Edgebrook Lutheran Church

Lenten Midweek Service Wednesday, March 18, 2020



Knowing that Jesus is with us in our brokenness, our journey through Lent leads us to a place of healing and wholeness.

Before worship, you are encouraged to fill (halfway) a large bowl of water, and bring it to wherever you are worshipping. This will be your homemade baptismal font, which will be used during worship. You may also wish to bring a towel to dry your hands and wipe up spills.

Tonight, as we reflect on the story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at the well, we remember that Jesus shared his love for us through baptism, with the water and the word, and granting us new and everlasting life through his promise of forgiveness and healing.

OPENING DIALOGUE

Come, Lord Jesus.

You too were tired when day was done; you met as family at evening time.

Come, Lord Jesus.

You too enjoyed when nights drew on, and God drew near at close of day.

Come, Lord Jesus.

You kindled faith when lamps were low; you opened scriptures and broke bread as the sunlight fades.

Come, Lord Jesus; meet us here: at the font, at the river, and at the well.

EVENING HYMN

Shall We Gather at the River



- 1 Shall we gath er at the riv er, where bright an gel feet have trod,
- 2 On the mar gin of the riv er, wash ing up its sil ver spray,
- 3 Ere we reach the shin-ing riv-er, lay we ev-'ry bur-den down;
- 4 Soon we'll reach the shin-ing riv er, soon our pil-grim-age will cease;



with its crys-tal tide for-ev-er flow-ing by the throne of God? we will walk and wor-ship ev-er, all the hap-py gold-en day. grace our spir-its will de-liv-er, and pro-vide a robe and crown. soon our hap-py hearts will quiv-er with the mel-o-dy of peace.



Yes, we'll gath-er at the riv-er, the beau-ti-ful, the beau-ti-ful riv-er;



gath-er with the saints at the riv - er that flows by the throne of God.

Text: Robert Lowry, 1826–1899 Music: HANSON PLACE, Robert Lowry

PRAYER OF THE DAY

We give you thanks, O God, for your mercy endures forever.
You satisfy the thirsty soul and fill the hungry with good things.
You sit beside us at the wells in our lives,
offering us streams of living water, our hope and our salvation.
Remind us, this night, of your presence among us and around the world,
as we are scattered for now, but are brought together once more to praise your holy name.

Amen.

READING - Psalm 25

- ¹ To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul.
- ² O my God, in you I trust; do not let me be put to shame; do not let my enemies exult over me.
- ³ Do not let those who wait for you be put to shame; let them be ashamed who are wantonly treacherous.
- ⁴ Make me to know your ways, O Lord; teach me your paths.
- ⁵ Lead me in your truth, and teach me, for you are the God of my salvation; for you I wait all day long.
- ⁶ Be mindful of your mercy, O Lord, and of your steadfast love, for they have been from of old.
- ⁷ Do not remember the sins of my youth or my transgressions; according to your steadfast love remember me, for your goodness' sake, O Lord!
- ⁸ Good and upright is the Lord; therefore he instructs sinners in the way.
- ⁹ He leads the humble in what is right, and teaches the humble his way.
- ¹⁰ All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his decrees.
- ¹¹ For your name's sake, O Lord, pardon my guilt, for it is great.
- Who are they that fear the Lord?He will teach them the way that they should choose.



READING – John 4:19-26

¹⁹The woman said to him, "Sir, I see that you are a prophet. ²⁰Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say that the place where people must worship is in Jerusalem."

²¹Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. ²²You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. ²³But the hour is coming, and is now here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father seeks such as these to worship him. ²⁴God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth."

²⁵The woman said to him, "I know that Messiah is coming" (who is called Christ). "When he comes, he will proclaim all things to us."

²⁶Jesus said to her, "I am he, the one who is speaking to you."

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

The reading of scripture is followed by extended silence for reflection and meditation.

REFLECTION



EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – RECREATING THE WELL

Those who are viewing the video can follow the leader here, using your homemade baptismal font.

A song is sung during times of reflection.

If you are using this as a devotional time separate from the video, further instructions are below**.



PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

A brief silence.

God of living water, send your church beyond boundaries to proclaim your grace. May its witness be a source of refreshment for thirsty souls. Strengthen our voices, that all people can know and believe that Jesus is truly the savior of the world. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of living water, you want us to give thanks in all circumstances and to lay all our cares on you, knowing that you care for us. Although there is fear and anxiety in our world because of the threat of the Covid-19 virus, continue to show yourself to us so we may have a measure of peace, comfort and hope in these uncertain times. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

God of living water, renew us in the promises of baptism. Join us together in worship, fellowship, and sharing your good news in new and meaningful ways. Embolden us to serve others and to work for justice and peace. Hear us, O God.

Your mercy is great.

Great and merciful God, Source and Ground of all goodness and life, give to your people the peace that passes all understanding, and the will to live your Gospel of mercy and justice, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

God, remember us in your love, and teach us to pray:

LORD'S PRAYER

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.

BLESSING

God almighty, God most merciful, bless us, keep us, and grant us peace. **Amen.**



When you go, go in peace. God is near.

**EXPERIENTIAL ACTIVITY – GOING TO THE WELL

With your fingers together, use your hand to scoop up the water three times...

After the first time say in the name of the Father.

After the second time say in the name of the Son.

After the third time, say in the name of the Holy Spirit.

Take a few moments and reflect on the time when the pastor scooped the water and placed it on your head when you were baptized.

Reflect on how your baptism has influenced who you are today.

Lightly dip a finger in the middle of bowl and look at the ripples that you cause.

Do this a few of times and see how the ripples come and go around the bowl and interact with each other.

Reflect how your baptism has rippled through your life to those around you and the impact your baptism has had on these people.

Reflect upon the way God has been active in your life since your baptism.

Specifically, reflect upon the ways God's presence been a blessing to you... through Sunday School, Bible study, or Confirmation classes; times when God has kept you and/or your loved ones safe from harm.

Using the water from the bowl, dip your index finger, and make the sign of the cross on your forehead. Say this prayer of Thanksgiving for Baptism:

Holy God, holy and merciful, holy and mighty, you are the river of life, you are the everlasting wellspring; you are the fire of rebirth.

Glory to you for oceans and lakes, for rivers and streams.

Glory to you for the Des Plaines River, the Chicago River and Lake Michigan.

Honor to you for cloud and rain, for dew and snow.

Your waters are below us, around us, above us: our life is born in you.

You are the fountain of resurrection.

Praise to you for your saving waters:

Noah and the animals survive the flood, Hagar discovers your well.

The Israelites escape through the sea, and they drink from your gushing rock.

Naaman washes his leprosy away, and the Samaritan woman will never be thirsty again.

Praise to you for the water of baptism and for your Word that saves us.

Breathe your Spirit into all creation.

Illumine our days. Enliven our bones. Dry our tears.

Wash away the sin within us and drown the evil around us.

Satisfy all our thirst with your living water, Jesus Christ, our Savior,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.