flesh come upon you and cover you with skin; I will put breath in you, and you will come to life. Then you will know that I am the LORD.’”

⁷ So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I was prophesying, there was a noise, a rattling sound, and the bones came together, bone to bone. ⁸ I looked, and tendons and flesh appeared on them and skin covered them, but there was no breath in them.

⁹ Then he said to me, “Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to it, ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe into these slain, that they may live.’” ¹⁰ So I prophesied as he commanded me, and breath entered them; they came to life and stood up on their feet—a vast army.

¹¹ Then he said to me: “Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, ‘Our bones are dried up and our hope is gone; we are cut off.’ ¹² Therefore prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: O my people, I am going to open your graves and bring you up from them; I will bring you back to the land of Israel. ¹³ Then you, my people, will know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and bring you up from them. ¹⁴ I will put my Spirit in you and you will live, and I will settle you in your own land. Then you will know that I the LORD have spoken, and I have done it, declares the LORD.’”