

MESSY: LOVING OTHERS ISN'T EASY



The theme for this year's Lenten services examines the command to "Love your neighbor as yourself." Although the command is used throughout the Bible, loving others isn't easy.

It requires selflessness and intentionality. Each week's message considers the different aspects of love as depicted in that particular text. The topics include: justice, forgiveness, mercy, salvation, and self-sacrifice.

"Messy" culminates in the gift of Christ's love and the need to share it with those around us.

MESSY THURSDAY

† *Soli Deo Gloria* †

OPENING HYMN

“When You Woke That Thursday Morning” LSB 445

1 When You woke that Thursday morning,
 Savior, teacher, faithful friend,
 Thoughts of self and safety scorning,
 Knowing how the day would end;
 Lamb of God, foretold for ages,
 Now at last the hour had come
 When but One could pay sin’s wages:
 You assumed their dreadful sum.

2 Never so alone and lonely,
 Longing with tormented heart
 To be with Your dear ones only
 For a quiet hour apart:
 Sinless Lamb and fallen creature,
 One last paschal meal to eat,
 One last lesson as their teacher,
 Washing Your disciples’ feet.

3 What was there that You could give them
 That would never be outspent,
 What great gift that would outlive them,
 What last will and testament?
 “Show Me and the world you love Me,
 Know Me as the Lamb of God:
 Do this in remembrance of Me,
 Eat this body, drink this blood.”

4 One in faith, in love united,
 All one body, You the head,
 When we meet, by You invited,
 You are with us, as You said.
 One with You and one another
 In a unity sublime,
 See in us Your sister, brother,
 One in ev’ry place and time.

5 One day all the Church will capture
That bright vision glorious,
And Your saints will know the rapture
That Your heart desired for us,
When the longed-for peace and union
Of the Greatest and the least
Meet in joyous, blest communion
In Your never-ending feast.

† PREPARATION †

INVOCATION

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

C Amen.

CONFESSION

From 1 John 1:8-9 and John 20:19-23.

P If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

C But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection on God's Word and self-examination.

P Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

C Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment.

For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.

P Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ, and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

LENT ANTHEM “On My Heart Imprint Your Image” LSB 422

**On my heart im-print Your im-age,
Bless-ed Je-sus, King of grace,
That life’s rich-es, cares, and plea-sures
Nev-er may Your work e-raise;
Let the clear in-scrip-tion be:
Je-sus, cru-ci-fied for me,
Is my life, my hope’s foun-da-tion,
And my glo-ry and sal-va-tion!**

† **WORD** †

OLD TESTAMENT READING

EXODUS 24:3–11

³Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD and all the just decrees And all the people answered with one voice and said, “All the words that the LORD has spoken we will do.”

⁴And Moses wrote down all the words of the LORD. He rose early in the morning and built an altar at the foot of the mountain, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel. ⁵And he sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the LORD.

⁶And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. ⁷Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, “All that the LORD has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient.” ⁸And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, “Behold the blood of the covenant that the LORD has made with you in accordance with all these words.”

⁹Then Moses and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel went up, ¹⁰and they saw the God of Israel. There was under his feet as it were a pavement of sapphire stone, like the very heaven for clearness. ¹¹And he did not lay his hand on

the chief men of the people of Israel; they beheld God, and ate and drank.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE READING

HEBREWS 9:11–22

¹¹But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) ¹²he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. ¹³For if the sprinkling of defiled persons with the blood of goats and bulls and with the ashes of a heifer sanctifies for the purification of the flesh, ¹⁴how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

¹⁵Therefore he is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you.” ²¹And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²²Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

All **Re-turn to the Lord, your God,**
 for He is gra-cious and mer-ci-ful,
 slow to an-ger, and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love,
 and a-bound-ing in stead-fast love.

GOSPEL READING

MATTHEW 26:14–30

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew the twenty-sixth chapter.

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

¹⁴Then one of the twelve, whose name was Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, “What will you give me if I deliver him over to you?” And they paid him thirty pieces of silver.

¹⁶And from that moment he sought an opportunity to betray him.

¹⁷Now on the first day of Unleavened Bread the disciples came to Jesus, saying, “Where will you have us prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹⁸He said, “Go into the city to a certain man and say to him, ‘The Teacher says, My time is at hand. I will keep the Passover at your house with my disciples.’” ¹⁹And the disciples did as Jesus had directed them, and they prepared the Passover.

²⁰When it was evening, he reclined at table with the twelve.

²¹And as they were eating, he said, “Truly, I say to you, one of you will betray me.” ²²And they were very sorrowful and began to say to him one after another, “Is it I, Lord?” ²³He answered, “He who has dipped his hand in the dish with me will betray me.

²⁴The Son of Man goes as it is written of him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.” ²⁵Judas, who would betray him, answered, “Is it I, Rabbi?” He said to him, “You have said so.”

²⁶Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, “Take, eat; this is my body.” ²⁷And he took a cup, and when he had given thanks he gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you, ²⁸for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. ²⁹I tell you I will not drink again of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father’s kingdom.”

³⁰And when they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C Praise to You, O Christ.

APOSTLE'S CREED

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth.**

**And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died and was buried.
He descended into hell.**

**The third day He rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven
and sits at the right hand of God the Father
Almighty.**

**From thence He will come to judge the living and the
dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy Christian Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life † everlasting. Amen.**

SERMON HYMN “Go to Dark Gethsemane” **LSB 436**

1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
 All who feel the tempter's pow'r;
 Your Redeemer's conflict see,
 Watch with Him one bitter hour;
 Turn not from His griefs away;
 Learn from Jesus Christ to pray.

2 Follow to the judgment hall,
View the Lord of life arraigned;
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs His soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, shame, or loss;
Learn from Him to bear the cross.

3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at His feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear Him cry;
Learn from Jesus Christ to die.

4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid His breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken Him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.

SERMON

PASTOR REDEKER

OFFERING

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

LORD'S PRAYER

HIGH PRIESTLY PRAYER

JOHN 17:1-19

¹When Jesus had spoken these words, he lifted up his eyes to heaven, and said, "Father, the hour has come; glorify your Son that the Son may glorify you, ²since you have given him authority over all flesh, to give eternal life to all whom you have given him. ³And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. ⁴I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do. ⁵And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.

⁶“I have manifested your name to the people whom you gave me out of the world. Yours they were, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷Now they know that everything that you have given me is from you. ⁸For I have given them the words that you gave me, and they have received them and have come to know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. ⁹I am praying for them. I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours. ¹⁰All mine are yours, and yours are mine, and I am glorified in them. ¹¹And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. ¹²While I was with them, I kept them in your name, which you have given me. I have guarded them, and not one of them has been lost except the son of destruction, that the Scripture might be fulfilled. ¹³But now I am coming to you, and these things I speak in the world, that they may have my joy fulfilled in themselves. ¹⁴I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁵I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one. ¹⁶They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. ¹⁷Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. ¹⁸As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. ¹⁹And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be sanctified in truth.

STRIPPING OF THE ALTAR

After the Last Supper, less than twenty-four hours remained in the earthly life of our Lord.

Events moved rapidly:

Prayer in Gethsemane,

Betrayal by Judas,

Arrest, mock trial, painful beating,

The trudge to Golgotha and execution.

Psalm 22 Why Have You Forsaken Me?

To the choirmaster: according to The Doe of the Dawn.

A Psalm of David.

¹My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?
Why are you so far from saving me, from the words of my
groaning?

²O my God, I cry by day, but you do not answer,
and by night, but I find no rest.

³Yet you are holy,
enthroned on the praises of Israel.

⁴In you our fathers trusted;
they trusted, and you delivered them.

⁵To you they cried and were rescued;
in you they trusted and were not put to shame.

⁶But I am a worm and not a man,
scorned by mankind and despised by the people.

⁷All who see me mock me;
they make mouths at me; they wag their heads;

⁸“He trusts in the LORD; let him deliver him;
let him rescue him, for he delights in him!”

⁹Yet you are he who took me from the womb;
you made me trust you at my mother’s breasts.

¹⁰On you was I cast from my birth,
and from my mother’s womb you have been my God.

¹¹Be not far from me,
for trouble is near,
and there is none to help.

¹²Many bulls encompass me;
strong bulls of Bashan surround me;

¹³they open wide their mouths at me,
like a ravening and roaring lion.

¹⁴I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast;

¹⁵my strength is dried up like a potsherd,
and my tongue sticks to my jaws;
you lay me in the dust of death.

¹⁶For dogs encompass me;
a company of evildoers encircles me;
they have pierced my hands and feet—

¹⁷I can count all my bones—
they stare and gloat over me;

¹⁸they divide my garments among them,
and for my clothing they cast lots.

¹⁹But you, O LORD, do not be far off!
O you my help, come quickly to my aid!

²⁰Deliver my soul from the sword,
my precious life from the power of the dog!

²¹Save me from the mouth of the lion!
You have rescued me from the horns of the wild oxen!

²²I will tell of your name to my brothers;
in the midst of the congregation I will praise you:

²³You who fear the LORD, praise him!
All you offspring of Jacob, glorify him,
and stand in awe of him, all you offspring of Israel!

²⁴For he has not despised or abhorred
the affliction of the afflicted,
and he has not hidden his face from him,
but has heard, when he cried to him.

²⁵From you comes my praise in the great congregation;
my vows I will perform before those who fear him.

²⁶The afflicted shall eat and be satisfied;
those who seek him shall praise the LORD!
May your hearts live forever!

²⁷All the ends of the earth shall remember
and turn to the LORD,
and all the families of the nations
shall worship before you.

²⁸For kingship belongs to the LORD,
and he rules over the nations.

²⁹All the prosperous of the earth eat and worship;
before him shall bow all who go down to the dust,
even the one who could not keep himself alive.

³⁰Posterity shall serve him;
it shall be told of the Lord to the coming generation;

³¹they shall come and proclaim his righteousness to a people yet
unborn,
that he has done it.

After the stripping of the altar is complete, all may leave the church in silence waiting and longing to worship God again on Good Friday 7:00pm and then rejoicing in Him Easter morning Sunrise Service 8:00am.

**These next few months are going to be tough for everyone.
But, we will get through it *together* by the grace of God.**

**If you or someone you know is in Spiritual,
Physical, or any other need:**

We are here for you.

Pastor Redeker: (314) 608-5538
Pastor Schmidt: (314) 261-3180

**Those Serving In
The Worship Service Today
April 9, 2020**

Preacher	Reverend Mike Redeker
Liturgist	Reverend Joshua Schmidt
Organist	Marilyn Smith
Cantor	Sam Buchman
Videographer	Glacia Peck

Acknowledgments

Divine Service, Setting One from Lutheran Service Book

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